



Ready to Learn and Thrive

Sharing the School Health and Nutrition Global Status Report

Tuesday, February 14, 2023





Ready to learn and thrive: School health and nutrition around the world

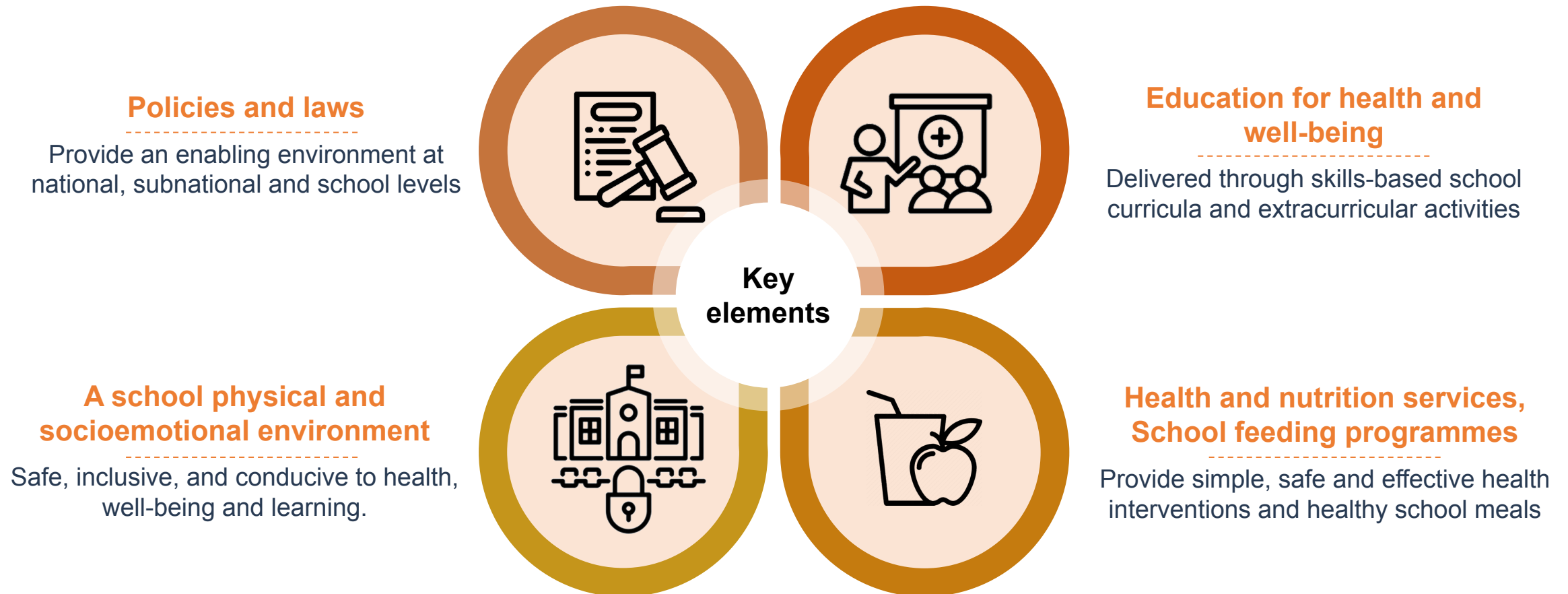
Child Health Task Force Webinar
14 February 2023

Mr Christopher Castle

Director, Division of peace and sustainable development - UNESCO



Integrated strategies and services that promote health, nutrition and well-being within the education system



1.

The health, nutrition and well-being of learners are key determinants of education outcomes

and an integral part of quality education



9% and 8% of increases in enrolment and attendance rates respectively when introducing school meals. When fortified with micronutrients, these can also reduce anaemia in adolescent girls by up to 20%



5% higher probability of passing tests in reading and mathematics when provided with free vision screening and glasses



21% to 61% reduction in absenteeism in low-income countries when promoting handwashing



Improved sexual & reproductive health by providing comprehensive sexuality education, including reducing the risk of HIV and rates of early and unintended pregnancy – a critical factor in school drop-out among girls



2.

Almost every country in the world implements school health and nutrition programmes



9 out of 10 countries implement a SHN policy or programme



7 out of 10 low- and middle income countries implement school health programmes for adolescents



More than 100 countries have school-based vaccination programmes



More than 450 million school-age children are dewormed every year in schools in low- and middle-income countries



1 out of 2 primary schoolchildren receive school meals



Almost every country includes education for health and well-being in its curriculum



3.

