



Realising food security using government-led food distribution: What might we learn from India?

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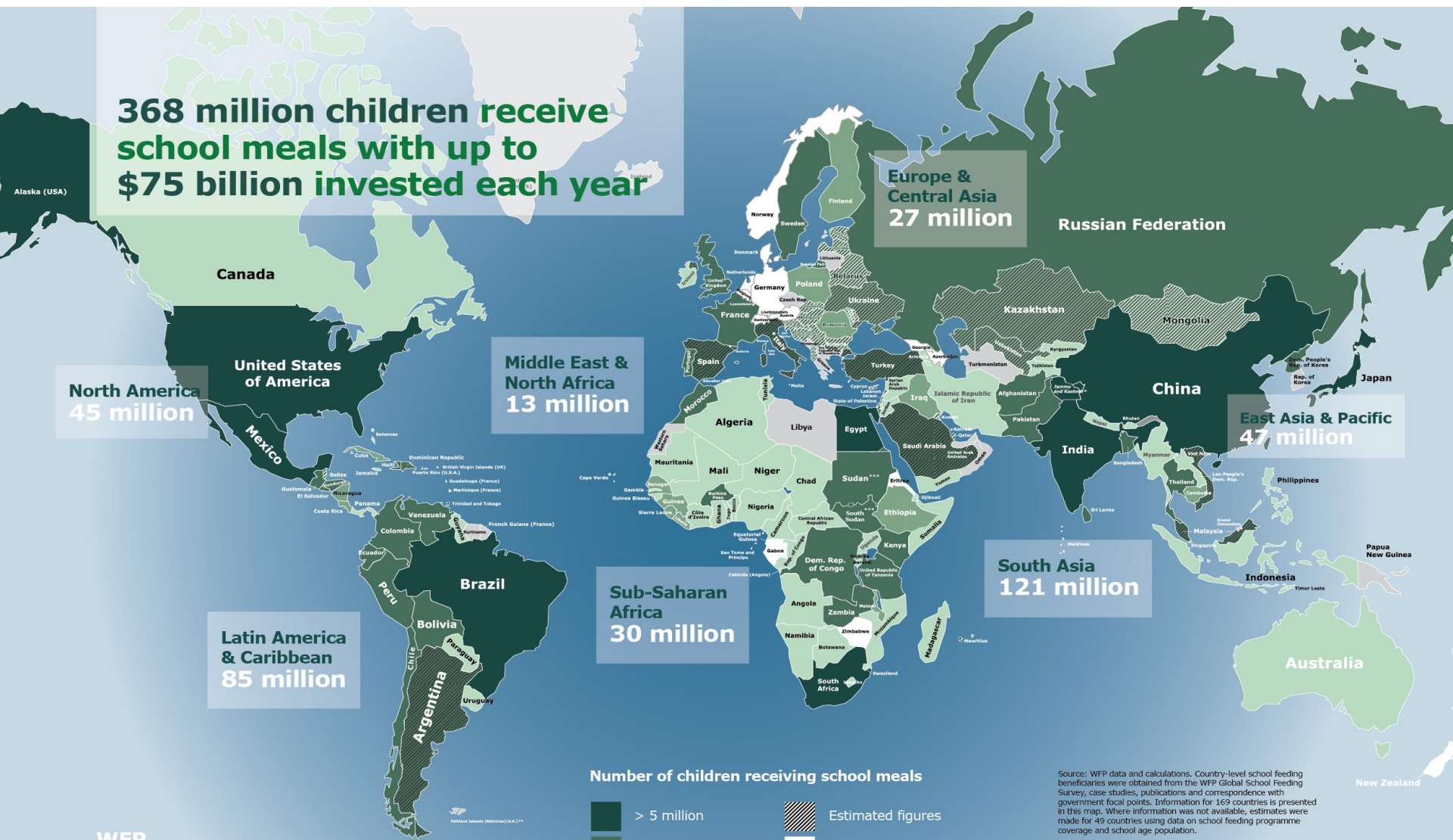
Social Safety Nets

‘Social protection and safety net interventions are increasingly deemed important counter cyclical social policies that can minimize the effects of crises and food price volatility, as well as address current and future vulnerabilities.’

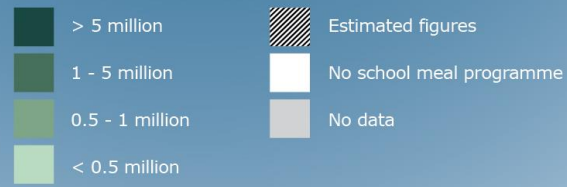
(FAO, 2013)



368 million children receive school meals with up to \$75 billion invested each year



Number of children receiving school meals



Source: WFP data and calculations. Country-level school feeding beneficiaries were obtained from the WFP Global School Feeding Survey, case studies, publications and correspondence with government focal points. Information for 169 countries is presented in this map. Where information was not available, estimates were made for 49 countries using data on school feeding programme coverage and school age population.

