



School Feeding in Africa: Evidence and Potential Next Steps

African Day of School Feeding
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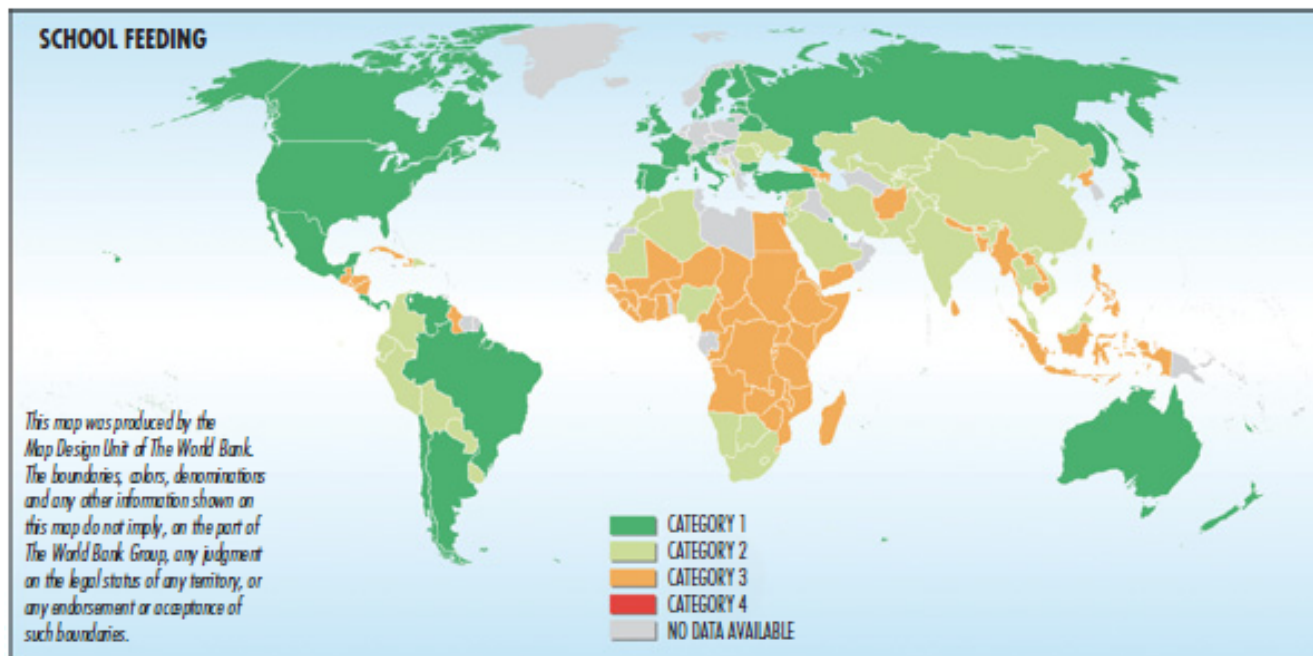
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School Feeding: Global Picture

- School Feeding programs are very popular as a social protection tool
 - evidence: impacts on education (access and learning) and nutrition (energy and micronutrients)
 - every country for which there is data has some form of school feeding
 - coverage is weakest poverty, hunger and education needs are highest



Source: Bundy et al. 2009



The education benefits

School feeding activity	Enrolment	Attendance	Educational achievement	Cognition
In-school meals	+ (♀ effect)	+++	+++	+++
Take-home rations	+ (♀ effect)	+	++	++
Fortified biscuits	+	++	+	++
Supplementation	+	+++	+++	+++
Deworming	NA	+++	++	++

