



## World Food Programme Two Minutes to Learn about School Feeding

### WFP's Approach

WFP is working towards a world where school feeding is universal. School meals are an effective safety net, helping to ensure every child has access to education, health and nutrition. In the fight against hunger, school meals are a sound investment in the future of the next generation.

Children from vulnerable families are often pulled out of school when more work is needed at home. A daily school meal is a strong incentive for families to consistently send their children to school. Just USD 0.25 will give a child a school meal every day, while USD 50 can feed a child for an entire school year.

WFP is now supporting countries in setting up and maintaining sustainable government-owned programmes. WFP engages in school feeding policy dialogue, provides technical assistance and supports knowledge exchange between countries.

To ensure that programmes are cost-effective and context-specific, WFP's school feeding is built on

solid analysis, considering the efficiency of different implementation models – including providing vouchers or cash – and the best ways of reaching the children who will benefit.

### What Are WFP School Meals?

**In-school meals** Children are provided with breakfast, lunch or both while in school. Meals can be prepared at the school, in the community or be delivered from centralized kitchens.

Some programmes provide complete meals, others provide fortified, high-energy biscuits or nutritious snacks, such as date bars.

**Take-home rations** Families receive food rations on the condition that their children attend school regularly. In-school meals, combined with take-home rations, help keep girls in school and reduce drop-out rates.



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**Local agriculture** Linking small-scale farmers to school feeding programmes helps support rural economies, making programmes more sustainable. Such home-grown school feeding programmes are under way in more than 25 countries where WFP is present, and this number is growing quickly. In these countries, WFP works with farmers to increase their capacity.

### Why School Meals?

School feeding programmes are beneficial in many ways and may be tailored to address specific contextual needs.

**Safety Nets** School meals can help families support their children's education while protecting their food security. They help break the inter-generational cycle of hunger and poverty that affects the world's most vulnerable areas by helping children become healthy and productive adults.

School feeding programmes use innovative approaches to identify and reach children who are especially in need, such as those affected by HIV/AIDS, orphans, disabled children and former child soldiers.

School meals also help keep children in school during emergencies or protracted crises, restoring a sense of stability and ensuring a generation does not miss out on education. WFP has scaled up school-feeding programmes in more than 38 countries in response to armed conflict, natural disasters, food and financial crises.

**Education** A daily school meal allows children to focus on their studies rather than their stomachs and helps increase enrolment and attendance, decrease drop-out rates and improve cognitive abilities. Where there is a gender gap in key education-related areas, programmes may be tailored to target specific groups of children.

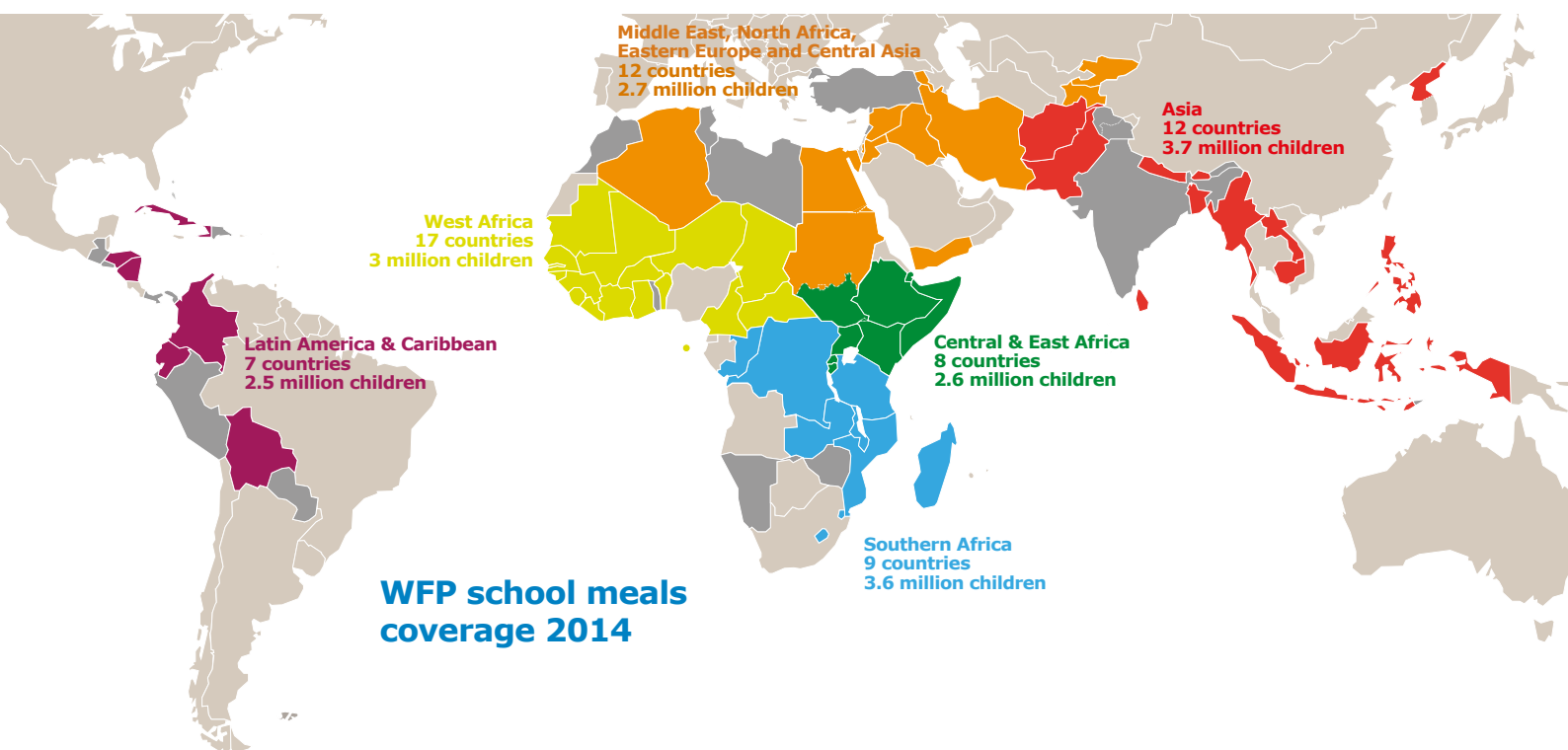
**Nutrition** In poor countries, school meals are often the only regular and nutritious meal a child receives. Without them, hunger and micronutrient deficiencies can cause irreversible damage to their growing bodies. When school meals are combined with deworming and micronutrient fortification, the effects of that investment are multiplied. This is especially so when they are tailored to specific nutritional needs, such as those for adolescent girls or children affected by HIV/AIDS.

### WFP's presence

In 2014, WFP provided school meals to 18.2 million children in 65 countries and technical assistance in another nine, including:

- 1.2 million children supported through the trust funds of national governments;
- 900,000 girls and 400,000 boys who received take-home rations;
- 1.3 million pre-school children.

WFP distributed a total of 314,297 metric tons of food.



**WFP school meals coverage 2014**