School health and nutrition programmes are a cost-effective investment, feasible in all settings, and deliver significant development gains



Education



Health & nutrition



Social protection



Food & agriculture

School feeding programmes

► up to US\$9 returns for every US\$1 invested

School programmes that address mental health

► return of US\$21.5 for every US\$1 invested over 80 years



4.

School health and nutrition promote inclusion and equity in education and health; more needs to be done to reach those are missing out



Only 51% of countries globally provide school-based mental health promotion and prevention programmes

70% of high-income countries

24% of low-income countries



In primary school, school feeding programmes reach on average

78% of children in high-income countries

20% of children in low-income countries



School-based vaccination is also more common in high- and middle-income countries

55% of high-income countries

27% of low-income countries



5.

More attention must be paid to the school environment, which is critical to health and learning



1 in 3 schools do not have basic drinking water and adequate sanitation, and almost one in two do not have handwashing facilities with water and soap.

48% of all children with no water service at their school live in least developed countries



Availability of infrastructure and materials suitable for students with disabilities is low



1 in 3 students aged 11-15 years suffered bullying in the past month

Boys **35%**

Girls **30%**



6.

Strengthening coverage and impact requires programmes that are comprehensive, responsive to the context, and sustained by policy and financial commitments

80%

of countries now have a school feeding policy

+90%

of the cost of school feeding programmes are covered by domestic funds

+9%

between 2013 and 2020, the number of children receiving school meals grew by 9% globally and by 36% in low-income countries





**To effectively transform education,
we urgently need to consider the
needs of the child as a whole,**

**And put learners' well-being
at the centre of the mission
of education**

... Now



Ready to learn
and thrive

School health and nutrition
around the world



Download the report here:



