

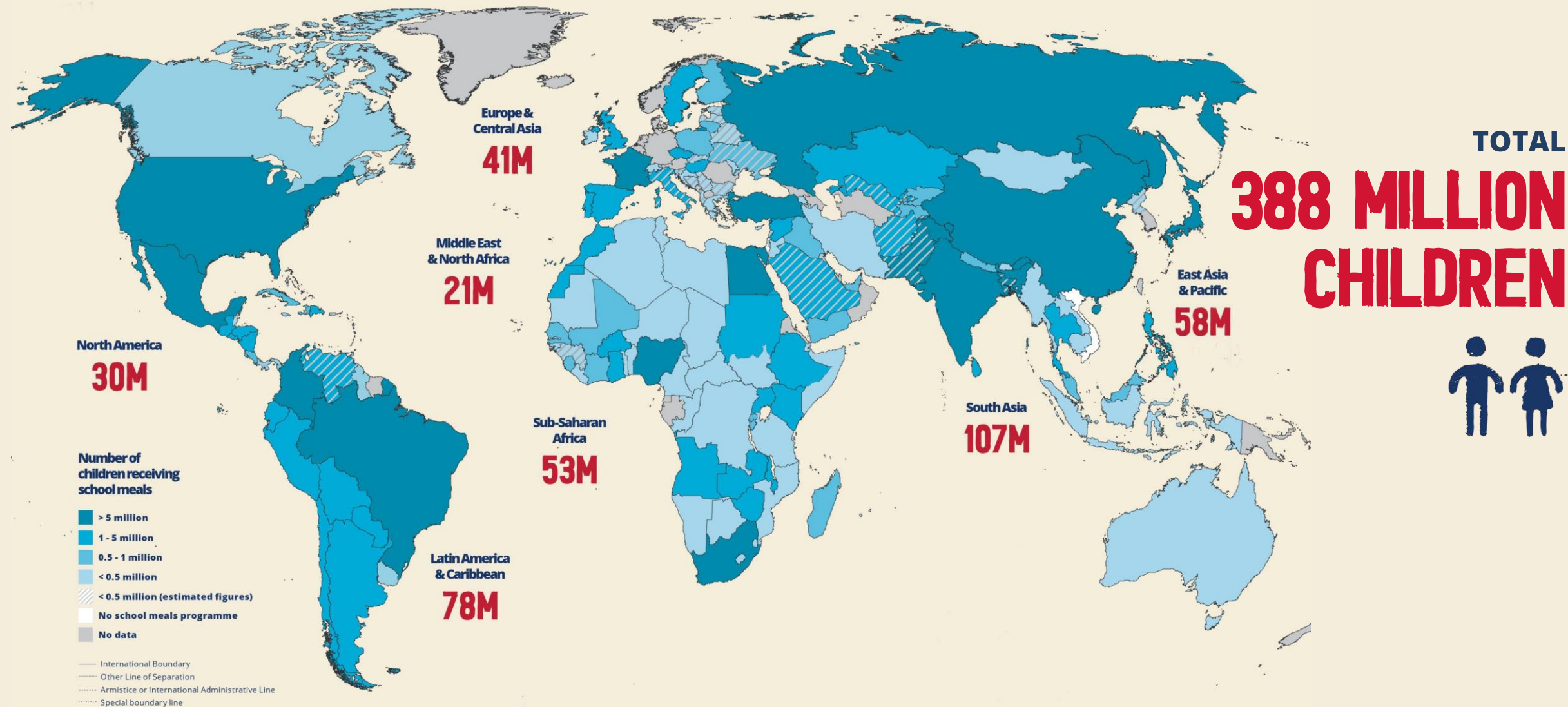
# Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for school nutrition

