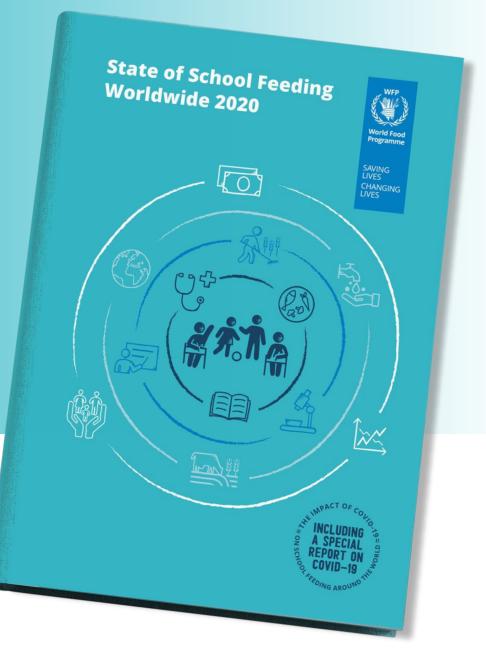
Working Group 4: Securing school nutrition in crisis situations, such as pandemics

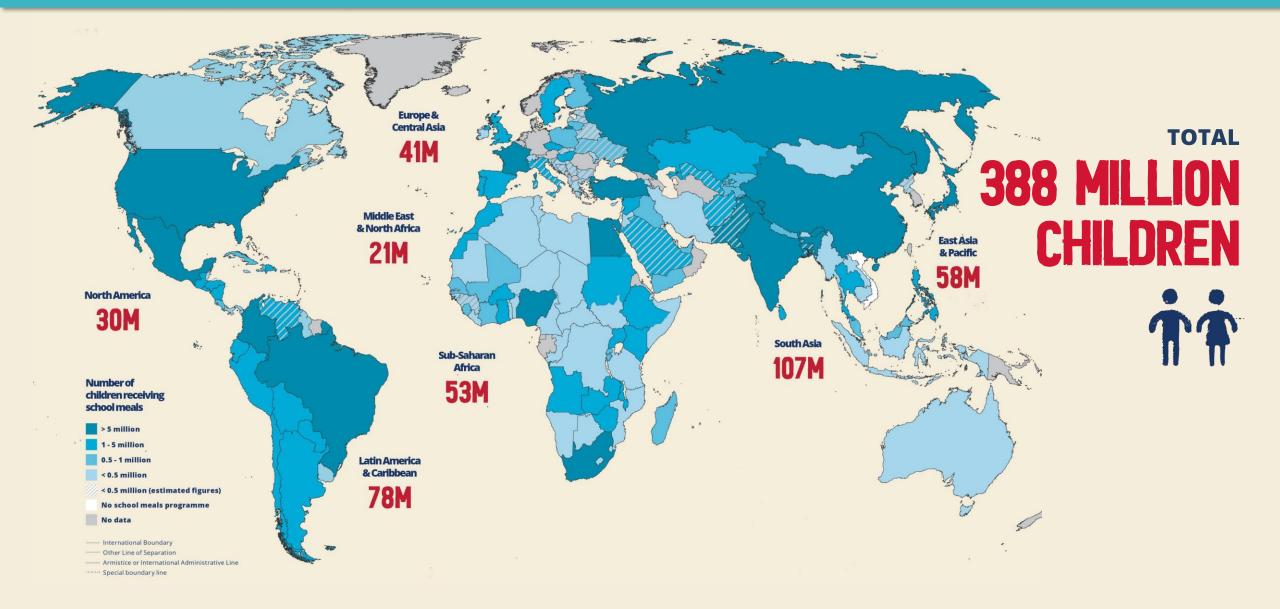
# Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for school nutrition

Donald Bundy Director of the Research Consortium for SHN London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 24 June 2021

