

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- PM Poshan (*Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman*)  
This program was earlier called the 'National Program for Mid-Day Meal in Schools', popularly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Lead Agency: 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

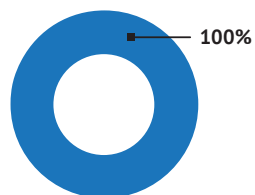
## BUDGET

Total: USD 1,733,732,333

- Government: USD 1,733,732,333
- 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 India have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens; most have electricity, piped and clean water; and some have flush toilets. School meals are prepared in numerous locations, including on-site (on school grounds), off-site in centralized (not private kitchens), and off-site in private facilities (caterers). Kitchens are typically equipped with either open or closed cooking areas, on-site water and piped water, storage facilities, electricity, serving utensils, and either gas stoves or charcoal or wood stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

This report draws from information published by the Government of India for the 2020–2021 school year at [http://mdm.nic.in/mdm\\_website/](http://mdm.nic.in/mdm_website/), in addition to the Government of India's response to the 2019 Global Survey of School Meal Programs. In addition, population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete the 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

Prohibited food items: Artificial colors, additives, "junk foods"

## 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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REPUBLIC OF  
**India**



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

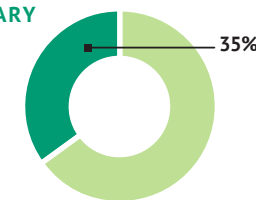
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	69,409,920	42,401,784	0
Primary school	121,821,480	121,700,216	67,538,472
Secondary school	177,585,040	134,043,296	38,720,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>368,816,440</b>	<b>298,145,296</b>	<b>106,259,312</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 299,406,520

Receiving school food: 106,259,312



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:

Salt

### Micronutrients:

Iodine, iron, zinc, folic, and vitamin A

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education. Cooks/caterers receive special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

Intergenerational nutrition benefits of India's national school feeding program, authored by S. Chakrabati et al. (July 2021); School meals in India—Tracking state government response to coronavirus (WFP India, 2021); Making the mid-day meals functional following school re-opening-COVID-19 response (WFP India, 2020)

## RESEARCH NEEDED

Not specified

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

**2,595,000** Cooks and food preparers  
Transporters  
Off-site processors  
Food packagers and handlers  
Monitoring  
Food service management  
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

Engagement on the part of parents is voluntary, but they are encouraged to monitor the quality and taste of the food provided to the students, and mothers are encouraged to take turns overseeing the feeding of the children, thus ensuring quality and regularity of the meals.

## CONTACTS: INDIA

**Agency:** Ministry of Education

**Website:** [http://mdm.nic.in/mdm\\_website/](http://mdm.nic.in/mdm_website/)

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Positive developments related to school feeding in India include: (1) Increased enrollment and retention of students, (2) Having lunch together erodes class differences and prejudices between students; and (3) The Government is helping underprivileged children by providing them with a healthy, balanced meal that they would otherwise not receive, and the meal serves as an incentive for them to continue their education. Among the challenges associated with the PM Poshan program, the scheme involves extensive logistical challenges, and there have been food losses linked to states not following Central Government guidelines. Schools do not always receive their quota of food grain as scheduled, while at the same time, some schools were overstocked, creating a need for additional storage. The implementation of a system of unique 12-digit identity numbers (Aadhaar) has helped states mitigate corruption by reducing the number of "ghost students" from the rolls. However, there have been instances of the grain being pilfered or adulterated.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in India were closed for nearly all of the 2020–2021 school year. As a result of the pandemic, the program decreased the level of food basket variety but increased the number of students fed, the frequency of school feeding, the size of rations, and the amount of funding. There were also temporary changes in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families), in the venue (location) of distributing/receiving food, and in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). Some meals were prepared at school but made available to take home, while other meals were no longer prepared at school, but some ingredients were delivered or provided to students or their parents to prepare and eat at home. The program adopted a mixed model of distribution through schools, Fair Price Shops, or homes, and the frequency of distribution varied from state to state, ranging from monthly to quarterly, based on the local conditions. In some cases, students' families were provided with monetary support in the form of electronic payments or electronic vouchers with which to purchase food.

## PM POSHAN PRADHAN MANTRI POSHAN SHAKTI NIRMAN

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Education  
(formerly the Ministry of Human Resource Development)

### 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
- Take-home rations

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week for in-school meals; quarterly or termly for take-home rations
- Throughout the year

### TARGETING:

Universal

### HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	67,538,472	–	–
Secondary school	38,720,840	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,259,312</b>	–	–

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

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

\* 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 PM Poshan program, popularly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM), began operating in 1995 and covered 1,108,918 public schools in the 2020–2021 school year. It is the largest such program in the world. The Central Government provides subsidized food grain via the Food Corporation of India through a centralized procurement process, and the grains are allocated to state governments according to their needs. The program aims to provide hot meals to all children studying in Government, Local Body and Government-aided primary and upper primary schools and the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education centers, including Madrasa and Maqtabas. An additional objective of the program is to provide nutritional support to children in drought-affected areas during summer vacation.

