Chapter 1
School meal programmes in 2024: scale, coverage and trends

A boy eats his school lunch in Ukraine.
WFP/Anastasiia Honcharuk

This report provides an overview of the current status of school meal programmes worldwide based on data from 176 countries and states. Annex III provides detailed data and sources by country and state.[1] It shows the progress made towards the School Meals Coalition's goal of reaching all children with nutritious school meals. The data and insights contained in this chapter build on the methodology and analysis used in the *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020* and *2022* (WFP, 2020b, 2022) and are intended to provide readers with a current assessment of key global metrics on school meals, including the proportion of students receiving school meals, the reach of national initiatives, and the scale of national (domestic) and international investment.

The data provided here represent the most up-to-date information on school meals. Compared to previous publications, there are more data from official sources and surveys and fewer estimations.

In 2013, WFP published the first report in this series (WFP, 2013). It was the first truly global effort to describe school meal programmes worldwide and provided a valuable and unique baseline reference. However, methodologies have evolved and improved since then. Therefore, the main analysis for this publication focuses on changes since 2020.

[1] Data for at least one key school meals indicator is available for a total of 176 countries. For each specific indicator the country total will vary.

Since the creation of the School Meals Coalition in 2021, the data indicate a sizeable increase in the number of children covered by school meal programmes around the globe. Current evidence indicates that approximately 466 million children at pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels are now reached by school meal programmes worldwide, an increase of approximately 48 million from the 418 million children reported as receiving school meals in the 2022 publication. The previous two-year increase stood at 30 million from the 388 children reported as receiving school meals in 2020. This is an overall increase of approximately 20 percent in the number of children receiving school meals since the 2020 report. This sustained growth over the last four years, totalling an additional 78 million children, illustrates a large and successful mobilization towards scaling up school meal programmes and governments' clear prioritization of the health and well-being of children.

It is important to note that part of the increase may be attributable to an improvement in data collection and coverage of more countries, and even small changes in some of the largest programmes such as Brazil, China and India may have an impact on global figures.

All regions experienced increases in the number of children covered by school meals or maintained a stable level of coverage. The largest improvements are seen in low-income countries where needs are greatest (a 60 percent increase in the number of children covered since the last report). The African continent, which has the lowest coverage, had the largest scale-up of programmes (an increase of 21.1 million children, or +32 percent since the last report). Other regions with higher coverage, including Latin America and the Caribbean where many countries have achieved universal or near universal coverage, had limited room for further increases. Instead, case studies and qualitative data suggest that the focus in these countries has shifted to improved quality and efficiency.

The estimated global investment in school meals has increased from US$48 billion in 2022 to US$84 billion in 2024. Worldwide, 99 percent of funding for national school meal programmes comes from national budgets. This reaffirms the continuing reality that school meal programmes around the world are operated and funded by national governments.

The latest available data point to a relatively stable share of domestic funding across all income levels, with a slight decrease observed in lower-middle-income countries from 91 to 80 percent.

Additional analysis is needed to better understand whether this apparent decrease is due to data gaps or represents a real decrease in fiscal space for these countries. International support to school meal programmes increased from US$364 million in 2022 to US$445 million in 2024.

Governments continue to show a strong interest in school meals, as evidenced by the rate at which policies and laws governing school meals have been adopted. The proportion of lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries implementing specific school meal policies continues to converge with that of high-income countries. However, low-income countries still lag behind in their rate of adoption of policies and laws governing school meals.

This report has re-estimated the number of direct jobs created through school meal programmes, which falls within the same range of estimation as in the 2022 report. Based on the latest data, school meal programmes led to the creation of nearly 2.25 million direct jobs (cooks) in 76 countries, which equates to 1,591 cooks for every 100,000 children receiving school meals. In this report, the calculation for direct jobs relates to cooks only due to countries' limited reporting on other direct job categories. Based on this latest reported data, the estimated total number of cooks alone required for the 466 million children receiving school meals globally is approximately 7.4 million.

School meal programmes are rarely delivered as isolated interventions but provide the platforms through which important complementary education, nutrition and health activities are delivered. The proportion of national programmes providing complementary interventions in 2022 and 2024 was 80 percent and 92 percent, respectively. This confirms that a majority of countries use an integrated approach to school health to secure the health, nutrition and well-being of children and adolescents.

For the first time since the launch of the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* publication, this report provides a snapshot of subnational data on school meals at the municipal level. This addition recognizes the importance of localization and the significant role of municipalities in implementing school meal programmes.

A cook prepares school meals in a refugee camp in Chad.
World Vision/Amy Van Drunen

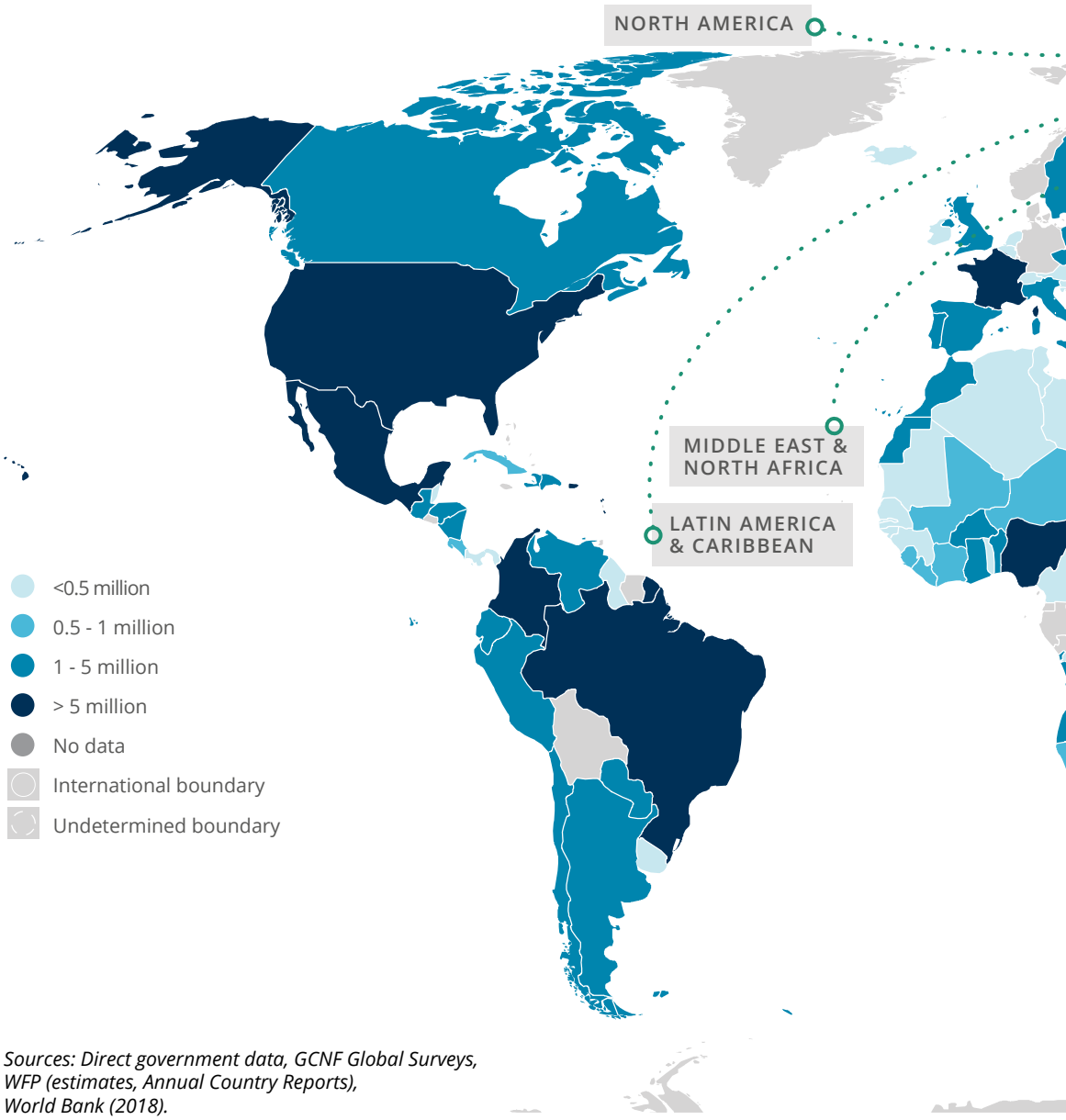
1.1 Number of children receiving school meals

The most recent global data suggest at least 466 million pre-primary, primary and secondary schoolchildren are receiving school meals based on information available from 174 countries.

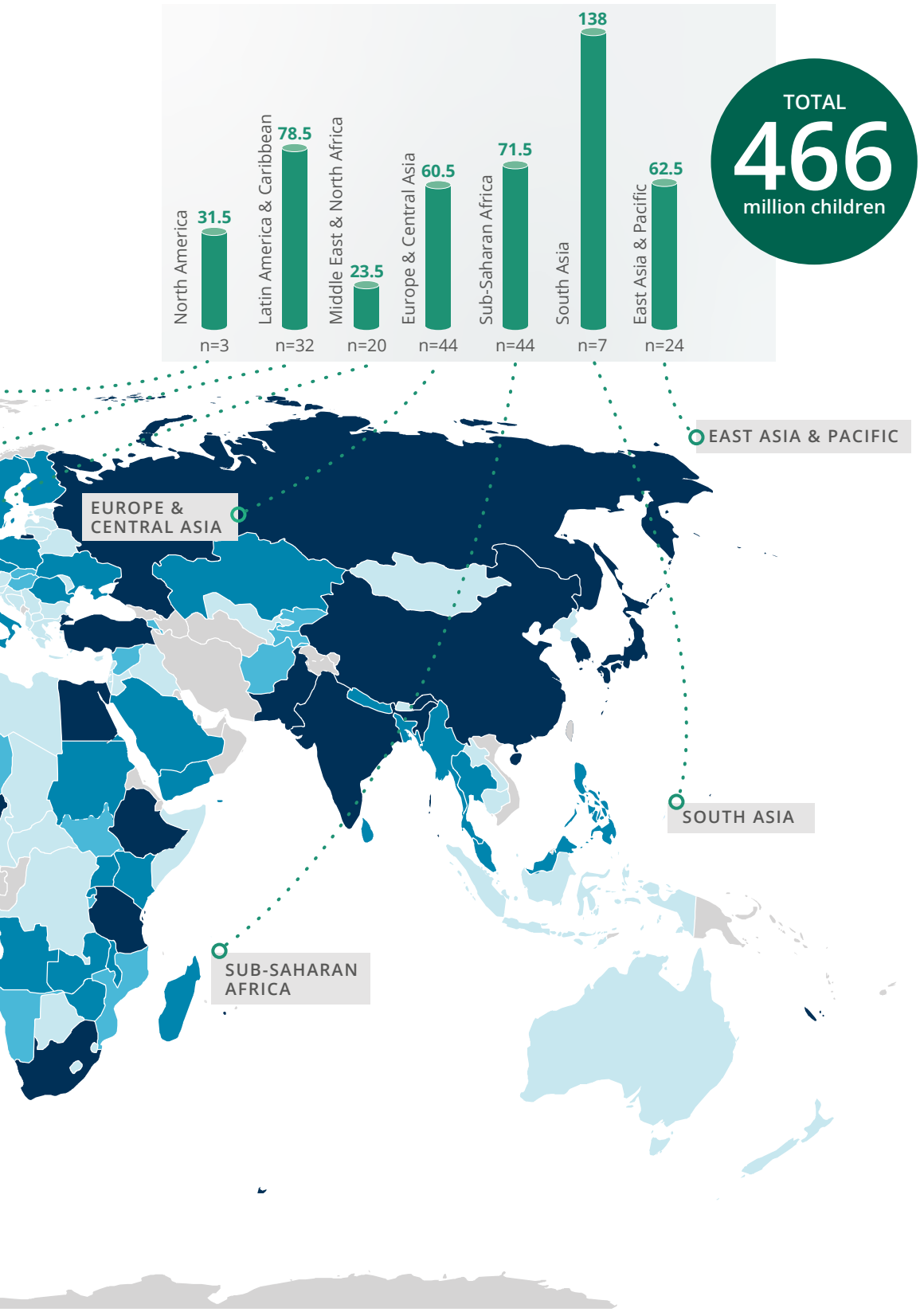
Map 1.1

Children receiving school meals around the world (million)

Approximately 466 million children receive school meals worldwide, an increase of 48 million from the 418 million reported in 2022.



Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys, WFP (estimates, Annual Country Reports), World Bank (2018).


TOTAL
466
million children
North America
31.5
n=3
Latin America & Caribbean
78.5
n=32
Middle East & North Africa
23.5
n=20
Europe & Central Asia
60.5
n=44
Sub-Saharan Africa
71.5
n=44
South Asia
138
n=7
East Asia & Pacific
62.5
n=24
EAST ASIA & PACIFIC
EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
SOUTH ASIA
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Data sources

The data presented were drawn from publicly accessible, official sources including official government statistics, the World Bank, WFP and the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) Global Survey of School Meal Programs (from all three rounds conducted in 2024, 2021 and 2019,[2] funded by the United States Department of Agriculture [USDA]).

Where there were multiple sources of data for an individual country, the most recent data were used (see Annex II for reference years). Similarly, government statistics were prioritized when available. Of the 176 countries included in this report, 48 countries did not have official government data, nor did they report the number of children receiving school meals through the latest GCNF survey. To fill these gaps, a combination of other sources was used, including previous GCNF surveys, World Bank data published in previous reports, WFP data from Annual Country Reports, WFP estimated data based on data from governments and other partners, and estimated data through a methodology using global averages by income level.

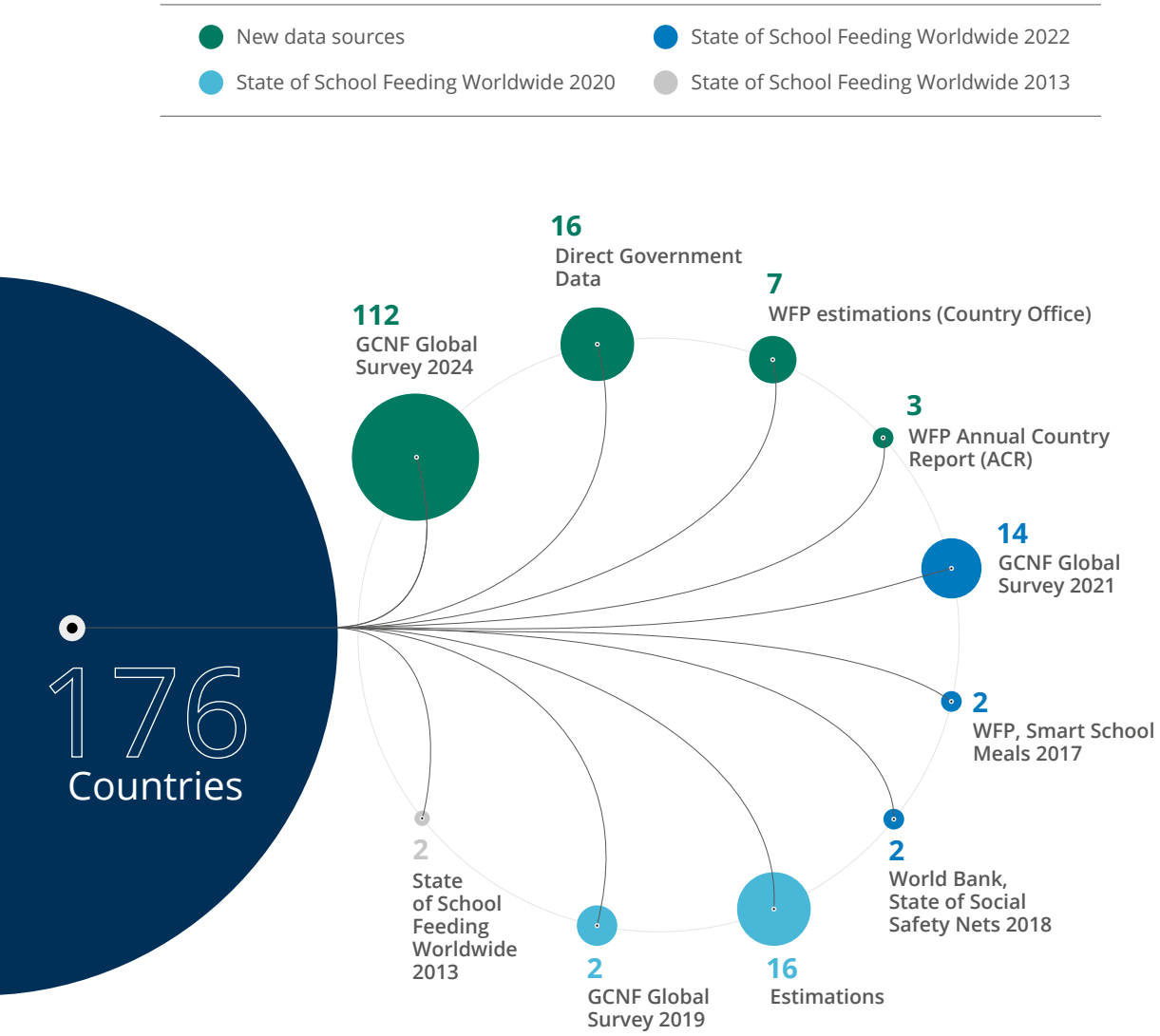
Overall, the 2024 analysis is based on a sample of 176 countries. Compared to the 2022 sample, there is less reliance on estimated data. The number of countries for which estimation methodology had to be used fell from 73 countries in 2020 to 30 in 2022 and 23 in 2024. For the remaining 23 estimates, 16 were retained from the 2020 edition, while for seven countries, it was possible to generate new estimates using available data from WFP country offices and partner organizations. The detailed methodology is described in Annex I.