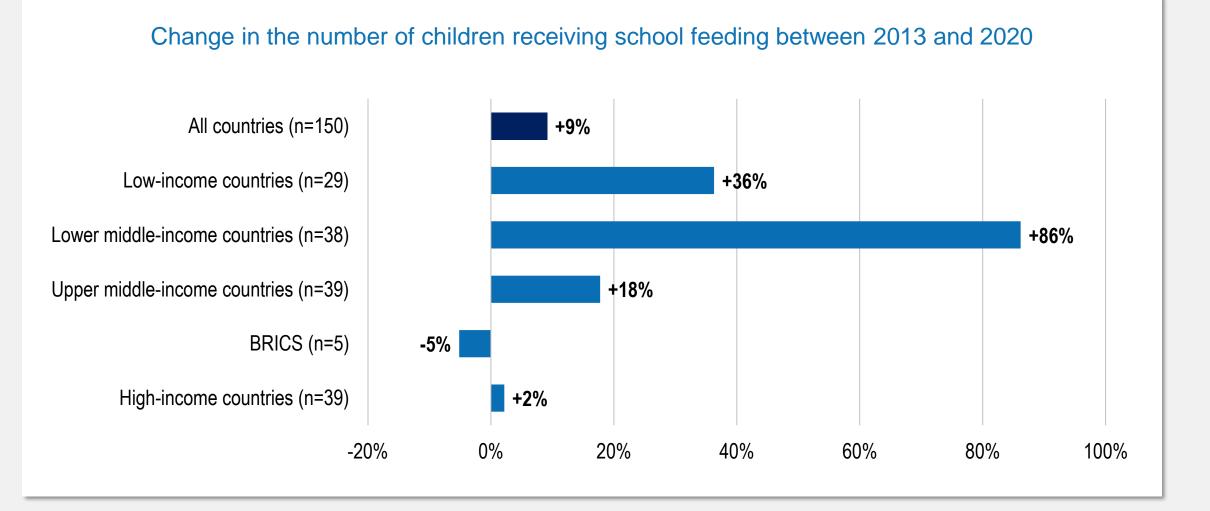


At the beginning of 2020, national school feeding programmes delivered school meals to more children than at any time in human history, making school feeding the most extensive social safety net in the world.

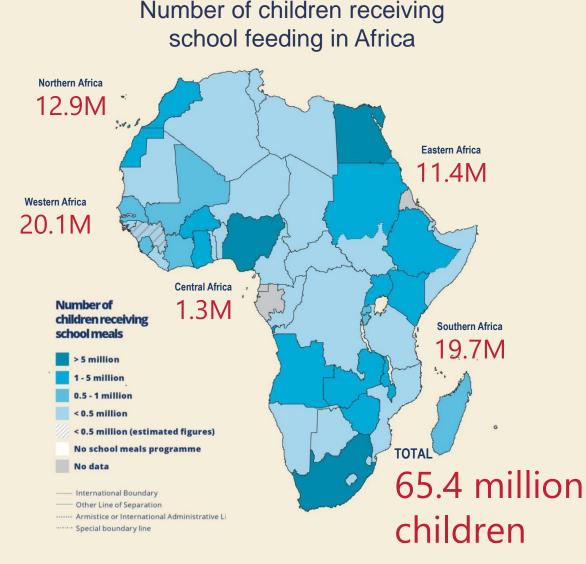
# Unprecedented global reach

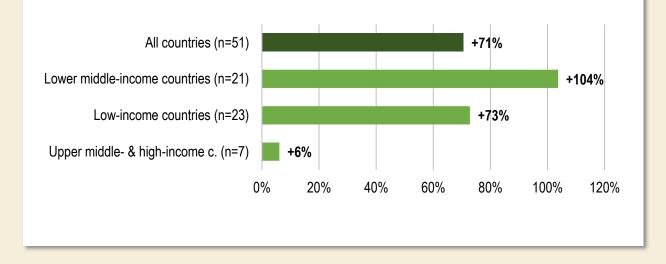


#### Greatest increase in low/middle-income countries



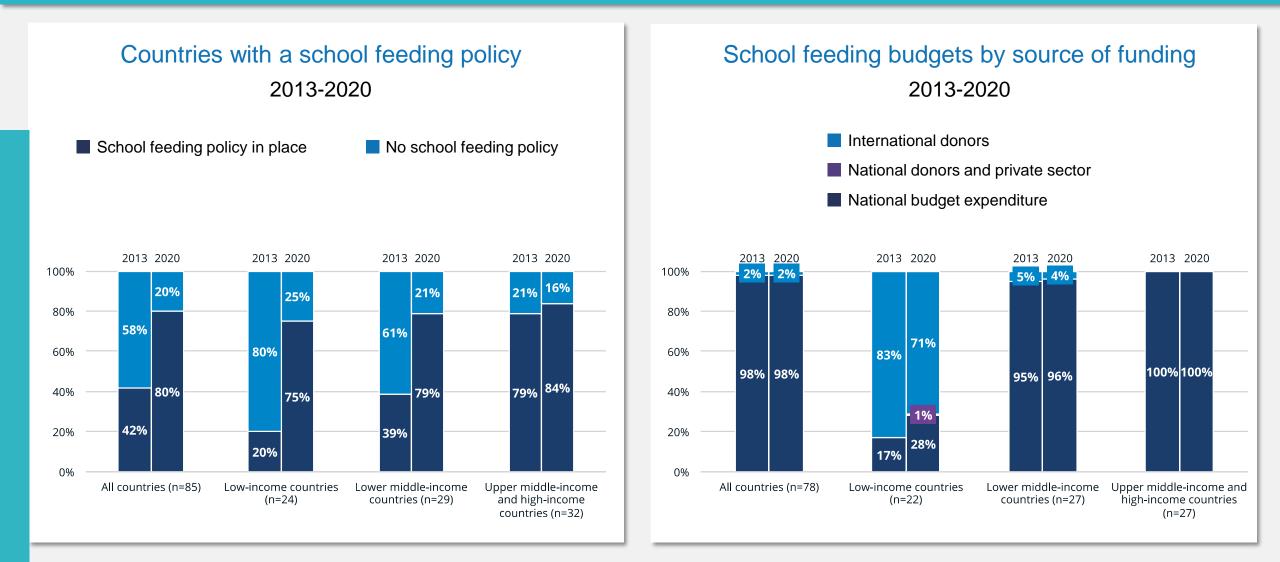
## Exceptional growth of school feeding in Africa





