

State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022 Executive Summary



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



INCLUDING
A SPECIAL
REPORT ON
ADOLESCENTS

APPROACH TO ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING = SCHOOL FEEDING IN THE CONTEXT OF A HOLISTIC

Foreword

Over the past two years, the world has faced an unprecedented food security crisis.

The economic ripple effects of COVID-19 have combined with conflict, climate change, soaring food prices and, most recently, the global impact of the war in Ukraine, triggering a perfect storm of hunger.

The human suffering is immense: 349 million people in 79 countries are marching towards starvation, including 153 million children and young people. Inevitably, this daily struggle for survival is profoundly damaging their education. The global food crisis could undo a decade of progress in enrolling the world's poorest children in school, and yet we know that education offers them the best route out of poverty and malnutrition. Hunger threatens to steal their future.

Fortunately, there is a proven solution. School feeding programmes play a critical role in encouraging the poorest families to send their

sons and especially their daughters to school. Once in the classroom, school meals ensure children are well-nourished and ready to learn.

The *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022* assesses the impact that COVID-19 and other global events have had on school-based food and nutrition programmes since the last report in 2020.

It highlights what has been done to overcome the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic and, critically, identifies the key principles that underpin successful school feeding programmes as governments bolster their education systems for the future.

The report also showcases the work of the School Meals Coalition. I am hugely proud of the World Food Programme's contribution to this groundbreaking initiative, launched in 2021 as a global partnership between governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and

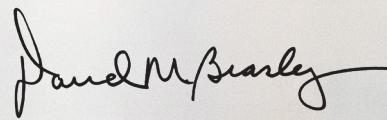


education experts. To date, 76 countries have joined the Coalition – each one committed to investing in ambitious national school feeding programmes capable of reaching every vulnerable child.

These programmes are much more than a plate of food – vital as that is for the poorest children, whose school meal is often the only nutritious food they receive each day. When done right, school feeding programmes improve the health and education of children; make communities more resilient; promote gender equality; and support national economies and social stability. They are truly the best investment any government can make.

The School Meals Coalition offers an inspiring vision of the future and WFP is fully committed to working with our partners across the world to bring it to life.

Together, we will succeed in giving every child, no matter where they live, the opportunity to enjoy a nutritious school meal and the chance to learn, grow and thrive.



David Beasley
Executive Director
World Food Programme



Key Messages

DESPITE THE CESSATION OF ALMOST ALL SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMMES WORLDWIDE WHEN SCHOOLS CLOSED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN 2020, SCHOOL FEEDING IS AGAIN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST WIDESPREAD SOCIAL SAFETY NETS IN THE WORLD.

- The number of children being reached by school meal programmes now exceeds pre-pandemic levels and the possible damage resulting from school closures is being repaired.
- 418 million children now benefit from school meals worldwide, which is 30 million more than the 388 million children reached before the pandemic in early 2020.
- Overall, approximately 41 percent of children enrolled in primary school now have access to a free or subsidized daily school meal, rising to 61 percent in high-income countries.
- This recovery has been more than 90 percent supported through domestic funds, and almost all countries have formally adopted national policies that will help ensure these are continuing commitments.
- School meal programmes have created approximately four million direct jobs in 85 countries, which equates to 1,377 jobs for every 100,000 children fed. Most of these jobs are related to the preparation of food, benefitting local cooks and small catering companies, most of them led by women.

THIS RAPID AND UNPRECEDENTED REBOUND HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, CHANNELLED THROUGH THE SCHOOL MEALS COALITION.

- Political leaders from 76 countries (as at the time of publication) representing 58 percent of the world's population across all income levels, co-created the School Meals Coalition in less than a year.
- The country-led Coalition is supported by 83 stakeholders (as at the time of publication), including major UN agencies and development partners and is modelling a new multilateral approach to development.
- The Coalition represents a US\$48 billion global industry which is almost entirely funded by countries worldwide at all income levels.
- The Coalition's actions are based on independent evidence co-created by the Coalition's Research, Sustainable Financing and Data and Monitoring Initiatives.
- Thanks to the Coalition there has been a sea change in the level of political will around school meals. In Rwanda, for example, President Paul Kagame's administration has already met the commitment announced in 2021 of reaching universal school feeding coverage. The country has moved from supporting 660,000 children in 2020 to 3.8 million in 2022. In Benin, President Talon announced a national budget commitment of US\$270 million over the next five years to scale up the national programme.

THE MAJOR CHALLENGE NOW IS THAT THE RECOVERY HAS BEEN LEAST EFFECTIVE IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES: COVERAGE IS LEAST WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST.

- While there has been a huge recovery overall, the reach of school meals in low-income countries remains 4 percent below pre-pandemic levels.
- Despite other demands post-pandemic and the severe tightening of fiscal space, low-income countries have increased their domestic funding for school meals from approximately 30 percent in 2020 to 45 percent in 2022.
- Disappointingly, while low-income countries have increased their domestic investment there has been a reduction in international support, down from US\$267 million in 2020 to US\$214 million in 2022.
- There is a need for a new compact that responds to this transition towards greater country ownership and funding. Development partners, especially international financial institutions, should commit to increasing support for school meal programmes by US\$1 billion.

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEVERAGE THE SCHOOL MEAL PLATFORM FOR MORE CLIMATE-SMART AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, THAT DELIVER BETTER NUTRITION AND MORE DIVERSE DIETS.

- School-age children are bearing the brunt of the current food crisis. WFP estimates that 349 million people in 79 countries are marching towards starvation, including 153 million children and young people. School meal programmes have become the world's most extensive safety net, and present a powerful opportunity to transform the lives of children and their families affected by the food crisis.
- The global annual investment of US\$48 billion in school meal programmes creates a huge and predictable market for food, and offers an extraordinary opportunity to transform food systems and diets, and to respond proactively to the global food crisis.
- School meal programmes can purchase more local food and match quality diets to local production, increasing local agro-biodiversity and strengthening food sovereignty. This can support smallholder farmers, especially rural women and indigenous producers.
- Climate-smart school meal programmes could be part of the vanguard of country efforts to become more climate resilient, by diversifying diets, aligning agriculture and procurement to local food sovereignty, and by rethinking energy and farming practices.