[2] More information about the survey can be accessed on the website *Global Child Nutrition Foundation | GCNF*.

Figure 1.1

Breakdown of countries by data sources

Approximately 10 percent of the data was sourced from government statistics and around 73 percent from GCNF Global Surveys.



Source: Compiled by the authors using direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys, WFP estimates and Annual Country Reports and World Bank data 2018.

Number of children receiving school meals

The latest available data compiled in this report suggest that approximately 466 million children are receiving school meals around the world (see Map 1.1). This represents an increase of 48 million (approximately 12 percent) from the 418 million children reported in the 2022 edition of this publication (WFP, 2022). Since the establishment of the School Meals Coalition in 2021, this is a remarkable expansion of more than 78 million additional children benefiting from school meal programmes globally, underscoring the global momentum in this area.

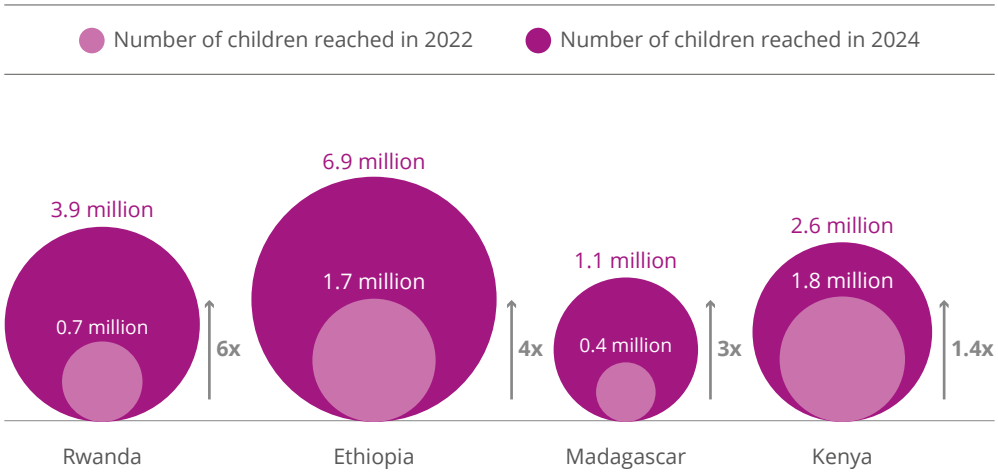
Numerous factors account for the increase in the number of children receiving school meals. A closer look at the data identifies the following trends:

- Of the 48 million additional children receiving school meals, African countries account for approximately 20 million. This includes significant scale-up efforts from countries across the continent (Figure 1.2 presents examples of efforts in African countries).
- Approximately 32 million additional children are receiving school meals in countries that are members of the School Meals Coalition in line with the commitments they made when they joined.
- Some changes are due to variations in the number of children covered in countries with large population sizes, such as Brazil, South Africa and China. Data from Brazil and South Africa is comparable to those included in the 2022 report. While Brazil continues to provide universal coverage for children in public schools, the observed reduction is due to normal variation. In China, there is a continued reduction in the number of children covered by school meal programmes (similar to the previous period) from 40 million in 2020 to 37 million in 2022 and 34.5 million in 2024. The data from China refer specifically to a programme targeting poor and vulnerable children in rural areas and this decrease reflects continued urbanization and households graduating from targeted poverty programmes.
- Reductions in coverage in a few countries are due to the end of temporary scale-ups of supplementary programmes as part of the response to COVID-19. Such examples include Chile, and additional research is needed to understand the variations that arose due to this response.

Figure 1.2

Growth in the number of children receiving school meals in selected African Union countries

Countries in the African Union have significantly scaled up school meal provision, accounting for 20 million of the additional 48 million children reached globally since 2022.



Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys (2021 and 2024).

Girls in a classroom in Haiti.
WFP/Maria Gallar

Change in the number of children receiving school meals since 2022

The change in the scale of school meal programmes between 2022 and 2024 is examined in Figures 1.3 and 1.4 by region and income levels. The comparison does not include South Korea because data is only available for 2024; and India and China are excluded as outliers due to their size in terms of population. Due to lack of recent data, Venezuela no longer has an income classification from the World Bank and is therefore excluded from the income-level analysis (see Annex I).

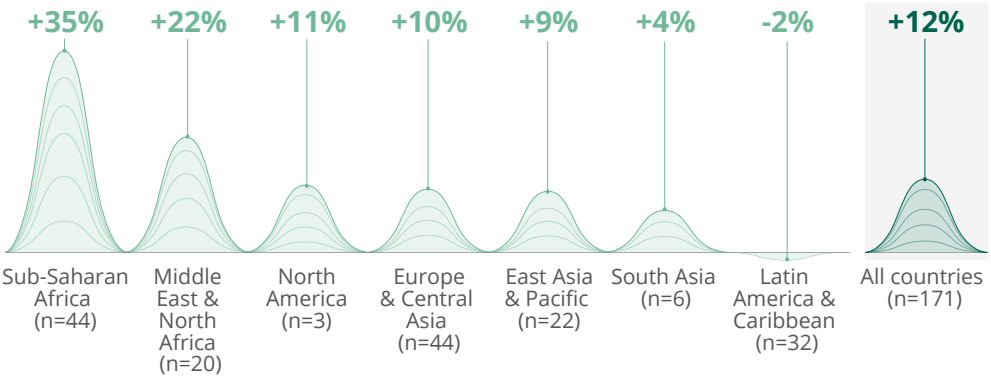
The latest available data suggest that the number of children receiving school meals worldwide has increased by approximately 12 percent since 2022, but this trend is not consistent across regions and income groups. Low-income countries, where needs are greatest, experienced a significant increase in the number of children receiving school meals – close to 60 percent. This is impressive as these countries also have the greatest fiscal space challenges.

The Latin America and Caribbean region had a small decrease in the number of children receiving school meals, which is mainly due to the normal variation in the number of children covered in a few large countries in the region. Therefore, this should be interpreted as "no change" from the previous period. As the region has high coverage of school meal programmes, the stable level of coverage shows that the region has maintained and continued investing in this critical safety net despite challenges and a shrinking fiscal space. A similar explanation can be given for the slight variation in the figures for upper-middle-income countries.

Figure 1.3

Change in the number of children receiving school meals by region between 2022 and 2024

Between 2022 and 2024, the number of children receiving school meals globally increased by 12 percent. The largest increase is in sub-Saharan Africa, reaching nearly 35 percent.[3]

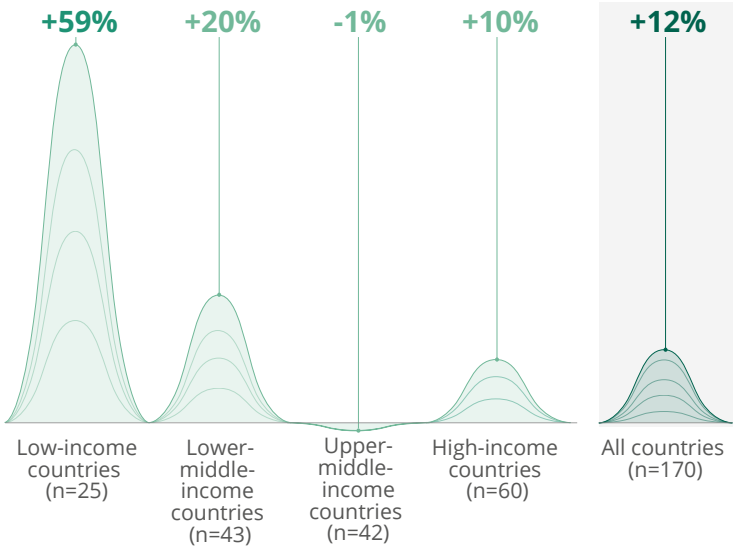


Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys, WFP (estimates, Annual Country Reports), World Bank (2018).

Figure 1.4

Change in the number of children receiving school meals by income level between 2022 and 2024

Between 2022 and 2024, the number of children receiving school meals globally increased by 12 percent. The largest increase is in low-income countries, reaching nearly 60 percent.[4]



Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys, WFP (estimates, Annual Country Reports), World Bank (2018).

[3] India and China excluded from the analysis.

[4] China and India are excluded from the analysis. Venezuela does not have income classification.

1.2 Coverage of school meal programmes

Consistent with the 2022 edition of *State of School Feeding Worldwide*, coverage is defined in this report as the proportion of school-enrolled children who benefit from a school meal programme. While the school meals data presented in Section 1.1 cover pre-primary, primary and secondary education, the analysis of coverage data is limited to primary schoolchildren only, due to the lower availability of consistent data for the other two school levels.

To improve the quality of coverage estimations since the 2022 report, UNESCO's Institute of Statistics data are used for the denominator (number of children enrolled in primary school – see Figure 1.5). This is consistent with the proposed methodology for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 indicator (see Box 1.1). The change in methodology introduced in the 2022 report and increased precision have had the effect of reducing apparent coverage in all estimates compared to the 2020 publication. This report's estimates use the same methodology as the 2022 report, while capping coverage at 100 percent at the upper limit.[5]

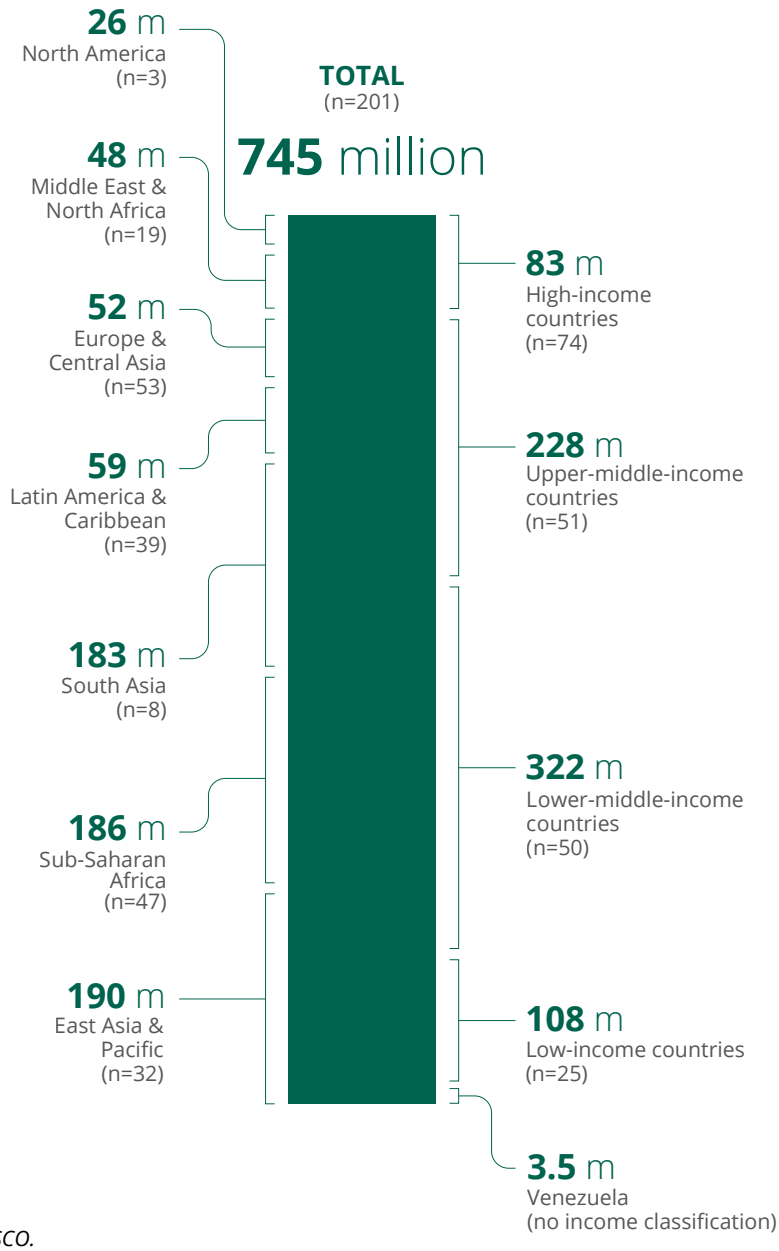
[5] Coverage estimates are only calculated for countries where both the number of children receiving school meals (numerator) and total enrolment at the primary level (denominator) are available. In cases where enrolment data for the same reference year were not available, estimates were calculated using enrolment figures from up to one year prior to the reference period of the school meals data. Countries for which this adjustment was applied are marked with an asterisk in annex III.

A Nepalese girl completes homework after school.
WFP/Samantha Reinders

Figure 1.5

Children enrolled in primary schools around the world

745 million children are enrolled in primary schools globally, of which 108 million are in low-income countries; 322 million in lower-middle-income countries; 228 million in upper-middle-income countries; and 83 million in high-income countries.