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# 1

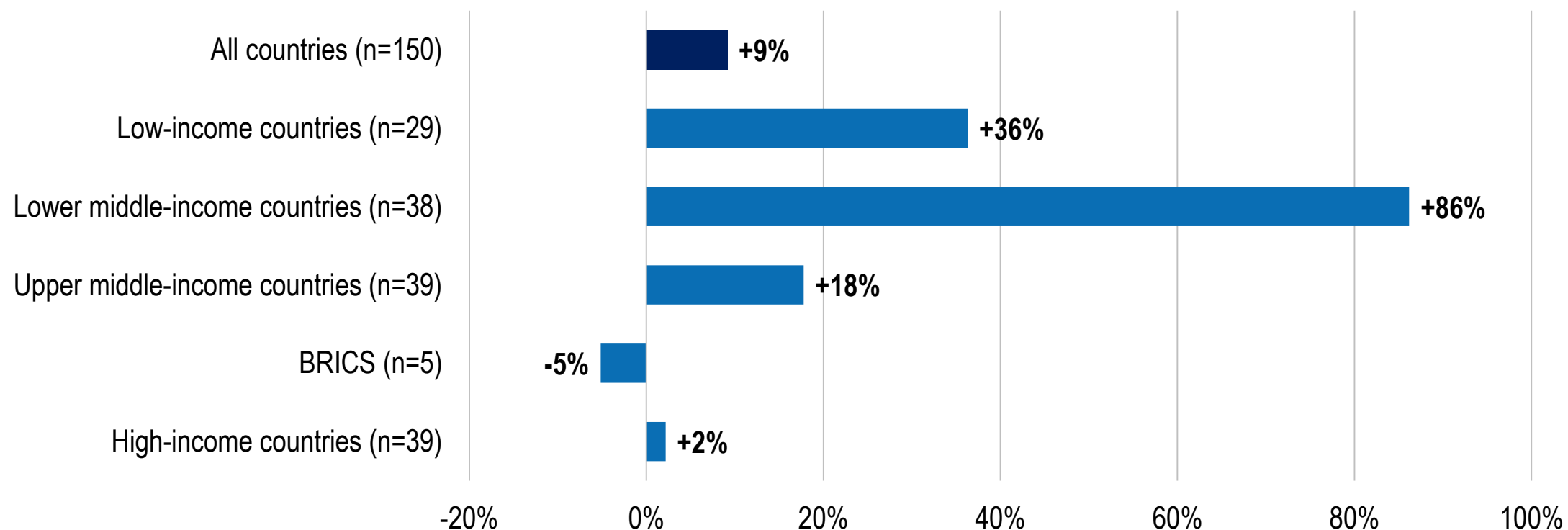
**At the beginning of 2020, national school feeding programmes delivered school meals to more children than at any time in human history, making school feeding the most extensive social safety net in the world.**

