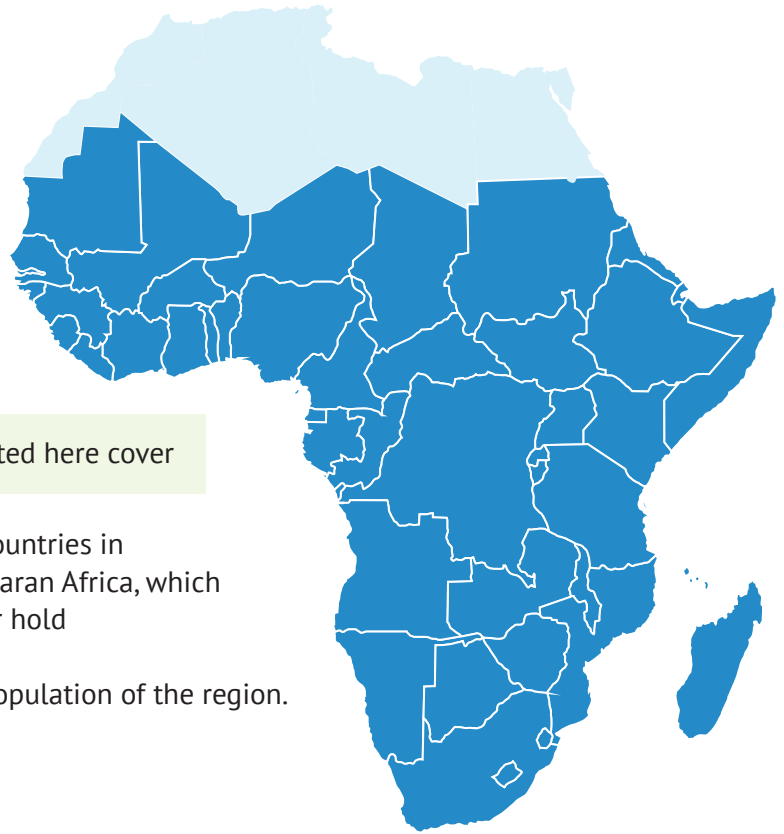


# School Meal Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa




 **\$1.46** Billion Budget

## COVERAGE

 **49.0** million children received food.

Statistics reported here cover

 **40** of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, which together hold

 **90%** of the population of the region.

The highest levels of primary and secondary school age coverage are found in



eSwatini **87%**



Cabo Verde **64%**



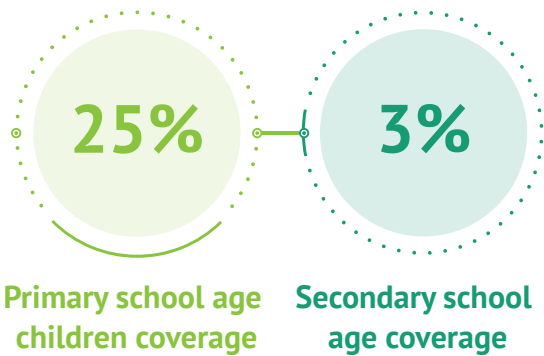
South Africa **72%**



Lesotho **60%**



Botswana **91%**



 **71%** of countries in this region reported an increase in coverage of at least

 **5%** from three years prior.

Countries with the fastest growth:  
**Mauritania, Congo, Mozambique, and Cameroon**

