

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas (SFPPPA)

Lead Agency:

Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME)

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

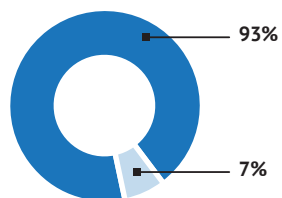
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

### BUDGET

Total: USD 84,666,667

- Government: USD 79,000,000
- International donors\*: USD 5,666,667
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture  Yes  No  No response

\*International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Bangladesh have clean water, most have electricity and flush toilets, some have piped water, and very few have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias or kitchens. In the small percent of schools with their own kitchens, the kitchens are typically equipped with storage facilities and charcoal or wood stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. Partly for this reason, numbers for school-age populations and school enrollment may not perfectly align.

## MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: "Junk food"

## FOOD SOURCES

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- In-kind (foreign)

## COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

## COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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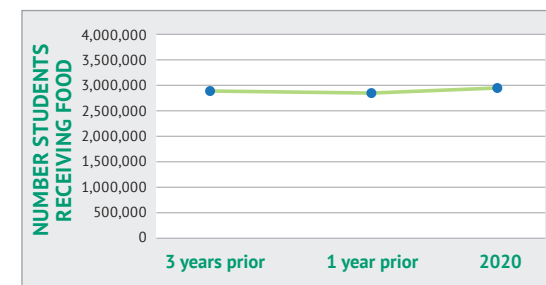
# PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF Bangladesh



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

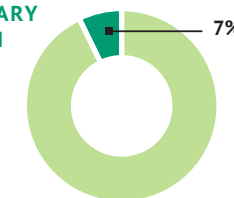
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	8,657,769	3,947,852	411,160
Primary school	14,724,290	17,603,840	2,560,210
Secondary school	21,456,208	15,954,852	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,838,267</b>	<b>37,506,544</b>	<b>2,971,370</b>



### COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 36,180,498

Receiving school food: 2,560,210



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

## NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:

- Fortified foods**
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements**
- Nutritionists involved**
- Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition**
- Objective to meet nutritional goals**
- Objective to reduce obesity

### Food items fortified/biofortified:

Grains/cereals, oil, salt, micronutrient fortified biscuits

### Micronutrients:

Iron, iodine, zinc, phosphorus, calcium, thiamine (B1), riboflavin (B2), niacin (B3), pantothenic acid (B5), pyridoxine (B6), biotin (B7), folic acid (B9), and vitamins A, B12, D, and E

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over 30 nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Bangladesh, and the foods produced in school gardens are consumed by students, teachers, and other school personnel.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

Bangladesh School Feeding Impact Evaluation (2009, authored by the World Food Program)

Impact Evaluation of Bangladesh School Feeding in 2001–2009 (2011, authored by Tango International)

Various monitoring reports

## RESEARCH NEEDED

A cost-benefit analysis of school feeding in Bangladesh; a national costing analysis for school feeding; a food safety and quality assessment; an impact evaluation of school feeding on nutrition, economic, and agricultural outcomes; and research on effective community engagement in school feeding.

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

<b>4,544</b>	Cooks and food preparers
<b>600</b>	Transporters
<b>1,600</b>	Off-site processors
	Food packagers and handlers
<b>700</b>	Monitoring
	Food service management
<b>15</b>	Safety and quality inspectors
<b>15</b>	Other

\*If blank, no response was provided.

### Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes  No  No response

### Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

- Yes  No  No response

### There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women**  Other groups  
 Youth  No response

### There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes  No  No response

### Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes  No  There are no food banks in this country.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Small-scale farmers provide roots/tubers, eggs, and vegetables for the hot meal component of the school feeding program, while items such as rice, lentils, oil, and fortified biscuits are centrally procured. The private sector provides food trading, processing, and transport services and also provides utensils. Cooks, who are predominantly women, are paid in cash and earn USD 75–85 per month. Communities contribute to the establishment of kitchens and participate in monitoring the program, and mothers groups also assist in the distribution of cooked meals to the school children.

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Bangladesh, the nutrition sensitive “National School Meal Policy 2019” was approved on 19 August 2019 by the Honorable Prime Minister in the Cabinet. The School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas (SFPPPA) is implemented in 104 sub-districts and reaches approximately three million school children, and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is now considering a larger school feeding program to reach children in other areas. Among the recent challenges related to school feeding, there is a need for improvement in inter-ministerial coordination and engagement. To increase the program’s sustainability, there is also a need to shift the funding for school feeding from being a development (project-based) budget to a revenue-based budget. With consideration of children’s nutritional needs, there is furthermore a need to expand beyond a focus on fortified biscuits (i.e., to scale up the meals component of the program).

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the 2020 school year in Bangladesh, with schools closed but operating remotely for part of the year. In response, there was a shift in school feeding modality from in-school meals/snacks to take-home rations (home delivery of biscuits) from March 2020 to September 2021. The pandemic resulted in an increase in the number of students fed but a decrease in the frequency of school feeding, and the hot cooked meals component of the program was deeply impacted. In 2020–2021, Bangladesh also experienced an economic/financial crisis, along with floods and riverbank erosion.

## CONTACTS: BANGLADESH

**Agency:** Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME)

**Website:** <http://sfp.dpe.gov.bd/>; <https://mopme.gov.bd/>

## SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME IN POVERTY PRONE AREAS (SFPPA)

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Primary & Mass Education (lead agency),  
Directorate of Primary Education (implementing agency),  
World Food Program (provides technical assistance)

### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks
- Take-home rations

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 6 times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Geographic targeting to provide universal coverage for pre-school and primary school students in 104 sub-districts

### HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	411,160	51%	49%
Primary school	2,560,210	51%	49%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,971,370</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Eggs	Salt*
Roots, tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Water
Dairy products	Oil*	

\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

<b>100% Purchased (domestic)</b>	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas (SFPPA) began in 2001 and operates in 104 sub-districts in Bangladesh. Starting in 2010, the World Food Program gradually handed over management responsibility to the Government. In-school snacks, which are served in 88 sub-districts, take the form of a 75-gram pack of fortified biscuits, and the Department of Primary Education manages the central procurement of fortified biscuits from enlisted biscuit manufacturers and the delivery of biscuits to primary schools through NGOs. Since October 2019, hot cooked meals (including vegetable khichuri and khichuri with boiled eggs) have also been prepared on a daily basis in 16 sub-districts.