# Unprecedented global reach



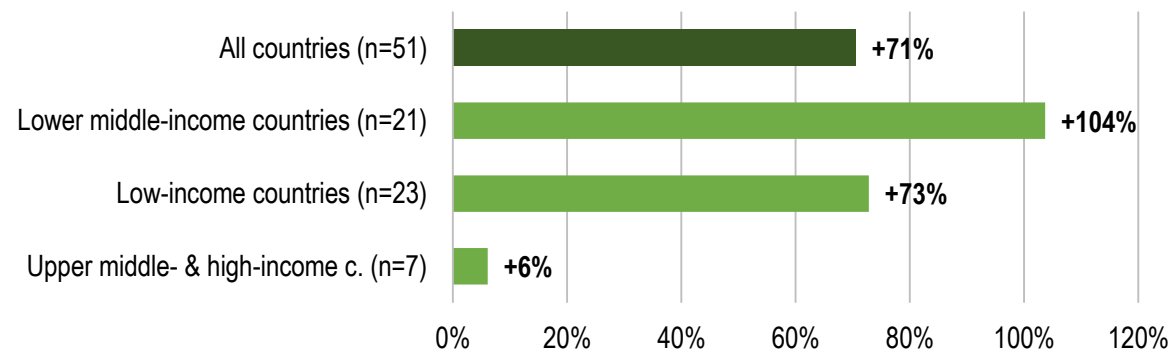
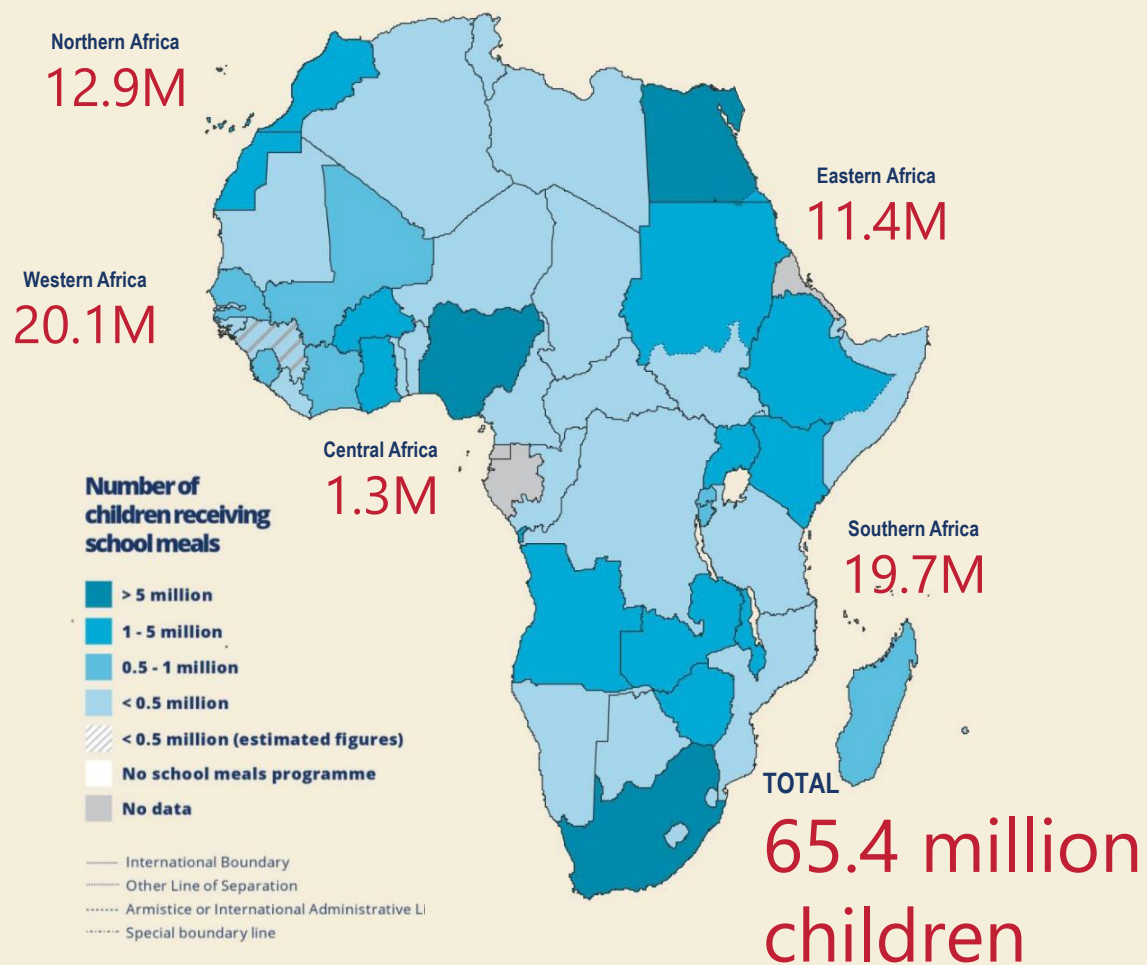
# Greatest increase in low/middle-income countries