Executive Summary

This analysis by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) describes the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* in 2022, two years after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Previous reports on the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* were published first in 2013 (WFP, 2013), and then in 2020 (WFP, 2020d), just as the pandemic was emerging in full force, and the world's schools were closing. This 2022 version takes up the story as schools reopen, and as countries join together in a global School Meals Coalition to rebuild their children's future.

This edition follows a similar format to the previous reports, using national surveys to explore key aspects of coverage and implementation practices of school-based health and nutrition programmes worldwide. The report examines the direction and scale of change between 2020 and 2022 to explore the effects of the pandemic on children and adolescents, and the scale and effectiveness of responses by national school meal programmes across the globe.

The closure of schools, which peaked in April–May 2020, plunged the world into an unprecedented learning crisis and simultaneously removed the safety net of school meal programmes that had been built to protect our children. The counterfactual experience of having no schools not only reaffirmed the fundamental role of schools in the education of the next generation, but also brought into stark relief the complementary importance of school systems in ensuring the well-being of the learner and the creation of human capital. Governments across the world have emerged from the pandemic with a much clearer understanding of the need to invest in both the education and well-being of their schoolchildren and adolescents, and of the need to create national programmes that ensure both good education and quality school-based health and nutrition services.

Throughout 2021, governments increasingly came together recognizing the need for a new approach to supporting schoolchildren, while at the same time supporting more sustainable diets and food systems. This culminated in the launch of a global School Meals Coalition at the UN Food System Summit in October 2021. The Coalition has grown into a partnership of currently **76 member states**, with responsibility for 58 percent of the world's schoolchildren, spanning the full range of geographies and across high, middle and low-income countries. This new country-led Coalition is supported by **83 stakeholders**, including major UN agencies and development partners.

The School Meals Coalition has identified three key goals:

- Restoring what we had (by 2023) by supporting all countries to re-establish effective school meal programmes and repair what was lost during the pandemic.
- Reaching those we missed (by 2030). The most vulnerable, in low and lower middle-income countries, were not being reached even before the pandemic.
- Improving our approach (by 2030) by improving the quality and efficiency of existing school meal programmes in all countries; facilitating a healthy food environment in schools; and promoting safe, nutritious and sustainably produced food, linked to local production where appropriate.

Although this is a powerful and determined Coalition, we were still surprised by the latest surveys which revealed that the number of children being fed had already rebounded to 418 million, exceeding the 388 million reported pre COVID-19 in January 2020. Initially, this looked like the first

goal had been met 12 months early (in 2022 not 2023) but closer analysis showed that while some countries had indeed rebuilt and even expanded their school meal programmes, others, especially many low-income countries, were still in the earliest stages of responding.

There is also an important message about the need for external development partners to particularly target support at low-income countries. Low-income countries did everything in their power to maintain their school feeding coverage during the crisis phase (2020–2022) of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these efforts, it is the programmes in low-income countries which lag behind the rest of the world: while there is a positive rebound overall, the children reached in low-income countries remains 4 percent below pre COVID-19 coverage levels. The low-income countries themselves have increased the proportion of investment from domestic funds, up from 30 percent to 45 percent, despite contraction of fiscal space. However, contributions from donors have fallen from 69 percent to 55 percent, a shortfall which is likely to reflect donors' competing priorities, and which has resulted in lower coverage despite even the poorest countries taking on an increasing share of the burden. Shouldn't donors particularly help those countries that help themselves?

Today, we estimate that the average coverage of free or subsidized school meals is around 41 percent, rising to 61 percent in high-income countries. The challenge ahead is to level up all national programmatic responses, especially in low-income and lower middle-income countries.

Although not all countries have achieved instant success, the needle has begun to move. With its single voice and new vision, the School Meals Coalition has already changed the landscape, bringing a new multilateral narrative to development and a new focus on recovery from COVID-19 – not only on educating a lost generation, but also on well-being, health (including mental health) and the creation of human capital. This new focus also includes supporting more sustainable food systems; creating local jobs, especially for women; and introducing more climate-friendly approaches using schools as a platform for community resilience. The Coalition's superstrength is its recognition that investing in an effective programme has multisectoral benefits, each dollar returning some nine dollars across health, education, social protection and agriculture alone.

The scale of the countries' response reflects the scale of the problem and the scale of the programmes: the political economy of school meals has grown from a US\$43 billion global industry in 2020 to US\$48 billion today. Despite this, school meal programmes only attract US\$300 million in Official Development Assistance. Disappointingly, while country investments have increased, the amount of Official Development Assistance has actually fallen since the arrival of COVID-19. Countries are exploring innovative new approaches to domestic financing, which already represents 98 percent of the investment, including hydro-carbon taxes, VAT and development bonds. Timebound and well targeted Official Development Assistance can help countries transition more quickly to self-reliance, indeed 44 countries have already followed that route. If development partners, especially the international financial institutions such as multilateral development banks, would commit to increasing support for school meal programmes by US\$1 billion (or 0.6 percent of current development assistance flows) they could play an even more important role in supporting the Coalition's goals, especially as countries transition from lower-income to middle-income status. Governments are betting on the next generation; it is perhaps time that donors did too?

As the COVID-19 pandemic retreats, a food crisis emerges. Hunger is on the increase as food prices rise in response to inflation, energy costs, the impact of weather on farming and the conflict in Ukraine. Well organized food systems offer an effective way to respond, and the near US\$50 billion industry for school meal programmes worldwide offers a particularly promising opportunity to help secure the future of the world's children. To make this work, there needs to be a better understanding of the linkages between agricultural production and the quality diets that children and adolescents need to thrive. This in turn needs a new vision of agriculture for school food that respects food sovereignty, enhances biodiversity and is climate friendly. As countries seek to rebuild their school health and nutrition programmes, they are also beginning to focus on more climate-smart, biodiverse and culturally appropriate agricultural systems.

