# ::global child nutrition

## **School Meal Programs in Europe**

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

#### School Meals in Europe at a Glance

39.2 million children were fed by school meals. 63% of primary school-age children were fed and 27% of secondary school-age children were fed.



68% of countries had a national school feeding policy.



\$14.9 billion USD was allocated to school meal programs. 57% of countries had a national budget line item dedicated to school feeding.

98% 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**

- The Restopolis program in **Luxembourg** maintained a special focus on providing jobs or income-generating opportunities for people with mental disorders.
- In the Netherlands, schools received weekly storage and consumption advice, with proper storage facilities at distribution hubs.
- In Romania, educational materials distributed through the school meal program presented information about healthy eating habits, agriculture, supply chains and local products, organic production, sustainable production, and combating food waste.

### **Ensuring Healthy Diets & Food Systems**

90% of programs had an objective to meet nutritional and/or health goals. On average, school meal programs in Europe served foods from 7.5 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



of programs incorporated health education

of programs had nutritional requirements for food baskets

33% of programs targeted

climate-friendly foods

Rockefeller Foundation

#### **Home-Grown School Feeding**

HGSF enhances food diversity and strengthens local food systems.

19% of programs in Europe **exhibited 4 or** more HGSF indicators, compared to the **global** average of 47%.

(HGSF) Indicators		
	70%	Purchase domest
	72%	Shorten transpor
	24%	Objective to ben

tically

- rt distance
- efit small-scale farmers
- 40% Small-scale farmers sell to schools/program
- **17%** Support provided to small-scale farmers
- 8% Preferential contracting for small-scale farms/businesses
- Law/policy supporting small-scale farmers linked to school feeding programs 8%

%= Share of programs

Data collected through the 2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programs<sup>®</sup> 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 Europe. Accessed at https://gcnf.org/infographics-and-tools/

