

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2021

- National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme

Lead Agency: School Health and Nutrition Division, Ministry of Education

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

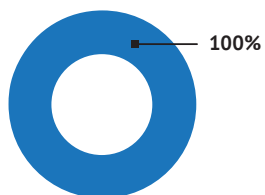
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 14,507,801

- Government: USD 14,507,801
- International donors*: USD 0
- 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 Bhutan have electricity and piped and clean water, and most have flush toilets, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds); kitchens are typically equipped with storage facilities, electricity, refrigeration, serving utensils, electric stoves, and charcoal or wood stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

None

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: None

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.



The *Global Survey of School Meal Programs* is the property of GCNF and is protected by copyright. It may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent. Contact: info@gcnf.org ©2019. The Global Child Nutrition Foundation. All rights reserved.

GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture; agreement number FX18TA-1096OG002.

KINGDOM OF Bhutan



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	34,432	10,662	0
Primary school	83,227	44,567	31,100
Secondary school	94,558	123,619	70,662
Total	212,217	178,848	101,762

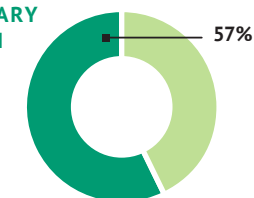
Estimates for population and school enrollment reflect the best available information for Bhutan. Some children of primary school age are enrolled in monastic institutes.



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 177,785

Receiving school food: 101,762



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

Micronutrients:

Iron, zinc, folic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and vitamins A, B6, B12, and D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 20 nutritionists are involved in the program. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for baskets and food restrictions on or near school grounds, as well as food and nutrition education. Cooks/caterers receive special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene. Produce from the school gardens is consumed by students.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None specified

RESEARCH NEEDED

Research is needed to understand how school children make food choices. This will inform the design of interventions to improve the dietary habits and nutritional status of school children.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

1,211	Cooks and food preparers
9	Transporters
0	Off-site processors
35	Food packagers and handlers
4	Monitoring
10	Food service management
3	Safety and quality inspectors
	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

Food for the program is purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures with preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies. The private sector is engaged in food processing and transport. Parent representatives are part of the School Management Board where discussions on school feeding take place. The government supports the mobilization of labor needed for transporting food where no motor roads are available.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Bhutan include the program's contribution to students' continued education. In addition, 60% of the school feeding stipend was used to procure local foods which helped stimulate the local economy, and boarding students who consumed three meals a day have been found to have healthier BMIs than day school students. Challenges related to school feeding include the poor condition of school kitchens, storage infrastructure, and facilities; obtaining funding for these facilities and infrastructure remains a challenge. Measures to curb corruption and mismanagement include regular trainings for school staff on efficient management of the national program. Furthermore, the Royal Audit Authority audits each school every year, and school visits are made by officials from the national agencies and the district education offices.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Bhutan were open for the entirety of the 2021 school year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program increased the number of students fed and the level of food basket variety, as well as the amount of funding. A positive development from the pandemic is that it provided an opportunity to expand the feeding program to additional school children who had to be relocated from high risks areas to lower risk areas to limit disruptions to their schooling; this required them to board, which meant the provision of meals. In addition, the pandemic prompted the government prioritize in-country food production by investing in the local farmers. This fast-tracked the initiative of linking farmers to schools in which schools can procure local, fresh, and nutritious foods for school meals.

CONTACTS: BHUTAN

Agency: Ministry of Education

Website: <http://www.education.gov.bt/>

NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 7 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic (targeted based on indicators of accessibility, poverty, and school gender ratio and enrollment rate)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	31,100	51%	49%
Secondary school	70,662	53%	47%
Total	101,762	52%	48%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

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

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

60% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
40% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme began operating in 1970. There are plans to serve 104,903 students in the upcoming school year. Efforts to limit food waste include the use of nearly-expired food, a marketing campaign to reduce how much food students throw away, and processes for using usable but “imperfect” commodities or produce. Recycling and the re-use of bags/container are used to limit packaging waste.