This report on the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* comes at an extraordinary moment in the history of human development. In 2020, when the world closed its schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis in education was created with critical consequences for the future of the individual children concerned, and for the global economy. We now realize that closing schools removed the world's most extensive safety net for children and adolescents (World Bank, 2018), with terrible consequences for the well-being of a whole generation. However, out of this harm has arisen a coalition which is changing the face of development with a new multilateral approach geared to support the next generation, paving the way towards a more sustainable, better future. This report explores where we are now, and where the world is going as it seeks to build a new world of opportunity for our children and adolescents.

Main findings

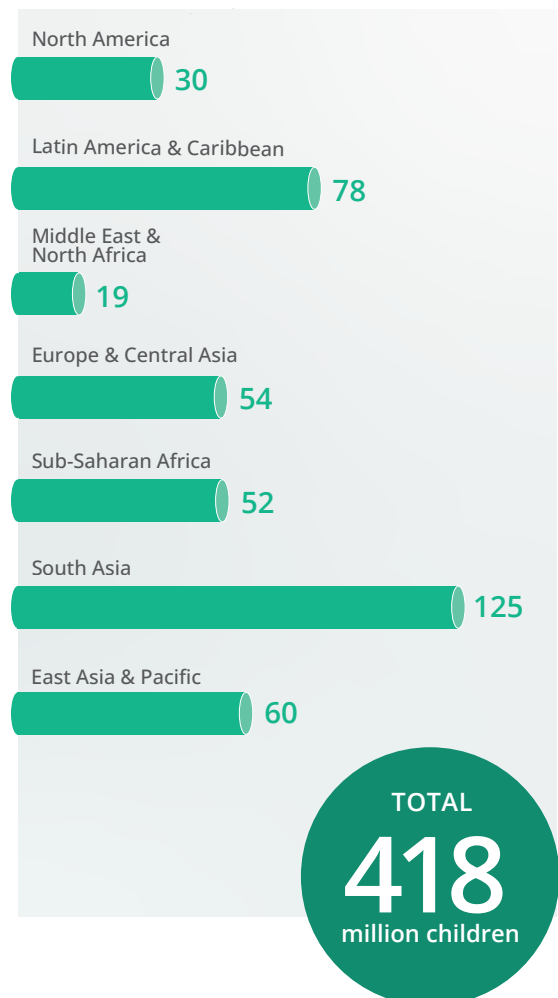
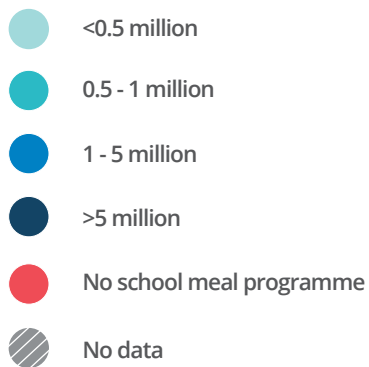
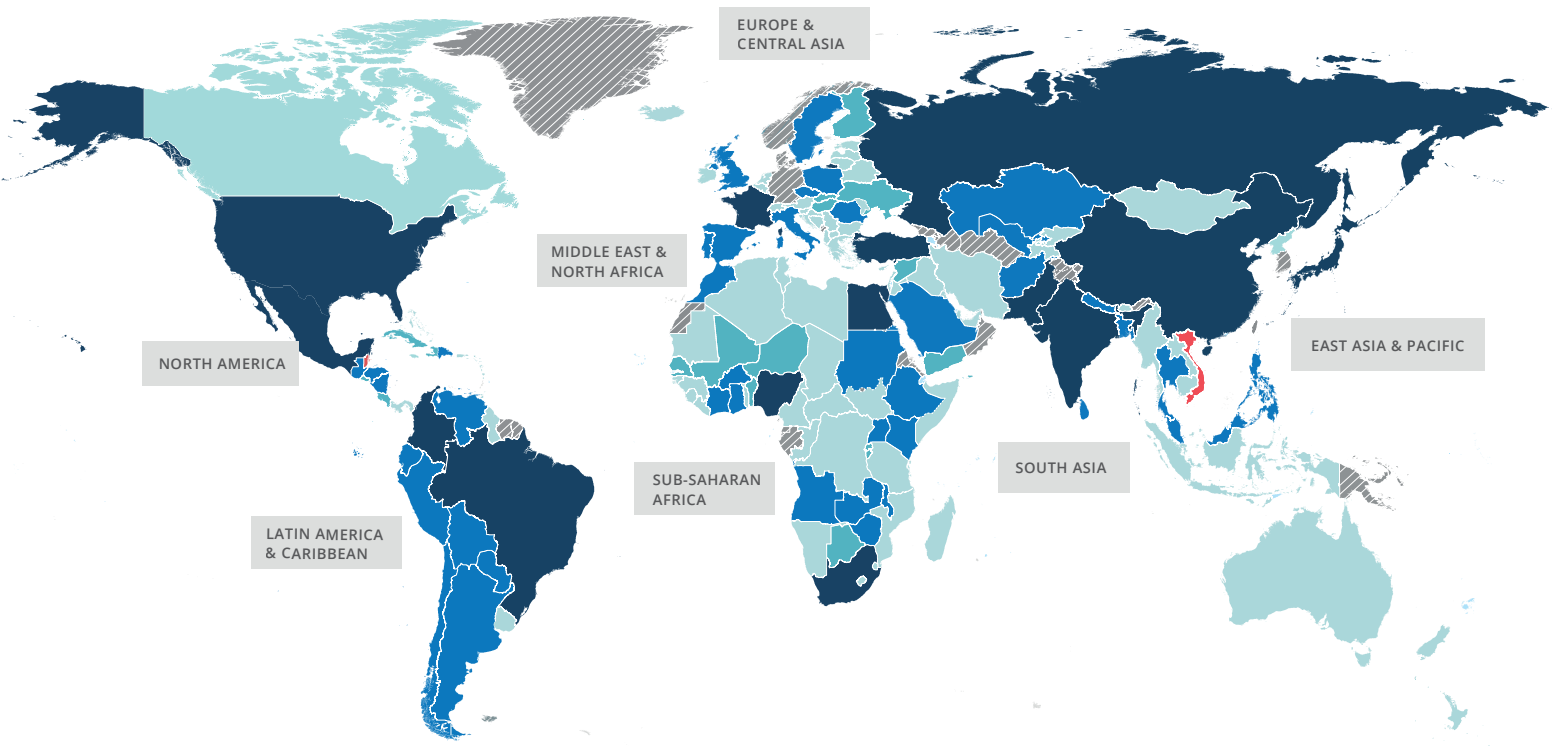
Despite school closures and the cessation of almost all school meal programmes worldwide in 2020, school feeding is again one of the largest and most widespread social safety nets in the world, benefitting 418 million children globally.

