

School Meals Support Gender Equity

School feeding programs support girls' health and nutrition while helping them stay in school, which can prevent early marriage and pregnancy.¹

In Chad
the Support Program for Primary Education and Girls' Schooling (Programme d'appui à l'enseignement primaire et à la scolarisation des filles) regards narrowing gender disparities as a key objective; this program provides take-home rations for girls in certain grades that attend at least 80% of school days and provides cash transfers to households of adolescent girls.

In Mozambique
the National School Feeding Program has an explicit objective to ensure the school attendance of girls.

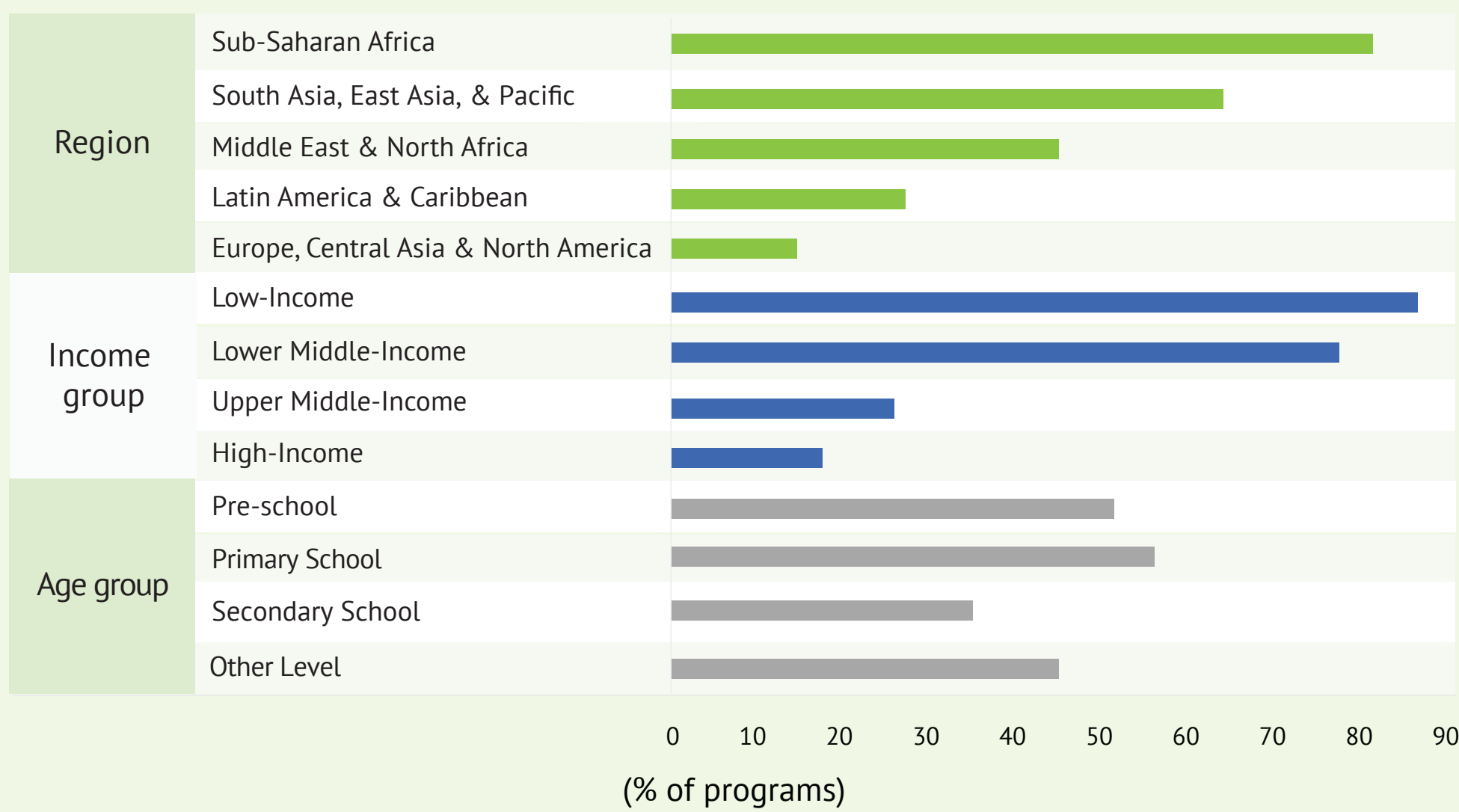
In Niger
the School Feeding Program (Programme d'Alimentation Scolaire) reports that school feeding has significantly improved the retention of girls in school, especially in rural areas, and has provided them with social protection, thereby reducing the risk of early marriage. Take-home rations are typically targeted towards girl students with at least 80% school attendance rates.



¹ Wodon, Quentin T.; Male, Chata; Nayihouba, Kolobadia Ada; Savadogo, Aboudrhyme; Yedan, Ali; Edmeades, Svetlana; Kes, A.; Murithi, L.; Steinhilber, M.; Petroni, S. Economic impacts of child marriage: global synthesis brief (English). World Bank Group: Washington, D.

