global child nutrition
FOUNDATION
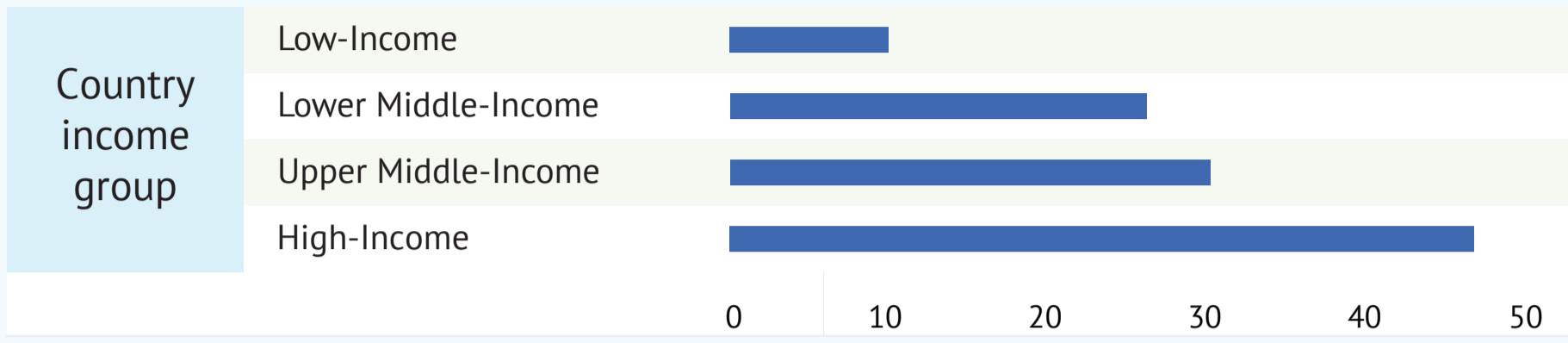
School Meals Across Income Settings

COVERAGE

School feeding coverage rates* across income groups and age groups

Country income group

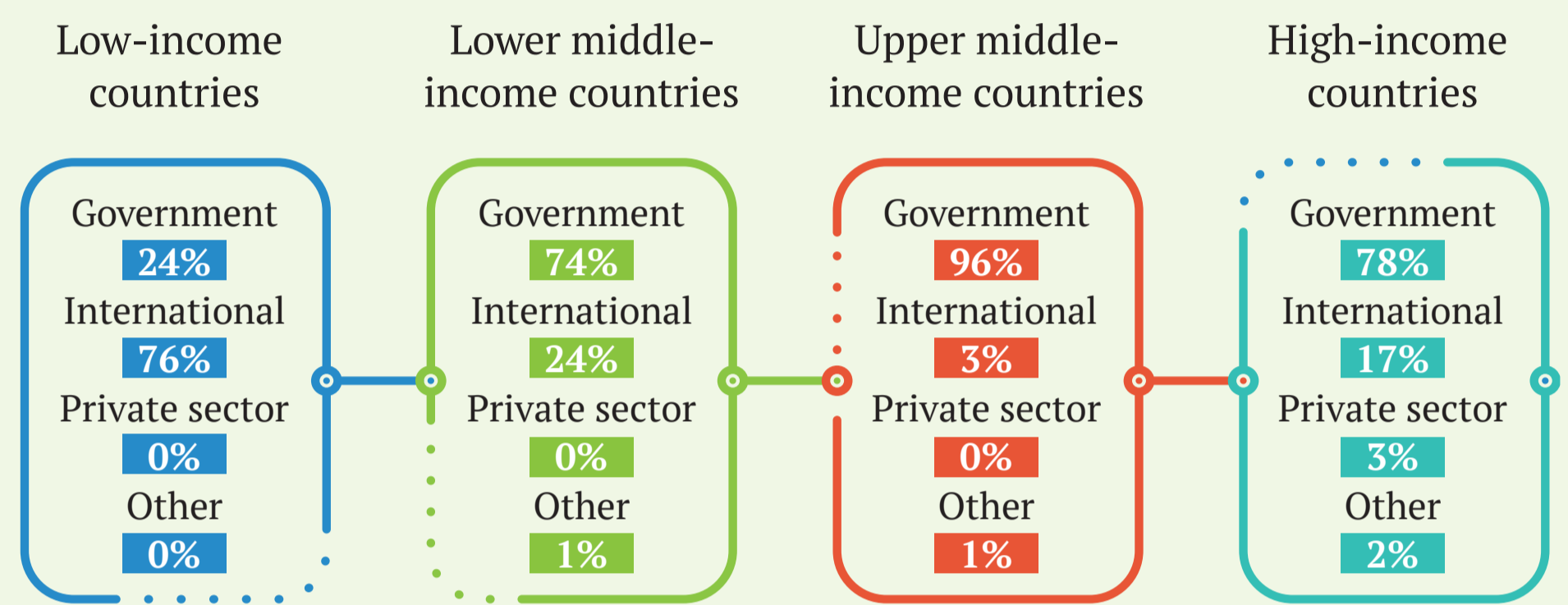| Low-Income | |
Lower Middle-Income	
Upper Middle-Income	
High-Income	