School health and nutrition: Building a global evidence base

**Child Health Task Force | Ready to Learn and Thrive: Sharing
the school health and nutrition global status report**

14 February 2023

Professor Donald Bundy

Director, Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition

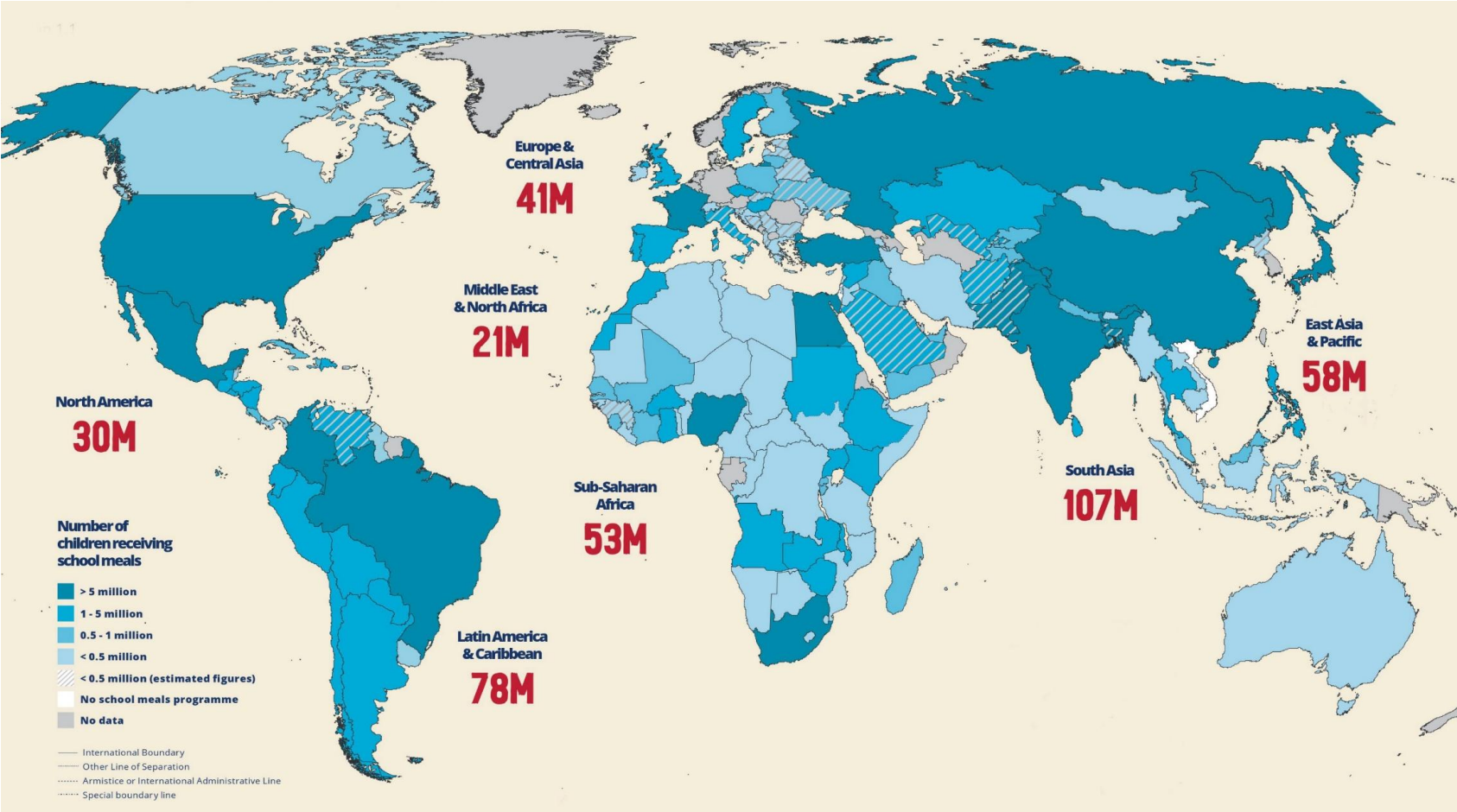


Ready to Learn and Thrive: *Data collection and analysis*



