

School Meals **Report Card #2**

World Vision

ENOUGH

January – March 2025

Context

- **Children are hungry and malnourished.** Over 66 million primary school aged children globally are hungry,¹ with only 2 out of 5 children having access to school meals, which is often their only reliable meal of the day.
- **Coverage of school meals is weakest where it is needed most.** The latest [Global Survey of School Meals Programmes](#) by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation shows that over 407 million children received school meals in 2022, with only 13% of children in low-income countries receiving school meals as compared to 48% in high income countries.
- **Funding gaps are high.** In 2022, low-income countries spent just \$8 per child per year, while high-income countries invested \$611 per child.² The school meals budget per child is associated with other traits of the programmes, such as the quality of the meals provided.
- **More government financial investment is needed.** On average, 73% of school meal funding comes from governments, but in low-income countries, this drops to 42%. Latin America and the Caribbean governments fund 99.9% of their school meals programmes. Government investment, rather than foreign aid, is a strong indicator of the durability and national ownership of school meals.
- **We are significantly off-track in achieving our Sustainable Development Goals targets by 2030.** Integrated homegrown School meals are a powerful intervention that contributes directly and indirectly to the achievement of 14/17 SDGs.
- **School meals are a catalyst for economic growth.** Home grown school feeding can unlock local agricultural development and create more than 1,000 direct jobs per 100,000 children fed. In other words, if all primary school children in Africa benefitted from homegrown school feeding programmes, more than 2.5 million direct jobs would be created across the continent.
- Every \$1 invested in school meals yields \$9 return in economic and social benefits.
- School meals are among the most powerful, effective, affordable, practical and proven contribution to global food systems transformation available to governments.