(chart axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50)

Age group

In all income groups, primary school children are the most likely to receive school food. The gap in coverage for secondary school age children is especially large in low-income countries.

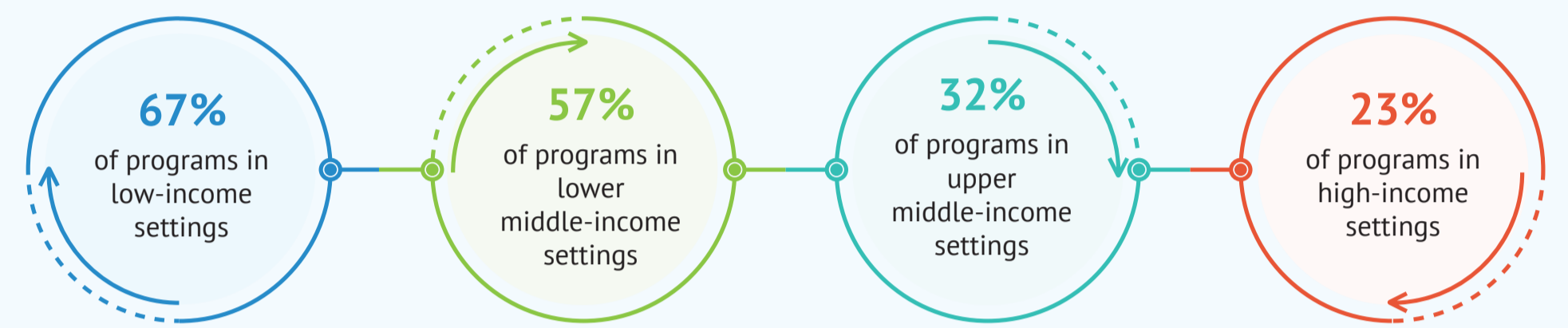| Income group	Primary	Secondary
Low-Income	16	1
Lower Middle-Income	44	14
Upper Middle-Income	50	10
High-Income	59	36

*Share of children of primary and secondary school age that received food through school meal programs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS BY INCOME GROUP

Cross-county average values

Low-income countries
Government 24%
International 76%
Private sector 0%
Other 0%

Lower middle-income countries
Government 74%
International 24%
Private sector 0%
Other 1%

Upper middle-income countries
Government 96%
International 3%
Private sector 0%
Other 1%

High-income countries
Government 78%
International 17%
Private sector 3%
Other 2%

Share of programs with an increase in the number of students fed in the past three years.

67% of programs in low-income settings
57% of programs in lower middle-income settings
32% of programs in upper middle-income settings
23% of programs in high-income settings

125 Countries with School Feeding

$35.3 Billion Budget

330.3 million children received food through school feeding.

