

# School Meals **Report Card #3**

World Vision

**ENOUGH**

April – June 2025

Global food insecurity continues to affect populations across multiple regions, especially in communities already facing displacement, conflict or economic instability. An estimated **295 million people in 53 countries and territories**<sup>1</sup> were living with high levels of food insecurity by the end of 2024. And as humanitarian needs grow, global support and financing is shrinking. By May 2025, only 10% of the funding required to meet global humanitarian needs had been received.

World Vision's 2025 report, [Hunger, Harm, and Hard Choices](#), provides new data on how these pressures are affecting families and children. In a survey of over 5,000 households across 13 countries, **58%** of families reported that at least one member had gone to bed hungry in the past 30 days. Roughly a third of respondents indicated they were eating only one or no meals a day. Among households that experienced recent food assistance cuts, the likelihood of moderate or severe food insecurity increased more than fivefold. 43% of parents reported that their children were not going to school so that they could help provide food.

Amidst adversity, one solution consistently emerged as a lifeline: school meals. In interviews and surveys, families repeatedly pointed to school meals as a critical reason for sending their children to school. In fact, 19% of respondents said their children attended school primarily to receive a meal. This figure soared in countries grappling with severe food insecurity—reaching 44% in Somalia, 37% in Ethiopia, and 31% in the Central African Republic.

Beyond just nourishment, respondents emphasised that school meals helped children stay focused in class and eased the financial burden on families struggling to provide daily meals. In the face of crisis, school meals

are not just a support—they are a powerful driver of school attendance, learning, and family resilience.

*'Many children depend on school meals, especially since food at home is inadequate. Some students come to school specifically hoping to receive meals, even outside of designated feeding times because they know it might be their only meal for the day.'* –Adult focus group participant, Ethiopia

In settings where school meals were sustained, families were more likely to report stable school attendance and fewer disruptions. In Bangladesh, where food assistance had recently been restored, respondents reported greater food security and school continuity. However, these gains remain sensitive to funding trends. The World Food Programme has noted the risk of further ration cuts in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh by the end of 2025, which would affect approximately 900,000 refugees.

School meals primarily address health, nutrition and educational outcomes, but they also contribute to broader development goals. In several contexts, they strengthen local food systems through smallholder sourcing, and support access to water, hygiene and sanitation, climate action, and child protection efforts. In humanitarian and development settings alike, school meals continue to be a practical and widely supported intervention to improve child outcomes across multiple sectors.

As governments and organisations prepare for the Global School Meals Summit in Brazil later in September 2025, the evidence remains strong: maintaining and scaling up school feeding programmes is essential to meeting immediate needs and supporting long-term development goals.

<sup>1</sup> International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2025) Global Report of Food Crisis 2025

## OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Figures cover October 2024 - May 2025



World Vision is providing school meals to 976,827 children



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



for implementation in 20 countries

### Core Indicators



**976,827**

Total number of children receiving wet or dry school meals



**35,300.31**

Total MT distributed for school feeding



**\$972,696**

Total amount of cash and voucher assistance for school feeding

### Sectoral Indicators



**680,749**

Total number of children gaining access to basic handwashing services



**852,592**

Total number of children gaining access to basic sanitation services



**76,208**

Total number of children receiving psychosocial support



**125,831**

Total number of children/schools trained in smart agriculture

### Implementing Offices Children receiving school meals

**428,919**

**Burundi**

**14,427**

**Haiti**

**66,202**

**South Sudan**

**16,067**

**Cambodia**

**12,867**

**Kenya**

**56**

**Sri Lanka**

**34,156**

**CAR**

**62,224**

**Malawi**

**9,586**

**Sudan**

**79,064**

**Chad**

**18,808**

**Mozambique**

**5,201**

**Venezuela**

**7,854**

**Colombia**

**9,427**

**Myanmar**

**306**

**Vietnam**

**58,412**

**DRC**

**1,198**

**Romania**

**38,505**

**Zambia**

**98,439**

**Ethiopia**

**15,109**

**Rwanda**

## Influence Highlights

- **School Meals Community of Practice:** We hosted the third Community of Practice meeting, featuring presentations on the upcoming *Festival of Actions*, as well as on school meals reporting and programme insights from WV DRC.
- **Child-Led Research Initiative:** Our child participation and advocacy teams are leading a global child-led research project on school meals across 15 Field Offices. Each country will submit a 4-page report, and a global synthesis will be launched at the Global School Meals Summit.
- **CSO Network Convening (22 May):** Over 70 civil society organisations gathered to align advocacy efforts ahead of the School Meals Summit. Discussions focused on launching the CSO Network, receiving updates from the Coalition, and co-developing a joint CSO manifesto by August.
- **Policy Brief:** We have developed a policy brief which has been endorsed with evidence by Research Consortium. This brief uses proven models and case studies to demonstrate how to scale sustainable, home-grown school meals programmes globally. Offices are encouraged to support national-level advocacy, especially in countries yet to submit Coalition commitments.
- **School Meals Impact Taskforce (SMIT):** The SMIT was formed to coordinate and strengthen advocacy in the lead-up to the summit. Inspired by the N4G model, SMIT will support offices in implementing the school meals roadmap and using the SMIT Office Tracker to track engagement with governments in the lead up to the upcoming Summit.
- **Kenya National Coalition Meeting:** WV made a brief presentation on the CSO Network to the Kenya chapter of the School Meals Coalition and encouraged local CSOs to join the Global Coalition and contribute to the joint manifesto.
- **WV Brazil Government Engagement:** WV Brazil is actively engaging with local and federal governments, including the Ministry of Education, to ensure meaningful child participation at the summit. A

bilateral meeting will explore the feasibility of a pre-summit child-led event.

