

School Meal Programs & Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF)

Based on the results of the 2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programs ©

The **Global Survey of School Meal Programs ©** aims to strengthen the work of the global school meal network by developing a comprehensive description of all the core aspects of large-scale school meal programs around the world.

The **Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF)** is committed to helping governments build national programs that provide nutritious, locally-sourced meals for all children.

The home-grown school feeding (HGSF) approach prioritizes procuring school meals directly from smallholder farmers. HGSF has the potential to **create demand** for more **diverse and nutritious foods**, **improve the livelihoods** of **smallholder farmers**, and **enhance economic outcomes**.

Home-Grown School Feeding Indicators

On average, **47%** of programs exhibited **4 or more HGSF indicators**.

This HGSF intensity was most common in **low-income countries** at **69%** and in **Sub-Saharan Africa** at **66%**.



%= Share of programs

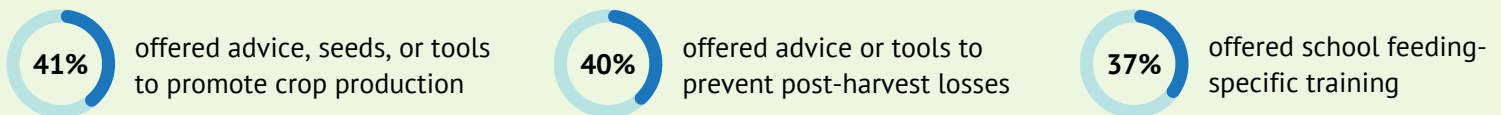


The number of HGSF indicators is **positively correlated** with food basket diversity.

Strengthening Support for Farmers

Of the seven indicators, **the two most important drivers** of healthy foods and diversity in school menus were an **objective to benefit small-scale farmers** and **procurement directly from small-scale farmers**.

Most Common Examples of Additional Support



%= Share of programs that directly engaged any farmers

Home-Grown School Feeding in Action

- **Brazil** mandated that 30% of school meal funds go to family farmers, promoting local agriculture.
- **Guinea's** HGSF program prioritized small-scale farmers in competitive tendering procedures, offering them resources and training to enhance crop production.
- **Bhutan** utilized open-bid procurement and forward contracts to support smallholders.
- Programs in **Chad** engaged small-scale farmers to supply various food items to schools and provided support to prevent post-harvest losses.