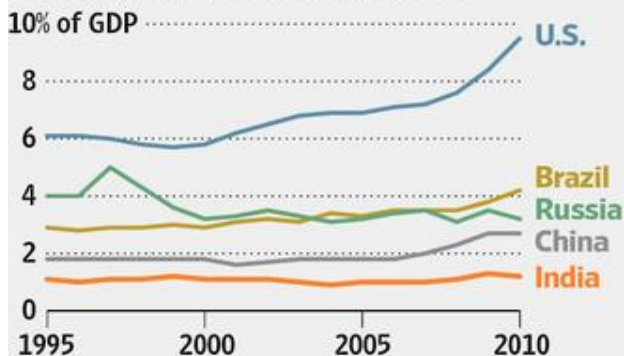
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 The designations employed and the presentation of material in the maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.
 * The Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed on by India and Pakistan is shown approximately by a dotted line. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed on by the parties.
 ** A dispute exists between the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).
 *** Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.



Food Security Crisis

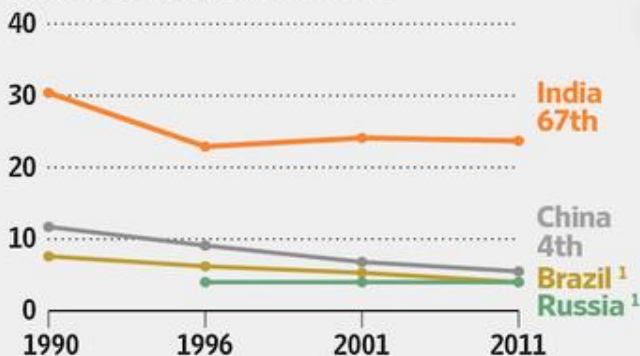
State of health

Government spending on health



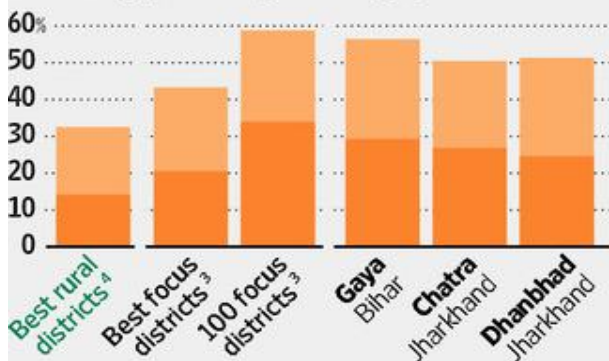
India has low public health spending and high malnutrition rates

Global Hunger Index score

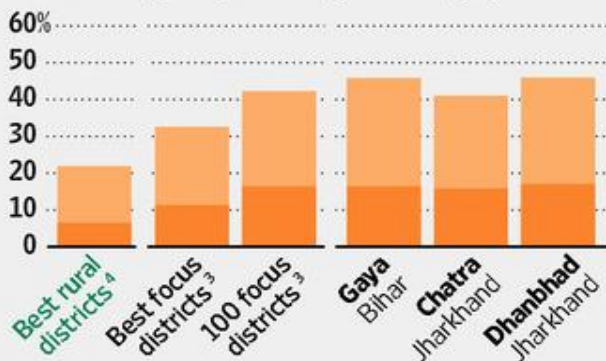


Child malnutrition²

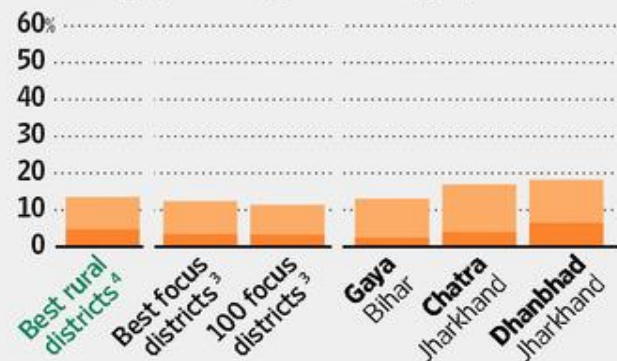
Stunting (low height for age)



Underweight (low weight for age)



Wasting (low weight for height)



1. Countries with 2011 score of less than five are not included in the ranking; 2. Children under age 5; 3. Districts and states identified by UNICEF in 2009 as worst in child development. 4. Top-performing districts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu

Sources: World Health Organization (spending); International Food Policy Research Institute (index); Naandi Foundation HUNGaMa Survey Report 2011 (malnutrition by district) The Wall Street Journal

India's National Food Security Act (2013)

“to provide for food and nutritional security...by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto”.



Unanswered Questions

- Do all people have access to food at all times?
- Is the food safe?
- Is the food nutritious?
- Is the food of adequate quantity and quality?
- Does the food meet dietary needs?
- Is the food in line with cultural preferences?
- Is the food provided in a dignified manner?
- Do the above vary across individuals, households, location and time? Are the above influenced by the means of delivery?



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid-day Meal Scheme



Research

- What light does the Midday Meal scheme shed on the relationships between food security, the right to food and food sovereignty?
- What lessons does the implementation of the scheme offer for large-scale food distribution as planned under the National Food Security Act ?
- Methods: Household survey, food consumption recall, focus groups, interviews, children's diaries and essays and key informant interviews.

Links to global food security

- Food security has ‘evolved, developed, multiplied and diversified’ (Maxwell, 1996: 155).
- Food access is the product of production, labour, trade and transfer-based entitlements.
- Government-led food distribution is a critical transfer-based entitlement.





Interdisciplinary Research

- Measures of malnutrition such as weight and height for age and micronutrient deficiencies
- Economic analysis of consumption and expenditure
- Different perspectives on the qualitative dimensions of food security such as preference and dignity.