

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Lunch Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Science

## 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

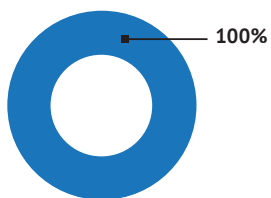
## BUDGET

Total: USD 14,218,039

- Government: USD 14,218,039
- 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 Mongolia have electricity and clean water, most have piped water and kitchens, and some have flush toilets and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. The school kitchens are typically equipped with either charcoal/wood stoves or electric stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This likely accounts for some misalignment between the numbers of students enrolled and fed.

## 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:** Foods that are high in fat or salt, fried foods, “fast foods”, sweetened or carbonated drinks

## 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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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.

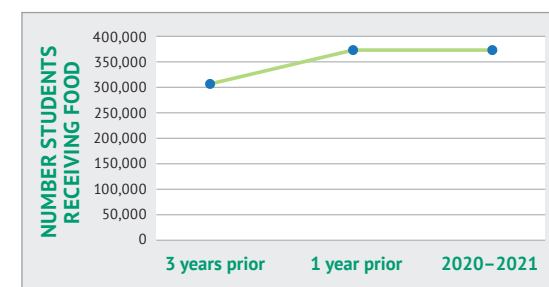
# Mongolia



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

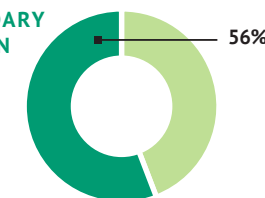
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	306,668	261,354	0
Primary school	333,128	327,019	371,480
Secondary school	335,262	294,682	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>975,058</b>	<b>883,055</b>	<b>371,480</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 668,390

Receiving school food: ■ 371,480



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:**

Not applicable

**Micronutrients:**

Not applicable

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 13 nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Mongolia. Food items produced in school gardens are consumed by the students, and efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for the school lunches, food restrictions on or near school grounds, health education, and physical education.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported.

## RESEARCH NEEDED

There is need for a study of how school lunches affect the health of students. The school meal evaluation methodology will be tested in 2022.

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

**Jobs created by school feeding programs\***

- 1,801**
- 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

Tendering processes to secure contracts for the program are competitive, and small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies do successfully compete. Funds are also distributed to schools to buy food, and an estimated 65% of the foods used in this program are purchased from local sources. Cooks in the program are predominantly women, and they receive payment for their work.

## CONTACTS: MONGOLIA

**Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science

**Website:** <http://en.meds.gov.mn>

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes related to school feeding in Mongolia include the School Lunch Law, the existence of the School Lunch Program, and the establishment of a unit within the Ministry of Education in charge of school meals. Challenges include the increase in food prices that began with the COVID-19 pandemic, raising the cost of school meals. Other challenges include the security and safety of transportation, storage, and supply of food.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Mongolia were closed but operating remotely for several months in the 2020–2021 school year. At times, schools alternated between in-person learning and distance learning every other week. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, school feeding in Mongolia was temporarily disrupted, and funding for school feeding decreased. Students received food during in-person classes, during periods of e-learning in the classroom, and at home. One result of the pandemic is that school hygiene has improved.

## SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

**Lead implementer(s):** Local education departments

### 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 times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Universal (primary school)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	371,480	49%	51%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,480</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fish	Dairy milk
Roots, tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Yogurt drink
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Fruit juice
Dairy products	Fruits	Tea
Eggs	Oil	Water
Meat	Salt	
Poultry	Sugar	

\* 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 School Lunch Program began as a school snack program in 2006 and transitioned to serving lunches in September 2020. In the 2021–2022 school year, the program has expanded to reach 371,480 primary school students and 238,343 middle school students. By 2023–2024, it is anticipated that some high school students will also receive lunch services.