Change in the number of children receiving school feeding between 2013 and 2020



# Exceptional growth of school feeding in Africa

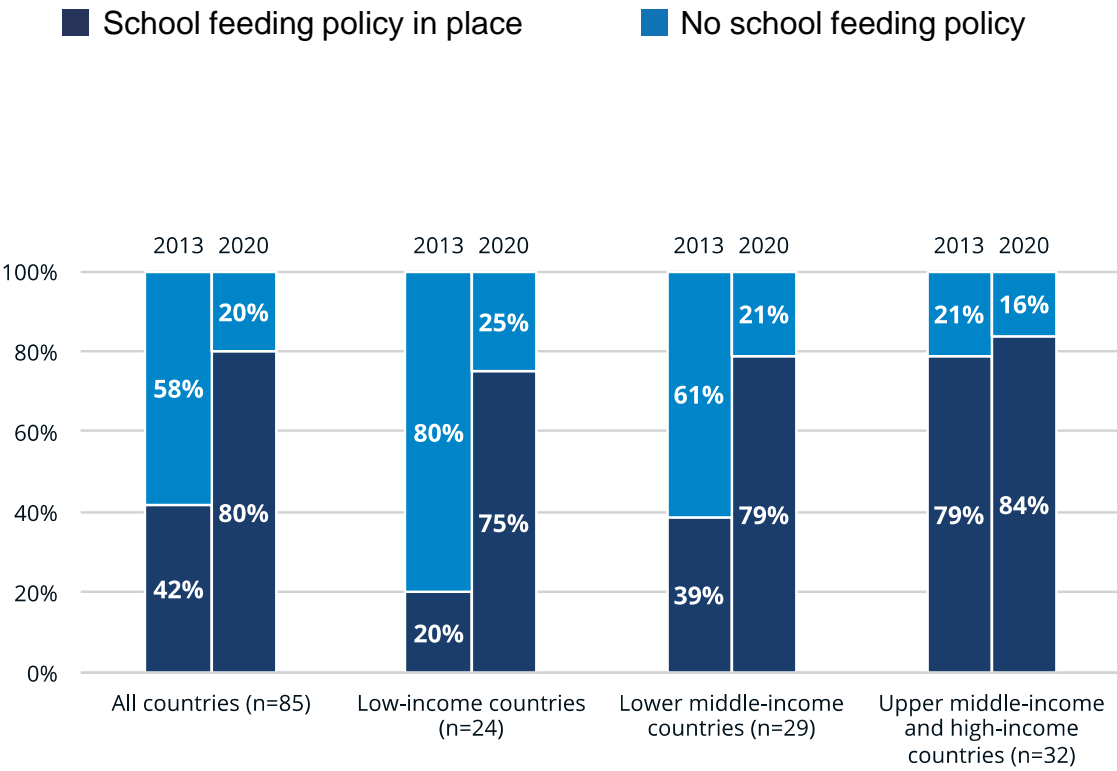
Number of children receiving school feeding in Africa



