

2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programs

Countries Without National or Large-Scale
School Meal Programs



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BACKGROUND

School meal programs¹ – in which students are provided with snacks, meals, or other foods and beverages in schools—are one of the world’s largest safety nets, benefiting over 400 million children worldwide.

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) established the Global Survey of School Meal Programs[®] in 2019². The Global Survey has been implemented twice thus far, capturing information on the school years that began in 2017 and 2020. This has produced the world’s most comprehensive and standardized data on school feeding.

The first two rounds of the Global Survey captured information from 155 countries, with detailed information gathered from countries with national or large-scale school meal programs. For the first time, in 2024, countries that report they do not have school meal programs are asked to provide basic information about the country’s infrastructure, policies, and any plans for introducing school meal programs.

Data collected through the Global Survey of School Meal Programs are entered into a database and made freely available to all interested users. Global Survey findings from prior rounds are linked below:

[School Meal Programs Around the World \(global report\)](#)

[Country Reports](#)

[Infographics:](#)

- School Meal Programs Around the World
- School Meal Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa
- School Meal Programs in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- School Meal Programs in Latin America & the Caribbean
- School Meal Programs in the Caribbean
- Health, Nutrition, and School Meal Programs
- Gender and School Meal Programs
- Income and School Meal Programs
- COVID-19 and School Meal Programs
- School Meal Programs and the Environment

¹ While aware of distinctions that may exist between the terms school meal, school feeding, and school nutrition (programs), we use school feeding throughout this survey as we aim to capture core information regarding all such programs.

² Funding for the 2019, 2021, and 2024 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Dear Government-Appointed Global Survey Focal Points,

Thank you for participating in the Global Survey of School Meal Programs. This questionnaire is designed to be completed by a government-appointed representative – a Survey Focal Point – who is knowledgeable about infrastructure and policies relevant to school meal programs in your country and who will collect information and submit the Survey.

Every country in the world is invited to participate in the Global Survey. For countries that did not have any large-scale school feeding activities in the school year that began in 2022, the survey asks a knowledgeable government representative to provide a small set of information about:

- History of school meal programs and plans for school meal programs in the future
- Policies of relevance to food in schools
- Infrastructure

The Global Survey is available as a PDF form, a Word form, or an online form available from the Global Child Nutrition Foundation's Global Survey Associate who contacted you or by requesting it from info@gcnf.org.

Your Survey Associate is available to review the Survey with you, to answer any questions, and to assist you throughout the survey experience. If you do not know the Survey Associate assigned for your country and would like to contact them, please email info@gcnf.org.

We are grateful that you recognize the significance of the Global Survey and are taking time out of your busy schedule to respond. Your input helps document the reach of school meal programs worldwide. We hope the survey data will be useful in your country and that it can support data-driven policy and decisions.



Dr. Ronald Kleinman
President of the Board



Arlene Mitchell
Executive Director

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Survey Associates** are available to answer questions and assist throughout the survey experience. If you do not know the Survey Associate assigned for your country and would like to contact them, please email info@gcnf.org.
2. All questions in this survey refer to the school year that began in 2022. For most countries, this will be the 2022–2023 school year.
3. Definitions of key terms are provided in a glossary. If a word is **green**, the definition is available.
4. Once a survey is submitted, it will be reviewed by a GCNF **Survey Associate**. The Survey Associate may contact you if they need clarification regarding your responses.
5. The **Focal Point** is responsible for gaining any necessary approval for the information to be made available in a public database. Submission of a completed survey is understood to indicate that government approval has been received.
6. Your name and contact information will not be public and will not be made available to any data users.
7. You will receive the GCNF newsletter. Please indicate if you would prefer to opt out of this newsletter; an option to unsubscribe will also be available.

We are deeply appreciative of the work of the survey **Focal Points** who make this initiative successful.

Thank you!

FOCAL POINT CONTACT INFORMATION

The below Focal Point contact information is collected for administrative purposes only and will not be made publicly available.

Country: _____

Name: _____

Institution/Department/Office: _____

Job title: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Other contact option: _____

SECTION A

A1 During the school year that began in 2022, did your country have a **national or large-scale school feeding program**?

Yes No

*Note: If A1 = yes, please contact your **Survey Associate** or info@gcnf.org to access a copy of the full survey. This version is only for countries that do not have a national or large-scale school feeding program.*

A2 In the past, have any large-scale school meal programs ever operated in this country?

Yes No

A2.1 If A2 = yes, when was any large-scale school meal program operational in this country?

Start year _____

End year _____

A2.2 If A2 = yes, who operated the program?

A2.3 If A2 = yes, approximately how many children received food through the program at its largest size?

A2.4 If A2 = yes, why was the program ended?

A3 Does this country have (tentative or definite) plans to introduce large-scale school meal programs?

Yes No

A3.1 If A3 = yes, please describe those plans.

A4 Does your government invest in any other large-scale/institutional feeding/food program?

Yes No

A4.1 If A4 = yes, please describe the program.

A5 Are there national laws, policies, or standards related to food in schools?

Yes No

A5.1 If A5 = yes, please fill in the table below:

Topic	Name(s) and description of national law/ policy/ standard(s)
Nutrition	
Health	
Food safety	
Smallholder farmers	
Agriculture (apart from smallholder farmers)	
Climate/environment policy	
Private sector involvement	
Other (e.g., food marketing, right to food)	

A6 Are foods and/or beverages available for purchase in the immediate vicinity of (or near) school grounds?

Yes No

A7 Are any foods prohibited in the immediate vicinity of (or near) school grounds?

Yes No

A8 In this country, are any limitations or prohibitions applied to food and beverage marketing on school grounds?

Yes No

A9 In this country, are any limitations or prohibitions applied to food and beverage marketing targeted to school age children?

Yes No

A10 How many schools in this country have the following features?

	All	Most	Some	Very Few	None
Electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Piped water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Latrines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flush toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kitchens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports or physical play areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar panels/solar power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A11 In the school year that began in 2022, what programs were provided to most or all schools in this country? *Select all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Handwashing with soap	<input type="checkbox"/> Dental cleaning/testing
<input type="checkbox"/> Height measurement	<input type="checkbox"/> Menstrual hygiene
<input type="checkbox"/> Weight measurement	<input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water
<input type="checkbox"/> Testing for anemia	<input type="checkbox"/> Water purification
<input type="checkbox"/> Deworming treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> School gardens
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye testing/eyeglasses distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing testing/treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> None

A12 In the school year that began in 2022, what education topics were integrated into most or all schools in this country? *Select all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Food and nutrition education	<input type="checkbox"/> HIV prevention education
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture education	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical education
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/climate/sustainability education	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health education
<input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene education	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health education	<input type="checkbox"/> None
<input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive health education	

A13 If you had difficulty answering any questions, please use this space to provide a brief explanation.

Thank you!

Your responses are much appreciated.

ABOUT GCNF

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation works with a global network of governments, businesses, and civil society organizations to support school meal programs that help children and communities thrive. GCNF conducts studies and surveys and provides training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to help governments build national school meal programs that are nutritious, locally-sourced, and ultimately sustainable and independent from international aid.

THANK YOU

GCNF wishes to thank all the many government Focal Points, experts, and partner organizations that contributed to the first two rounds of the Global Survey of School Meal Programs® as well as all of those who have contributed, are contributing, and/or will contribute to this third survey round.

It truly takes a global village to design, implement, analyze, document and disseminate the results of such a survey, and we are sincerely grateful to all involved.



P.O. Box 99435
Seattle, WA 98139
info@gcnf.org