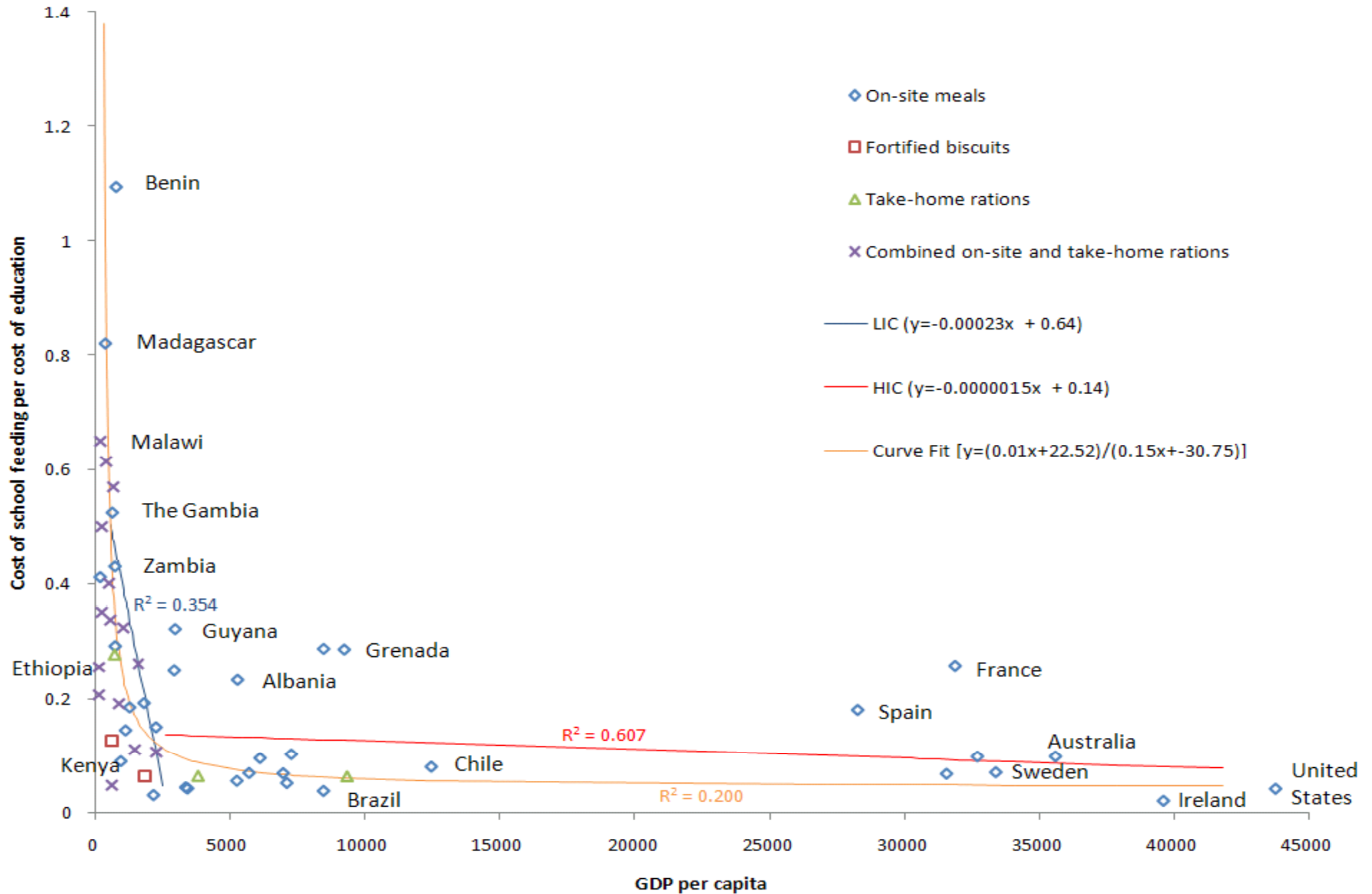


As GNP increases the cost of FFE declines compared to costs of education





What else does this figure imply?

Country pattern is analogous to Engle's law; food budget (costs) increase very little over GNP range but other schooling expenditures do.

Is the comparison to education expenditures fair? If it is a social protection expenditure then should it not be compared to levels and GNP shares of other safety nets?

\$40-50 a year per beneficiary (maybe twice that per family) is not large compared to many CCTs

But CCTs are generally well targeted

Also, if one is comparing to CCTs then one has to ask, what is the cost per monitored effect of meals compared to alternatives.

Uganda and Burkina Faso comparisons of THR and meals are some of the few examples of comparative studies of FFE.



Can FFE be targeted?

It is difficult to target meals within a grade; it is possible to target grades within a program but seldom is this done

Possible to have a sliding scale for payments but again this is not often done

Geographic targeting is clearly possible.

Take home rations have been targeted in a number of countries (Bangladesh is a well studied example). This is most often done with a take home top off or addition to meal programs and is often targeted to girls.

Overall, however, tendency for meals to be [de facto] regressive, partially on the basis of accessibility and capacity. Remote rural schools are less likely to have kitchen facilities.

Laos present an example of capacity: only one-half to two-thirds of **eligible** villages report participating in FFE

Two very different ways to interpret Laos evidence

Should an ineffectively targeted (but capped) program be expanded on the grounds that new entrants will be poorer on average? This is the rationale behind dynamic or marginal targeting.

In the 1980s USAID commissioned a prominent school feeding expert to review its program in a set of countries.

The consultant concluded that none of the countries delivered programs the 180-200 days planned, but if they had, various favorable outcomes would have been reached

Rather than redouble its efforts to expand coverage, USAID decided that capacity was not there and scaled back its programs



Concluding Points

Most FFE have an impact of school attendance or enrollment; harder to find impacts on performance (in part due to time frame).

No clear dominance of types of programs in regards to these impacts. Economics of programs then hinge on costs of delivery and sustainability.

Mix of snacks (generally 1/3 cost of meals and can be produced and **fortified** locally) and THR seem to have promise.