

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Mid-day Meals (*diwa khaja*)
- Food for Education Programme (*shiksha ko lagi khadya karyakram*)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

Line item in the national budget...

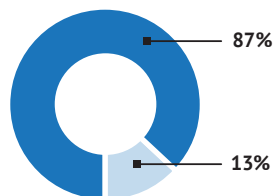
- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 38,621,469

- Government*: USD 33,761,371
- International donors**: USD 4,860,098
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Yes No No response



*The government budget includes only funds contributed by the federal government and does not include any support provided by local governments (owing to lack of data). However, in recent years, local governments in Nepal have begun contributing to school feeding activities.

**International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most schools in Nepal have piped water and latrines, and some schools have electricity, clean water, and kitchens, while very few schools have flush toilets or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds) or off-site (either in centralized (not private) kitchens on in private facilities), and the kitchens are typically equipped with charcoal/wood stoves or gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

None

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: Packaged and/or processed foods that are high in sugar, salt, or fat

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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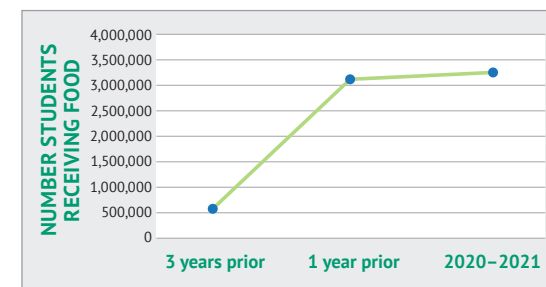
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF Nepal



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

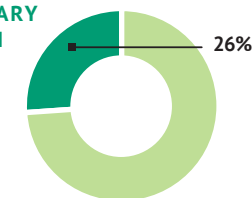
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	1,175,920	1,113,596	572,989
Primary school	5,636,424	5,337,694	2,667,139
Secondary school	4,497,619	2,306,379	0
Total	11,309,963	8,757,669	3,240,128



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 10,134,043

Receiving school food: 2,667,139



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, and salt

Micronutrients:

Iron, iodine, zinc, vitamins A, B1, B2, and B3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Food for Education Programme incorporates some measures to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, including nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

Rigorous studies of the impact of school feeding in Nepal on children's learning, nutrition, and health.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

20,542 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 for the Mid-day Meals program are disbursed to schools through local governments. Though schools then procure food locally, the food items are not necessarily produced locally, with some items sourced from elsewhere in Nepal or from other countries, such as India or China. The new school feeding guidelines encourage schools to use products sourced from local farmers. However, this is not mandatory, and while there are some cases in which farmers and/or farmers' organizations are directly involved in school feeding, this practice is not yet followed at scale. Community engagement in school feeding—providing transportation, cooking fuel, vegetables, and monitoring services—is required, and women are expected to lead the Food Management Committees.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Nepal include a large expansion of school feeding to cover all children from early childhood development through grade 5 in the public school system. School feeding has been well recognized in the policies and plans of the federal government, and a national standard for school feeding in terms of quality, quantity, and nutrition has been established. Challenges related to school feeding include poor infrastructure in terms of kitchens and water systems, a lack of coordination among various sectors, and limited ownership of school feeding on the part of local governments. The current per capita funding allocation by the federal government is not considered adequate to cover the cost of food commodities, nor the cost of transport in remote mountain regions. Furthermore, there is not yet a culture of cost sharing, which could augment the resources available for school feeding. There are some concerns related to mismanagement/corruption at the local level and school level, particularly related to delays in the disbursement of funds and the disbursement of a smaller budget than expected.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Nepal were open for some months in the 2020–2021 school year and also operated remotely for several months. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted school feeding in Nepal and caused the amount of funding for school feeding to decrease, along with the number of students fed and the frequency of school feeding. The crisis also prompted some temporary changes in the Food for Education Programme, such as a change in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families) and a change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations).

CONTACTS: NEPAL

Agency: Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD)

Website: www.doe.gov.np

MID-DAY MEALS

DIWA KHAJA

Lead implementer(s): Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD)/Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST)

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- 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:

Geographic targeting, reaching all students from Early Child Development up to grade 5 in targeted regions. (Across both school feeding programs, school feeding occurs in all regions and is universal up to grade 5 in Nepal.) Though targeting was intended to be universal for these school levels, school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic meant that not all students received meals in the 2020–2021 school year.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	547,952	50%	50%
Primary school	2,527,284	52%	48%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	3,075,236	52%	48%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Eggs	Oil
Roots, tubers	Poultry	Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Sugar
Dairy products	Fruits	Water

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Mid-day Meals program began in 2008 and operated in 26,211 public schools as of 2020–2021.



FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

SHIKSHA KO LAGI KHADYA KARYAKRAM

Lead implementer(s): Food for Education Project, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST)

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:

- 6 times per week for in-school meals; quarterly for take-home rations
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic targeting, reaching all students from Early Child Development up to grade 8 in targeted regions for in-school meals. Take-home rations are targeted based on both geographic factors and individual student characteristics.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	25,037	52%	48%
Primary school	139,855	47%	53%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	164,892	48%	52%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Oil*	Water
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Salt*	

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

5% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	95% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Food for Education Programme began in 1998 and operated in 1,429 public schools as of 2020–2021. The program hopes to reach about 246,755 students in the 2021–2022 school year.