

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- National School Feeding Programme
- World Food Program-supported School Feeding Programme (Pre-Primary/Early Childhood Care and Development)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Training

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

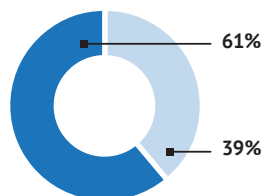
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 18,137,734

- Government: USD 11,137,734
- International donors*: USD 7,000,000
- 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

Most schools in Lesotho have piped and clean water and kitchens. Few schools have electricity or flush toilets, and no schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School kitchens are typically equipped with storage facilities, serving utensils, and either charcoal/wood stoves or gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of 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
 - Dairy milk
 - Yogurt drink
 - Fruit juice
 - Green, leafy vegetables
 - Other vegetables
 - Fruits
 - Oil
 - Salt
 - Sugar
 - Tea
 - Water
 - Other (Maize meal porridge)

Prohibited food items: Sweets, carbonated beverages

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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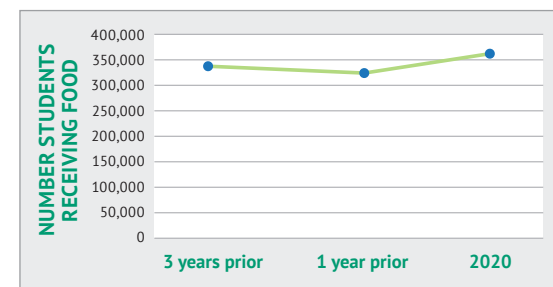
KINGDOM OF Lesotho



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

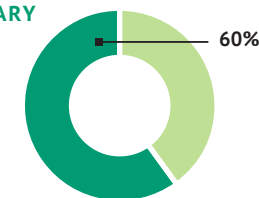
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	144,178	53,793	50,000
Primary school	305,399	313,461	313,461
Secondary school	215,517	136,497	0
Total	665,094	503,751	363,461



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 520,916

Receiving school food: 313,461



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, iodine, zinc, folic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, calcium, selenium, fluoride, and vitamins A, B6, B12, C, and D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Foods produced in school gardens are consumed by the students. Several programs (food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education) aim to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

Not specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

2,441 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

School feeding in Lesotho is managed by National Management Agents, which are companies hired by the Ministry of Education to manage school feeding in all ten districts of the country. Farmers of all sizes provide grains/cereals, legumes, eggs, and green, leafy vegetables for the program, and catering services are commissioned from the private sector. The cooks, who are predominantly women, are paid in cash in the National School Feeding Programme, while they do not receive remuneration in the Pre-Primary/Early Childhood Care and Development program. Communities are engaged in the tasks of offloading food, constructing roads, and establishing a water supply in some schools, and students' families provide utensils and cooking fuel.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the successes related to school feeding in Lesotho, there is a School Feeding Task Force comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Education, Finance, Agriculture and Food Security, Health, and Social Development, along with representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Farmers' Union, small business and trade interests, and the World Food Program. The greatest challenge facing school feeding activities in Lesotho has been a reduction in the budget for the National School Feeding Programme, and funding for school feeding was not considered to be adequate in 2020. The budget was decreased in 2015, and while there was some increase (and fluctuation) in 2020, the budget was sharply reduced in 2021. This limits the likelihood of achieving school feeding targets, particularly in terms of the number of school levels receiving food (e.g., primary, secondary), the level of food basket diversity, and the ration size. Mismanagement is another serious challenge whereby teachers and officers who are entrusted to safeguard the food commodities sometimes do not, and transporters sometimes deliver to schools insufficient food quantities with the intent to sell the rest.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Lesotho closed in March/April 2020 and were not operating for the remainder of the 2020 school year. While schools were closed, meals/snacks were prepared at school but were made available to be picked up and eaten at home. In addition, there was a shift toward the take-home rations modality of school feeding, in which some ingredients were provided to students or their parents to pick up at school to prepare and eat at home. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has been terribly disruptive of education in Lesotho, it has brought some positive changes, such as greater attention to hygiene initiatives in schools and greater appreciation for the importance of school feeding on the part of parents. In 2020, Lesotho was also affected by a health epidemic (besides COVID-19), an economic/financial crisis, and natural disasters.

CONTACTS: LESOTHO

Agency: Ministry of Education and Training
Website: www.education.gov.ls

NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Training

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week for in-school meals; one time for take-home rations during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal (primary school level)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	313,461	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	313,461	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Oil*	Other beverage
Eggs	Salt	(Maize meal porridge)

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

80% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
20% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National School Feeding Programme began in 1961. Among its objectives, the program aims to enhance the local economy by providing income-generating opportunities for farmers, transporters, and others. Take-home rations were provided in 2020 specifically during the lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as three months' supply of maize meal, cooking oil, and pulses had already been delivered to schools when the schools were closed. The Ministry of Education and Training instructed that these food provisions should therefore be distributed to vulnerable children.



WORLD FOOD PROGRAM-SUPPORTED SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME PRE-PRIMARY/EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Lead implementer(s): World Food Program

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	50,000	–	–
Primary school	0	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	50,000	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Fish
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* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

0% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	100% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Pre-Primary/Early Childhood Care and Development feeding program is funded by the World Food Program and reaches all enrolled pre-school students in Lesotho. In 2020, the budget was not considered adequate to meet program targets, with just two food items included on the menu.