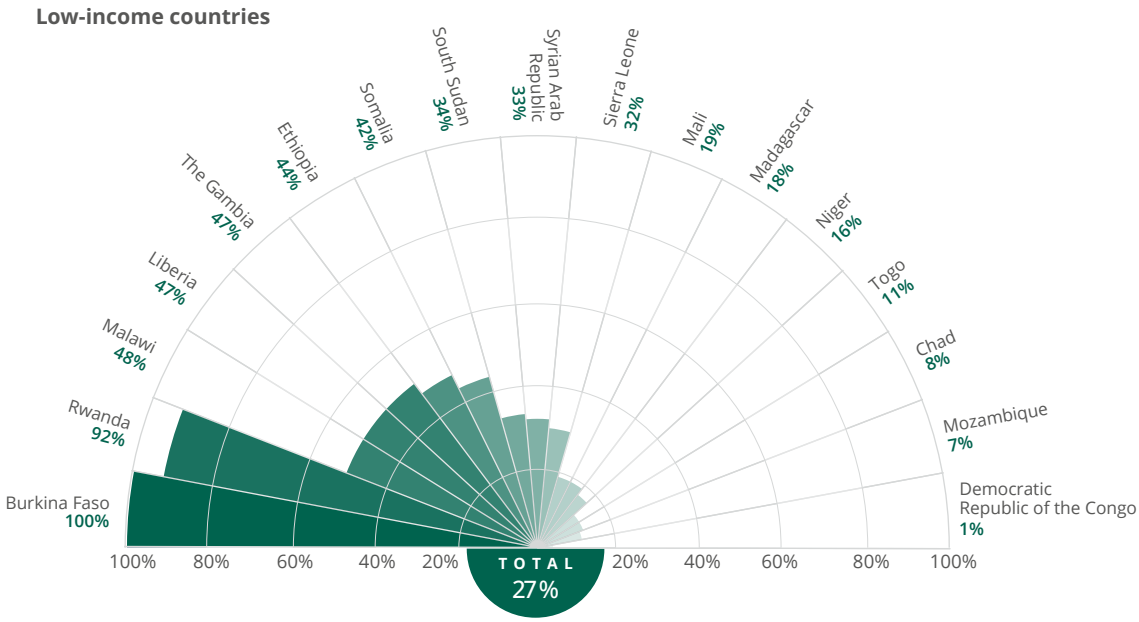


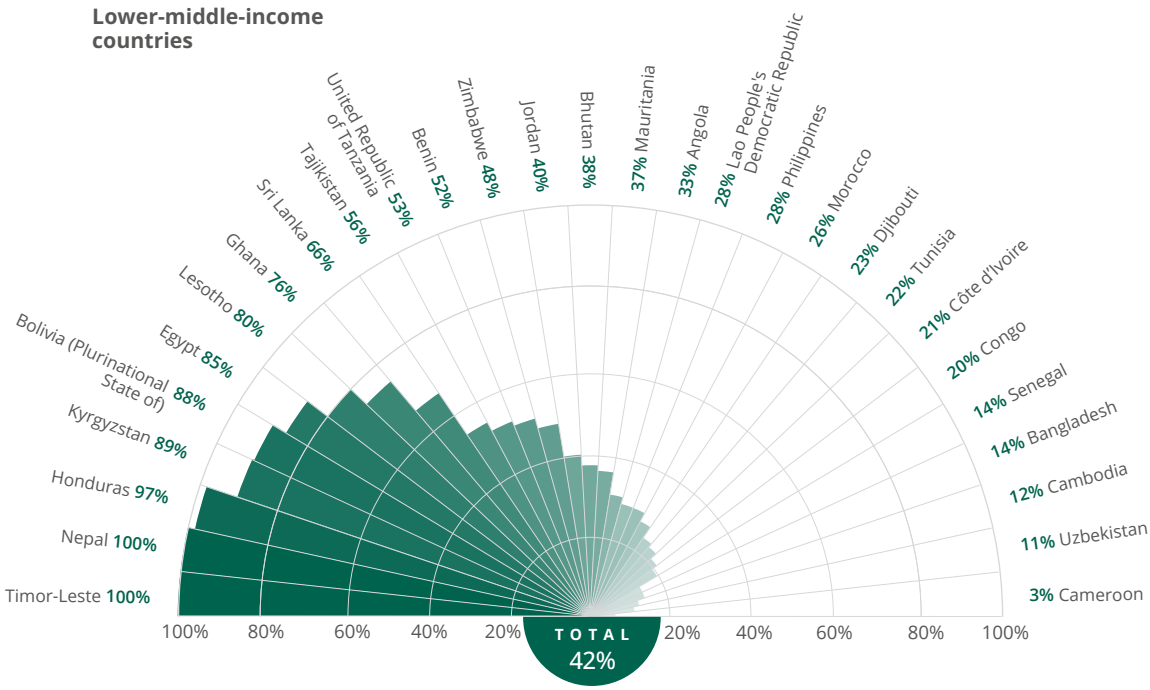
Sources: UNESCO.

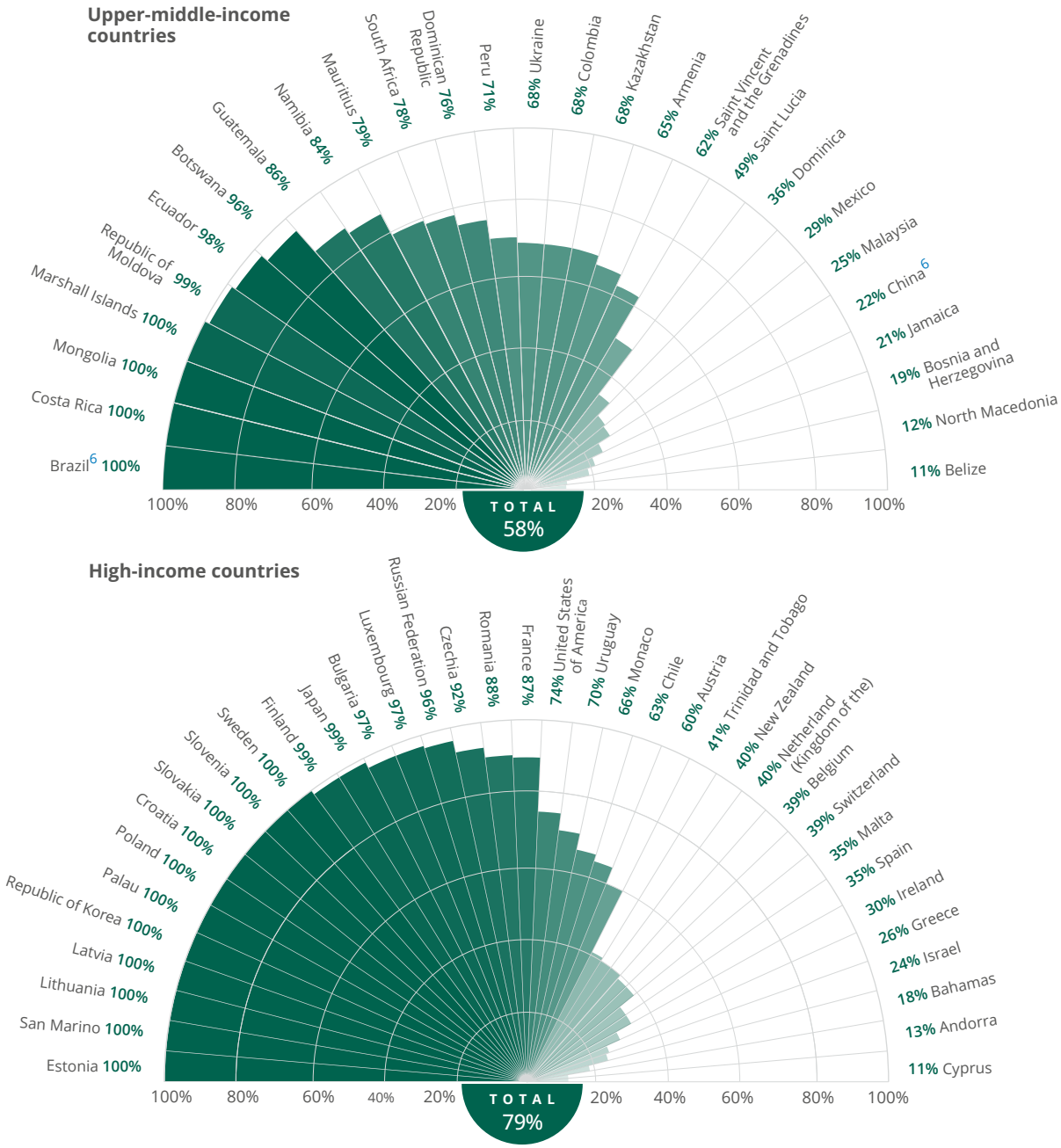
Figure 1.6

Country coverage of school meal programmes by income level

On average, 27 percent of primary schoolchildren in low-income countries receive school meals, compared to 42 percent in lower-middle-income countries, 58 percent in upper-middle-income countries and 79 percent in high-income countries.







Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Survey 2024, WFP estimates, UNESCO.

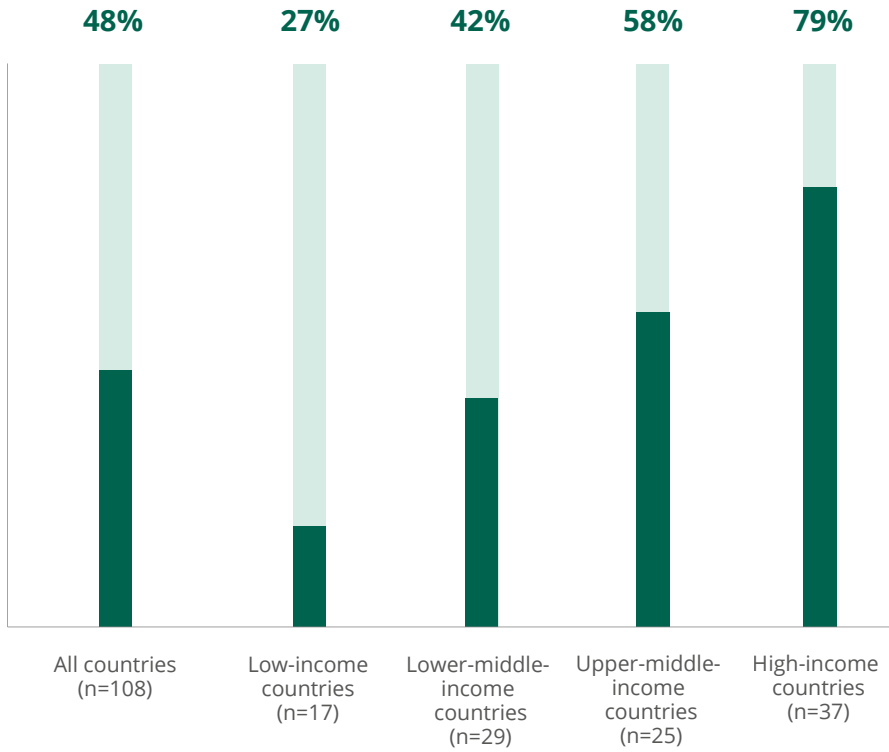
Overall, approximately 50 percent of children enrolled in primary school benefit from school meal programmes globally. Data suggest that coverage increases with income level, low-income, lower-middle-income, upper-middle-income and high-income countries reporting coverage of 27 percent, 42 percent, 58 percent and 79 percent, respectively (see Figure 1.7).

[6] Brazil and China are not included in the estimation of the total (58 percent) in this income group.

Figure 1.7

Coverage in 2024 by income category

On average, school meals coverage for primary school remains lowest in low-income countries and highest in high-income countries.[7]



Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys, WFP estimates, UNESCO.

The school meals coverage indicator and its inclusion in the SDG 4 framework (see Box 1.1) is an important step in advancing the systematic collection of harmonized data at the global level; increasing visibility for school meals; progressing against commitments in different countries; and in efforts to improve data quality at the national level. However, the indicator is limited to primary school level information due to the quality of currently available data for other school levels, and therefore only provides a partial picture. To provide a more granular picture of overall coverage, future efforts by the School Meals Coalition's Data and Monitoring Initiative will focus on additional disaggregation of data by school levels, and capturing the number of children not covered as they do not have access to schools.

[7] Brazil and China excluded from the analysis. Venezuela does not have income classification.

To give a clearer picture on what national programmes cover, additional research, qualitative information and case studies are necessary. Targeting and eligibility for school meal programmes vary across regions and income levels. For example, in a number of countries, school meals mainly target rural communities. To understand whether programmes are fully covering the intended target group, additional disaggregation may be needed. In contexts where programmes have universal coverage, the government may only be collecting data for public schools. A more detailed illustration and calculation for public school coverage for a sample of countries is presented in Annex I.

A girl in Zambia accesses clean water in school. World Vision/Kambani Phiri

Box 1.1
A milestone for school-aged children: towards a global indicator on school meals coverage

For decades, global monitoring frameworks lacked indicators to capture the reach of school meal programmes, despite strong evidence of their multisectoral benefits for children's health, nutrition, education, and for local economies and food systems. The introduction of a global school meals coverage indicator, as part of the SDG 4 framework, is a major breakthrough: for the first time, the international community will be able to track how many primary schoolchildren receive school meals. This powerful global commitment mechanism brings new visibility to school-aged children and strengthens the incentive for governments to monitor and report progress on their school meals coverage.

This milestone is a crucial step that reflects coordinated efforts by the School Meals Coalition through the Research Consortium and Data and Monitoring Initiative to work with governments and partners to test and introduce new indicators to better understand well-being outcomes of school-aged children, build the evidence base and improve data systems worldwide.

Background: The School Meals Coalition's Ministerial Task Force proposed the inclusion of the school meals coverage indicator under the Quality Education Framework. The UNESCO Technical Cooperation Group agreed on the inclusion of the new school meals indicator in 2023. At the time of the writing of this report, the indicator methodology was submitted to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and presented to its board members. The latest available data set will be submitted to UNESCO mid-2025 for release at the end of 2025.

Target: By 2030, ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a safe, healthy, nutritious meal in schools
Indicator: Proportion of primary schoolchildren receiving school meals (coverage)
Definition: Proportion of school-enrolled children receiving school meals in primary schools (coverage)

Equation to calculate the indicator:

$$C_i = \frac{B_i}{P_i} * 100$$

C_i: School meals coverage rate in primary schools in country i
B_i: Number of children receiving school meals in primary schools in country i, for a given year
P_i: Total number of children enrolled in primary schools of country i, for the same year

Data sources
The numerator: official government statistics, or Global Survey of School Meal Programs
The denominator: UNESCO UIS[8]

Limitations
Data gaps and lack of disaggregated data. The School Meals Coalition's Data and Monitoring Initiative plans to increase the frequency of data collection and introduce additional disaggregation beyond the primary level.

[8] The UNESCO Institute for Statistics official database can be accessed using this *link*.

1.3 Annual financial investment in school meals

According to the latest available data, in 2024, global investment in school meals ranged between US$65.6 billion and US$84 billion per annum, most of which came from domestic budgets. Estimations are based on reported expenditure from 116 countries. The same methodology was used as in the previous *State of School Feeding Worldwide* reports (2022 and 2020) to estimate the missing expenditure using average costs as detailed in Annex I. Estimations for an additional 57 countries were calculated based on average cost per capita of school meals (by income group, derived from reported expenditure) multiplied by the number of children receiving school meals in each of the 57 countries.

Table 1.1 shows annual investment in 116 countries based on actual reported expenditure of US$65.6 billion and a combination of actual and estimated expenditure for 173 countries using a combination of actual and estimated expenditure of around US$84 billion. This is presented as four scenarios providing estimates of the yearly investments in school meals. Only 173 countries were included in the total as two countries were missing the number of children and Venezuela is no longer classified by the World Bank in any income category.

It is important to note that the four scenarios cannot be directly compared to those in the previous edition as they are based on different samples of countries with reported figures. However, the *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022* calculated US$48 billion as the global baseline estimate for funding. The current new global estimate is US$84 billion. This new figure indicates a significant increase in global funding for school meals. More research is needed to understand the drivers of these increases and how much is attributable to price fluctuations, changes in the composition of school meals and changes in programme scale. Similarly, there is a clear need to update school meal costing figures.

A new study will be conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute, Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition and WFP to address this issue.

Table 1.1

Four estimates of the yearly investments in school meals (in US$)

		State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022 **100 countries**	State of School Feeding Worldwide 2024 **116 countries**
Countries with reported funding	**Scenario 1** Reported funding	35.3 billion	65.6 billion
	Scenario 2 Estimated funding based on cost per income group	34 billion	65.6 billion
		176 countries	**173 countries**
All countries	**Scenario 3** Reported funding + estimations for remaining countries using cost per income group	49 billion	84 billion
	Scenario 4 Funding estimate for all countries based on cost per income group	48 billion	84 billion

Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Survey 2024, WFP estimates, State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022.

1.4 Sources of funding

As in the 2022 report, evidence on sources of funding for school meal programmes in 2024 is mainly based on the Global School Feeding Survey 2024 (GCNF, 2024) carried out by GCNF. These reported figures include three types of funding, in declining order of scale: domestic funding from national budgets; international donor contributions, channelled through UN agencies, including WFP, and other partners; and funding from national-level donors and the private sector (see Figure 1.9).