- **Establishing a set of baseline indicators** to measure school health and nutrition programmes moving forwards
- **Building momentum** for greater research and investment into school health and nutrition, particularly on a country level

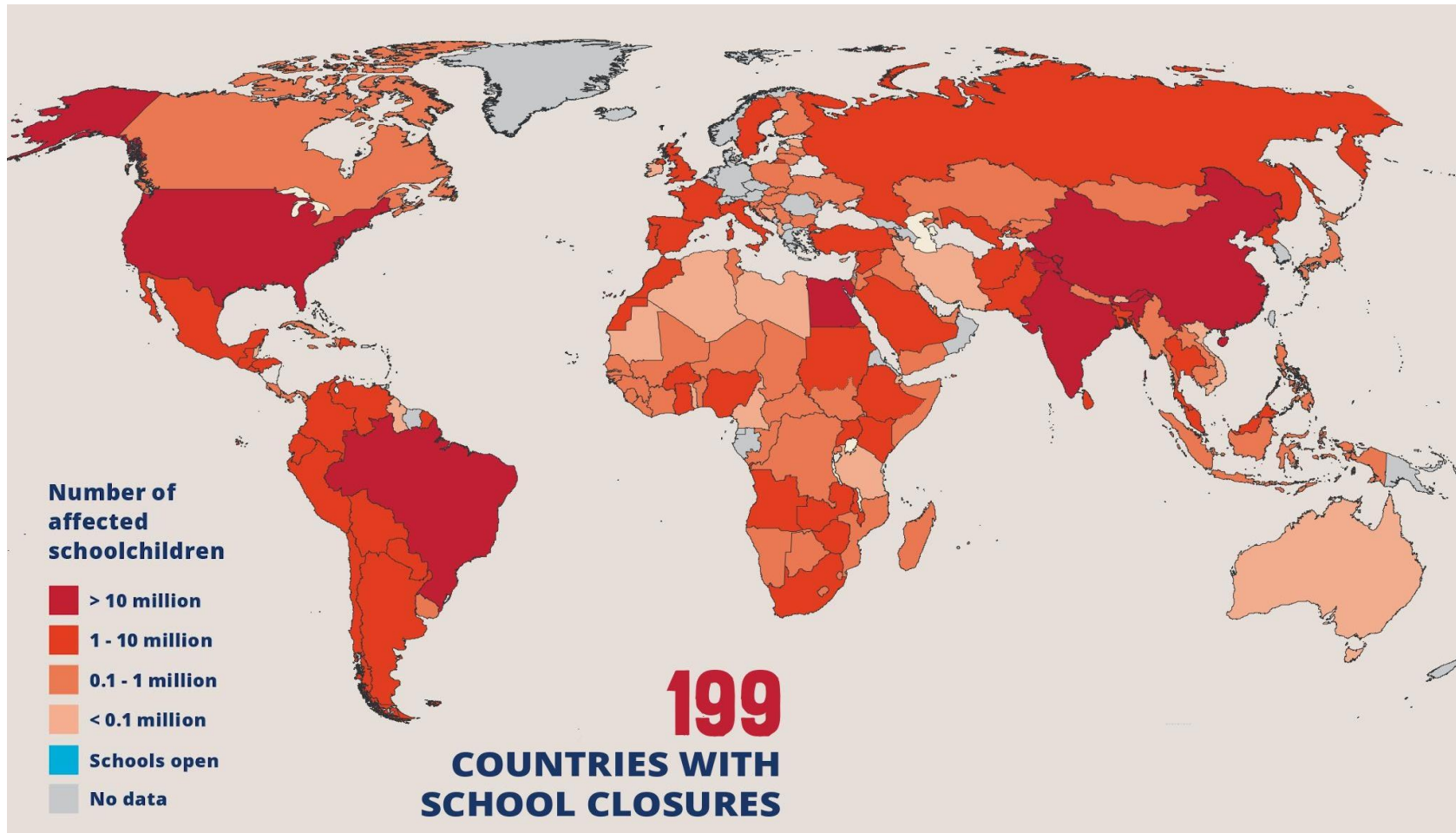
School meals before the COVID-19 pandemic: Unprecedented global reach