## National Laws, Policies, or Standards Related to School Feeding (% of countries)

National School Feeding Policy  
**80%**

Health  
**46%**

Agriculture  
**49%**

Nutrition  
**59%**

Food Safety  
**51%**

Private Sector  
**15%**



# Dedicated Line Item in National Budgets

Sub-Saharan Africa

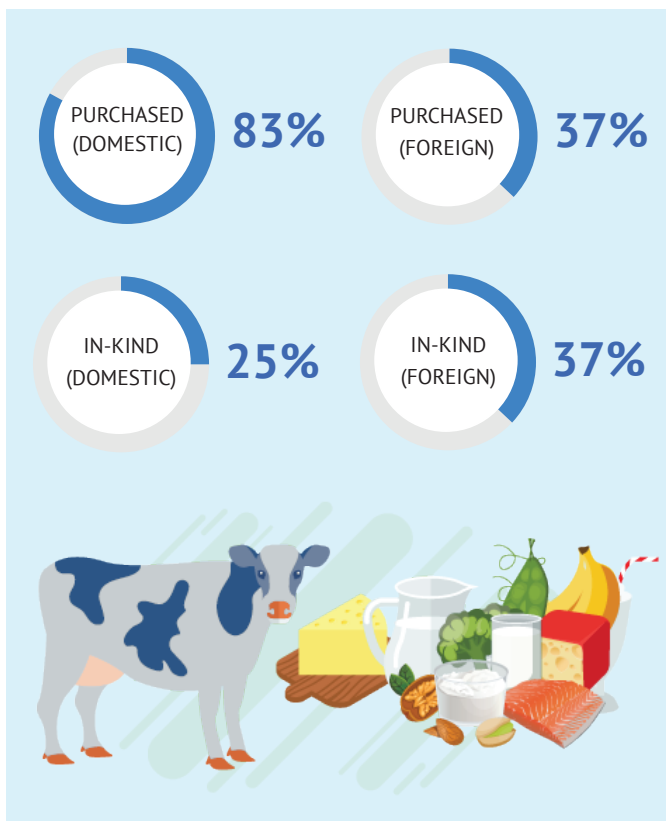
68%

Global

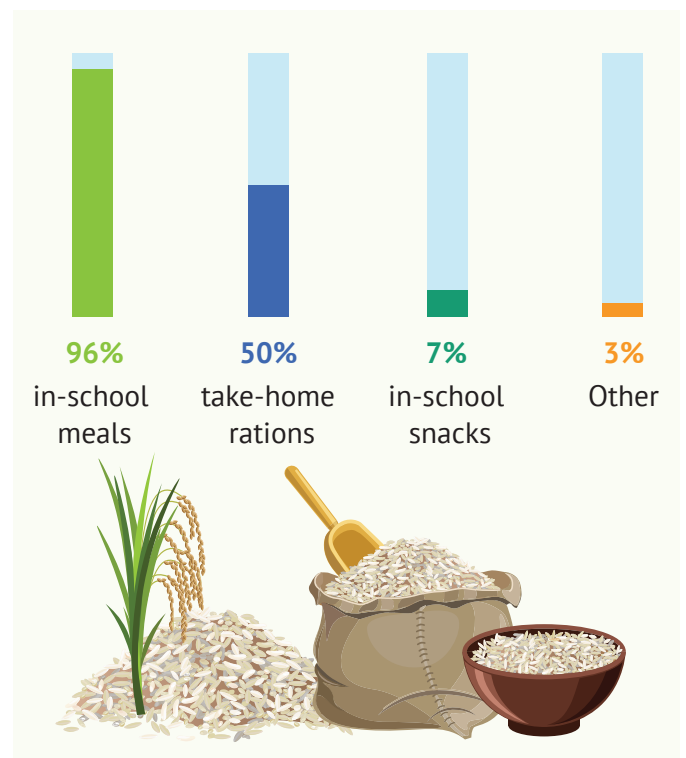
69%

In Sub-Saharan Africa, countries with a line item had an average budget per recipient child of **\$46**, compared to **\$23.5** for those without a line item.