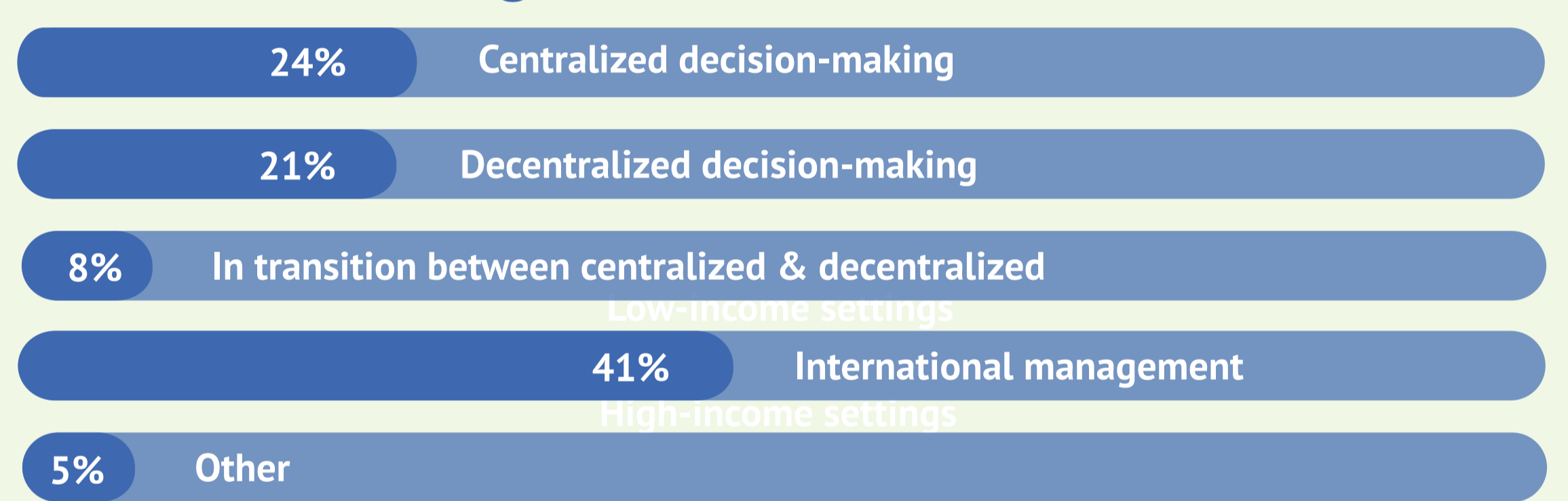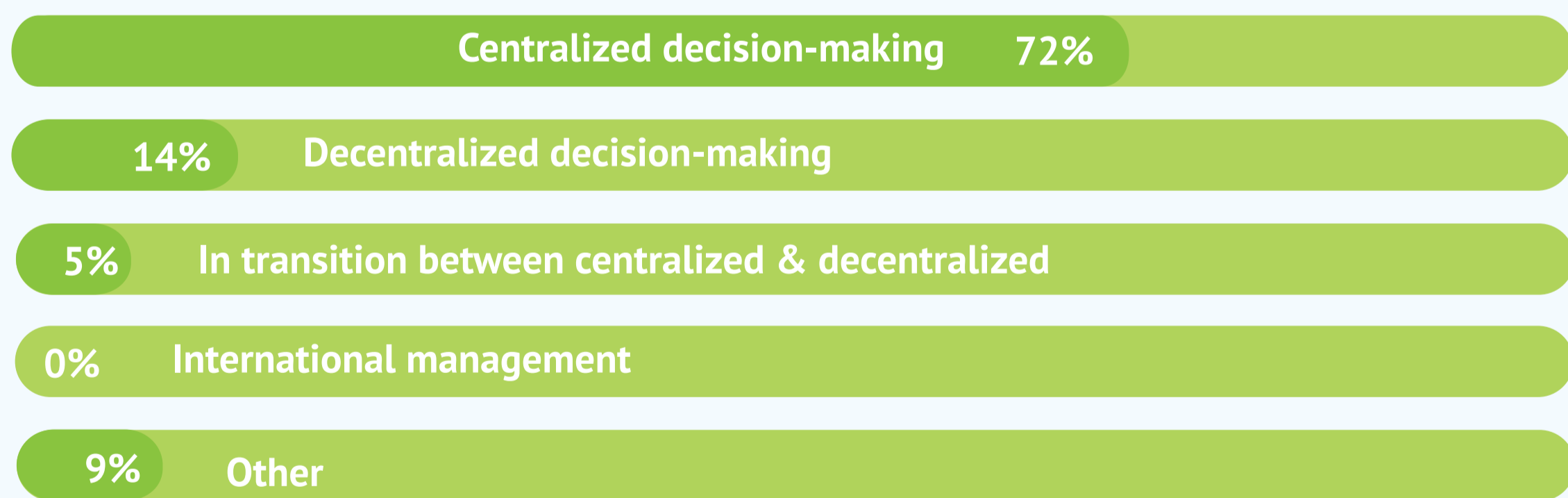**$108** Annual Budget per recipient child

