CONNECTING THE DOTS: THE LINK BETWEEN HUNGER, MALNUTRITION AND EDUCATION – A NEW SCHOOL MEALS INDICATOR UNDER SDG 4

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Unprecedented global reach: 1 in every 2 children receiving school meal

Unprecedented global reach, with school-based support to children becoming the world's largest safety net.
There are 65.4 million children receiving school feeding in Africa, a massive increase from 38.4 million in 2013.
98% of funding is from the countries themselves

**School feeding budgets by source of funding**

2013-2020

- **International donors**: 2% in 2013, 2% in 2020
- **National donors and private sector**: 17% in 2013, 28% in 2020
- **National budget expenditure**: 98% in 2013, 98% in 2020

**Countries with a school feeding policy**

2013-2020

- **School feeding policy in place**: 58% in 2013, 20% in 2020
- **No school feeding policy**: 42% in 2013, 80% in 2020

- **Low-income countries (n=22)**
  - School feeding policy: 80% in 2013, 75% in 2020
  - No school feeding policy: 20% in 2013, 25% in 2020

- **Lower middle-income countries (n=27)**
  - School feeding policy: 61% in 2013, 21% in 2020
  - No school feeding policy: 39% in 2013, 79% in 2020

- **Upper middle-income and high-income countries (n=32)**
  - School feeding policy: 79% in 2013, 84% in 2020
  - No school feeding policy: 21% in 2013, 16% in 2020
90% of governments deliver school meals alongside other complementary interventions.

Number of complementary health and nutrition interventions implemented with school feeding:

- All countries (n=85):
  - 7-10: 7%
  - 4-6: 32%
  - 1-3: 29%
  - None: 23%

- Low-income countries (n=24):
  - 7-10: 4%
  - 4-6: 50%
  - 1-3: 28%
  - None: 29%

- Lower middle-income countries (n=29):
  - 7-10: 11%
  - 4-6: 32%
  - 1-3: 34%
  - None: 28%

- Upper middle-income countries (n=19):
  - 7-10: 0%
  - 4-6: 50%
  - 1-3: 37%
  - None: 32%

- BRICS (n=4):
  - 7-10: 0%
  - 4-6: 50%
  - 1-3: 21%
  - None: 8%

- High-income countries (n=13):
  - 7-10: 0%
  - 4-6: 46%
  - 1-3: 23%
  - None: 23%
COVID-19 school closures suddenly deprived children of education and school meals, and increased the awareness of schools as a platform for health service delivery.
School closures affected both the education and wellbeing of the learner.

Impact of COVID-19 on poor mental health in children and young people ‘tip of the iceberg’

New analysis indicates lost contribution to economies due to mental disorders among young people estimated at nearly $390 billion a year

84 Oct 2021

Child marriage has more than doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic with numbers set to increase, World Vision warns

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Child labour rises to 160 million – first increase in two decades

The International Labour Organization and UNICEF warn 9 million additional children at risk as a result of COVID-19 pandemic

09 June 2021
SCHOOL MEALS COALITION (SMC)
Building the member-state led coalition

74 Governments have signed Declaration of Commitment

Europe: Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden; 
Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinee, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Panama; Asia and the Pacific: Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Iraq, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, United Arab Emirates; North America: Canada, United States; Regional Bodies: European Union, African Union

17 National Commitments: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, DRC, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Philippines, Rwanda, USA and Zambia

Global support and momentum - 6 high-level Declarations have supported the establishment of the Coalition: AU Declaration, Nordic Ministerial FSS Declaration, European Council Conclusions on FSS, G20 Matera Declaration, G20 Rome Leaders’ Declaration, AU 2022 Communique
Partners that signed the Call to Action for SDG4 School Meals Indicator

76 partners
Support for SDG4 School Meals Indicator

Helsinki Declaration

- African Union
- Finland
- France
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Japan
- Kenya
- Iceland
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sweden
- United States of America

Research Consortium Statement

Statement to the Ministerial Meeting of the School Meals Coalition

Prepared by the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition on behalf of the School Meals Coalition for the parliamentarians and public/policymakers of the member countries of the Coalition.

18 October 2023

Overview

Insights on What We Have Learned from the Pandemic:
1. The school closures of the pandemic have caused major, long-term harm in all countries.
2. The global food crisis is making recovery more difficult, and even more necessary.
3. Recovery of the education system and investment in young people is crucial for the future of this generation and the Wealth of Nations.
4. The well-being, education, and development of young people during the first 5,000 days of life are crucial for the economic and social future of all countries, whether high- or low-income countries.

Insights on the Design and Benefits of Programmes:
1. Benefits for education: more children go to school, and they learn better while there.
2. Benefits for health and nutrition: children and young people enjoy better well-being and learning, and establish health and dietary practices which promote their well-being, productivity, and longevity as adults.
3. Benefits for social protection: national school meals programmes are among the most extensive and effective safety nets in the world.

Statement to the Ministerial Meeting of the School Meals Coalition
Countries expand their investment in their young people

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda commits to scaling up their national school meals program from 640,000 children today to 3.3 million children in two years.

President Patrice Talon of Benin announces a national budget commitment of $270 million dollars over the next five years to scale up Benin’s national program.
Total: 418 million children

School feeding budgets by source of funding

- National budget expenditure
- International donors
- National donors and Private Sector

Confidential – 2022 (under embargo)

Children receiving school meals around the world
Reporting on State of School Feeding – Every 2 Years

Available at [wfp.org](http://wfp.org) in 7 languages
Q&A