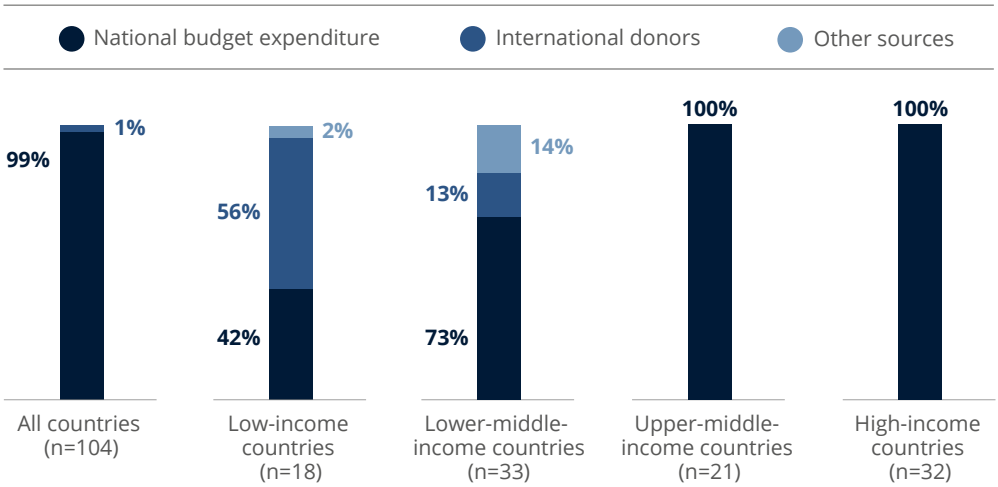
Domestic resources are the main source of funding for school meal programmes in all countries except for low-income countries, where international donors are still the main financial investors. When comparing the same sample of countries in the low-income category, between 2022 and 2024 there is no significant change in the proportion of domestic funding, which has remained stable at around 34 percent (see percentage of funding in Figure 1.9).

Compared to the 2022 data (see Figure 1.9), when comparing the sample of countries with data for all years there is no observable change for any of the income levels, except for lower-middle-income countries where the proportion of investment in school meals from national sources has slightly decreased. However, this change is not statistically significant and can be mostly explained by an increase in external funding for this income group (See Table 1.2).

Figure 1.8

Sources of financial investment in school meals (2024 only)

Domestic funding continues to represent the main source of investment for school meal programmes globally except for low-income countries, where international donors are still the main financial investors.

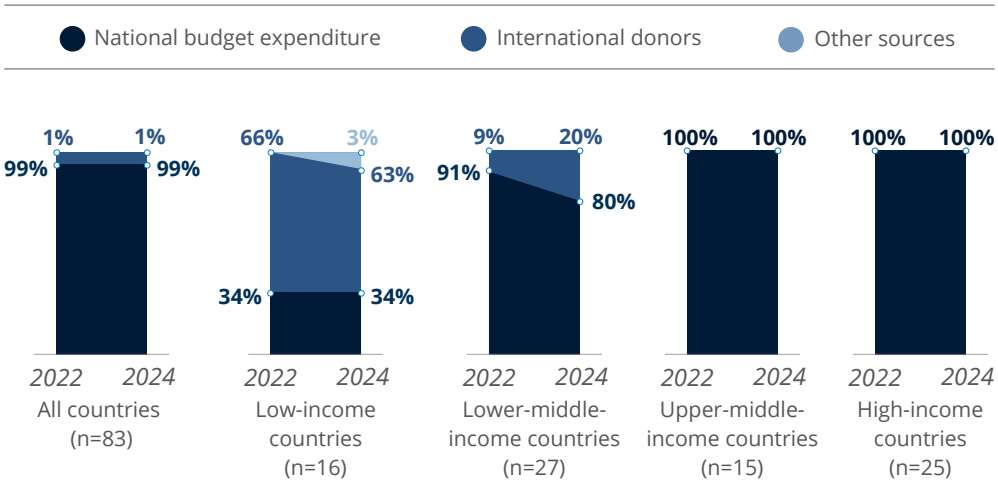


Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Survey 2024.

Figure 1.9

Sources of financial investment in school meals in 2022 and 2024

The pattern of sources of financial investment in school meals remained consistent between 2022 and 2024.



Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys (2021, 2024).

Table 1.2
Comparison of financial investment between 2022 and 2024 (in US$)

	State of School Feeding 2022				
Income level	**Government budget**	**International donors**	**National donors and private sector**	**Other sources**	**Total**
Low	107 million	204 million	-	-	311 million
Lower-middle	778 million	75 million	2 million	-	855 million
Upper-middle	3 billion	-	-	-	3 billion
High	21 billion	85 million	-	-	21 billion
Total	**25 billion**	**364 million**	**2 million**	**-**	**25 billion**

	State of School Feeding 2024				
Income level	**Government budget**	**International donors**	**National donors and private sector**	**Other sources**	**Total**
Low	141 million	264 million	1 million	11 million	417 million
Lower-middle	674 million	173 million	0.5 million	1 million	848 million
Upper-middle	3 billion	4.5 million	5 million	-	3 billion
High	32 billion	3.5 million	7 million	77 million	32 billion
Total	**36 billion**	**445 million**	**14 million**	**89 million**	**37 billion**

Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys (2021, 2024).

As seen in the previous section, overall investments in school meals have increased globally, while at the same time the proportion of national investments has largely remained the same, demonstrating the prioritization of school meals by governments, including in low-income settings. Part of the increased share of international funding at the lower-middle-income level can be explained by increased international support to school meals: an increase from US$364 million in 2022 to US$445 million in 2024. While this represents an approximate 20 percent increase, in terms of absolute value the overall share of external investments in school meals remains modest.

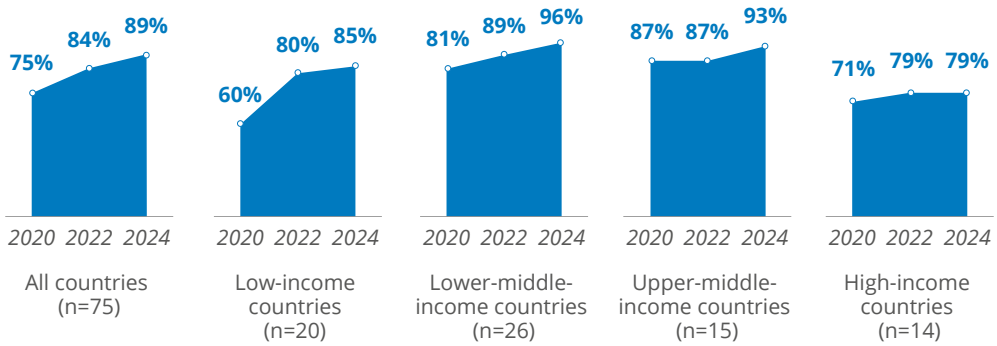
It is also worth highlighting that high-income countries have significantly increased their domestic allocations to school meals, rising from US$21 billion in 2022 to US$32 billion in 2024. This substantial growth signals strong recognition of school meals as an impactful public investment.

1.5 Institutionalization of school meals: policy frameworks and programme design

Newly available data show the continuing trend from the previous two reports of countries strengthening and broadening their policy and legal frameworks governing school meal programmes. A total of 107 countries reported having a school meals policy, of which 19 were low-income countries, 36 were lower-middle-income countries, 22 upper-middle-income countries and 30 high-income countries.

As shown in Figure 1.10, additional countries have adopted school meals policies. The total percentage of countries with school meals policies from those reported stands at 89 percent and is consistently high across all income levels. Additional countries that have adopted new school meals policies include Ukraine, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Senegal and China.

Figure 1.10
Share of countries with school meals policy frameworks by income level in 2020, 2022 and 2024
Number of countries with a school meals policy has increased globally since 2020 at all income levels.



Sources: GCNF Global Surveys, WFP.

The continuous increase in the number of countries adopting school meals policies, strategies and laws is encouraging. However, not all policies are made the same and not all necessarily demonstrate long-term commitment, as they may be time bound. An additional sign of commitment is in being a member of the School Meals Coalition, where countries make detailed pledges on the improvements they intend to make to policy and legislation. Box 1.2 on policy and legislation provides examples of good practices, including from Brazil.

Box 1.2

Policies, legislation and the path to a legal basis for school meals

To support stronger, more effective legislation on school meals, in 2024 the School Meals Coalition partnered with the International Parliamentary Network for Education to develop a dedicated toolkit[9] for parliamentarians, in collaboration with the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition. This resource equips lawmakers with practical guidance and evidence to advocate for laws that secure the long-term sustainability of school meal programmes.

While presidents and heads of state champion school meal programmes by adopting policies, laws are what translate political commitments into sustainable actions. School meal programmes that are embedded in legislation offer several advantages, including:

- predictable and sustained financing beyond political cycles;
- clearly defined institutional roles and responsibilities;
- legislative oversight of programme implementation; and
- transparency, public engagement and community ownership.

A sound legal framework for school meals may consist of several types of legislation, each addressing different aspects of the programme. These can be grouped into three broad categories:

- A framework law focused on regulating the delivery of school meals and other school-based health and nutrition services that may be included in the programme.

[9] *"School meals: A toolkit for parliamentarians"* produced by the International Parliamentary Network for Education, WFP and the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition provides detailed guidance on designing school meals legislation. This publication can be accessed at *www.ipned.org/schoolmeals*.

- Laws establishing an entitlement to school meals. These are often included as provisions under broader legislation.
- Laws establishing linkages with school meals and multiple sectors. For example, social protection, food standards, procurement, agricultural production or land use legislation.

Many countries begin with a school meals policy framework and gradually establish laws to reinforce and institutionalize their school meal programmes. For example, in 1979, the small island state of Cabo Verde, off the west African coast, launched a national school meal programme with the support of WFP. Thirty-six years later in 2015, Cabo Verde enacted a school meals law, which secured full and effective national ownership of the programme.

Brazil's school feeding law is a globally recognized example of successful legislation supporting the quality and sustainability of school meals. The law established guidelines for Brazil's National School Feeding Programme (PNAE—Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar) and outlines key elements of Brazil's school meal programme including coverage, management, standards for delivery time, types of food that can be served, public participation, procurement models, monitoring and pedagogical tools such as school gardens.

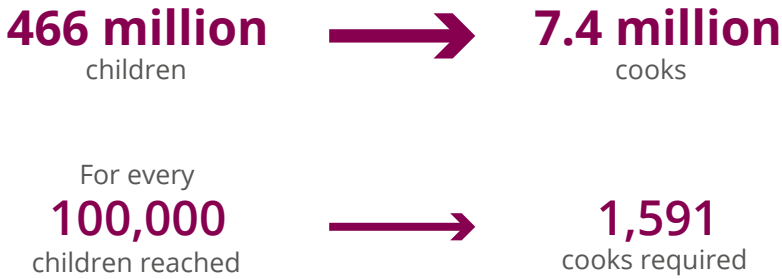
As countries move to create, expand and improve their school meal programmes, establishing a legislative basis can be an important step for long-term impact. As part of the School Meals Coalition's commitment to improve the availability of mission-critical data on school meal programmes, future editions of the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* will increasingly include more qualitative data and research on policy and legislation.

1.6 School meals and employment

As part of the 2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programs administered by GCNF, new data were collected on the jobs created directly by school meals. These data aim to provide new insight into employment dynamics, yet another multisectoral aspect of school meal programmes.

The analysis is based on a sample of 76 countries from all income level groups, providing school meals to approximately 141.5 million children. The calculation for direct jobs only includes cooks due to countries' limited reporting on other direct job categories linked to difficulties in tracking and weaknesses in national monitoring systems. These 76 countries reported that school meal programmes directly created approximately 2.25 million jobs (cooks), equivalent to 1,591 cooks for every 100,000 children receiving school meals. We can assume that these are conservative estimates as they only focus on one category of direct jobs. At the same time, the reported figures and calculated averages reconfirm that school meal programmes are a major source of direct employment consistent with previous estimates ranging between 1,000 and 2,000 jobs per 100,000 children. Based on these averages, the estimated total number of cooks required for the 466 million children receiving school meals globally is approximately 7.4 million.

Figure 1.11
Jobs created for every 100,000 children receiving school meals (n=76)
On average, school meal programmes create around 1,591 direct jobs (cooks) for every 100,000 children receiving school meals.



Sources: Direct government data, GCNF Global Surveys, WFP (estimates, Annual Country Reports), World Bank (2018).

These estimates are based on only one direct job category and do not include indirect employment or business opportunities generated by school meals, for instance when local farmers benefit from programmes implemented under a home-grown school meals model. Further work is necessary not only to better track and estimate direct and indirect jobs linked to the provision of school meals, but also to assess the quality of these jobs, such as the level of compensation and their stability.

A school cook in Kenya prepares lunch.
WFP/Lisa Murray

1.7 Integrated school health and nutrition programmes

School health and nutrition programmes typically include an integrated package of interventions that together seek to meet the needs of the learner in the local context. School meals may be one of these components, other complementary activities may include: handwashing with soap, deworming, weight measurement, height measurement, menstrual hygiene, eye testing, dental cleaning, hearing test, anaemia test, school gardens, drinking water and water purification.

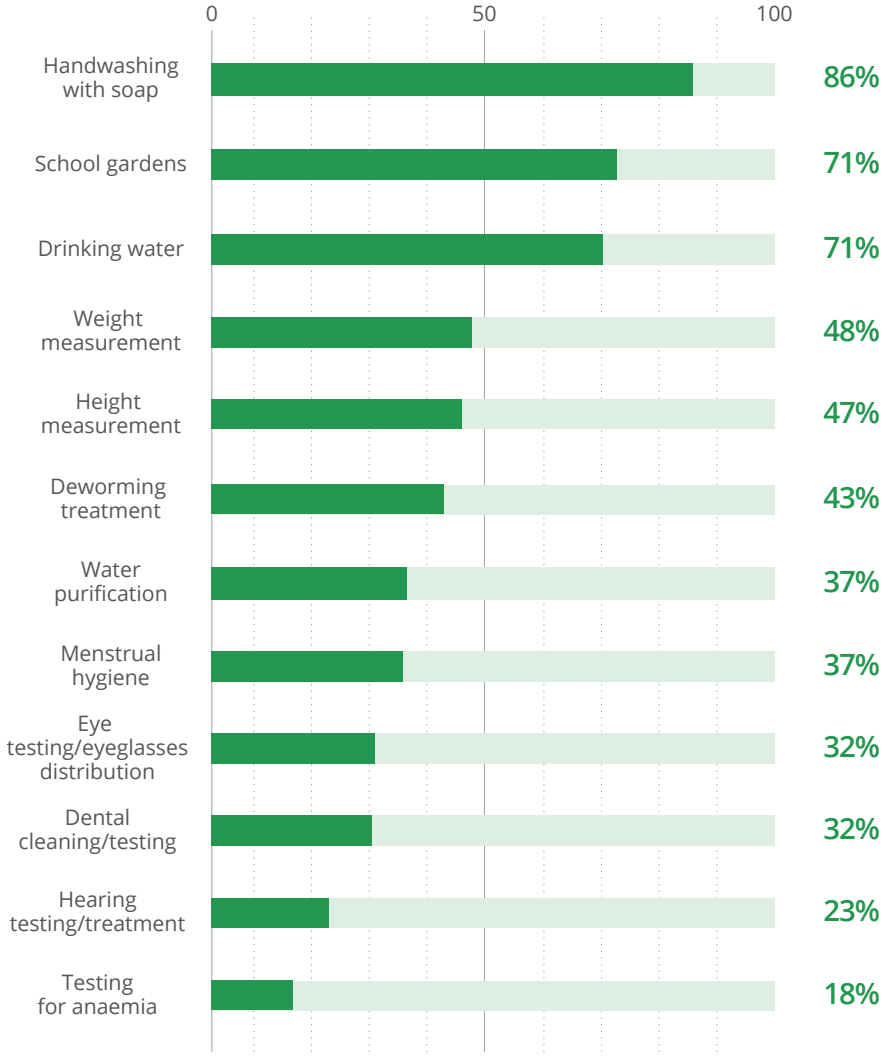
As part of the latest GCNF Global Survey of School Meal Programs, new data were collected on these 12 complementary activities (see Figure 1.12). Data were drawn from a sample of 126 countries included in the survey and are summarized below. Overall, only ten countries (8 percent) reported having no complementary programme in place; 23 percent of countries had one to three complementary programmes; and approximately 69 percent reported four or more complementary activities provided with school meals. As shown in Figure 1.12, the most common complementary programme was handwashing with soap (N. 108, 86 percent).