TOTAL
388 MILLION
CHILDREN



Impact of COVID-19 school closures: Children deprived of education and school-based services



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



School meals – a policy priority for countries to build back better



School Meals Coalition: Goal and Objectives

Goal

Ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a healthy, nutritious meal in school by 2030

Objectives

1

Restore or improve national school meal programmes to 400m children by 2023

2

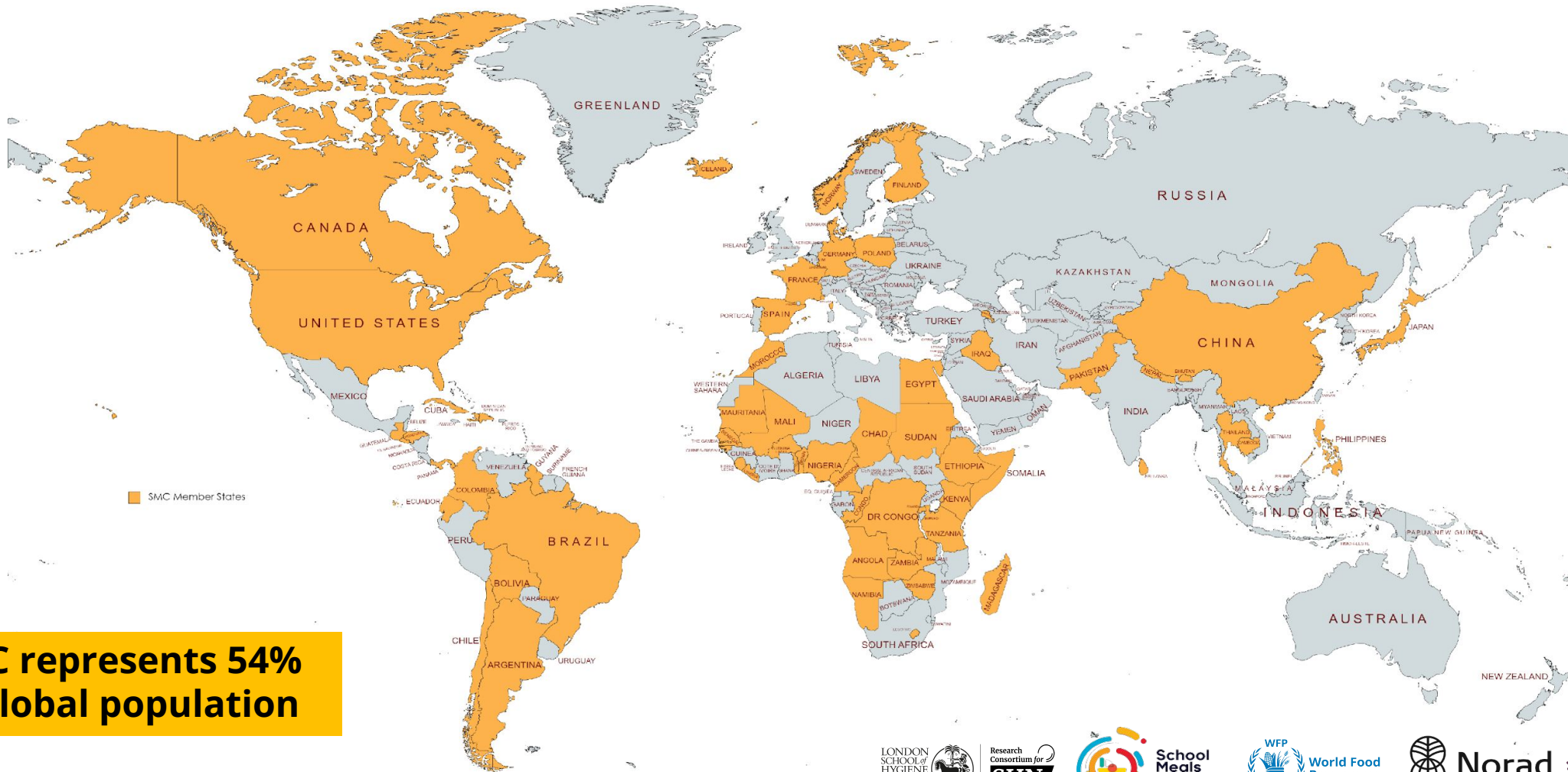
Reach the 73 million most vulnerable children who were not reached previously by 2030