Data from 176 countries suggest that approximately 418 million children now benefit from school feeding worldwide, a slight increase from the 388 million children observed in 2020. This variation (about +7 percent) is modest enough to be considered non-significant and still within the range of expected variations for figures of this magnitude. Collectively, these findings suggest that school feeding programmes have returned to pre-pandemic levels and damage resulting from school closures is now being repaired.

Building human capital depends on high-quality education as well as good health and nutrition. School-age children and adolescents – spanning ages 5 to 19 years – require particular attention from both the education and health sectors. It is during these formative years that children and adolescents undergo physical, emotional and cognitive changes – the same years they are in school.

Map 1

Children receiving school meals around the world (millions)



The recovery has been least effective in low-income countries, and coverage of school feeding programmes is still lowest where it is most needed.

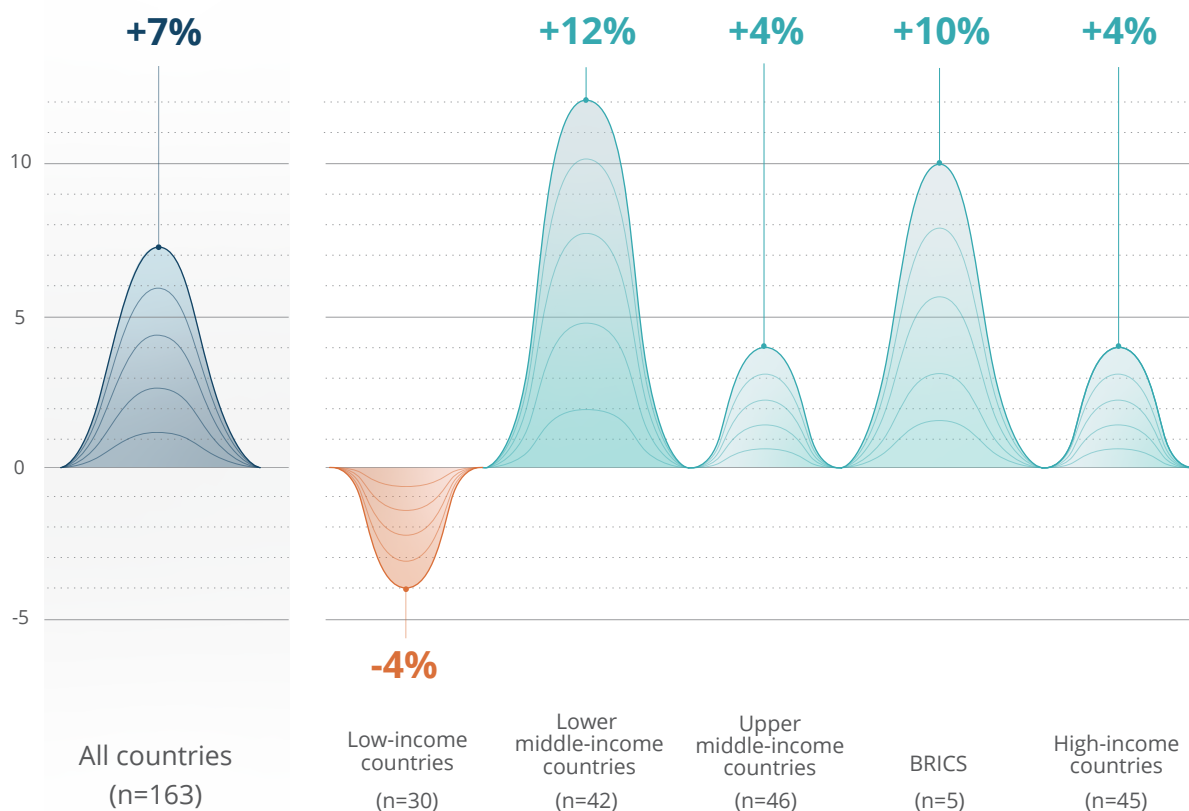
Despite the overall number of children receiving school meals having recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and some low-income countries having expanded their school meals coverage, there remains a nearly 4 percent reduction in the number of children fed in school in low-income countries. This reflects the fact that some low-income countries have not yet been able to rebuild their national programmes, and need more help.

Figure 1

Total number of children fed in 2020 and 2022 overall, by region and income level

Between 2020 and 2022, the number of children receiving school meals globally increased by 7%.

This modest increase was consistent across all income levels except low-income countries where the number of children fed in school reduced by 4%.