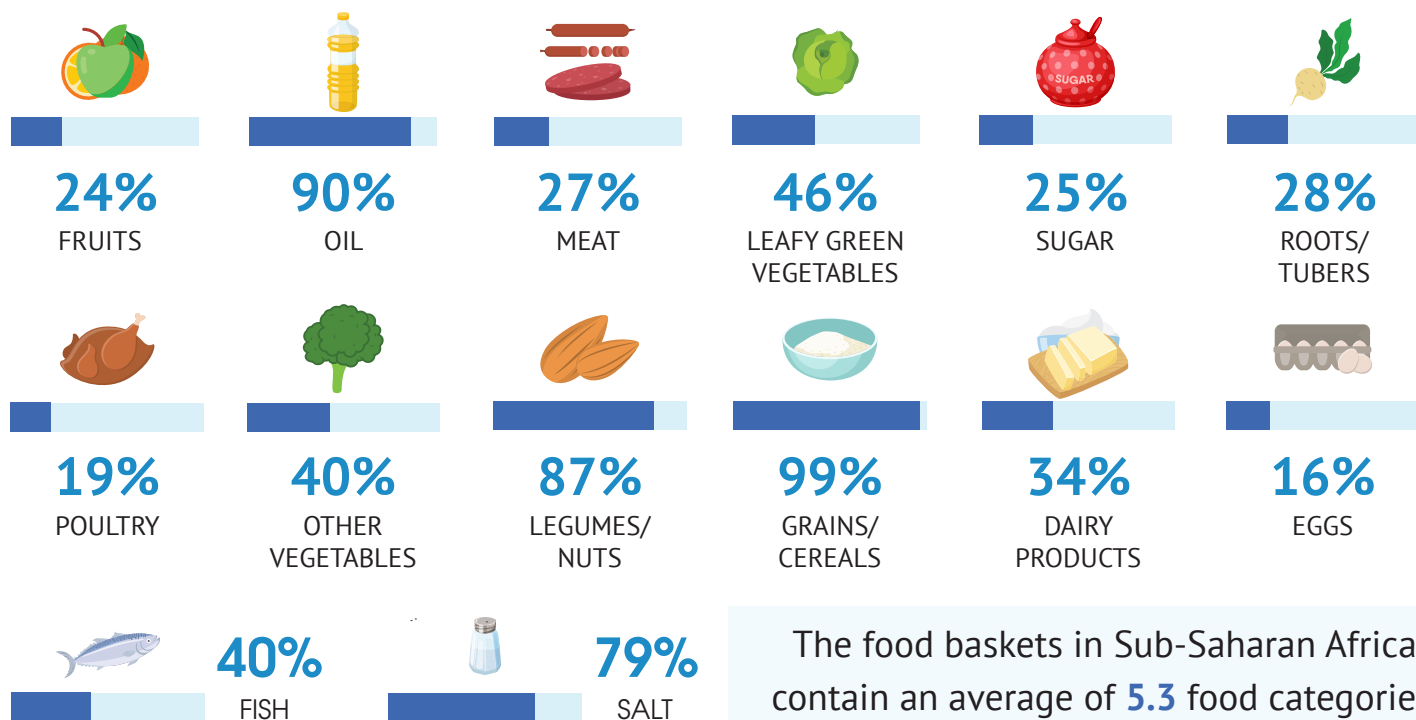
## FOOD SOURCES (% of programs)



## METHODS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION (% of programs)



## FOOD BASKET (% of programs)



The food baskets in Sub-Saharan Africa contain an average of **5.3** food categories, compared to **6.9** globally.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Rates of childhood overweight and obesity are rising in many regions of the world, including in Sub-Saharan Africa where concerns about undernutrition are also salient.

**91%** of programs have an objective to meet nutritional and/or health goals, and **9%** have an objective to prevent or mitigate obesity.

**78%** of programs serve foods—such as oil, salt, grains/cereals, corn-soy blend, or biscuits—fortified with micronutrients. Biofortified foods, such as the vitamin A-rich orange flesh sweet potato, are also served in Mozambique and The Gambia.

To enhance the effectiveness of school feeding, complementary health activities are interwoven with school meals. **96%** of school meal programs incorporate handwashing into the school feeding activities, and deworming treatment (which prevents worm infections and iron deficiency) is provided in **58%** of the programs.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

**33%**

of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa reported that all or most schools have clean water, while **54%** reported that very few or no schools have electricity.

This has implications for the ability of schools to refrigerate or preserve food items, such as fresh fruit and vegetables.



## FOCUS ON CREATING INCOME-GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

### In **Burundi**

women are encouraged to join agricultural production cooperatives connected to the National School Feeding Program (Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire – PNAS) and lead school canteen management committees.

### In **Togo**

canteen mothers are remunerated for their catering services. The STARS project also implements savings and credit activities for women's groups in its project intervention area.

### In **Côte d'Ivoire**

cooks in the program are predominantly women and are paid in cash. Women's agricultural groups also supply the school canteens, and leadership positions in canteen monitoring committees are held by women.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



The analysis is based on the [Global Survey of School Meal Programs © database](#). See [School Meals Around the World: Results from the 2021 Global Survey of School Meal Programs © survey.gcnf.org/2021-global-survey](#) for regional comparisons.

\*Comparative regions are Sub-Saharan Africa; South Asia, East Asia, & Pacific; Middle East & North Africa; Europe, Central Asia & North America.

Suggested Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2022. School Meal Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa. Accessed at <https://survey.gcnf.org/resources/>

For more information, visit <https://survey.gcnf.org> or contact [info@gcnf.org](mailto:info@gcnf.org).