A girl eats a hot meal in school in Romania.
World Vision/Maria Manole

Figure 1.12

Complementary health and nutrition programmes (n=126)

Handwashing continues to be the most common complementary programme implemented in conjunction with school meals.

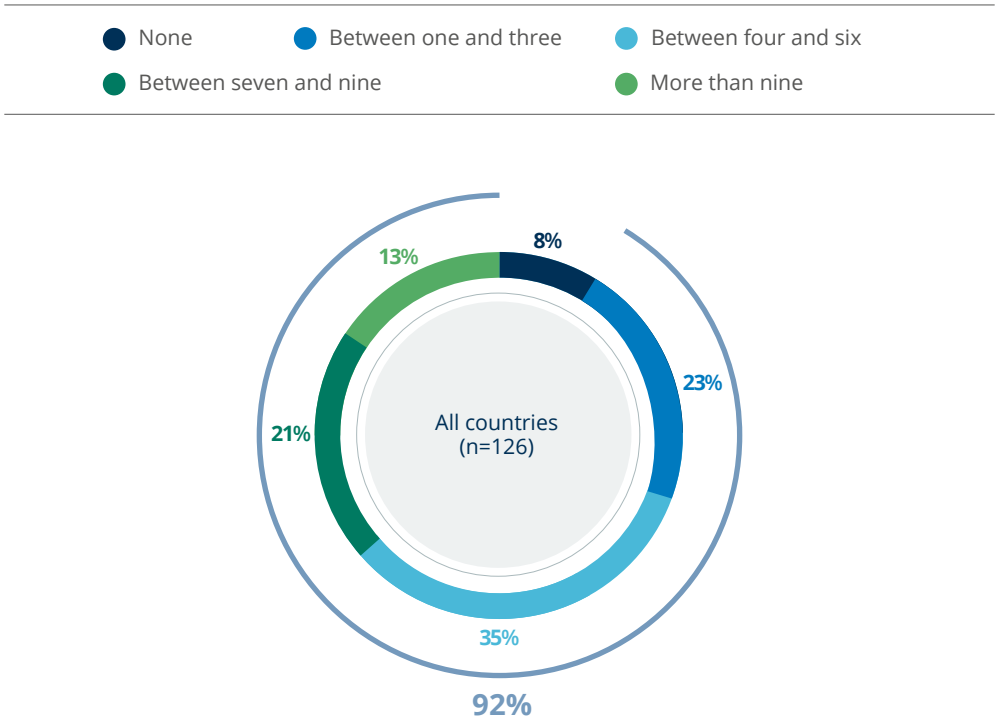


Source: GCNF Global Survey 2024.

Figure 1.13

Adoption of complementary health and nutrition programmes

More than 90 percent of governments implement school meals in conjunction with complementary health and nutrition interventions. Approximately 70 percent of governments deliver a fully integrated package of at least four interventions.



Source: GCNF Global Survey 2024.

1.8 City-led solutions: advancing school meals at the subnational level

This report provides a snapshot of subnational data on school meals at the municipal level. This addition recognizes the importance of localization and the significant role of municipalities in implementing school meal programmes. Given that in many countries school meal programmes are established and managed directly by local governments, mayors have a daily direct contact with final users and therefore a primary political responsibility for ensuring infrastructure and services are in place to support the delivery of school meals. While national governments define the framework for action and priorities to be targeted, cities directly implement school meals, where positive results can be concretely observed by citizens. Cities also possess up-to-date data and first hand experiences of their citizens' needs in terms of food systems and nutrition, especially when related to school meals.

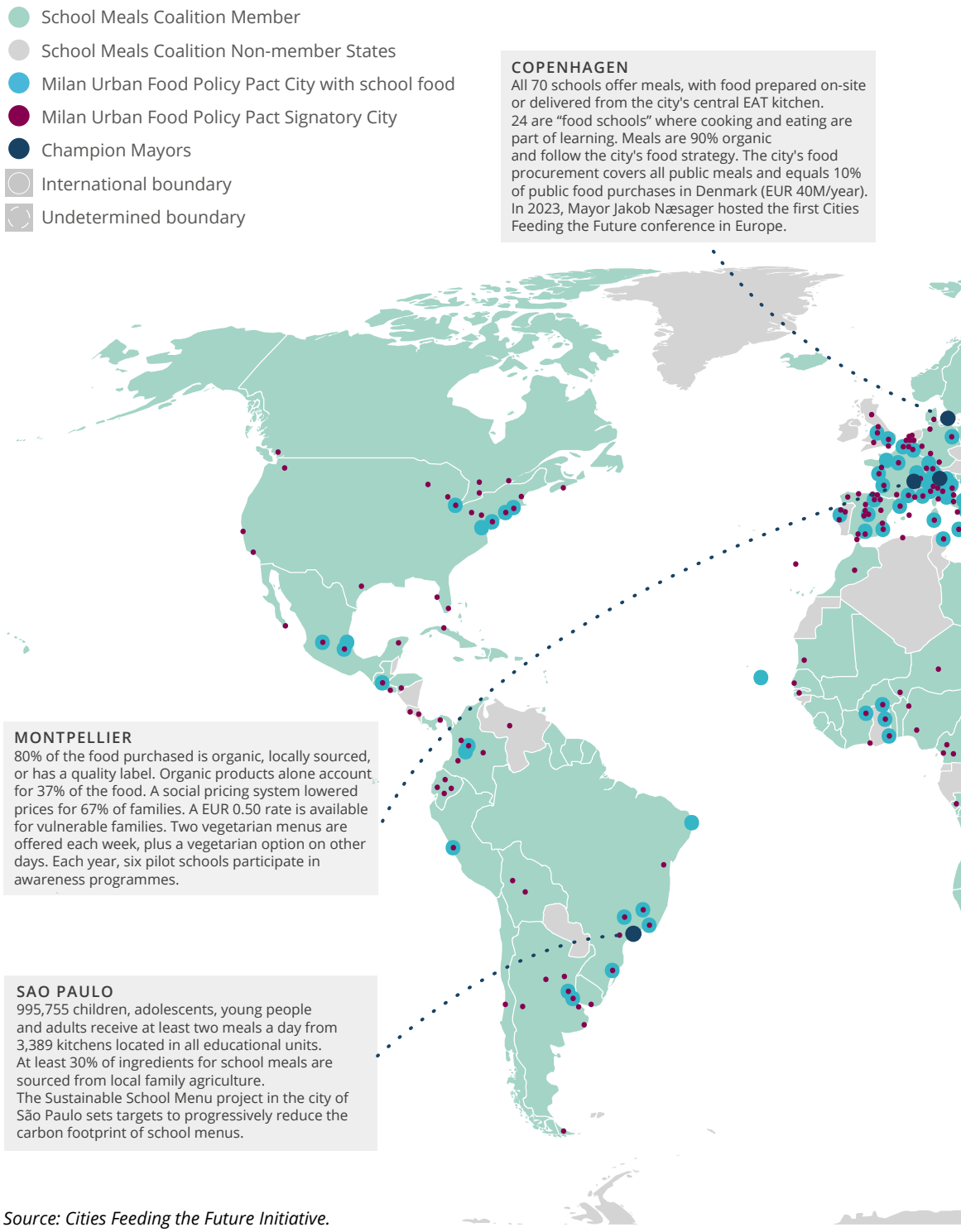
Since its creation in 2023, the School Meals Coalition's Cities Feeding the Future Initiative is paving the way for change at the municipal level. Map 1.2 explores innovations across Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Copenhagen, Montpellier, Nairobi, São Paulo and Seoul.

As data and knowledge on school meals become increasingly available through the efforts of the Data and Monitoring and Cities Feeding the Future Initiatives at both national and subnational levels, it is envisioned that data from cities will be integrated and featured within the School Meals Coalition's global database.[10] Combining knowledge and data from national and subnational levels of governance will help foster exchanges and learning on the design and implementation of school meals through differences and synergies across local contexts.

[10] The School Meals Coalition database can be accessed using this link *https://www.schoolmealscoalitiondatabase.wfp.org/*.

Map 1.2

City-level innovation in school meal programmes: a subnational snapshot

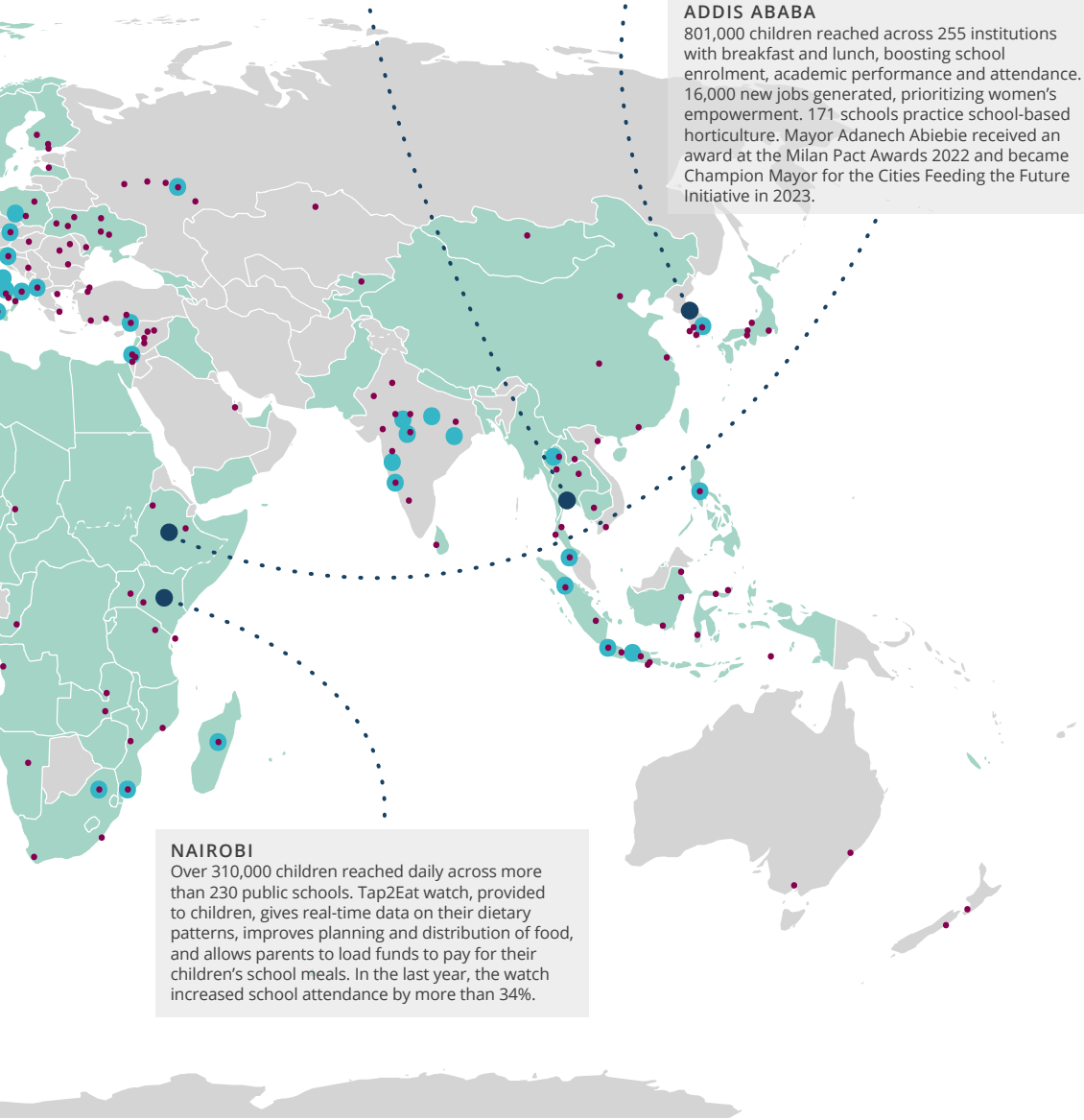


Source: Cities Feeding the Future Initiative.

BANGKOK
Initiated a school canteen policy offering free breakfast and lunch. The school meal programme serves 250,000 children every day across 437 BMA affiliated schools. The Thai School Lunch online platform is used to help schools plan purchases and meals and enable the city to check food quality, increasing participation from the education department of district offices and other institutions.

SEOUL
Free meals to all students (kindergarten to high school) since 2011. Over 1,300 schools supplied with safe, quality ingredients from an innovative distribution centre, and meals undergo rigorous inspections. Guidelines require schools to purchase over 70% of environmentally friendly produce.

ADDIS ABABA
801,000 children reached across 255 institutions with breakfast and lunch, boosting school enrolment, academic performance and attendance. 16,000 new jobs generated, prioritizing women's empowerment. 171 schools practice school-based horticulture. Mayor Adanech Abiebie received an award at the Milan Pact Awards 2022 and became Champion Mayor for the Cities Feeding the Future Initiative in 2023.



NAIROBI
Over 310,000 children reached daily across more than 230 public schools. Tap2Eat watch, provided to children, gives real-time data on their dietary patterns, improves planning and distribution of food, and allows parents to load funds to pay for their children's school meals. In the last year, the watch increased school attendance by more than 34%.

1.9 Way forward

The new data suggest a significant positive trajectory for school meals globally since the creation of the School Meals Coalition in 2021. Since publication of the 2020 *State of School Feeding Worldwide* report, the number of children covered by school meals globally has increased by roughly 20 percent. This level of success is underpinned by school meals emerging as a clear policy priority for countries at all income levels. For high and upper-middle-income countries, the focus is in shifting to quality and efficiency gains, while low-income countries are focusing on rapid scale-up.

Although donor funding in absolute terms represents a very small share of overall investment in school meals, the probable significant decrease in international aid in the coming years risks losing the gains made in low-income countries. Quality data that enables evidence-based decision making will therefore be even more critical in the years to come. This should include:

- Since the adoption of the new SDG 4 indicator, continued institutionalization of school meal indicators in international monitoring frameworks and reporting, improving data quality (including disaggregation) and the visibility of school meals.
- Improved global data architecture for school meals; streamlined and harmonized data collection; and strengthened quality of monitoring systems and statistics at the national level.
- Improved publicly available data on school meals, including at the subnational and municipal levels. With the creation of the School Meals Coalition's database, the core set of indicators systematically reported in the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* is available as a global public good. The Data and Monitoring Initiative will ensure that new indicators are tested and included in the database to fill existing data gaps with strong government demand (home-grown school meals, food system indicators, quality of meals, etc.).

This chapter has presented the latest available data and attempted to interpret its significance, but it also highlights the need for additional research. Examples of significant research required to inform future programming include better understanding of the drivers of costs and efficient models; and qualitative understanding of policies and legislation and their links to the multisectoral benefits of school meals.

References

Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). (2024). School Meal Programs Around the World: Results from the 2024 Global Survey of School Meal Programs ©. Available at: https://gcnf.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/GCNF-Global-Survey-Report-2024-V1.8.pdf

WFP. (2013). State of School Feeding Worldwide 2013. Rome (Italy), World Food Programme Available at: https://www.wfp.org/publications/state-school-feeding-worldwide-2013

WFP. (2020). State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020. Rome (Italy). World Food Programme. Available at: https://www.wfp.org/publications/state-school-feeding-worldwide-2020

WFP. (2022). State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022. R. I. W. F. Programme. Available at: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000147725/download/?_ga=2.122787723.1835173318.1745315177-747751571.1696247664

Annex I
Methodology and sources used for estimating children receiving school meals, coverage and investment

A1.1 Sources

Similar to the *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022*, this publication draws on a combination of primary and secondary sources. Each source was selected based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance: sources that contain standard indicators on school feeding.
2. Credibility: sources published by official and academic institutions.
3. Availability: sources in open and public access.
4. Timeliness: sources published recently.

Primary data for the 2024 edition were drawn from two main sources:

- Official sources, including official statistics from government reports and members of the School Meals Coalition.