3

Raise the quality of school health and nutrition programmes globally by 2030

Building the member-state led coalition

76 countries have signed the Declaration of Commitment to the School Meals Coalition:



**SMC represents 54%
of global population**

Gathering support from organizations around the world

82 partners have joined the Coalition



Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition launched in May 2021



Support from UN organizations for the School Meals Coalition and the Research Consortium

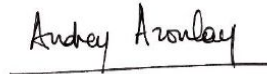
Endorsement of the Research Consortium

5. In partnership and coordination with the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine support the collection, analysis and dissemination of more and better data and evidence on school-age children and adolescents' health, nutrition and wellbeing, including the development of validated metrics, indicators and necessary tools for countries to monitor progress, measure effectiveness and impact and take corrective action for school meal integrated programmes.

Head of Agencies



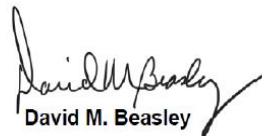
QU Dongyu
Director-General
FAO



Audrey Azoulay
Director-General
UNESCO



Henrietta Fore
Executive Director
UNICEF

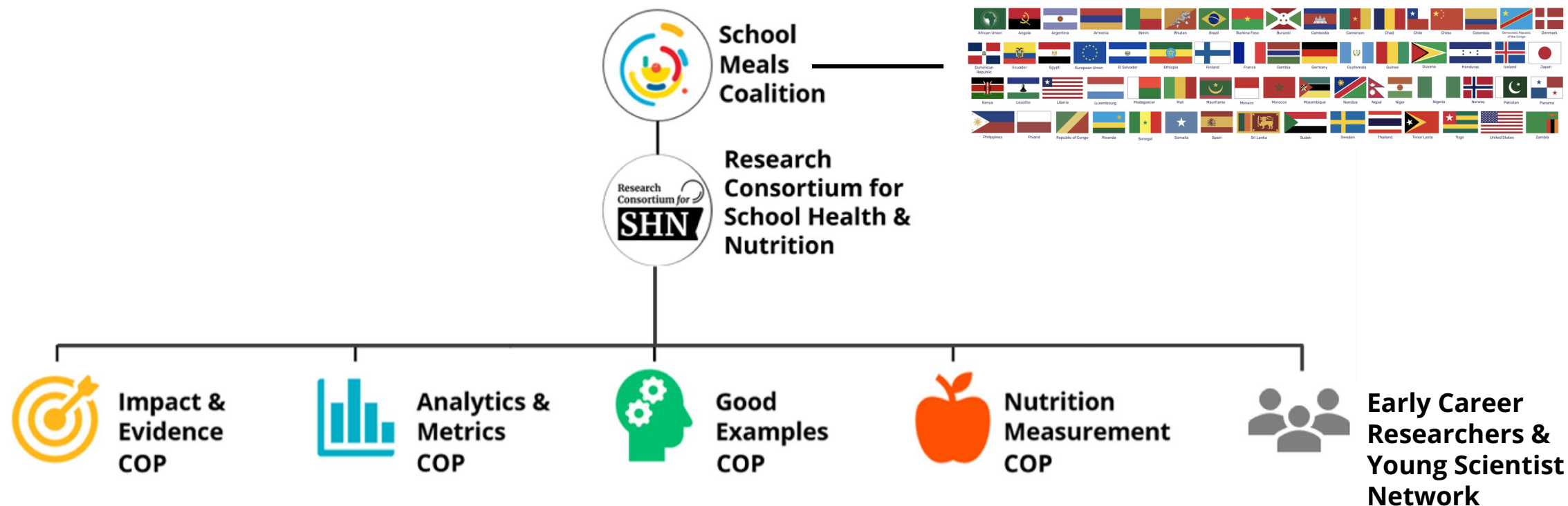


David M. Beasley
Executive Director
WFP



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
WHO

Research Consortium organizational structure



Additionally, a new COP on Diet & Food Systems is under development

Research themes



Analytics & Metrics

- Value for money
- Impact on learning outcomes
- Social protection
- Multi-sectoral benefits



Impact & Evidence

- Assembling evidence
- Cochrane Systematic Review of impact of school meals on physical and psychological wellbeing of school-age children



Good Examples

- Case studies of real-world SHN programmes
- Examples of good practice



Nutrition Measurement

- Importance of nutrition in the first 8,000 days of child development
- Nutrition indicators for school-age children and adolescents



Early Career Researcher & Young Scientist Network

- Drawing emerging researchers into this area of work
- Elevating youth voices: "Nothing about us without us"



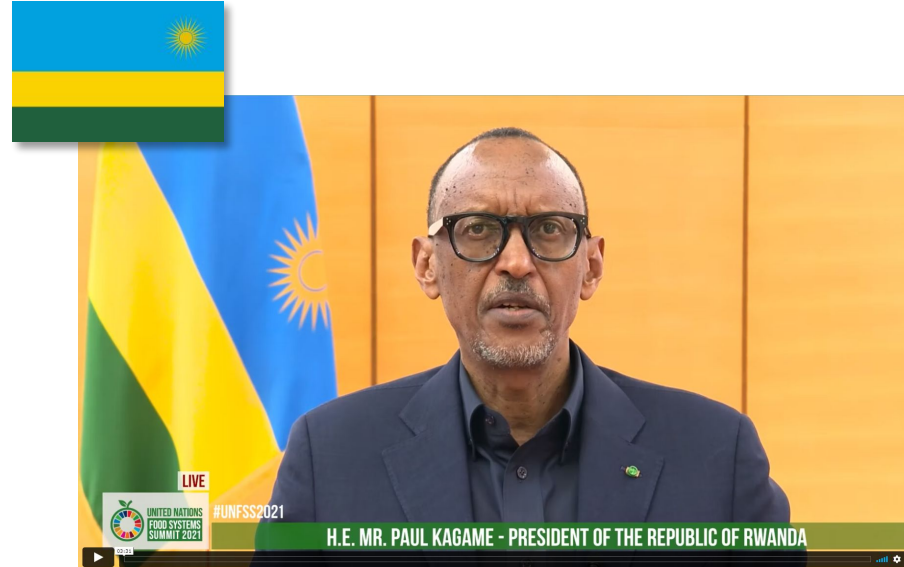
Diet & Food Systems

- Agrobiodiversity
- Diet and food
- Climate-smart school meals solutions

Countries expand their investment in their young people



President Macky Sall of Senegal—the newly appointed chairperson of the African Union—was the first president to personally sign the declaration of commitment of the coalition and has increased his country's budget for school feeding in 2022.



President Paul Kagame of Rwanda commits to scaling up their national school meals program from 640,000 children today to 3.8 million children in two years.




President Patrice Talon of Benin announces a national budget commitment of \$270 million dollars over the next five years to scale up Benin's national program.

Three 2023 priorities for the Research Consortium

- 1) **Continue to document examples of best practice** in school meals programming
- 2) **Leverage regional knowledge hubs** to expand the Consortium's network-of-networks of thought leaders
- 3) **Develop a set of climate-smart school meals solutions** to support political action towards climate-smart school food systems





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- Recordings and presentations from previous webinars are available on the Events page of the Child Health Task Force website: <https://www.childhealthtaskforce.org/events>
**The recording from this webinar will be available on this page in a couple days*
- Suggestions for improvement or additional resources are welcome. Please email childhealthtaskforce@jsi.com
- Join the Child Health Task Force here: www.childhealthtaskforce.org/subscribe & follow us on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/child-health-task-force
- School Health and Nutrition hub: <https://www.childhealthtaskforce.org/hubs/school-health-and-nutrition>

Thank you for your participation today!



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