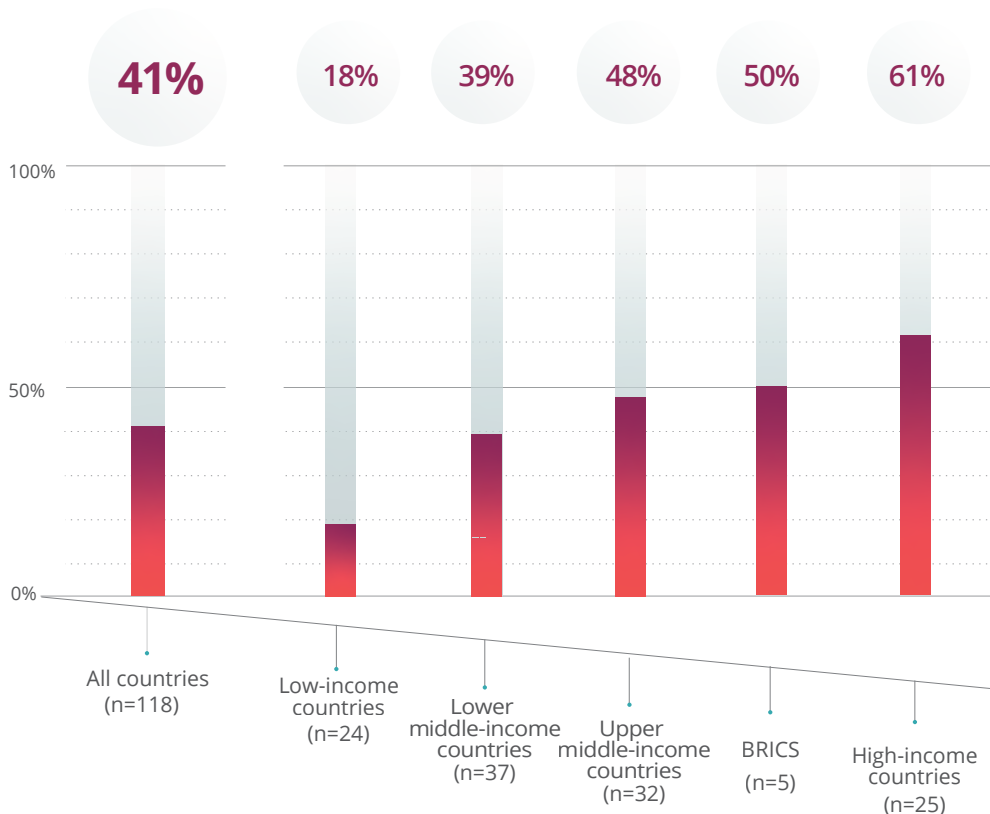
As part of the Data and Monitoring Initiative led by WFP, there is a continuing process of improving the precision of data reported in the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* reports. In this report, we provide more precise data on the coverage of school meals by using more accurate methods to estimate the denominator: the number of children needing to be fed. These estimates suggest that approximately 41 percent of children enrolled in primary school benefit from school meal programmes globally.

The coverage varies greatly with income level: approximately 18 percent of schoolchildren in low-income countries receive free or subsidized school meals, compared to 39 percent in lower middle-income countries and 48 percent in upper middle-income countries. This emphasizes yet again the need to give stronger focus to the needs of low-income countries.

Figure 2

Coverage in 2022 by income category

Coverage of school meals remains lowest for low-income countries and highest in high-income countries.



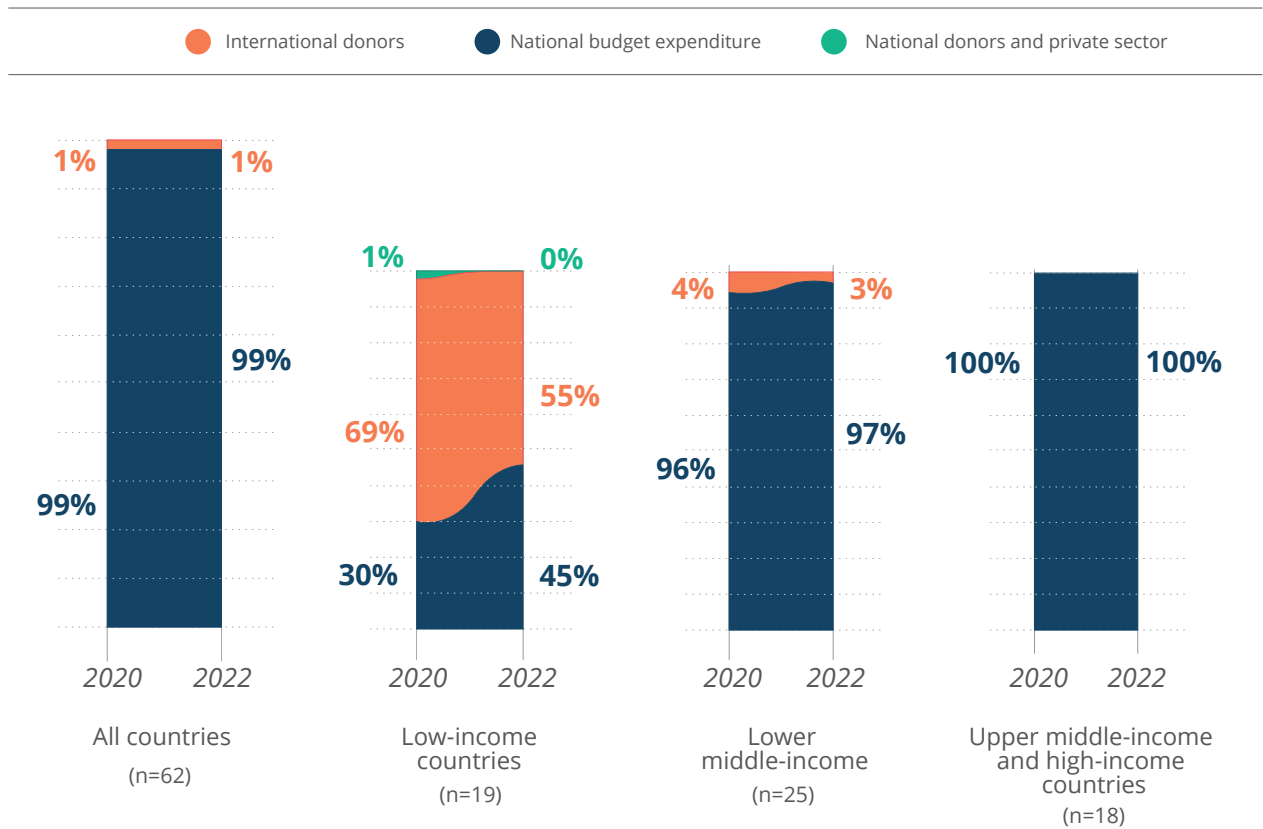
Despite severe tightening of fiscal space, low-income countries have increased their domestic funding for school meals, while donor support in these same countries has declined in both proportion and real terms.

The share of domestic funding in low-income countries has increased from approximately 30 percent in 2020 to 45 percent in 2022, a total of US\$392 million. During this same period, there has been a reduction in international support, from approximately US\$267 million in 2020 to US\$214 million in 2022.

Figure 3

Breakdown of aggregate expenditure by source of funding in 2020 and 2022

Domestic funding represents over 98% of the share of funding for school meals globally.