FUNDING, MANAGEMENT, AND POLICY

Expenditure per recipient child

$23 Low-income countries
$18 Lower middle-income countries
$89 Upper middle-income countries
$400 High-income countries

Characterization of Program Management (% of programs)
Low-income settings

24%	Centralized decision-making
21%	Decentralized decision-making
8%	In transition between centralized & decentralized
41%	International management
5%	Other

High-income settings

Centralized decision-making	72%
14%	Decentralized decision-making
5%	In transition between centralized & decentralized
0%	International management
9%	Other

Policy

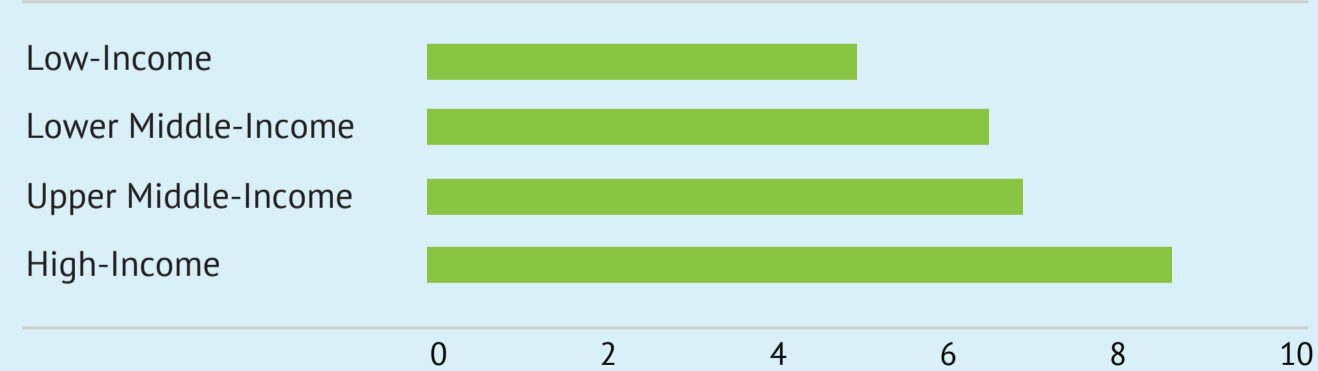**80%** of countries in the survey database have a national school feeding policy.

The existence of such a policy is not associated with income classification.

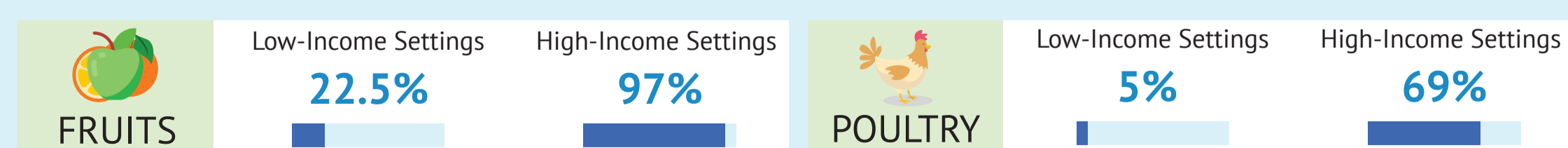|	Agriculture Policy	Food Safety Policy	Nutrition Policy
Low-Income	36%	41%	50%
Lower Middle-Income	45%	56%	69%
Upper Middle-Income	41%	63%	85%
High-Income	32%	67%	79%

FOOD BASKET DIVERSITY ACROSS PROGRAMS BY INCOME GROUP

Average number of food categories* per basket globally **6.9**

Average number of food categories by income group

Low-Income	
Lower Middle-Income	
Upper Middle-Income	
High-Income	

(chart axis: 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)

*Food categories are: Grains/cereals, roots/tubers, legumes/pulses/nuts, dairy products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, green leafy vegetables, other vegetables, fruits, oil

FRUITS
Low-Income Settings 22.5%
High-Income Settings 97%

POULTRY
Low-Income Settings 5%
High-Income Settings 69%

FORTIFICATION AND BIOFORTIFICATION

51% of all programs serve fortified foods

5% of programs serve biofortified foods

		Fortified foods	Biofortified foods
Income group	Low-Income Settings	80%	18%
	Lower Middle-Income Settings	72%	4%
	Upper Middle-Income Settings	42%	3%
	High-Income Settings	21%	0%