There are 65.4 million children receiving school feeding in Africa, a massive increase from 38.4 million in 2013

## 90% of funding from the countries themselves

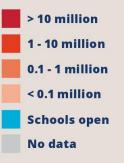




# In April 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought an end to a decade of global growth in school feeding programmes.

# COVID-19 school closures suddenly deprived children of education and school meals





**370 MILLION CHILDREN** MISSING OUT ON SCHOOL MEALS GLOBALLY

199
COUNTRIES WITH
SCHOOL CLOSURES

~ :

More than 1.5 billion children suddenly deprived of schooling and schoolbased services

Massive coping and mitigation efforts could not replace delivery through schools: WFP programmes could reach only 40% of their previous caseload

Early marriage and inappropriate child labour increased globally, disrupting girls' education and life chances

The digital divide opened up, exacerbating inequalities in access to distance learning

3

The COVID-19 pandemic has sharpened global resolve to build back better, and highlighted school feeding as a priority for safely opening schools, creating human capital and promoting economic development.

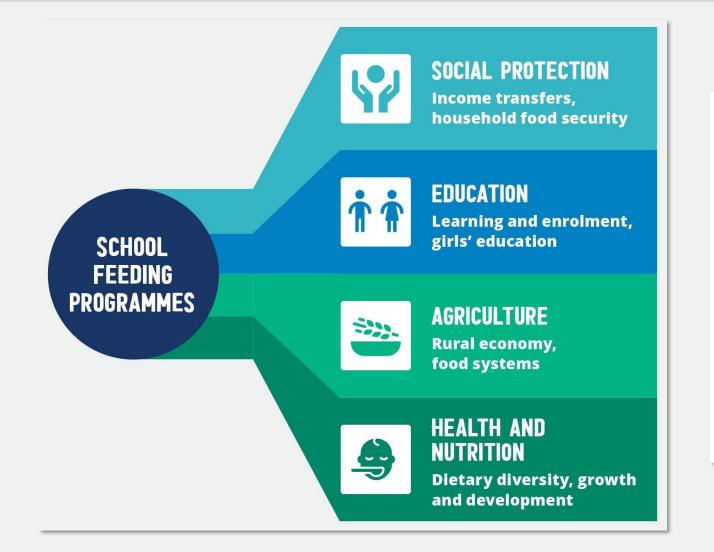
# School health and nutrition plus education together create Human Capital

- 93% of countries use the school feeding platform to deliver health interventions
- Sustaining investment throughout the 8,000 days to adulthood:
  - secures early gains and supports development during puberty and adolescence
  - offers lifelong and intergenerational benefits
  - helps realize individual potential and create human capital for the nation

#### interventions during school years Ages 5-9 Ages 10-14 Ages 15-early 209 Infections and Significant Brain restructuring malnutrition are physiological and and initiation of behavioural changes key constraints on behaviours are development are associated with lifelong determinants puberty of health Tetanus toxoid and HPV vaccination Healthy lifestyle education Oral health promotion **Comprehensive sexuality education** Vision screening and treatment Adolescent-friendly health services Insecticide-treated mosquito net promotion and use $\widehat{\mathbf{\alpha}}$ 274 Mental health education and counselling School meals and school feeding fortified with micronutrients

Essential health and nutrition

# School feeding benefits many sectors, including the local economy



Efficient programmes yield returns of up to **USD9** for every **USD1** invested.

2,000 jobs created per 100,000 children fed

#### Lessons learnt?



Closing schools created a global crisis

 should be the last resort?

Mitigation and coping efforts

-more expensive and less effective than school-based delivery?

□ Safely re-opening schools

- the most cost-effective solution?