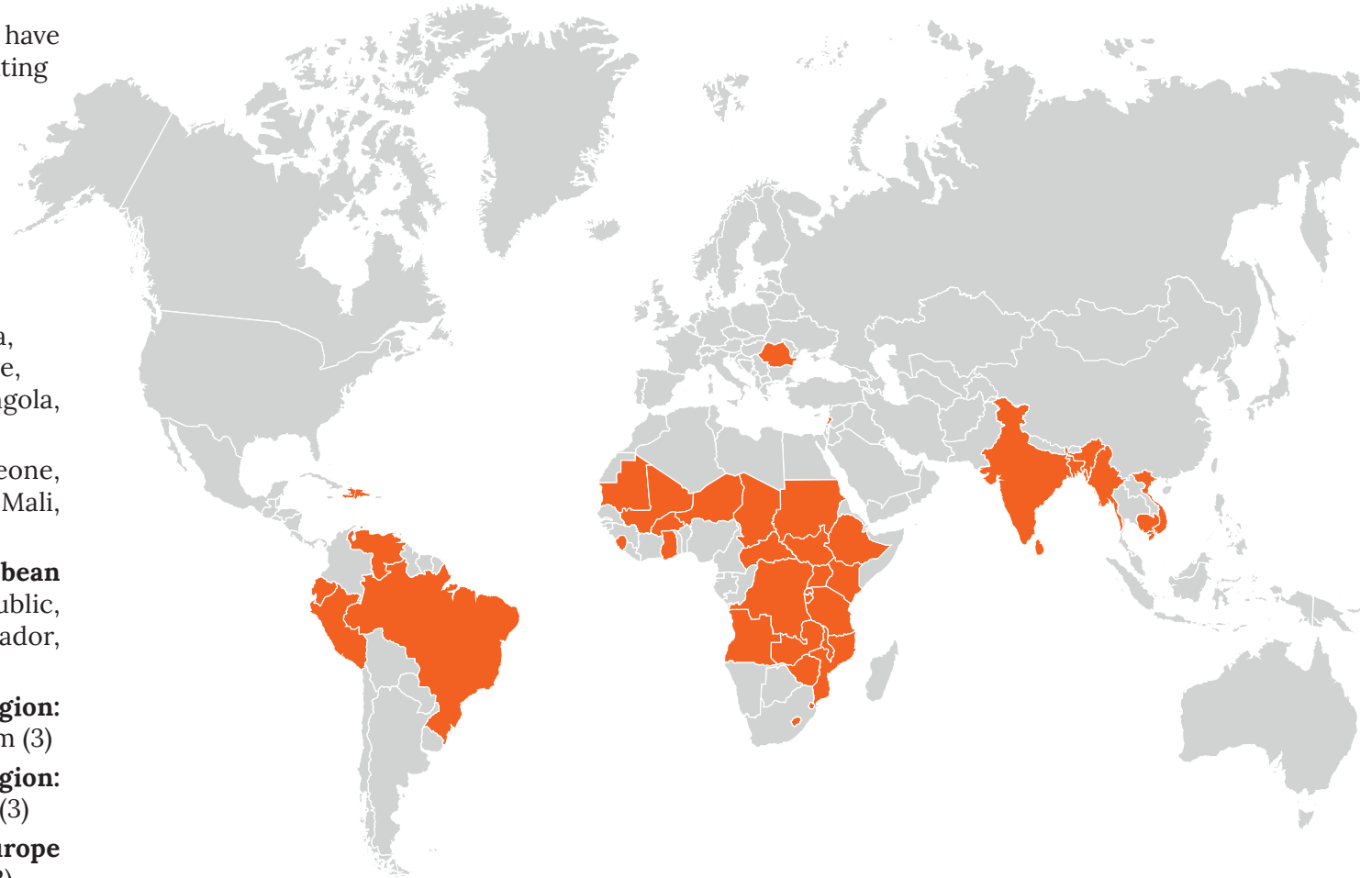
World Vision School Meals

- One of the expected results of World Vision's ENOUGH Campaign to end child hunger and malnutrition is to **scale up school meal programmes** to reach more children with nutritious food sourced ethically, sustainably and as locally as possible.
- Our [School Meals Roadmap](#) serves as a guide to scale up school meals as an effective safety net across all contexts.
- WV aims to enhance the coverage and quality of school meals (**impact**), intensify proactive advocacy and external engagement with diverse stakeholders (**influence**), grow WV's school meals portfolio (**income**), and facilitate evidence-building and information sharing on school meals (**information**).

¹ Hamilton, M. (2023). Kenya's School Meals Disrupt Generational Poverty and Improve Community Outcomes. The Rockefeller Foundation, April 2023. <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/insights/grantee-impact-story/kenyasschool-meals-disrupt-generational-poverty-and-improve-community>

² GCNF (2024). Global Survey of School Meals Programmes.

- Our target is to work with 40+ World Vision Field Offices, 100+ School Meals Coalition Members, 100+ School Meals Coalition Partners.
- Currently, 38 Field Offices have confirmed that they are implementing and/or advocating for school meals as follows:
 - **East Africa Region:** Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Sudan, Ethiopia (8)
 - **South Africa Region:** Zambia, Eswatini, Malawi, Zimbabwe, DRC, Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho (8)
 - **West Africa Region:** Sierra Leone, Chad, Niger, Mauritania, Mali, Ghana, CAR, Burkina Faso (8)
 - **Latin America and the Caribbean Region:** Dominican Republic, Haiti, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru (6)
 - **South-East Asia Region:** Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam (3)
 - **South Asia and Pacific Region:** Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka (3)
 - **Middle East and Eastern Europe Region:** Romania, Lebanon (2)