WFP/Andy Higgins

External donor support for investing in the well-being of children and adolescents does not respond to the priority that national governments give to these programmes.

A financing landscape analysis found that donor support tends to be fragmented and dominated by a proliferation of small grants – with few leveraging effects on national strategies. Most donors and development banks lack integrated school feeding strategies. This suggests there is a need for a compact in which national governments increase efforts and the global community fills gaps where needed, in particular to support the countries most in need and those which are transitioning towards greater country ownership and funding. The scoping analysis recommends that development partners, especially the international financial institutions such as multilateral development banks, commit to increasing support for school meal programmes by US\$1 billion (or 0.6 percent of current development assistance flows), which could play an important role in supporting the School Meals Coalition’s goal to help countries, particularly those at the crucial transition from low-income to lower middle-income status.

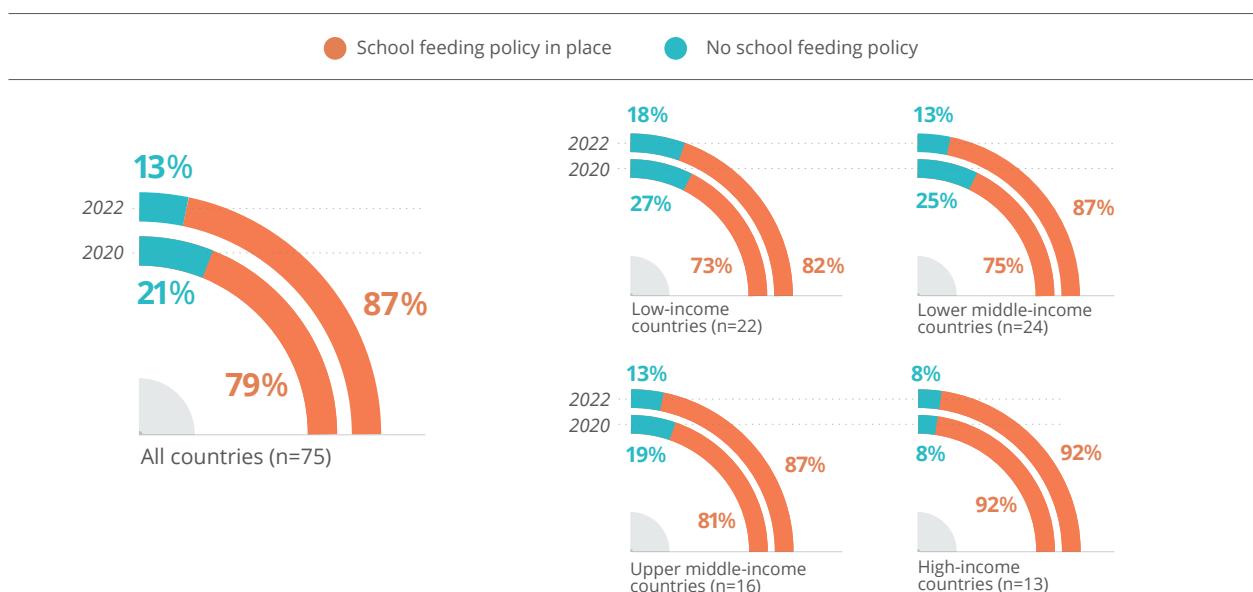
There is a welcome and continuing trend for school meal programmes to become formally part of institutional policy and to be deliberately linked with other health and nutrition programmes that contribute to the well-being of the learner.

This report confirms that almost all school feeding programmes around the world are led by national governments. Evidence available confirms that more and more governments are stepping up their policies. The 2020 report observed that, while 79 percent of countries had specific school meals policies in place, only 73 percent of low-income countries had such policies. The 2022 surveys show that 82 percent of low-income countries now have a school meals policy and that, overall, more than 87 percent of all countries have a specific school feeding policy in place. This is an important change, and a strong indicator of the growing governmental commitment at all economic levels.

Figure 4

Status of school meals policy frameworks in 2020 and 2022

Between 2020 and 2022 there was a consist but modest increase in the number of countries adopting a school meals policy across all income levels.



School feeding programmes are rarely delivered as isolated interventions but are more often the platforms through which important complementary education, nutrition and health activities are delivered. More than 80 percent of the countries surveyed reported that they have complementary health activities in conjunction with school feeding. Evidence shows that the school system is an exceptionally cost-effective platform through which to deliver an essential integrated package of health and nutrition services, including school meals, deworming, iron and folic acid supplementation, vision screening and oral health. This reinforces the importance of school feeding programmes as catalysts of crucial interventions to promote well-being among schoolchildren and adolescents.

The School Meals Coalition has emerged as a prominent and innovative vehicle for multilateral action and addresses multiple Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) outcomes.

Political leaders from 76 countries, representing all economic levels and 58 percent of the world's population, have joined the School Meals Coalition in less than a year. The Coalition has also attracted formal support from 83 major UN and other development partners. The Coalition is led by a task force of 12 countries, which held their first ministerial meeting in Helsinki in October 2022, hosted by the Government of Finland, one of the two founding chairs. France, the co-chair, will host a second ministerial meeting in October 2023, when all 76 countries will be invited to participate.



Through its partner-led initiatives, the School Meals Coalition will work to address three key bottlenecks to action: better evidence for decision making, sustainable financing and reliable data.

To date, the Coalition has launched three initiatives to support these actions:

- The Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition launched in May 2021 and is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The consortium facilitates global collaborations between academic, research and development partners to fill the knowledge gap in school health and nutrition.
- The Sustainable Financing Initiative was established under the leadership of the Global Education Forum and is led by the Education Commission. The initiative seeks to improve donor coordination; the efficiency of funding arrangements; help countries increase their fiscal capacity; and marshal the resources necessary to scale up and transition to national school meal programmes with a particular focus on low-income and lower middle-income countries.
- The Data and Monitoring Initiative was established with the goal of improving and institutionalizing the availability of quality data on national school meal programmes worldwide for evidence-based decision making and tracking of progress over time. It serves as the key monitoring and reporting initiative for the three objectives of the School Meals Coalition.



In a special report, the Partnership for Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health identifies the role of national school meal programmes in supporting the health and well-being of adolescents globally.

