

## How does Kenyan policy action for comprehensive school food and nutrition programmes compare with global recommendations?

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### Context

In Kenya, undernutrition rates in adolescents remain high while overweight and obesity are increasing, especially in urban contexts.

Schools have become important settings for implementing food and nutrition programmes, since adolescents spend 75% of their time at schools and are at an age when dietary habits are formed.

There is a need to document the extent of adoption of policy action in Kenya with global recommendations for comprehensive school food and nutrition programmes (SFNPs).

### Objective

The objective of this study was to compare current Kenyan policy actions with global recommendations for comprehensive SFNPs.

### Methods

A comprehensive search of global policy documents and scientific publications resulted in identifying 58 good practice indicators (GPI) for assessing comprehensive SFNPs. These indicators were grouped into 5 main domains and 26 components (Fig. 1).

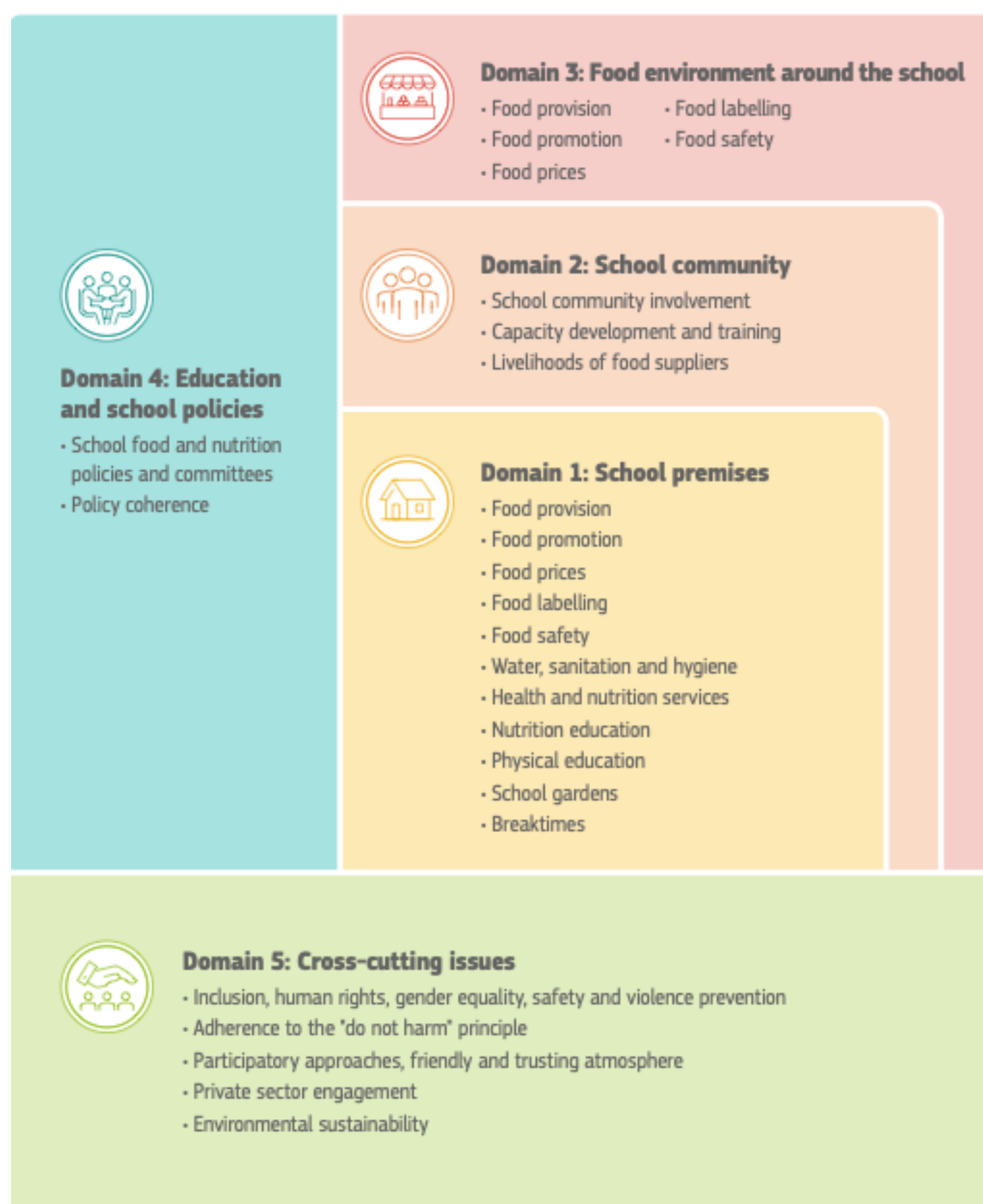


Fig 1: The framework used to assess school food and nutrition policy documents

We searched for Kenyan policy documents addressing these 5 domains, by consulting websites and focal persons from relevant sectors. These documents had to i) be issued by the government (national/county level), ii) mention schools and children/adolescents, and iii) be published in 2010 or later.

We assessed the evidence of alignment of policies against the GPIs using the classification:

- the indicator was not addressed in policy documents
- the indicator was partially addressed in policy documents
- the indicator was fully addressed in policy documents

The evidence was also averaged at the component level, and classified as 'Yes' (all/most indicators addressed in policies), 'Partial' (some indicators addressed in policies), or 'No' (no/few indicators addressed in policies).

### Results

Out of 141 policy documents identified, 38 were included in the review, mainly issued by the Ministry of Health or Ministry of Education.

In total, 19 components (39/58 GPI) were partially or fully addressed by Kenyan policy documents. Policy actions were strong in areas such as Food safety, Health & nutrition services, Nutrition education and Water sanitation & hygiene within the school premises. No policy actions targeted the external school food environment. Cross-cutting issues like gender, inclusion, environmental sustainability were only partially addressed in the policy documents (Table 1).

Domain	Component	No of GPI*	Level of adoption in Kenyan policies	
			Visual representation	Average
1- School premises	Food provision	3	● ● ●	Partial
	Food promotion	2	● ●	Partial
	Food prices	2	● ●	No
	Food labelling	2	● ●	No
	Food safety	3	● ● ●	Yes
	Health & nutrition services	3	● ● ●	Yes
	Nutrition education	3	● ● ●	Yes
	Physical education	5	● ● ● ● ●	Partial
	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene	4	● ● ● ●	Yes
	School gardens	2	● ●	Partial
	2- School community	Community involvement	2	● ●
Capacity development & training		3	● ● ●	Partial
Livelihood of suppliers		3	● ● ●	Partial
3- External food environment	Food provision	1	●	No
	Food promotion	1	●	No
	Food prices	0	Not applicable	No
	Food labelling	0	Not applicable	No
	Food safety	0	Not applicable	No
4- Policy environment	School food and nutrition policy	2	● ●	Partial
5-Cross-cutting issues	Gender sensitivity	2	● ●	Partial
	Participation	2	● ●	Partial
	Social inclusion	2	● ●	Partial
	Environment sustainability	4	● ● ● ●	Partial
	Violence prevention	2	● ●	Yes
	Private sector engagement	2	● ●	No
	Friendly climate at school	3	● ● ●	Partial

Table 1: Aligement of Kenyan policies against global good practice indicators across the 5 domains  
\* GPI: Good practice indicators

### Conclusions

Substantial policy guidance within the school premises domain was found, except for 2 components that require attention: *food prices* and *food labelling*. International good practice indicators and national policies are also needed to address the external school food environment, such as regulating advertising of foods and beverages around schools.