

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- National School Feeding Programme
- Home-Grown School Feeding Pilot Project

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Training, Nutrition Unit

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

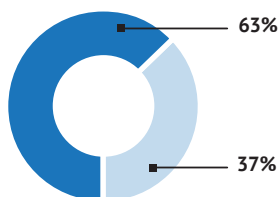
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 3,876,074

- Government: USD 2,426,552
- International donors*: USD 1,449,522
- 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.

**The private sectors also supported school feeding in eSwatini, though the precise amount is not known.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most schools in eSwatini have electricity, piped and clean water, and kitchens, while some have flush toilets and few have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. All meals for the school feeding programs are prepared on-site in the school kitchens, which are equipped with charcoal or wood stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population/enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

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: Fermented maize meal drink

Prohibited food items: Unhealthy snacks and sweets

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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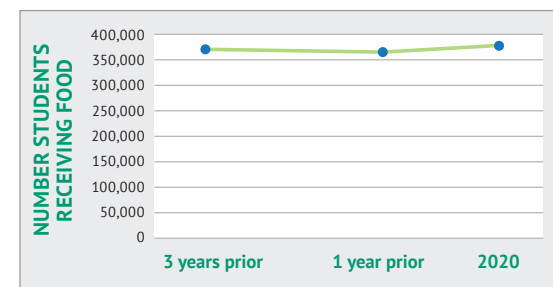
KINGDOM OF eSwatini



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	84,150	—	4,740
Primary school	293,991	244,300	244,300
Secondary school	137,921	130,296	130,296
Total	516,062	374,596	379,336



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 431,912

Receiving school food: 374,596



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

Micronutrients:

Iodine, vitamin A, vitamin D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least four nutritionists are engaged with schools feeding in eSwatini. Some products from the school gardens are consumed by the students, while others are sold.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Evaluation of the National School Feeding Programme (2010–2018), conducted by the World Food Program

RESEARCH NEEDED

Research on the needs of schools for efficiency in programming.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

911	Cooks and food preparers
24	Transporters
	Off-site processors
50	Food packagers and handlers
15	Monitoring
	Food service management
20	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

Small-scale farmers provide grains, vegetables, dairy products, meat, and poultry for the school feeding programs. Over 75% of the cooks are women, and they are paid in cash. Parents and other community members engage with the programs by providing firewood, providing land for the school gardens, and contributing labor to maintain the school gardens.

CONTACTS: eSWATINI

Agency: Ministry of Education and Training

Website: <http://www.gov.sz/index.php/ministries-departments/search-and-menus-setup>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in eSwatini include continued government funding, the recruitment of personnel for program implementation and monitoring, and the program support provided by development partners, including Save The Children, World Vision, and the World Food Program (WFP). The National School Feeding Programme also switched from using government transport to using private transporters to ensure the timely delivery of food. Recent challenges include fiscal concerns as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated these concerns and interrupted school feeding activities. There are also some concerns about food mismanagement in schools.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused schools in eSwatini to operate remotely for several months in early 2020. Subsequently, some schools reopened for in-school learning while others continued to operate remotely for the remainder of the 2020 school year. As a result, school feeding activities were temporarily disrupted, and there was no substitution of take-home rations for children that did not come to school. The pandemic triggered a decrease in the amount of funding available for school feeding in eSwatini, with a funding shortfall of over USD 826,000. Consequently, the number of students and size of rations decreased. Nevertheless, the public health crisis brought some improvements in hygiene standards and in the provision of potable water and handwashing facilities in schools.

NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Save The Children UK

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Meals were served five times per week, and take-home rations were provided biannually.
- Throughout the school year (for in-school meals) and outside the school year (for take-home rations)

TARGETING:

In the 2020 school year, school meals were targeted towards school levels that returned to in-person learning. Take-home rations were targeted geographically, based on indicators of vulnerability.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	4,500	45%	55%
Primary school	231,865	48%	52%
Secondary school	118,638	50%	50%
Total	355,003	49%	51%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Poultry	Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Fish	Sugar
Dairy products	Green, leafy vegetables	Tea
Eggs	Other vegetables	Water
Meat	Oil*	
Fermented maize meal drink		* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

20% Purchased (domestic)	1% In-kind (domestic)
75% Purchased (foreign)	4% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National School Feeding Programme of eSwatini began in 1962. Several methods are used to limit food waste in the program, including the use of sealed food storage and pest control, use of nearly-expired food, and a workshop on post-harvest losses. To limit package waste, bags/containers are re-used or sold to raise funds for the program.

HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PILOT PROJECT

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Training, Nutrition Unit

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

In the 2020 school year, school meals were targeted towards school levels that returned to in-person learning.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	240	38%	62%
Primary school	12,435	47%	53%
Secondary school	11,658	49%	51%
Total	24,333	48%	52%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fish	Oil*
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Salt*
Dairy products	Other vegetables	Water
Fermented maize meal drink		* 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 Home-Grown School Feeding Pilot Project began in 2019 and particularly engages with women and youth small-scale farmers to source its menu items. 99% of the funding for this program is provided by the WFP and the FAO.