- The USDA-sponsored GCNF *Global Survey of School Meal Programs* ©, published in 2024. The Global Survey of School Meal Programs © is the property of GCNF and is protected by copyright, all rights reserved. It may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent. Funding for the most recent survey in 2023 and previous surveys in 2021 and 2019 is provided, in part, by USDA under agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

When data were not available from the sources above, data were drawn from sources employed in previous editions of the *State of School Feeding Worldwide* 2020 and 2022. These secondary sources include reports, publications and case studies. As in 2022, when selecting secondary sources, the overarching principle was to use only sources published by official institutions: governments, international organizations and academic institutions (peer-reviewed academic

papers).
The full list of secondary sources used for this publication are:

1. WFP's Annual Country Reports

2. WFP estimations from country offices and regional bureaux

3. The World Bank's State of Social Safety Nets 2018 (World Bank, 2018)

4. WFP's report on Smart School Meals in Latin America and the Caribbean (WFP, 2017)

Several countries appeared in more than one of these secondary sources. In this case, only one data point was used for each country based on the following criteria:

1. If more than one source cites data for the same country, primary data sources were used, prioritizing official sources based on the most recent reference year.

2. If more than one source of information is available for the same country and the same reference year, the most comprehensive source was used – for instance, one source may cover a particular programme while the other source covers all existing programmes in the same country.

As a result of this selection criteria, Table A1.1 illustrates the number of countries from each source used in this publication.

Figure A1.1

Breakdown of countries by data sources (n=176)

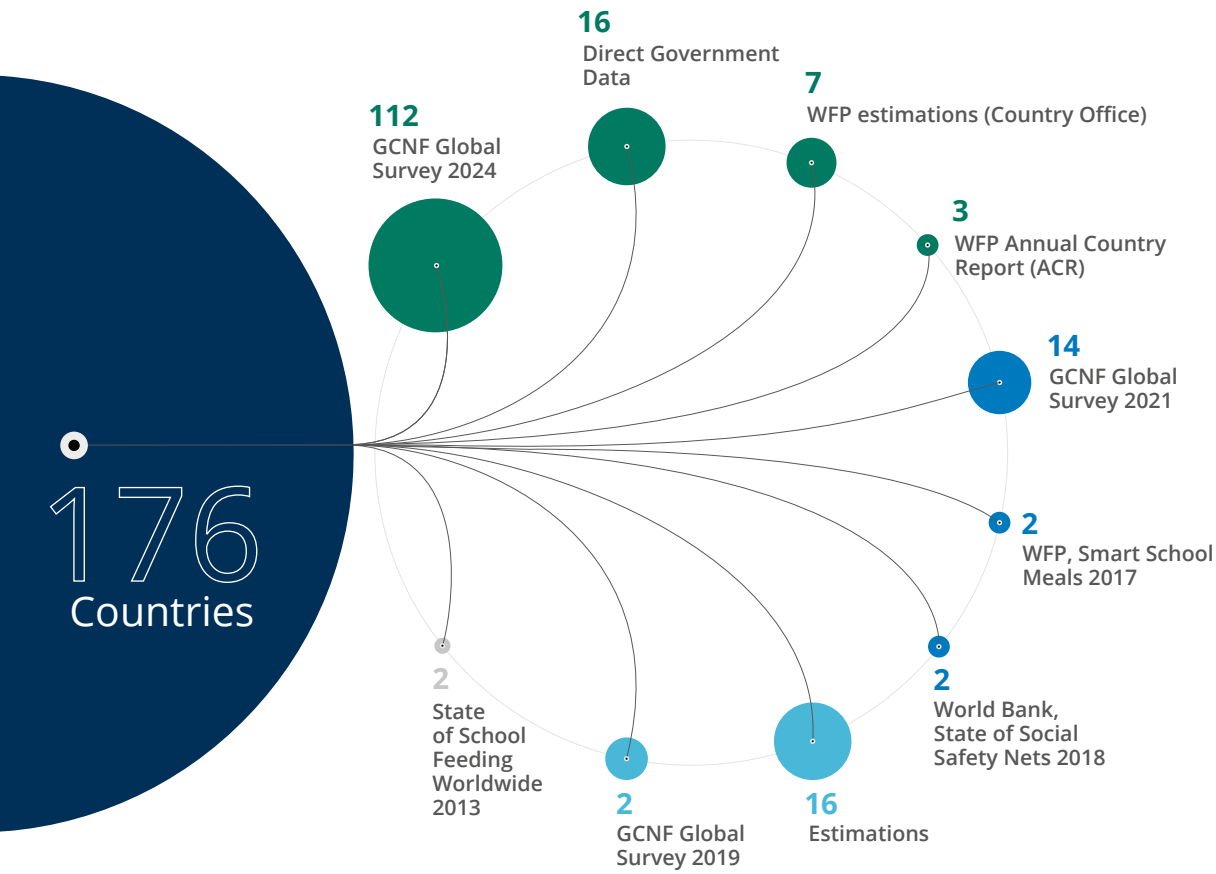


Table A1.1

Sources used for school meal data

Source	Symbol	Number of countries used in this report	Country names
Direct government data	OS	16	Belize, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Iceland, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.
USDA-sponsored, GCNF Global School Feeding Survey 2024	GCNF 2024	112	Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, The Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Palau, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

USDA-sponsored, GCNF Global School Feeding Survey 2021	GCNF 2021	14	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Grenada, Guyana, Hungary, Italy, Kiribati, Panama, Portugal, Sudan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates.
USDA-sponsored, GCNF Global School Feeding Survey 2019	GCNF 2019	2	Comoros, Indonesia.
Estimations	Est.	16	Albania, Bahrain, Belarus, Bermuda, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Kuwait, Nauru, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Tonga, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
WFP Estimations	WFP Est.	7	Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia.
State of School Feeding Worldwide 2013	SOSF 2013	2	Australia, Hong Kong (China Special Administrative Region).
World Bank, State of Social Safety Nets 2018	SSSN	2	State of Palestine, Türkiye.
WFP, Smart School Meals 2017	SSM	2	Nicaragua, Paraguay.
WFP, Annual Country Reports 2024	WFP ACR	3	Algeria, Chad, Libya.

A1.2 Limitations

While the data set presented in this publication is only based on reliable sources, it has some limitations. The multiplicity of sources translates into differences of methodology: some sources report on all children receiving school meals in a particular country, but in other countries, only primary schoolchildren are reported.

Another limitation is the quantity of indicators provided by each source: the number of children is provided in all sources, but coverage data, funding data and other indicators were only available for a more limited set of countries. The analytics presented in this publication systematically specify the sample size available for each indicator.

Further, the data available do not allow for accurate confirmation of how many meals per day or per week children received, nor the exact type of meal (i.e. whether a snack or a proper meal).

The discrepancy in reference years is a third limitation of the data set presented in this publication. While some sources were published less than a year before this report was published, other sources are older and/or present data pertaining to earlier school years.

As for the *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022*, in order to provide a comprehensive picture of school meal programmes globally, this publication combines country data spanning almost a decade. This approach has been used in similar reports, such as the World Bank's State of Social Safety Nets 2018 and provides a good level of confidence for a majority of countries and for cross-country analytics and trends. The main advantage of this approach is its comprehensiveness, as it maximizes the number of countries for which a data point is available, but the potential lack of accuracy of some older data points remains an important limitation.

Finally, in addition to data spanning almost a decade, the reference year for the numerator and denominator to compute coverage sometimes does not match (i.e. data could be available for the number of children fed in primary schools, but the most recent data about number of children enrolled in primary school for that country could date back to one year before).

A1.3 Children receiving school meals

The number of children receiving school meals presented in this publication represents the total number of children benefiting from school meals in a given country.

While the majority of the children receiving school meals are supported by a government-funded and government-led school meal programme, some countries have opted for locally managed school meal programmes and/or collect contributions from parents to finance their school meal programmes. In keeping with the approach in the *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022*, beneficiaries of school meals should be understood as "children receiving meals, or another form of food, in schools" (not as "children benefiting from free and government-funded school meals").

When more than one school meal programme exists in a given country, the number presented in this publication is the total number of individual beneficiaries, net of overlaps if any. This operation is generally made by the individual data providers listed in section A2.1 and the net total corresponds to the number reported by each of these sources, but was verified as part of the data consolidation process. As for the 2022 edition, even in this report three possible configurations were found, as described in Table A1.2 below.

Table A1.2

Possible configurations of school meal programmes for the purpose of calculating net total number of children receiving school meals

Situation			Calculation of net total number of children receiving school meals
1	The country has only one school meal programme		The total number of children receiving school meals corresponds to the number of children receiving school meals as part of this programme.
2	The country has two or more school meal programmes	The programmes overlap: some (or all) children benefit from both programmes.	The number of beneficiaries does not add up. Depending on the situation, the size of the larger programme may correspond to the net total.
3		The programmes do not overlap: each programme benefits a distinct group of children.	The numbers of children receiving school meals add up: the net total corresponds to the sum of children of the different programmes.

A1.4 Coverage

School meals coverage in a country i (C_i) is defined as the number of children receiving school meals in primary schools in a given year (B_i) divided by the total number of children enrolled in primary schools in the same year (P_i). The result is multiplied by 100 to express the coverage as a percentage:

$$C_i = \frac{B_i}{P_i} * 100$$

Description of variables:
B_i: number of children receiving school meals in primary schools in country i, for a given year.
P_i: Total number of children enrolled in primary schools of country i, for the same year.
C_i: School meals coverage rate in primary schools in country i.

Formula for aggregation:
The following formula can be applied to calculate aggregate coverage for a group of countries x, such as income groups. The result is multiplied by 100 to express the coverage as a percentage:

$$C_x = \frac{\sum B_{i,x}}{\sum P_{i,x}} * 100$$

For each group of countries x, the total number of children receiving school meals $\sum B_{i,\,x}$ is divided by the total number of children enrolled $\sum P_{i,x.}$

Interpretation:

- Coverage estimates range between 0 and 100 percent.
- A higher value for the indicator denotes a higher number of children enrolled in primary education receiving school meals at school.

A1.4.1 School meals coverage in public schools

The inclusion of a school meals coverage indicator in the SDG 4 framework marks a significant milestone, filling a long-standing gap in global monitoring systems by enabling the tracking of school meal programme reach worldwide. For the first time, the international community can rely on a standardized and globally comparable estimate of the proportion of primary school-aged children receiving school meals. While this approach ensures consistency across countries, additional analyses can help provide a more nuanced understanding of coverage and policy implications.

In this annex we offer an initial complementary analysis for a sample of countries, which will be expanded in future publications. This annex presents a recalculation of coverage to estimate the scale of government programmes within the public education system only. This additional analysis is motivated by the fact that in a significant number of countries school meals policies, programmes and allocated resources only target public schools. Furthermore, it is important to note the existing data gap on school meals provision in private schools.

The analysis draws on data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on the proportion of primary school enrolment in private institutions. These figures are used to estimate enrolment in public schools and calculate an adjusted public coverage estimate using the following formula:

$$\text{Public school coverage (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of primary schoolchildren receiving meals}}{\text{Enrolment in primary education x (1- Share of enrolment in primary education in private institutions)}} *100$$

Table A1.3 presents estimated public school meals coverage for selected countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region for which relevant data was available. This complementary analysis is based on the understanding that government reported figures for school meals for the sample of countries in Table A1.3 only include public schools, while enrolment data includes both public and private institutions.

Table A1.3

Public coverage estimates (selected countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region)

	Total number of children receiving school meals (all levels)	Total number of children receiving school meals (primary)	Enrolment (primary) - UNESCO	Share of enrolment in primary educations in private institutions	Enrolment (primary) - public	Coverage (primary) SDG methodology	Public coverage (primary)
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2,619,090	1,233,764	1,394,417	9.83%	1,257,346	88%	98%
Chile	1,568,394	977,820	1,545,104	62.94%	572,616	63%	100%
Colombia	5,904,785	2,826,401	4,140,463	19.32%	3,340,526	68%	85%
Dominican Republic	1,648,304	873,601	1,155,182	19.38%	931,308	76%	94%
Guatemala	2,654,521	2,079,759	2,414,945	11.21%	2,144,230	86%	97%
Honduras	1,218,072	1,039,026	1,074,043	11.69%	948,487	97%	100%
Peru	4,243,054	2,708,077	3,819,011	25.56%	2,842,872	71%	95%

This method complements the SDG 4 indicator by offering governments and partners an additional lens through which to assess national progress towards universal school meals coverage. While this analysis currently focuses on selected countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region, it is intended as a first step, with the aim of extending it to other regions globally as data availability improves.

Box A1.1

Income classification of countries

This publication follows the World Bank's classification of countries by income groups. The classification of countries used in this publication is the "2025 fiscal year", which is based on 2023 gross national income (GNI) per capita (*Atlas method*), and calculated as follows:

Income category	GNI per capita thresholds
Low-income countries	US$1,145 or less
Lower-middle-income countries	between US$1,146 and US$4,515
Upper-middle-income countries	between US$4,516 and US$14,005
High-income countries	above US$14,005

The full list of countries included in each of these income groups is available on the *World Bank's website* and is reproduced in Annex III of the present publication.

PLEASE NOTE: Several countries have changed their income level classification compared to the previous edition. These countries include:

- American Samoa –› from Upper-middle to High
- Benin –› from Low to Lower-middle
- Bulgaria –› from Upper-middle to High
- Guinea –› from Low to Lower-middle
- Guyana –› from Upper-middle to High
- Haiti –› from Low to Lower-middle
- Indonesia –› from Lower-middle to Upper-middle
- Jordan –› from Upper-middle to Lower-middle
- Lebanon –› from Upper-middle to Lower-middle
- Mongolia –› from Lower-middle to Upper-middle
- Nauru –› from Upper-middle to High
- Nepal –› from Low to Lower-middle
- Republic of Moldova –› from Lower-middle to Upper-middle
- Romania –› from Upper-middle to High
- Russian Federation –› from Upper-middle to High
- Samoa –› from Upper-middle to Lower-middle

- Sri Lanka –› from Upper-middle to Lower-middle
- Sudan –› from Lower-middle to Low
- Tajikistan –› from Low to Lower-middle
- Ukraine –› from Lower-middle to Upper-middle
- United Republic of Tanzania –› from Low to Lower-middle
- Venezuela –› from Upper-middle to No Classification.

All income-based comparisons in this report use the fiscal year 2025 World Bank classification. This means that if a country's income group has changed since the previous edition, it is analysed here according to its fiscal year 2025 World Bank income classification.

Finally, Venezuela is excluded from all analyses disaggregated by income level, as it has lacked an official classification since fiscal year 2022.

A1.5 Annual financial investment in school meals

Calculations for the annual financial investment in school meals are presented in Table A1.4. Investment is defined as the total budget allocated to school meals, or an estimation of that budget. Information on country investments in school meals is not available in all countries, but available data are presented in this present publication. Only countries which have a school meal programme were included in the investment estimation.

Table A1.4

Four estimates of the total yearly investment in school meals

Source	Number of countries	Number of children	Investment value	Estimated global investment (US$)
Actual reported cost only	116	289.5 million	Budget allocated	65.6 billion
Estimations derived from reported costs	116	289.5 million	Average cost per income group	65.6 billion
Actual reported cost + estimations for remaining countries	173	463.5 million	Budget allocated for 117 countries which have data; average cost per income group for remaining 57 countries	84 billion
Estimations (all countries)	173	463.5 million	Budget allocated for 117 countries which have data; average cost per income group for remaining 57 countries	84 billion

The following methods used to estimate the global investment in school meal programmes as reported in Table A1.4 are as follows:

(1) Reported global investment: **US$65.6 billion**
Sample: **116 countries**

The first approach, which resulted in a figure of US$65.6 billion, is based on reported national budgets. According to this approach, the global investment $M_{(1)}$ is the sum of all reported national budgets (G_i) across these 116 countries for which data were available:

$$M_{(1)} = \sum_{i=1}^{116} G_i$$

(2) Estimated global investment: **US$65.6 billion**
Sample: **116 countries**

The second approach, which resulted in a figure of US$65.6 billion, is an alternative estimation for the same sample of countries as the first estimation. Instead of using reported budget figures, total investment $M_{(2)}$ was estimated as the total average cost (AC) from income group (x) multiplied by the number of beneficiaries (B) in country (i) across the 116 countries:

$$M_{(2)} = \sum_{x=1}^{116} (AC_x \times B_i)$$

Presents the average cost per income group as used for this calculation.