Impact Highlights

Figures cover October 2024 - February 2025



World Vision is providing school meals to 463,007 children



with a total funding of US\$23,669,700



for implementation in 17 countries

Core Indicators



463,007

Total number of children receiving wet or dry school meals



18,003.30

Total MT distributed for school feeding



\$492,177

Total amount of cash and voucher assistance for school feeding

Sectoral Indicators



355,286

Total number of children gaining access to basic handwashing services



331,245

Total number of children gaining access to basic sanitation services



76,208

Total number of children receiving psychosocial support



125,070

Total number of children/schools trained in smart agriculture

Implementing Offices Children receiving school meals

135,427

Burundi

8,409

Kenya

56

Sri Lanka

16,059

Cambodia

18,808

Mozambique

9,586

Sudan

34,156

CAR

9,427

Myanmar

5,201

Venezuela

32,246

Chad

1,160

Romania

306

Vietnam

57,979

DRC

15,109

Rwanda

38,505

Zambia

13,951

Haiti

66,202

South Sudan

Advocacy Highlights

- **School Meals Community of Practice (CoP):** We launched the [School Meals Community of Practice](#) on Viva Engage. The CoP is designed to build a strong community of school meals practitioners from both advocacy and programming to connect, share knowledge and drive impactful school meals initiatives.
- **Africa Day of School Feeding (ADSF) Webinar:** WV hosted the ADSF webinar with an attendance of 150+ participants. We featured panelists from World Vision, WFP, Action Against Hunger, the Government of CAR and a child representative from CAR. Speakers emphasized how home-grown school feeding, and community and child participation enhance the sustainability of school meals.
- WV released the [school meals explainer video](#) where the Global School Meals Director, Mary Njeri, details how school meals can transform the lives of children, families, farmers and communities around the world.
- WV launched the school meals child voice project which aims to bring together children's perspectives on school meals from 16 countries across all regions using a child-led participatory action research approach.
- Actively engaged with various World Vision entities to identify current interventions and explore opportunities for collaboration on school meal programmes. These include South Africa Region, Latin America and the Caribbean Region, WV Korea, WV Finland, WV UK, WV USA, WV Taiwan and WV Spain. We agreed on a number of actions that will be implemented within Q3.
- **Policy documents and positions:** The [Global Nutrition dialogues synthesis report](#) was released within the quarter. It identifies increased coverage and quality of school meals as one of the urgent actions needed.
- We have finalised and designed the [School Meals & ENOUGH Campaign – Strategy & Advocacy Overview](#) and the [Internal Analysis: School Meals Summit](#).
- We participated in a 2-day strategic engagement meeting with the **School Meals Coalition** Secretariat, hosted by WFP, in Rome, Italy.



The provision of school meals in schools in Juba Central Equatoria State, South Sudan has contributed to increased enrolment and improved student retention rates, as well as enhancing academic performance.
© World Vision.

We received positive feedback highlighting World Vision's pivotal role in school meals initiatives, particularly in mobilising other CSOs to collaborate effectively with the Coalition. We agreed on concrete ways to strategically engage during upcoming priority events such as: UN Food Systems Summit that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2025; the Global School Meals Summit that will be held in Fortaleza, Brazil, on 18-19 September and COP30 which will be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10-21 November.

- We hosted the inaugural meeting for the Global School Meals CSO Steering Committee, which comprises WV, Plan International, Mary's Meals International, CRS, IPNED and the Global Child Nutrition Forum. The steering committee members validated the Terms of Reference and committed to identifying themes for collaboration during the upcoming School Meals Summit.
- Launched the WV Technical Working Group for School Meals Programming that has representatives from nutrition, environment, food assistance, child protection, education and livelihood teams.



Girl eats a school meals in Udayapur District, Nepal. © World Vision/Ben Adams

Income Highlights

- **Donor Engagement Plan:** We have developed a donor engagement strategy to guide Field Offices in diversifying the funding portfolio for school meals.
- **Cash for School Meals:** We are working with the Cash Assistance team to develop a concept note on cash for school meals to be shared with target Support Offices.
- We submitted a solicited concept note to the **Rockefeller Foundation**, who have committed to provide USD 200,000 to facilitate a school meals stakeholder coordination mechanism in Kenya, with the likelihood of being scaled up to other Field Offices.
- Submitted a proposal to WV Finland for the establishment of school gardens in countries within the East Africa Region, namely WV Burundi, Kenya and Uganda.