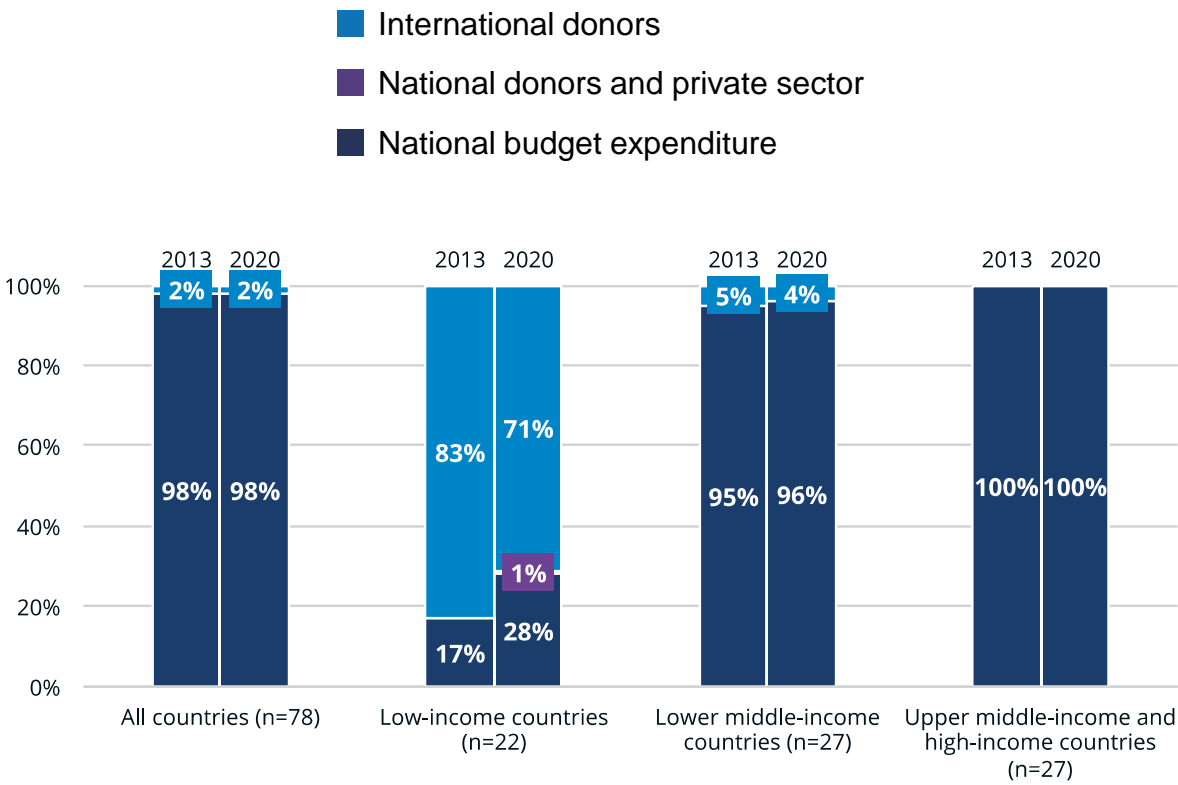
There are 65.4 million children receiving school feeding in Africa, a massive increase from 38.4 million in 2013