- **School Meals Festival of Actions:** Running from July to September 2025, this campaign will encourage creative social mobilisation across offices. Updated toolkits, child-friendly materials, and influencer strategies are in development.





## Impact Highlights

- **Cost-Effective Rain Harvesting Cisterns:** A delegation from Brazil, WFP, FAO, AGRA, and WV visited a rainwater harvesting pilot at Athi River, Kenya. The 16,000L rain harvesting cistern is a social technology supporting food and water security for schools in arid and semi-arid areas. It is a low-cost solution (USD \$1000 per unit) and WV is exploring scale-up of the intervention.
- **Revised School Meals Manual:** The school meals manual was revised and disseminated. It now integrates key sectoral elements such as environmental sustainability, child protection, cash and voucher assistance, WASH, nutrition amongst others. Translations into French and Spanish are underway to improve accessibility and global reach.
- **Launch Webinars for the School Meals Manual:** Four regional webinars introduced the revised manual and School Meals Impact Accelerator (SMIA) Fund to Field, Regional, and Global staff. Over 350 participants attended, with sector leads presenting on the school meals link with education, WASH, nutrition, child protection, climate and livelihoods.
- **Technical Working Group (TWG) Formation:** A dedicated TWG was established with representatives from core technical areas to strengthen school meals programming. Its role is to offer strategic guidance, promote innovation, and foster collaboration. The TWG spearheaded the launch of the revised manual and is currently working on developing school meals dollar handles.
- **WV South Sudan Strategy:** WV South Sudan finalised and disseminated their [FY25 – FY30 School Meals Strategic Plan](#). Their goal is to ensure that 200,000 school children in South Sudan have access to nutritious meals supporting their health, learning, and overall well-being by September 2030.

## Information Highlights

- **Reports Finalised:** The [Q2 Report Card](#) and [Semi-Annual Report](#) have been published and shared with both internal and external stakeholders.
- Updated the [WV Central Site for school meals](#) which is a one stop hub for school meals resources.

## Income Highlights

- **Capacity Statement:** The [School Meals Capacity Statement](#) was finalised and shared to demonstrate WV's school meals expertise across development and humanitarian contexts.
- **Proposal Development:** WV Burundi and Mozambique submitted separate concept notes on WASH infrastructure for their school meals programmes to WV Hong Kong. The Burundi note was approved for full proposal development. A marketing flyer was also created to highlight the WASH and school meals link.
- **Donor Engagements:** Ongoing conversations are underway with the Rockefeller Foundation, Mary's Meals International, and KenGen Foundation.
- **Cash for School Meals:** A [concept note](#) has been developed by the Cash and Voucher Assistance team on cash for school meals. This has been shared with interested Support Offices for their consideration.



## VOICES ON SCHOOL MEALS – *The multi-sectoral power of school meals*

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**Ana Tenorio, Global Director for Education**

“When planning a school meals program, regardless of your sector of focus of work, you need to ask: *What happens after children go to school and have a meal? We often ask: Are their nutritional needs being met? Are they safe and protected? But we also need to ask: Are they learning?* At its core, school is about learning. That’s why every school-based intervention must be designed to strengthen learning and ensure every child’s right to a quality education. To unlock the full potential of school meals, we must work closely across sectors of education, nutrition, WASH and protection. Only through this collaboration can we realise the potential of school meals to fuel body and mind and help every child grow, learn and thrive.”



**Carmen Tse, Senior Technical Advisor, Nutrition**

“It’s not enough to provide school meals, we must ensure they are nutritious. This means integrating health and nutrition through fortified foods, micronutrient supplements like iron or vitamin A, and deworming to support nutrient absorption. These interventions help children grow, stay healthy, and benefit fully from school meals.”



**Kondwani Precious Mwangala, Deputy Chief of Party, Home Grown School Feeding Project (USDA FFE), WV Rwanda**

“We have seen improved literacy outcomes from 41% at baseline to 77.7% at the end line in phase one. The number of learners consistently attending school has improved from 67.1 % in 2017 to 96% in 2021; and the number of learners identified as attentive also increased from 71.9% in 2020 to 86.2% in 2023. This is evidence that school feeding, alongside complimentary interventions, is driving transformational change in Rwanda.”



**Verena Bloch, Senior Advisor for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

“Schools are often the first place where we can identify children exposed to protection risks; whether from violence, neglect, or unsafe environments. We must make sure that we provide our meals in a safe environment for children and we do not generate additional risks for children.”



**Samuel Diarra, Technical Director, Quality and Innovation - WASH**

“Fifty percent of malnutrition is linked to poor WASH. Children without access to proper water and sanitation get sick from enteric diseases that cause malnutrition. One agency failed to meet its school meals targets because children were not washing their hands. WASH infrastructure is not enough, we need hygiene education, behavior change, and safe, inclusive facilities. WASH must be part of school meals.”



**Timothy Ranja, Environment and Climate Action Senior Advisor, WV East Africa Regional Office**

“Imagine if every school meal not only nourished a child, but also protected the environment. When school meals address malnutrition and while at the same time reducing climate impacts, they become powerful tools for building resilience. Sustainable agricultural practices can mitigate negative environmental impacts. Over the years, World Vision has been supporting governments and communities in building climate resilient school meal programs through interventions which emphasize eco-friendly menus, clean cooking solutions, waste reduction, food system education, and sustainable supply chains, as well as practical experience in food production and natural resource management through school health and nutrition clubs in different countries. These initiatives have identified good practices which can be up-scaled across the regions.”

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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.