Information Highlights

- **The School Meals Dashboard is now live**, featuring monthly updates on school meals funding and beneficiary reach.
- **The WV Central page for school meals is now live**, serving as a one-stop hub for all school meals resources.

Spotlight on Field Offices and Support Offices

WV South Sudan (EAR): Following a meeting between Mary's Meals International and WV South Sudan to explore a potential partnership for school meals, WV South Sudan committed to developing a school meals framework, to guide their school meals programming and engagement and be reflected in the Field Office strategy for FY 2026–2030.

WV Central African Republic:

On 28 February 2025, in the heart of Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR), a powerful panel took place during the 10th African Day of School Feeding (ADSF). World Vision co-hosted a discussion that brought to light how school meals are more than just food—they represent equity, dignity and hope. With children at the forefront of the conversation through a skit presentation, the session highlighted their growing role as advocates for their own futures, demanding more inclusive, accountable and sustainable approaches. Their voices not only animated the panel but also underscored the need to keep children at the centre of programme design and policy change.



Children took centre stage performing a skit which showcased their growing roles as advocates by demanding more inclusive, accountable and sustainable approaches to school meals.

WV Kenya: World Vision is actively advocating to the government to increase the budgetary allocation for school meals. This has resulted to an increase in Ksh 900 billion for school meals in a supplementary budget. They are also part of the National School Meals Coalition, and are co-leading the Technical Working Group on Policies, Legislation, Advocacy and Financing on School meals; alongside the Ministry of Education and Rockefeller Foundation.

WV Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LACRO): We connected with Field Offices across LACRO, who shared significant updates on their school meals initiatives. Here are a few key highlights from their presentations:

- **WV Venezuela:** WV partners with WFP to implement the School

Meals Programme across 542 schools, benefiting 78,346 students, through food distribution and kitchen infrastructure improvements

- **WV Peru:** WV utilises the Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) model to mobilise children and adolescents in advocacy efforts, influencing school feeding policies and ensuring accountability through national consultations.
- **WV Guatemala:** WV played a key role in advocating for school feeding policy reforms, increasing funding and coverage, and continues to support implementation through policy advocacy, infrastructural improvements and parental engagement in nutrition.
- **WV Brazil:** WV strengthens the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) by mobilising civil society, facilitating youth-led policy monitoring, and advocating at international forums, including the G20 and the Global School Meals Summit.
- **WV Ecuador:** WV Ecuador collaborates with national and local partners to enhance school feeding programmes, ensuring food security and nutrition education within its areas of operation.

WV Canada: [WV Canada has a Gift Catalog](#) to fundraise for healthy school meals for children ranging from \$40 to \$150. Thanks to the support from the World Food Programme, every donation is multiplied in value by seven.

WV USA: World Vision is the prime recipient of the United States Department of Agriculture grants for school meals that are continuing in Angola, Mozambique and Cambodia.

World Vision United Kingdom is actively advocating to their government to join the School Meals Coalition and make strong commitments.

WV Kenya is supporting the National School Meals Coalition through co-leading the Technical Working Group on School Meals Policies, Legislation, Advocacy and Financing.

WV Spain: On International School Meals Day, WV Spain released a press release highlighting the transformative impact of school meal programmes, which not only combat hunger and malnutrition but also boost school enrolment and reduce child marriage and labor. The press release emphasised that school meals are crucial for supporting vulnerable children, promoting climate resilience, and strengthening local food systems, making them an essential tool for global development.

Voices on School Meals



Andrew Morley. CEO, World Vision International

“I can’t think of a single intervention that achieves more transformation than a school meal. I have met children who told me they used to miss classes because of repetitive illness caused by malnutrition. And it often takes one meal to keep them in school, rekindle their desire to learn and set them on a path to reach their God-given potential.”