Table A1.5
Average cost per income group used for estimating global investment

Income category	Average cost used for estimations
Low-income countries	US$22.09
Lower-middle-income countries	US$23.89
Upper-middle-income countries	US$84.18
High-income countries	US$665.76

(3) Estimated global investment: **US$84 billion**
Sample: **173 countries**

The third approach, which resulted in a figure of US$84 billion, was calculated using the two previously discussed methods, applied to a broader sample to include not only countries with reported investment data (n=116) but also countries with no data, based on reported beneficiaries.

To the US$65.6 billion figure estimated using approach (1), it adds an estimation using approach (2) for an additional 57 countries which are known to have a national school meal programme, and for which no reported investment data were available. The number of children receiving school meals, as reported in this publication, was multiplied for each country by the total average cost corresponding to the income group of that country (Table A1.5). The resulting values were summed up across the set of 57 countries and to the estimation obtained using Method 1 ($M_{(1)}$). The full calculation for Method 3 ($M_{(3)}$) is described as follows:

$$M_{(3)} = M_{(1)} + \sum_{i=1}^{57} (AC_x \times B_i)$$

(4) Estimated global investment: **US$84 billion**
Sample: **173 countries**

The fourth method ($M_{(4)}$), which resulted in a figure of US$84 billion, was calculated using method 2, applied to the full sample of countries where data on the number of children receiving school meals were available. As described above, the number of children as reported in the present publication was multiplied by the total average cost per income group of the country, and these values were summed up across the full set of 173 countries. This calculation can be summarized by the equation below:

$$M_{(4)} = \sum_{i=1}^{173} (AC_x \times B_i)$$

Annex II
Country-specific indicators of school meals

To enable cross-country comparability, coverage estimates in this annex follow the SDG 4 methodology based on total enrolment in primary schools (public and private). However, countries may have higher coverage rates in public schools, including universal coverage, as shown in Annex A1.4.1 for selected Latin American countries.

		SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
COUNTRY	Income Level	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Afghanistan	L	**2018**	1,341,812	*Est*		**2018**	1,341,812	*Est*		**2022**	911,741	*GCNF 2024*	
Albania	UM	**2018**	99,041	*Est*		**2018**	99,041	*Est*		**2018**	99,041	*Est*	
Algeria**	UM	**2019**	39,632	*WFP ACR*	1%	**2019**	39,632	*WFP ACR*	1%	**2023**	40,196	*WFP ACR*	
American Samoa	H												
Andorra	H					**2020-2021**	1,334	*GCNF 2021*	13%	**2022-2023**	1,345	*GCNF 2024*	13%
Angola	LM	**2017**	1,516,133	*AUSSF*	27%	**2017**	1,516,133	*AUSSF*	27%	**2022-2023**	1,890,610	*GCNF 2024*	33%*
Antigua and Barbuda	H	**2018**	8,560	*Est*		**2020-2021**	6,951	*GCNF 2021*	68%	**2020-2021**	6,951	*GCNF 2021*	
Argentina	UM	**2015**	1,687,785	*SSSN*	36%	**2020**	2,810,772	*GCNF 2021*	44%	**2020**	2,810,772	*GCNF 2021*	
Armenia	UM	**2018**	103,101	*Est*	65%	**2020-2021**	105,630	*GCNF 2021*	66%	**2022-2023**	116,262	*GCNF 2024*	65%
Aruba	H												
Australia	H	**2012**	4,800	*SOSF 2013*	0%	**2012**	4,800	*SOSF 2013*	0%	**2012**	4,800	*SOSF 2013*	
Austria	H					**2020-2021**	475,738	*GCNF 2021*	59%	**2022-2023**	476,801	*GCNF 2024*	60%*
Azerbaijan	UM												

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Bahamas	H					**2020-2021**	6,000	*GCNF 2021*	12%	**2022-2023**	6,673	*GCNF 2024*	18%
Bahrain	H	**2018**	96,300	*Est*		**2018**	96,300	*Est*		**2018**	96,300	*Est*	
Bangladesh	LM	**2018**	2,964,528	*Est*	15%	**2020**	2,971,370	*GCNF 2021*	15%	**2022**	2,947,899	*GCNF 2024*	14%
Barbados	H	**2018**	17,097	*Est*		**2020-2021**	25,645	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2020-2021**	25,645	*GCNF 2021*	
Belarus	UM	**2018**	247,949	*Est*		**2018**	247,949	*Est*		**2018**	247,949	*Est*	
Belgium	H					**2020-2021**	287,151	*GCNF 2021*	23%	**2022-2023**	486,479	*GCNF 2024*	39%*
Belize	UM	**2018**	29,426	*Est*		**2020-2021**	0	*GCNF 2021*		**2024**	7,633	*OS*	11%*
Benin	LM	**2018**	460,063	*Est*	21%	**2020-2021**	835,453	*GCNF 2021*	38%	**2022-2023**	1,267,366	*GCNF 2024*	52%*
Bermuda	H	**2018**	3,507	*Est*		**2018**	3,507	*Est*		**2018**	3,507	*Est*	
Bhutan	LM	**2018**	74,726	*GCNF 2019*	19%	**2021**	101,762	*GCNF 2021*	33%	**2022**	98,133	*GCNF 2024*	38%
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	LM	**2013**	2,383,408	*SSM*	100%	**2013**	2,383,408	*SSM*	100%	**2024**	2,619,090	*WFP Est*	88%*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	UM	**2018**	92,386	*Est*		**2020-2021**	27,698	*GCNF 2021*		**2022-2023**	66,262	*GCNF 2024*	19%
Botswana	UM	**2018**	358,854	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020**	569,514	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022**	364,859	*GCNF 2024*	96%
Brazil	UM	**2019**	40,197,071	*OS*	100%	**2020**	40,200,000	*Est*	100%	**2024**	38,531,387	*OS*	100%*
British Virgin Islands	H												
Brunei Darussalam	H					**2021**	34,669	*GCNF 2021*	73%	**2021**	34,669	*GCNF 2021*	
Bulgaria	H	**2018**	151,852	*Est*		**2020-2021**	432,749	*GCNF 2021*	93%	**2022-2023**	420,993	*GCNF 2024*	97%*
Burkina Faso	L	**2018**	3,863,926	*Est*	100%	**2020-2021**	3,689,774	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	4,449,106	*GCNF 2024*	100%
Burundi	L	**2019**	613,452	*WFP ACR*	28%	**2020-2021**	520,613	*GCNF 2021*	23%	**2022-2023**	743,570	*GCNF 2024*	

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Cabo Verde	LM	**2015**	3,168	*SSSN*	5%	**2020-2021**	85,117	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	90,754	*GCNF 2024*	
Cambodia	LM	**2019**	281,385	*WFP ACR*	13%	**2020-2021**	277,881	*GCNF 2021*	12%	**2022-2023**	299,366	*GCNF 2024*	12%
Cameroon	LM	**2018**	18,315	*GCNF 2019*	0%	**2020-2021**	195,042	*GCNF 2021*	4%	**2022-2023**	174,408	*GCNF 2024*	3%
Canada	H	**2012**	292,645	*SOSF 2013*	12%	**2012**	292,645	*SOSF 2013*	12%	**2022-2023**	1,173,731	*GCNF 2024*	
Cayman Islands	H												
Central African Republic	L	**2019**	241,957	*WFP ACR*	30%	**2020-2021**	215,411	*GCNF 2021*	26%	**2022-2023**	*173,212*	*GCNF 2024*	
Chad	L	**2019**	138,078	*WFP ACR*	6%	**2020-2021**	122,251	*GCNF 2021*	5%	**2023**	*342,000*	*WFP ACR*	8%
Chanel Islands	H												
Chile	H	**2015**	1,828,556	*SSSN*	100%	**2020**	2,029,882	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022**	*1,568,394*	*GCNF 2024*	63%
China	UM	**2019**	40,000,000	*OS*	39%	**2020-2021**	37,000,000	*GCNF 2021*	25%	**2023**	*34,570,000*	*OS*	22%
China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	H	**2008**	243,984	*SOSF 2013*	67%	**2008**	243,984	*SOSF 2013*	67%	**2008**	*243,984*	*SOSF 2013*	
China, Macao Special Administrative Region	H												
China, Taiwan, Province of China	H												
Colombia	UM	**2018**	5,387,504	*Est*	63%	**2018**	5,387,504	*Est*	65%	**2023**	*5,904,785*	*OS*	68%*
Comoros	LM												
Congo	LM	**2019**	141,961	*WFP ACR*		**2020-2021**	142,450	*GCNF 2021*		**2022-2023**	*178,219*	*GCNF 2024*	20%
Costa Rica	UM	**2014**	691,294	*SSSN*	100%	**2014**	691,294	*SSSN*	100%	**2022**	*830,688*	*GCNF 2024*	100%

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Côte d'Ivoire	LM	**2018**	976,443	*Est*	25%	**2020-2021**	1,024,401	*GCNF 2021*	25%	**2022-2023**	*977,631*	*GCNF 2024*	21%
Croatia	H	**2012**	151,514	*SOSF 2013*	93%	**2020-2021**	405,136	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	*422,728*	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Cuba	UM	**2015**	827,070	*SSM*	100%	**2015**	827,070	*SSM*	100%	**2024-2025**	*849,274*	*OS*	
Curaçao	H												
Cyprus	H	**2019**	14,717	*Est*	14%	**2020-2021**	13,263	*GCNF 2021*	10%	**2022-2023**	*14,502*	*GCNF 2024*	11%*
Czechia	H	**2019**	1,351,000	*Est*	100%	**2020-2021**	1,444,077	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	*1,243,429*	*GCNF 2024*	92%*
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	L	**2018**	318,168	*Est*		**2018**	318,168	*Est*		**2018**	318,168	*Est*	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	L	**2019**	124,485	*WFP ACR*	1%	**2020-2021**	165,000	*GCNF 2021*	1%	**2022-2023**	222,800	*GCNF 2024*	1%
Denmark	H												
Djibouti	LM	**2019**	19,590	*WFP ACR*	29%	**2019**	19,590	*WFP ACR*	28%	**2022-2023**	24,590	*GCNF 2024*	23%
Dominica	UM	**2018**	4,245	*Est*		**2018**	4,245	*Est*		**2022-2023**	3,442	*GCNF 2024*	36%
Dominican Republic	UM	**2016**	1,739,355	*SSM*	100%	**2016**	1,739,355	*SSM*	100%	**2022**	1,648,304	*GCNF 2024*	76%
Ecuador	UM	**2015**	2,873,148	*SSM*	100%	**2020-2021**	2,941,952	*GCNF 2021*	84%	**2023**	2,862,662	*OS*	98%
Egypt	LM	**2018**	11,201,245	*Est*	77%	**2018**	11,201,245	*Est*	73%	**2024**	13,700,000	*WFP Est*	85%*
El Salvador	UM												
Equatorial Guinea	UM												
Eritrea	L												
Estonia	H	**2018**	72,402	*Est*		**2020-2021**	221,479	*GCNF 2021*	99%	**2022-2023**	233,774	*GCNF 2024*	100%*

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Eswatini	LM	**2018**	365,089	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020**	379,336	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022**	353,546	*GCNF 2024*	
Ethiopia	L	**2018**	2,539,286	*GCNF 2019*	16%	**2020-2021**	1,676,452	*GCNF 2021*	8%	**2022-2023**	6,911,733	*GCNF 2024*	44%
Faroe Islands	H												
Fiji	UM	**2018**	40,078	*Est*	19%	**2018**	40,078	*Est*	18%	**2018**	40,078	*Est*	
Finland	H	**2018**	840,000	*Est*	99%	**2020-2021**	920,700	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	1,056,288	*GCNF 2024*	99%*
France	H	**2015**	6,000,000	*OS*	70%	**2020-2021**	9,294,500	*GCNF 2021*	76%	**2022-2023**	9,563,276	*GCNF 2024*	87%*
French Polynesia	H												
Gabon	UM												
The Gambia	L	**2018**	165,422	*GCNF 2019*	41%	**2020-2021**	261,231	*GCNF 2021*	47%	**2022-2023**	268,514	*GCNF 2024*	47%
Georgia	UM												
Germany	H												
Ghana	LM	**2017**	1,700,000	*AUSSF*	39%	**2020-2021**	3,448,065	*GCNF 2021*	55%	**2022**	3,600,000	*GCNF 2024*	76%
Gibraltar	H												
Greece	H	**2018**	6,130	*Est*	0%	**2020-2021**	4,870	*GCNF 2021*	0%	**2022-2023**	157,181	*GCNF 2024*	26%*
Greenland	H												
Grenada	UM	**2012**	7,051	*SSSN*	53%	**2020-2021**	6,000	*GCNF 2021*	53%	**2020-2021**	6,000	*GCNF 2021*	
Guam	H												
Guatemala	UM	**2018**	2,459,053	*Est*	84%	**2020**	2,526,650	*GCNF 2021*	87%	**2022**	2,654,521	*GCNF 2024*	86%
Guinea	LM	**2018**	374,885	*Est*		**2020-2021**	218,714	*GCNF 2021*	10%	**2022-2023**	172,527	*GCNF 2024*	
Guinea-Bissau	L	**2019**	178,083	*WFP ACR*		**2020-2021**	224,986	*GCNF 2021*		**2022-2023**	267,799	*GCNF 2024*	

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Guyana	H	**2019**	13,539	*GCNF 2019*		**2020-2021**	81,712	*GCNF 2021*		**2020-2021**	81,712	*GCNF 2021*	
Haiti	LM	**2016**	876,000	*SSM*		**2020-2021**	857,350	*GCNF 2021*		**2022-2023**	1,130,978	*GCNF 2024*	
Honduras	LM	**2018**	1,300,000	*Est*	80%	**2020**	1,256,227	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	1,218,072	*GCNF 2024*	97%
Hungary	H	**2019**	1,004,376	*Est*	100%	**2020-2021**	989,550	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2020-2021**	989,550	*GCNF 2021*	
Iceland	H					**2020-2021**	83,845	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2024**	66,592	*OS*	
India	LM	**2019**	90,414,539	*OS*	63%	**2020-2021**	106,000,000	*Est*	55%	**2023**	118,000,000	*OS*	
Indonesia	UM	**2018**	100,136	*GCNF 2019*	0%	**2018**	100,136	*GCNF 2019*	0%	**2018**	100,136	*GCNF 2019*	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	UM	**2012**	2,812	*SOSF 2013*	0%	**2012**	2,812	*SOSF 2013*	0%	**2024**	8,727	*WFP Est*	
Iraq	UM	**2019**	633,351	*Est*		**2020-2021**	350,000	*GCNF 2021*		**2022-2023**	450,000	*GCNF 2024*	
Ireland	H	**2008**	91,152	*SOSF 2013*	16%	**2020-2021**	219,487	*GCNF 2021*	26%	**2022-2023**	261,005	*GCNF 2024*	30%*
Isle of Man	H												
Israel	H	**2018**	775,557	*Est*		**2020-2021**	448,530	*GCNF 2021*	18%	**2022-2023**	481,813	*GCNF 2024*	24%*
Italy	H	**2018**	2,454,385	*Est*		**2020-2021**	1,402,235	*GCNF 2021*	21%	**2020-2021**	1,402,235	*GCNF 2021*	
Jamaica	UM	**2012**	311,000	*SOSF 2013*	100%	**2020-2021**	131,663	*GCNF 2021*	33%	**2022-2023**	103,879	*GCNF 2024*	21%
Japan	H	**2018**	8,863,908	*OS*	96%	**2018**	8,863,908	*OS*	96%	**2022-2023**	9,258,701	*GCNF 2024*	99%*
Jordan	LM	**2019**	419,327	*WFP ACR*	37%	**2019**	419,327	*WFP ACR*	37%	**2022-2023**	490,000	*GCNF 2024*	40%
Kazakhstan	UM	**2019**	3,058,747	*GCNF 2019*	95%	**2020-2021**	3,058,747	*GCNF 2021*	88%	**2022-2023**	2,470,282	*GCNF 2024*	68%
Kenya	LM	**2018**	1,754,000	*Est*	21%	**2020-2021**	1,800,000	*GCNF 2021*	22%	**2024**	2,600,000	*OS*	