+ = evidence from quasi-experimental evaluation

++ = evidence from at least one RCT

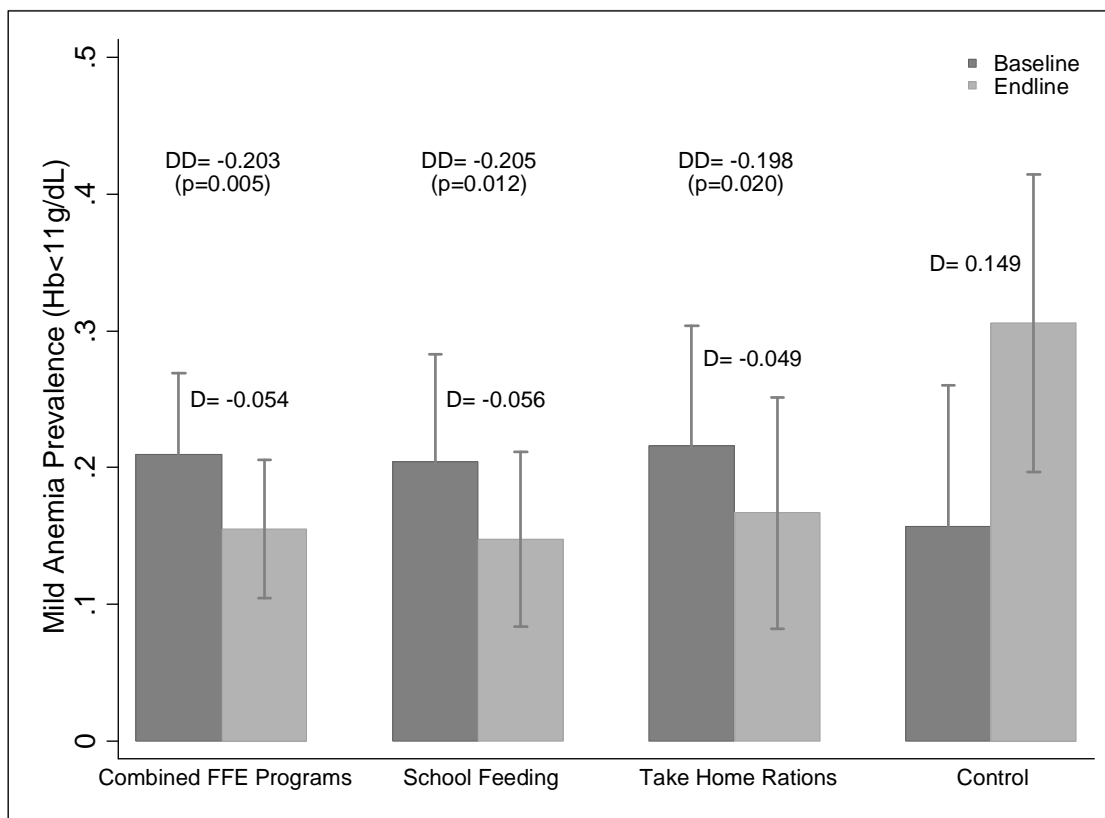
+++ = evidence from more than one RCT

NA = not assessed



Nutrition benefits, an example

- IFPRI-WFP study on school feeding in IDP camps in Uganda
 - Fortified school meals or take-home rations reduced anemia prevalence of females age 10-13 by 20 percentage points



Prevalence of mild anemia, females age 10-13 years by treatment group



School feeding in social protection policy

- School feeding programs are costly, but cost-effectiveness improves when all education and nutrition outcomes are considered
- Very sharp decrease in cost of school feeding relative to cost of schooling as national GDP increases
- School feeding programs provide an policy instrument for...
 - targeting transfers to children linked to schooling
 - increasing transfers to schools and communities in response to local shocks



What's next? Home Grown School Feeding

- Food sourced locally for school feeding, thereby promoting agricultural development and local markets
- Case for HGSF approach is strong, but evidence of impacts from agriculture and market development component is weak so far
- Brazil operates a large, sophisticated HGSF program with many lessons for Africa
- Approaches must be made context specific
 - Ghana: decentralized third party model
 - Cote d'Ivoire: integrated farm-to-school model
 - Botswana: centralized model



Home Grown School Feeding potential

- HGSF will begin to show results if
 - supply chain and links to local agriculture are further developed
 - smallholder integration is feasible
 - local fortification of food products becomes widespread to help promote nutrition impacts
 - programs are used as instruments to promote nutrition education

- Still need to focus on cost, make programs more cost-effective.