Carla Denizard, West Africa Regional Leader

“Recently, when I visited Chad, it broke my heart to see one little boy with a cup in his hand coming to a school feeding programme where he’s not a part of and wishing that he was. This shows you the lifeline that school meals provide for children. It’s a lifeline, not only for food and ensuring their nourishment, but also enabling them to focus in class, succeed and to give them hope, for a brighter future rather than staying at home.”



Paul Kinuthia. Senior Director, Resource Management

“With a long career in humanitarian service, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of natural disaster, conflict and food insecurity on vulnerable communities. But I’ve also seen the power of school meals in providing a lifeline to children in need.”



Mishelle Michelle. External Engagement and Advocacy Regional Director, Latin and America and the Caribbean

“LACRO has some of the highest rates of obesity and that is because of the consumption of ultra-processed foods. Besides advocating for better school meals coverage, we need to ensure that children receive nutritious food.”



Elena Gaia. Director, Global Campaigns.

“I love achievable dreams. Here’s one: Nutritious school meals for all children by 2030.”



Eloisa Molina, Communications Director, WV Spain

“In Kenya, I had the opportunity to see how the number of children in schools keeps increasing, and in many cases, it is because it is the only way these families can ensure a daily meal for their children. In other words, school meals have a dual function: reducing the consequences of food shortages and increasing school enrollment rates, thereby reducing forms of violence such as child marriage and child labor.”

Voices on School Meals



Henok, 13, Ethiopia

“The school is my second home because I have access to a healthy meal.”



Frantz-Tarline, 11, Haiti

“The food given at school helps me to participate. It sustains me.”



Maria, 11, Mozambique

“When I grow up, I’d like to be a doctor because I like helping others. The school lunch is very important because some days, I leave home very hungry. I arrive to school with very little energy. But when it’s time for lunch, as soon as I eat my lunch, my strength continues to carry on in class. But it’s not just me, because classmates who for some reasons don’t have access to dinner or have nothing to eat for days, they don’t stop going to school because they know that when they get there, they will eat food.”



Chandy, 12, Cambodia

“School meals make me less hungry during learning. I can study hard and get good grades.”



John, 13, Kenya

“Food is the problem. We are hungry. I feel drowsy every time at school. When the teacher is teaching, I’m hardly attentive.”



Marian, 15, Romania

“We ask for hot meals in all schools!”



Abdifatah, 12, Somalia

“Concentration in class is a problem because of hunger.”

Resource Highlights

Reports and Publications

[School Meals Report Card Q1 \(Sep – Dec 2024\)](#)
[Global Nutrition dialogues synthesis report](#)
[School Meals & ENOUGH Campaign – Strategy & Advocacy Overview.pdf](#)
[Internal Analysis: School Meals Summit](#)
School Meals [Donor Engagement Plan \(FY25 – 27\)](#)

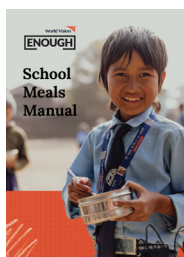
Videos

[School Meals Explainer Video](#)
[Children's Voices on School Meals V1](#)
[Children's Voices on School Meals V2](#)

Articles

[The Power of School Meals for Children, Livelihoods, and Climate Resilience](#)
[World Vision: An Enduring Vision for School Meals in Crisis Settings](#)
[School Meals and School Attendance: Creating a foundation for academic success](#)
[School Meals: South East Asia Children Must See More Action](#)
[NGOs Must Focus on School Meals in Humanitarian Settings](#)

NOW AVAILABLE – THE SCHOOL MEALS MANUAL (2025)



The revised School Meals Manual (2025) is now available to Field Offices. The Manual introduces Field Offices to the ‘Integrated Home Grown School Meals Programming Approach’ and provides comprehensive guidance on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes. In April 2025, we hosted region-specific launches, featuring technical experts in Education, Food Assistance, nutrition, WASH, Cash and Voucher Assistance, Child Protection and Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action to break down key elements of the manual. The manual will soon be available in French and Spanish.

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World Vision is focused on helping the most vulnerable children to overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places. Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness. Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.