# 90% of funding from the countries themselves

Countries with a school feeding policy  
2013-2020



School feeding budgets by source of funding  
2013-2020

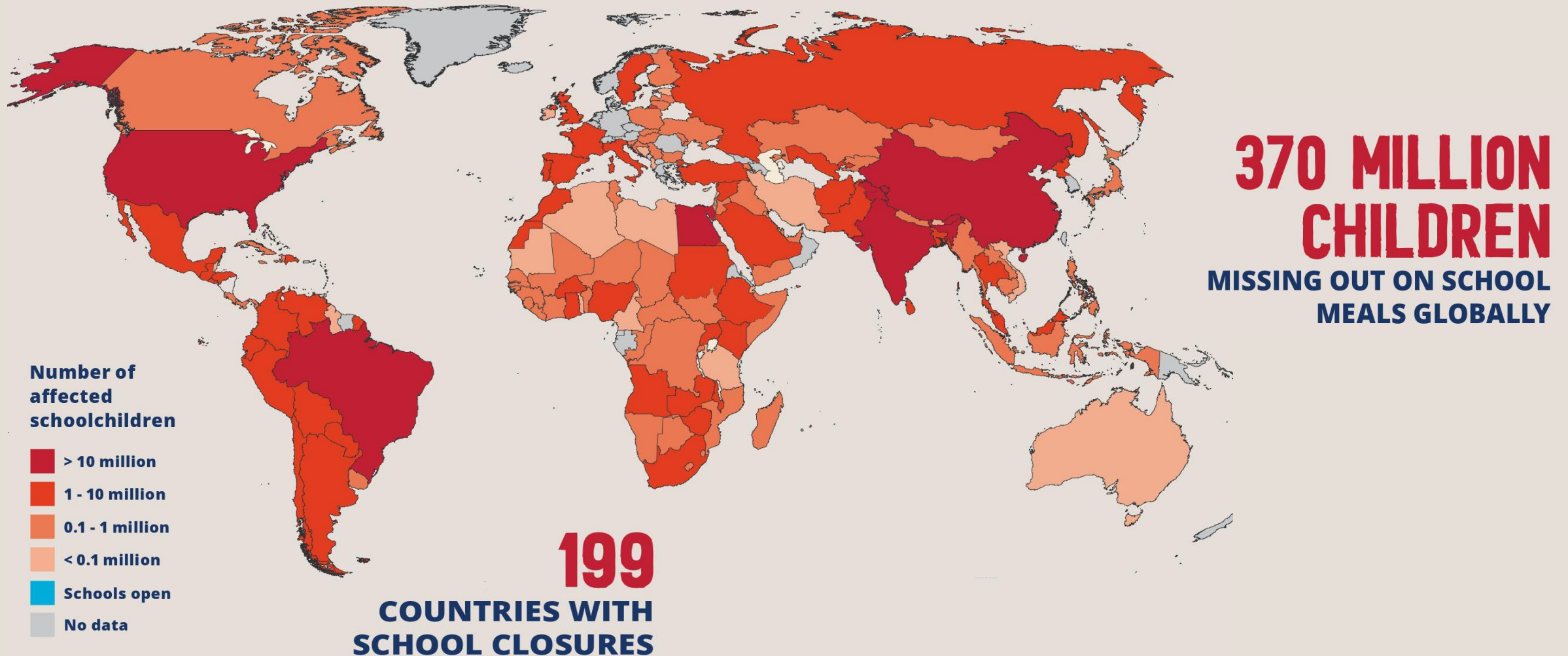


# 2

**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





# The largest education crisis in history

More than 1.5 billion children suddenly deprived of schooling and school-based 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

