:: global child nutrition N D A T I O N

School Meal Programs in Africa

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

School Meals in Africa at a Glance



82.2 million children were fed by school meals. 31% of primary school-age children were fed and 5% of secondary school-age children were fed.



91% of countries had a national school feeding policy.



\$2.3 billion USD was allocated to school meal programs. 80% of countries had a national budget line item dedicated to school feeding.

88% of countries purchased at least some food from domestic sources.

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.

School Meal Programs in Action

- In Mauritania, entrance examination success rates were higher in schools with canteens.
- Uganda's program mobilized communities, especially women farmers, to produce nutrient-rich foods like iron-rich beans and sweet potatoes.
- In Morocco, produce from school gardens was used to anchor an environmental education program.
- In Zimbabwe, schools were included in the Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme, enhancing potable water access for school programs.

Ensuring Healthy Diets & Food Systems

93% of programs had an objective to meet nutritional and/or health goals. On average, school meal programs in Africa served foods from 5.9 healthy food categories, compared to the global average of 6.8 healthy food categories.

Program Approaches to Prevent or Mitigate Overweight/Obesity



of programs incorporated food and nutrition education

Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Indicators



of programs incorporated health education



of programs had nutritional requirements for food baskets

41% of programs targeted

climate-friendly foods

63% of programs in Africa exhibited 4 or more HGSF indicators. compared to the **global** average of 47%.

HGSF enhances food

local food systems.

diversity and strengthens

7%

80% Purchase domestically

- 88% Shorten transport distance **76%** Objective to benefit small-scale farmers
- 68% Small-scale farmers sell to schools/program
- 57% Support provided to small-scale farmers
- **43%** Preferential contracting for small-scale farms/businesses
 - Law/policy supporting small-scale farmers linked to school feeding programs

%= Share of programs

Data collected through the 2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programs[®] on the school year beginning in 2022. For more information, visit www.gcnf.org.

Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. School Meal Programs in Africa. Accessed at https://gcnf.org/infographics-and-tools/



