

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- School Nutrition Programme
- School Milk Programme

Lead Agency:

School Health and Nutrition Branch, Ministry of Education

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

Line item in the national budget...

- Yes
- No
- No response

BUDGET

Total: USD Unknown

In the 2020 school year, the provision of take-home rations was made possible with support from the World Food Program (WFP). However, the international budget for school feeding activities in Sri Lanka was not reported.

- Government: USD 26,257,104
- International donors*: Unknown
- Private sector: Unknown
- Other donors: Unknown

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 Sri Lanka have electricity, clean water, and latrines. Some schools have piped water, flush toilets, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, while very few have kitchens. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds) and off-site in private facilities (i.e., by caterers). Kitchens are typically equipped with closed cooking areas, on-site water and piped water, storage facilities, electricity, refrigeration, serving utensils, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

This report contains information only on the School Nutrition Programme, as information was not available for the School Milk Programme. 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
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Food items with high levels of oil, salt, and sugar

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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DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF

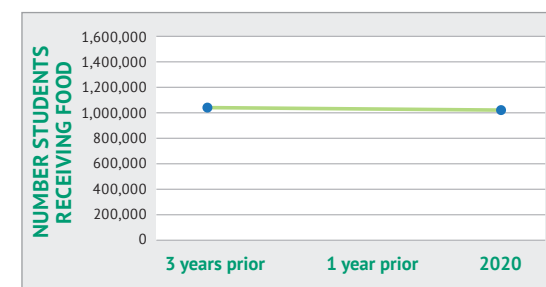
Sri Lanka



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

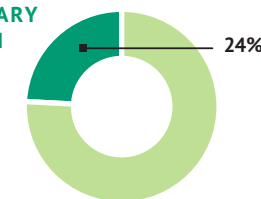
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	664,423	473,059	0
Primary school	1,689,624	1,672,350	1,052,563
Secondary school	2,736,977	2,535,634	14,680
Total	5,091,024	4,681,043	1,067,243



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 4,426,601

Receiving school food:
■ 1,067,243



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:

Iron, folic acid, vitamin A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least six nutritionists are involved in the program. Cooks/caterers receive special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, food safety/hygiene, business/management, and home-grown food production systems. Supplements containing iron, folic acid, and vitamin A are provided to most students. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education. Produce from school gardens is either consumed by students or sold.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Sri Lanka has conducted several studies to document evidence of the impacts of school feeding on students, including a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) assessment in partnership with the World Food Program (WFP) and the World Bank, and a Cost-Benefit Analysis in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation. A study examining the impact of iron supplementation on cognitive skills has also been carried out.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Research on all aspects of school feeding in Sri Lanka

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

18,000 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

Students' families provide home-grown food items when possible.

CONTACTS: SRI LANKA

Agency: Ministry of Education
Website: www.moe.gov.lk

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding include increased school attendance, improved student performance, and healthier eating habits of students. However, a lack of funding to cover the entire target population remains a challenge, as does the lack of coordination in data collection. There are also some concerns related to corruption/mismanagement of food items.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Sri Lanka were mostly open throughout the January 2020 to November 2020 school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program temporarily changed the venue (location) of distributing/receiving food as well as the feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). When meals were prepared at school, they were served in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time). Take-home rations were provided once, and ingredients were delivered to students' homes to prepare and eat at home. After school re-opened, it would have been helpful if strong monitoring systems had been implemented. The pandemic also resulted in improved health facilities. Sri Lanka was also affected by an economic/financial crisis during the 2020 school year.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education;
Provincial Departments of Education

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- 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:

- 5 times per week for in-school meals; take-home rations were provided once in January 2020
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic (based on indicators of child nutrition at the school level)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	1,052,563	51%	49%
Secondary school	14,680	52%	48%
Total	1,067,243	51%	49%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fish	Oil
Roots, tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Salt
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Dairy milk
Eggs	Fruits	Water

* *fortified*

FOOD SOURCES:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Nutrition Programme began operating in 2002 and reached 7,940 public schools in the 2020 school year. Students are made aware of the importance of minimizing food waste, and compostable materials are used to limit packaging waste.