School meal programmes are an essential component of a truly integrated healthy and health-promoting education system that contributes to achieving adolescent well-being. Good health and optimum nutrition go beyond the absence of disease and malnutrition to feeling well and having the capacity to cope vigorously with daily tasks. School meals can make an important contribution to adolescents' safety and to them having a supportive environment. For poor families, school feeding incentivizes adolescents to stay in school and their parents not to remove them from school.

WFP has reinforced its leadership role in school meals by making it a corporate flagship intervention, strengthening its capacities at all levels to support governments and improving its ability to demonstrate results.

As the lead UN agency for this area of work, WFP has three roles in the global school meals agenda:

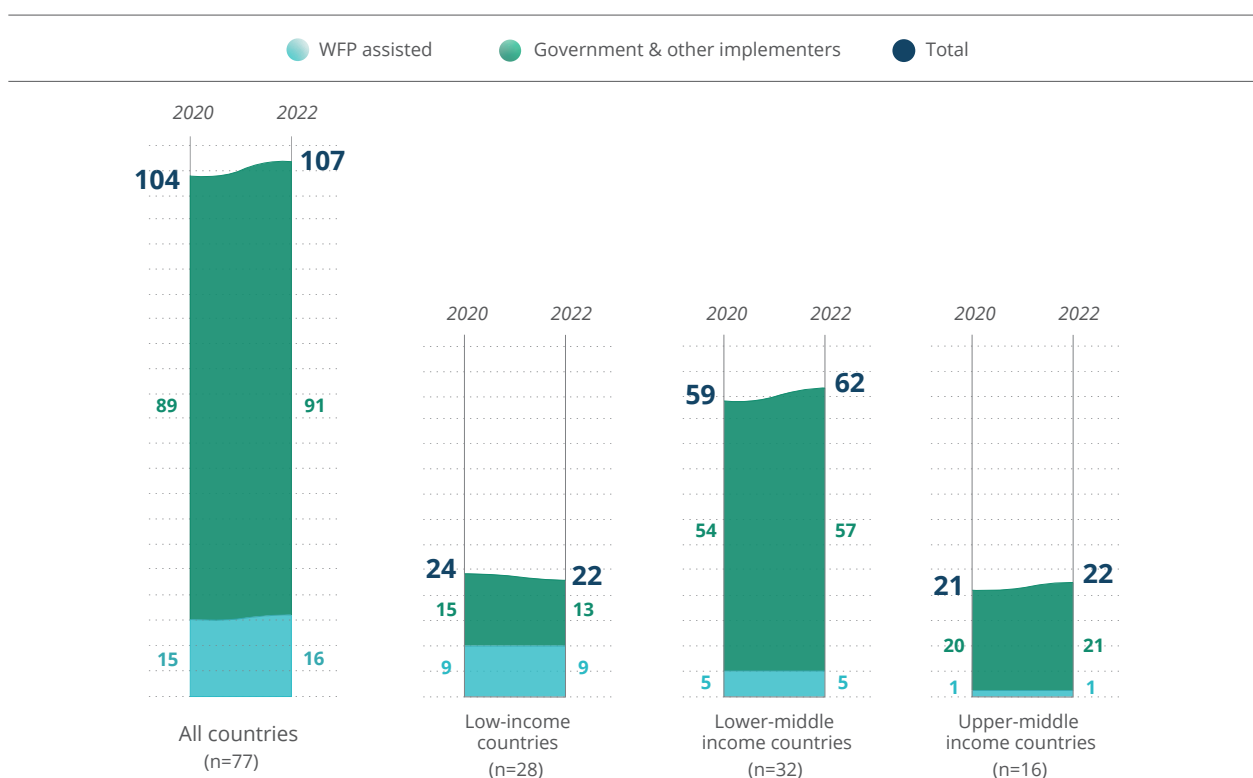
1. Support governments with their school meal programmes:

WFP provides policy support, technical assistance, evidence and know-how to help middle, lower-middle and low-income governments establish or strengthen the sustainability of their school feeding programmes. WFP's technical and policy support has indirectly influenced the quality of life, access to education and nutritional status of 107 million schoolchildren in 77 countries and local communities, including strengthening of agricultural production and improving the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers and partners across the food system value chain.

Figure 5

Number of children reached by school feeding programmes in countries supported by WFP

The number of children receiving school feeding in countries supported by WFP in 2020 is roughly equal to the number for 2022. Joint action by governments and WFP has helped recover programmes to pre-pandemic levels, even in low-income countries where recovery is often least effective. This suggests that WFP should sustain a focus on low and lower middle-income countries.