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Kiribati	LM					**2020**	3,000	*GCNF 2021*		**2020**	3,000	*GCNF 2021*	
Kosovo	UM												
Kuwait	H	**2018**	236,744	*Est*		**2018**	236,744	*Est*	85%	**2018**	236,744	*Est*	
Kyrgyzstan	LM	**2018**	595,000	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020-2021**	66,443	*GCNF 2021*	12%	**2022-2023**	545,114	*GCNF 2024*	89%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	LM	**2018**	195,546	*Est*	21%	**2020-2021**	183,529	*GCNF 2021*	21%	**2022-2023**	240,000	*GCNF 2024*	28%
Latvia	H	**2018**	102,751	*Est*		**2020-2021**	264,551	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	276,963	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Lebanon	LM	**2019**	31,929	*WFP ACR*	6%	**2019**	31,929	*WFP ACR*	6%	**2024**	126,329	*WFP Est*	
Lesotho	LM	**2018**	386,923	*Est*	90%	**2020**	363,461	*GCNF 2021*	85%	**2022**	302,983	*GCNF 2024*	80%
Liberia	L	**2019**	287,456	*Est*	24%	**2020-2021**	278,043	*GCNF 2021*	26%	**2022-2023**	517,076	*GCNF 2024*	47%*
Libya	UM	**2019**	20,754	*WFP ACR*		**2020-2021**	18,000	*GCNF 2021*		**2023**	61,709	*WFP ACR*	
Liechtenstein	H												
Lithuania	H	**2016**	635,500	*SSSN*	100%	**2020-2021**	317,087	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	*251,748*	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Luxembourg	H	**2018**	31,671	*Est*		**2020-2021**	104,702	*GCNF 2021*	99%	**2022-2023**	*109,323*	*GCNF 2024*	97%*
Madagascar	L	**2018**	567,763	*Est*	12%	**2020-2021**	366,693	*GCNF 2021*	8%	**2022-2023**	*1,074,166*	*GCNF 2024*	18%
Malawi	L	**2018**	2,936,455	*Est*	65%	**2021**	2,803,891	*Est*	60%	**2022-2023**	*2,607,267*	*GCNF 2024*	48%
Malaysia	UM	**2018**	500,000	*GCNF 2019*	16%	**2020**	1,022,628	*GCNF 2021*	15%	**2022**	*1,008,794*	*GCNF 2024*	25%
Maldives	UM												
Mali	L	**2018**	514,842	*GCNF 2019*	19%	**2020-2021**	581,014	*GCNF 2021*	20%	**2022-2023**	*658,172*	*GCNF 2024*	19%

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Malta	H	**2018**	21,291	*Est*		**2020-2021**	21,162	*GCNF 2021*	79%	**2022-2023**	*9,370*	*GCNF 2024*	35%*
Marshall Islands	UM	**2018**	4,603	*Est*		**2018**	4,603	*Est*		**2022-2023**	*12,282*	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Mauritania	LM	**2019**	51,917	*WFP ACR*	8%	**2020-2021**	172,905	*GCNF 2021*	26%	**2022-2023**	*322,884*	*GCNF 2024*	37%
Mauritius	UM	**2011**	75,000	*SSSN*	84%	**2011**	75,000	*SSSN*	91%	**2024**	*70,332*	*OS*	79%*
Mexico	UM	**2015**	6,357,712	*SSM*	45%	**2020-2021**	6,518,168	*GCNF 2021*	47%	**2022-2023**	*6,117,617*	*OS*	29%*
Micronesia (Federated States of)	LM												
Monaco	H					**2020-2021**	6,071	*GCNF 2021*	99%	**2022-2023**	*4,220*	*GCNF 2024*	66%
Mongolia	UM	**2018**	309,355	*GCNF 2019*	99%	**2020-2021**	371,480	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	*382,002*	*GCNF 2024*	100%
Montenegro	UM												
Morocco	LM	**2014**	1,267,109	*SSSN*	29%	**2014**	1,267,109	*SSSN*	28%	**2022-2023**	*1,442,797*	*GCNF 2024*	26%
Mozambique	L	**2019**	200,302	*WFP ACR*	3%	**2021**	304,819	*GCNF 2021*	4%	**2022**	*554,962*	*GCNF 2024*	7%
Myanmar	LM	**2019**	353,144	*WFP ACR*	7%	**2019**	353,144	*WFP ACR*	7%	**2022-2023**	*1,500,000*	*GCNF 2024*	
Namibia	UM	**2018**	365,854	*GCNF 2019*	75%	**2020**	398,100	*GCNF 2021*	67%	**2022-2023**	518,829	*GCNF 2024*	84%*
Nauru	H	**2018**	3,233	*Est*	100%	**2018**	3,233	*Est*	100%	**2018**	3,233	*Est*	
Nepal	LM	**2018**	636,000	*Est*	12%	**2020-2021**	3,240,128	*GCNF 2021*	76%	**2022-2023**	4,819,028	*GCNF 2024*	100%
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	H					**2020-2021**	476,143	*GCNF 2021*	41%	**2022-2023**	514,980	*GCNF 2024*	40%*
New Caledonia	H												
New Zealand	H					**2020**	42,000	*GCNF 2021*	11%	**2022**	226,100	*GCNF 2024*	40%
Nicaragua	LM	**2015**	1,200,000	*SSM*		**2015**	1,200,000	*SSM*		**2015**	1,200,000	*SSM*	

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Niger	L	**2018**	193,301	*GCNF 2019*	5%	**2020-2021**	612,713	*GCNF 2021*	17%	**2022-2023**	597,387	*GCNF 2024*	16%
Nigeria	LM	**2019**	9,829,603	*GCNF 2019*	38%	**2020-2021**	9,887,000	*GCNF 2021*	39%	**2022-2023**	9,990,862	*GCNF 2024*	
North Macedonia	UM					**2020-2021**	42,233	*GCNF 2021*	12%	**2022-2023**	48,865	*GCNF 2024*	12%*
Northern Mariana Islands	H												
Norway	H												
Oman	H												
Pakistan	LM	**2018**	10,405,277	*Est*		**2018**	10,405,277	*Est*		**2024**	10,041,132	*WFP Est*	
Palau	H	**2019**	2,264	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020-2021**	2,259	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	2,216	*GCNF 2024*	100%
Panama	H	**2018**	463,172	*Est*	95%	**2020**	385,340	*GCNF 2021*	71%	**2020**	385,340	*GCNF 2021*	
Papua New Guinea	LM												
Paraguay	UM	**2014**	1,085,942	*SSM*	100%	**2014**	1,085,942	*SSM*	100%	**2014**	1,085,942	*SSM*	
Peru	UM	**2015**	2,398,480	*SSSN*	67%	**2020**	4,199,532	*GCNF 2021*	71%	**2022**	4,243,054	*GCNF 2024*	71%
Philippines	LM	**2019**	2,299,766	*Est*	16%	**2020-2021**	3,526,589	*GCNF 2021*	27%	**2022-2023**	3,651,028	*WFP Est*	28%
Poland	H	**2011**	730,000	*SSSN*	32%	**2020-2021**	1,826,050	*GCNF 2021*	75%	**2022-2023**	1,951,891	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Portugal	H	**2018**	1,317,306	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020-2021**	1,135,742	*GCNF 2021*	50%	**2020-2021**	1,135,742	*GCNF 2021*	
Puerto Rico	H	**2018**	192,425	*Est*		**2018**	192,425	*Est*		**2018**	192,425	*Est*	
Qatar	H	**2018**	130,152	*Est*		**2018**	130,152	*Est*		**2018**	130,152	*Est*	
Republic of Korea	H									**2022-2023**	6,307,298	*GCNF 2024*	100%*

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Republic of Moldova	UM	**2018**	305,300	*Est*	98%	**2018**	305,300	*Est*	99%	**2022-2023**	271,820	*GCNF 2024*	99%
Romania	H					**2020-2021**	1,905,735	*GCNF 2021*	96%	**2022-2023**	1,672,561	*GCNF 2024*	88%*
Russian Federation	H	**2019**	8,286,908	*OS*	100%	**2020**	13,957,969	*OS*	100%	**2023**	18,049,000	*OS*	96%
Rwanda	L	**2018**	724,059	*OS*	7%	**2018**	724,059	*OS*	7%	**2022-2023**	3,908,597	*OS*	92%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	H	**2018**	4,610	*Est*		**2020-2021**	3,406	*GCNF 2021*	56%	**2022-2023**	4,077	*GCNF 2024*	
Saint Lucia	UM	**2019**	6,824	*GCNF 2019*	41%	**2020-2021**	7,700	*GCNF 2021*	45%	**2022-2023**	8,157	*GCNF 2024*	49%
Saint Martin (French Part)	H												
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	UM	**2018**	7,650	*Est*		**2020-2021**	10,231	*GCNF 2021*	59%	**2022-2023**	7,500	*GCNF 2024*	62%
Samoa	LM												
San Marino	H					**2020-2021**	2,431	*GCNF 2021*	97%	**2022-2023**	2,191	*GCNF 2024*	100%
Sao Tome and Principe	LM	**2018**	46,766	*GCNF 2019*	99%	**2020-2021**	47,550	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	48,763	*GCNF 2024*	
Saudi Arabia	H	**2018**	2,789,606	*Est*		**2018**	2,789,606	*Est*		**2018**	2,789,606	*Est*	
Senegal	LM	**2018**	587,810	*Est*	18%	**2018**	587,810	*Est*	17%	**2022-2023**	369,053	*GCNF 2024*	14%
Serbia	UM	**2018**	154,629	*Est*		**2018**	154,629	*Est*	60%	**2018**	154,629	*Est*	
Seychelles	H	**2018**	7,829	*Est*		**2018**	7,829	*Est*		**2018**	7,829	*Est*	
Sierra Leone	L	**2018**	836,000	*Est*	61%	**2020-2021**	485,674	*GCNF 2021*	28%	**2022-2023**	654,961	*GCNF 2024*	32%
Singapore	H	**2018**	198,433	*Est*		**2018**	198,433	*Est*		**2018**	198,433	*Est*	

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	H												
Slovakia	H	**2018**	190,631	*Est*		**2020-2021**	631,493	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	775,045	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Slovenia	H	**2018**	104,858	*Est*		**2020-2021**	167,228	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	178,205	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Solomon Islands	LM												
Somalia	L	**2019**	164,708	*WFP ACR*		**2020-2021**	170,796	*GCNF 2021*		**2023**	197,000	*WFP Est*	42%
South Africa	UM	**2018**	9,200,000	*Est*	80%	**2020**	9,613,630	*GCNF 2021*	87%	**2022-2023**	9,322,860	*GCNF 2024*	78%*
South Sudan	L	**2019**	460,413	*WFP ACR*	36%	**2020**	338,243	*GCNF 2021*	26%	**2022**	583,584	*GCNF 2024*	34%*
Spain	H	**2016**	1,759,394	*OS*	28%	**2020-2021**	1,769,394	*GCNF 2021*	28%	**2022-2023**	1,985,686	*GCNF 2024*	35%*
Sri Lanka	LM	**2018**	1,467,465	*GCNF 2019*	84%	**2020**	1,067,243	*GCNF 2021*	62%	**2022**	1,077,911	*GCNF 2024*	66%
State of Palestine	LM	**2014**	65,000	*SSSN*	13%	**2014**	65,000	*SSSN*	13%	**2014**	65,000	*SSSN*	
Sudan	L	**2019**	1,361,789	*Est*	27%	**2020-2021**	1,890,277	*GCNF 2021*	39%	**2020-2021**	1,890,277	*GCNF 2021*	
Suriname	UM												
Sweden	H	**2012**	1,180,947	*SOSF 2013*	100%	**2020-2021**	2,177,882	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022-2023**	2,132,504	*GCNF 2024*	100%*
Switzerland	H	**2018**	81,000	*GCNF 2019*	13%	**2020-2021**	83,544	*GCNF 2021*	13%	**2022-2023**	390,442	*GCNF 2024*	39%*
Syrian Arab Republic	L	**2018**	1,308,648	*Est*	63%	**2020-2021**	651,728	*GCNF 2021*	42%	**2022-2023**	706,792	*GCNF 2024*	33%
Tajikistan	LM	**2019**	416,899	*WFP ACR*	54%	**2020-2021**	433,000	*GCNF 2021*	56%	**2022-2023**	657,721	*GCNF 2024*	56%

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
Thailand	UM	**2019**	4,081,643	*GCNF 2019*	82%	**2020-2021**	3,939,102	*GCNF 2021*	63%	**2020-2021**	3,939,102	*GCNF 2021*	
Timor-Leste	LM	**2018**	302,447	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020**	323,846	*GCNF 2021*	100%	**2022**	272,563	*GCNF 2024*	100%
Togo	L	**2018**	91,319	*Est*	6%	**2020-2021**	133,008	*GCNF 2021*	8%	**2022-2023**	218,567	*GCNF 2024*	11%
Tonga	UM	**2018**	9,844	*Est*		**2018**	9,844	*Est*		**2018**	9,844	*Est*	
Trinidad and Tobago	H	**2019**	141,484	*Est*		**2020-2021**	25,524	*GCNF 2021*	17%	**2022-2023**	74,287	*GCNF 2024*	41%
Tunisia	LM	**2018**	360,000	*GCNF 2019*	22%	**2020-2021**	350,000	*GCNF 2021*	20%	**2022-2023**	390,000	*GCNF 2024*	22%
Türkiye	UM	**2013**	6,182,368	*SSSN*	100%	**2013**	6,182,368	*SSSN*	100%	**2013**	6,182,368	*SSSN*	
Turkmenistan	UM												
Turks and Caicos Islands	H												
Tuvalu	UM												
Uganda	L	**2018**	3,651,225	*GCNF 2019*	34%	**2020-2021**	1,452,717	*Est*	11%	**2022**	1,216,700	*GCNF 2024*	
Ukraine	UM	**2018**	762,256	*Est*		**2018**	762,256	*Est*		**2024**	1,965,671	*OS*	68%*
United Arab Emirates	H	**2019**	821,236	*Est*	85%	**2020-2021**	288,795	*GCNF 2021*	18%	**2020-2021**	288,795	*GCNF 2021*	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	H	**2019**	1,275,318	*OS*	17%	**2019**	1,275,318	*OS*	17%	**2019**	1,275,318	*OS*	
United Republic of Tanzania	LM	**2017**	28,000	*AUSSF*	0%	**2017**	28,000	*AUSSF*	0%	**2022**	6,883,911	*GCNF 2024*	53%

COUNTRY	Income Level	SOSF 2020				SOSF 2022				SOSF 2024			
		Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage	Reference year	Number of children receiving school meals	Source	Estimated coverage
United States of America	H	**2018**	30,000,000	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020-2021**	28,000,000	*GCNF 2021*	65%	**2022-2023**	30,100,000	*GCNF 2024*	74%*
United States Virgin Islands	H												
Uruguay	H	**2018**	273,732	*Est*	66%	**2021**	208,176	*GCNF 2021*	69%	**2024**	201,415	*OS*	
Uzbekistan	LM	**2018**	1,129,906	*Est*		**2018**	1,129,906	*Est*		**2022-2023**	289,219	*GCNF 2024*	11%
Vanuatu	LM												
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	NA	**2018**	1,904,346	*Est*		**2018**	1,904,346	*Est*		**2018**	1,904,346	*Est*	
Viet Nam	LM												
Yemen	L	**2019**	680,000	*WFP ACR*	17%	**2019**	680,000	*WFP ACR*	17%	**2022-2023**	1,864,000	*GCNF 2024*	
Zambia	LM	**2018**	1,193,996	*Est*	31%	**2020**	2,075,631	*GCNF 2021*	57%	**2022**	2,361,020	*GCNF 2024*	
Zimbabwe	LM	**2018**	3,218,924	*GCNF 2019*	100%	**2020**	2,489,909	*GCNF 2021*	64%	**2022**	1,413,095	*GCNF 2024*	48%

* Coverage estimates derived using enrolment figures from the preceding year, due to the unavailability of data for the same reference period as the reported number of children receiving school meals.

** Algeria estimation reflects only the WFP-supported programme in the refugee camps.