GENDER-DISAGGREGATED DATA

Just half of the programs in the 2021 Global Survey of School Meal Programs were able to report any gender-disaggregated numbers of student beneficiaries.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SCHOOL FEEDING ACTIVITIES

37% of programs globally place an emphasis on creating jobs or income-generating opportunities for women. This is more common in low-income (**54%** of programs) and lower middle-income (**53%** of programs) settings.

32% of programs globally focus on creating leadership positions (paid or unpaid) for women.



EXAMPLES:

In Burundi
women are encouraged to join agricultural production cooperatives connected to the National School Feeding Program (Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire - PNAS) and lead school canteen management committees.

In Iraq
women lead the monitoring of the National School Feeding Program and are involved in its management.

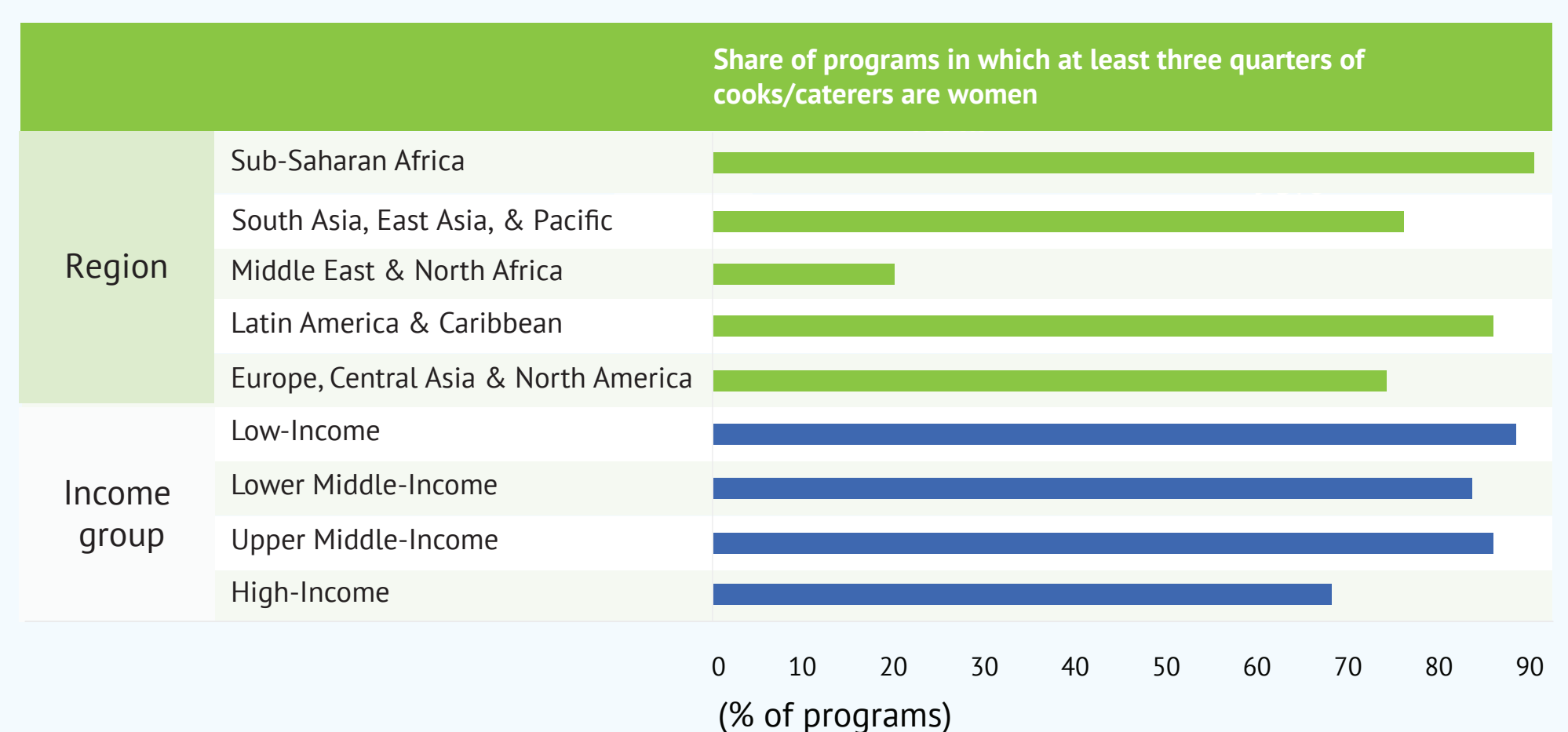
In Syria
the School Feeding Program creates employment for women in the ready-made meals kitchen and a factory that produces date pastries (maamoul) for the program.

In Togo
"canteen mothers" are remunerated for their catering services. The STARS project also implements savings and credit activities for women's groups in its project intervention area.

In Côte d'Ivoire
cooks in the program are predominantly women and are paid in cash. Women's agricultural groups also supply the school canteens, and leadership positions in canteen monitoring committees are held by women.



The cooking workforce in school meal programs is comprised primarily of women. **82%** of programs globally reported that at least three quarters of cooks/caterers are women.



32% of programs globally reported that less than half of their cooks/caterers received payment for their work.

Programs in which relatively few cooks are remunerated are more likely to have a female-dominated labor force.