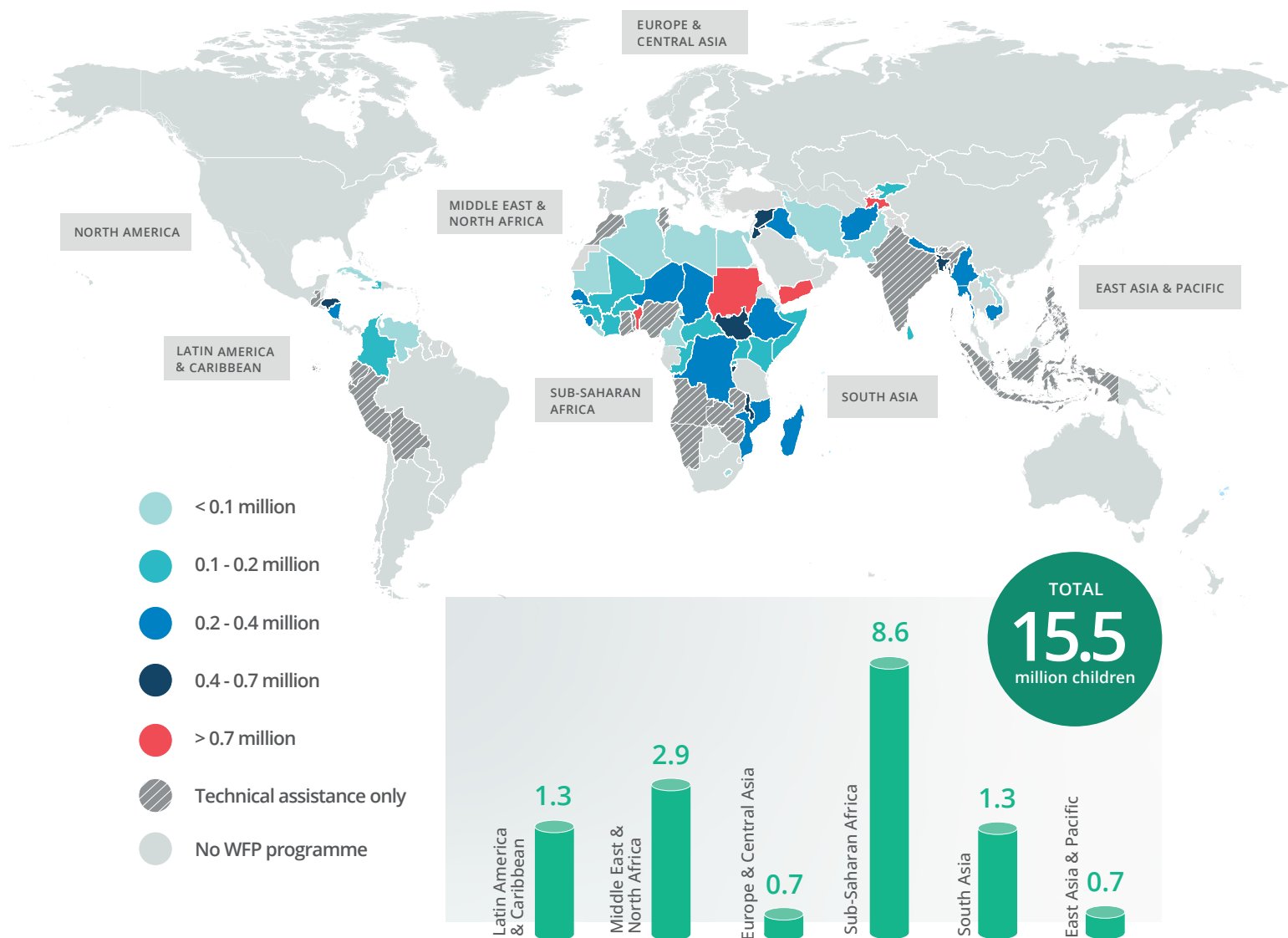


2. Provide operational support to countries:

When necessary, WFP provides school meals to vulnerable children in support of national objectives. In 2021, WFP provided school meals to 15.5 million children in 57 countries, with approximately 72 percent of the coverage in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Map 2

Overview of WFP school feeding programmes around the world in 2021



3. Establish, coordinate and maintain three global public goods:

- The School Meals Coalition: As the Coalition’s secretariat, WFP supports countries of all income levels to share experiences, access financing and improve their approaches, supported by a global network of partner organizations. WFP helps all Coalition partners to coordinate action and connect to the initiatives, which it helped to incubate and launch.
- The State of School Feeding Worldwide: This publication is issued every two years and provides quantitative and qualitative information on the state of school feeding across the globe. The publication also monitors the progress of the School Meals Coalition and achievements towards the goals of improving school health and nutrition.
- The Global School Meals Database: WFP is establishing a global database of school meals indicators that will be available to all countries and partners, to track progress annually.



Priorities for action

1. Ensure that schools remain open and ensure that coverage is sustained or expanded.
2. Support the Sustainable Financing Initiative in helping low-income countries to identify novel and effective ways of funding programmes, and in helping all countries transition to self-reliance.
3. Strengthen the availability of mission-critical data on school meal programmes through the following global goods: the Data and Monitoring Initiative, the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* reports and the “good examples” community of practice from the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition.
4. Support the connection between school meals, food systems and climate change. Prioritize national government access to independent evidence on the costs, benefit and effectiveness of different home-grown school feeding programme designs, as well as on climate change and food sovereignty.
5. Explore the role of school meal programmes as the world’s most extensive safety net and ensure that they are part of the response to the food and climate crises.

The structure of the publication

This publication is part of a series of reports by WFP, as announced in the 2020 strategy, A Chance for Every Schoolchild, to help ensure that an up-to-date knowledge base is available on school feeding. The publication's findings are presented in four chapters:

- **Chapter 1** - School feeding programmes in 2022: scale, coverage and trends
- **Chapter 2** - School Meals Coalition: progress and opportunities
- **Chapter 3** - New advances in understanding school meals: innovations and programming
- **Chapter 4** - The global and strategic role of WFP in school health and nutrition.

This edition also contains a special report contributed by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, titled *School feeding in the context of a holistic approach to adolescent well-being*.

The full publication is available online at www.wfp.org

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- Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

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State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022

School meal programmes offer an opportunity to help secure the future of the world's children. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the world experienced for the first time in recorded history what it was like to have no schools anywhere. As the COVID-19 pandemic retreats, its consequences remain – education crisis, removal of the world's most extensive safety net for children and adolescents and their health and well-being – and a food crisis has emerged. Hunger is on the increase as food prices rise in response to inflation, energy costs, the impact of weather on farming and the conflict in Ukraine.

This publication by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* comes at an extraordinary moment in the history of human development when countries have pulled together in a School Meals Coalition, seeking to rebuild their school health and nutrition programmes, and are beginning to focus on more climate-smart, biodiverse and culturally appropriate food systems. The Coalition is changing the face of development with a new multilateral approach geared to support the next generation, paving the way towards a more sustainable, better future. This report explores where we are now, and where we are going as it seeks to build a new world of opportunity for our children and adolescents.

The third in a series of regular reports that WFP is committing to provide, the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* allows for the continuing overview of school meal programmes everywhere in the world, focusing on national programmes implemented by governments. Each report will be published following a similar format, using the best available data sources to describe the scale and coverage of programmes. The series will serve as the official reporting mechanism of the School Meals Coalition and will continue to provide a succinct summary of new advances in school meals, outcomes and the partnerships associated with school meal programmes. This is not a report on WFP activities but an overview of the work of all actors involved in support of school meal programmes worldwide.

The full publication is available online at www.wfp.org



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