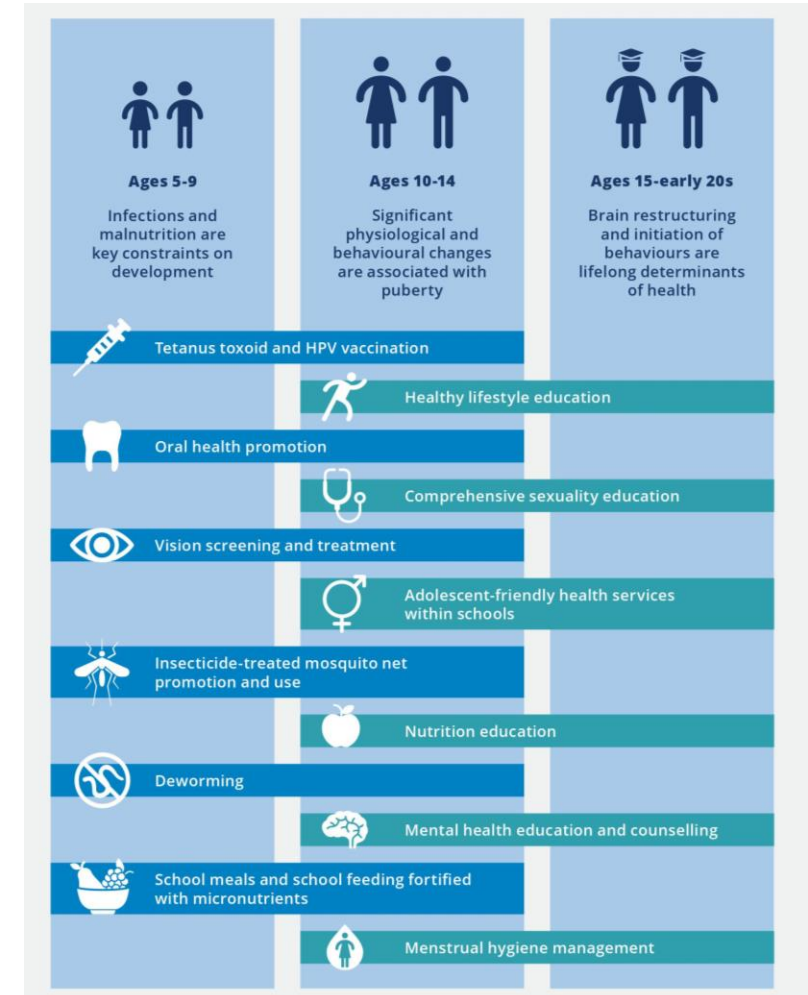
# 3

**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.**

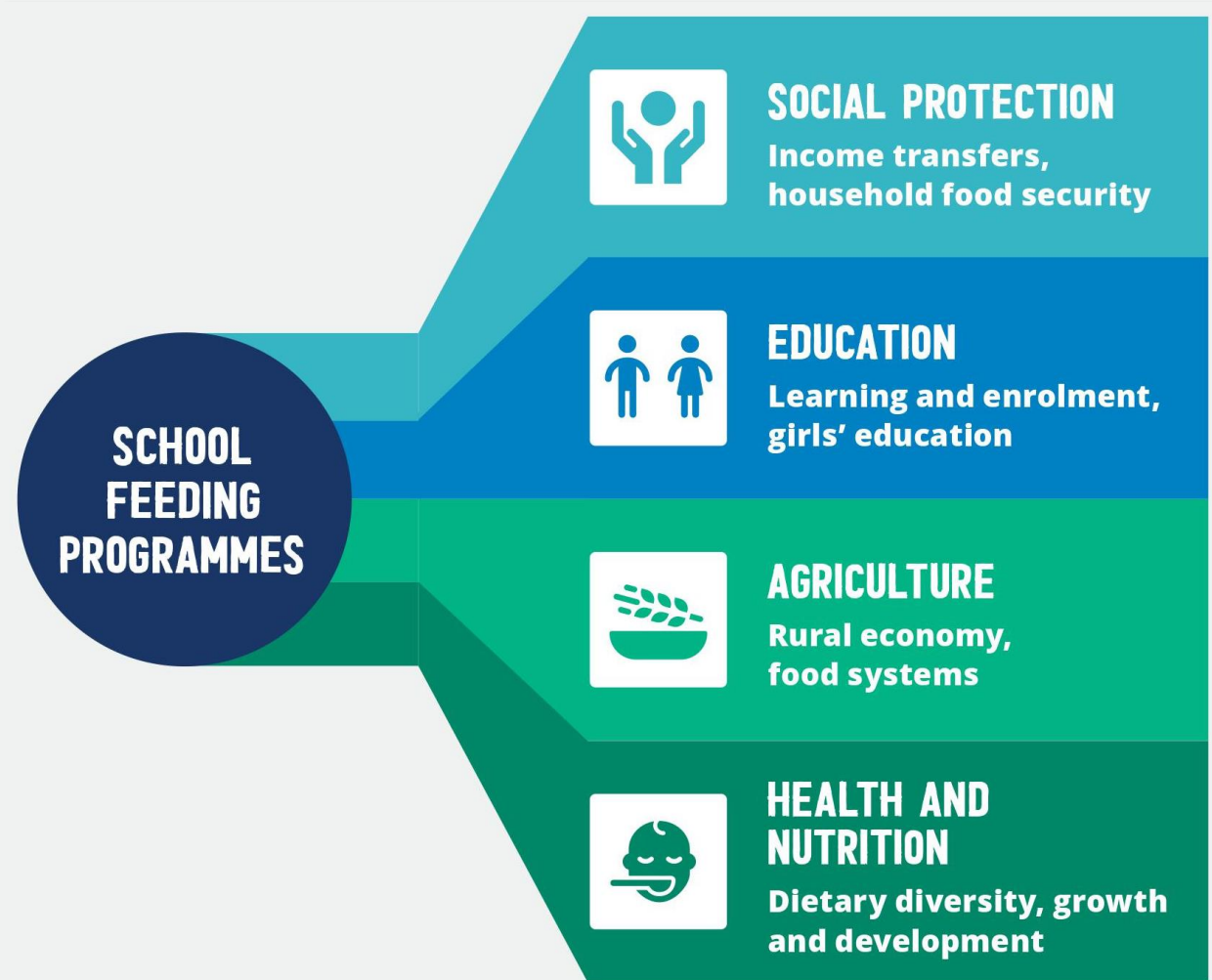
# School health and nutrition plus education together create Human Capital

- **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

## Essential health and nutrition interventions during school years



# 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?