

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- School Lunch Program (*Programa Merenda Escolar – PME*)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport;
Ministry of State Administration

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: Unknown

- Government: USD 10,000,000
- 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.*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) as receiving support from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program in 2018 for school feeding activities in Timor Leste.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most schools in Timor Leste have latrines and kitchens, some schools have electricity and piped and clean water, and very few schools have flush toilets or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. The school kitchens are typically equipped with storage facilities, serving utensils, and either charcoal/wood stoves or gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This may account for some misalignment between the number of students enrolled and fed in each school level.

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: Condensed milk, biscuits, soft drinks, noodles, canned food, etc.

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.



The *Global Survey of School Meal Programs* is the property of GCNF and is protected by copyright. It may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent. Contact: info@gcnf.org ©2019. The Global Child Nutrition Foundation. All rights reserved.

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.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF Timor-Leste



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	95,664	24,006	21,399
Primary school	183,594	206,512	302,447
Secondary school	186,814	161,660	0
Total	466,072	392,178	323,846

The number provided for primary school students receiving food may be inclusive of other school levels, as well.



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 370,408

Receiving school food: 302,447



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

Food items produced in school gardens are consumed by the students.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

1,600 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

Funds are distributed to schools to buy food, and small-scale farmers provide many of the food products for the School Lunch Program, including vegetables, fruit, eggs, meat, fish, grains, tubers, and legumes. Cooks in the program are predominantly women, and they are paid in cash by local governments.

CONTACTS: TIMOR LESTE

Agency: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

Website: <http://www.moe.gov.tl/en/>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Timor Leste include the high participation/attendance rates of participating students, an increase in students' graduation rates, and an increase in local agricultural production. The greatest challenge associated with school feeding has been the school closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. There is no established option to provide school meals in the form of take-home rations. As a result, most targets for the School Lunch Program were not achieved in 2020.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Timor Leste were closed and not operating remotely for several months beginning in April 2020. Schools began to reopen in August and had fully opened for in-person learning by October. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting school closures, school feeding operations were temporarily disrupted. The amount of funding for the School Lunch Program decreased in the 2020 school year, as did the number of students fed, the frequency of school feeding, the size of rations, and the level of food basket variety. Timor Leste was also affected by natural disasters and an economic/financial crisis in 2020.



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM PROGRAMA MERENDA ESCOLAR – PME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport;
Ministry of State Administration

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal (primary and pre-school levels)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	21,399	49%	51%
Primary school	302,447	49%	51%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	323,846	49%	51%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fish	Sugar
Roots, tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Dairy milk
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Tea
Eggs	Fruits	Water
Meat	Oil	
Poultry	Salt	
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

- Purchased (domestic)
 In-kind (domestic)
 Purchased (foreign)
 In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Lunch Program began in 2005. By 2020, it operated in 1,085 public schools and 183 private schools.