

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
April 2017-March 2018 (220 school days)

- Mid-Day Meal Program (Diva Khaja Karyakram)
- Food For Education Program (Shikshaya ko Lagi Khadya Karyakram)

Lead Agency: Center for Education and Human Resource Development, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS LINKED TO SCHOOL FEEDING

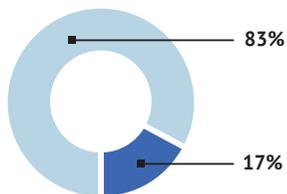
- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... Yes No NR

BUDGET

Total:
USD 25,104,971

- National government: USD 20,877,427
- International donors**: USD 4,227,544
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



**The World Food Program with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and various other bilateral and multilateral donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most schools in Nepal have electricity, piped water, and "gender private" latrines. Some have clean water and kitchens, but very few have dedicated eating spaces or flush toilets.

SPECIAL NOTES

Nepal was the first country to complete the 2019 Global Survey of School Meal Programs.

NR = No Response

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Conditional cash transfer

- Grains/cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes and nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

Prohibited food items: "junk food" (processed, packaged foods with high sugar and fat content)

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

- Nutrition
- Health
- Food and agriculture
- Reproductive health
- Hygiene
- HIV prevention

OTHER

- School gardens
- Physical education

= mandatory

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.



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FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF

Nepal



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

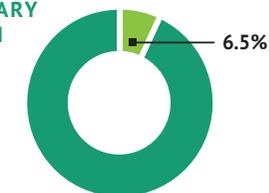
School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	3,784,232	3,919,431	483,600
Secondary school	4,281,028	2,750,028	38,500
Total	8,065,260	6,670,175	522,392



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 8,065,260

Receiving school food:
522,392



Food was also provided to some students in

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- University/higher education
- Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve 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:

Salt

The only fortified food used in the government's Mid-Day Meal Program is iodized salt; the Food for Education Program involves in-kind food aid, with fortified cereals, legumes, salt, and oil.

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iodine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Although no mandatory certification is required, WFP provided commodity management, nutrition and food preparation training to all cooks in the Food for Education Program.

Nepal has a Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan (2017/18 - 2021/22) and—since 2006—a national School Health and Nutrition Strategy.

A number of complementary programs required in the new national policy will support child nutrition in Nepal. While deworming is implemented in most cases, some other newly mandatory programs may take place in some schools but are not yet implemented at scale.

Nepal also reports that “junk food” items are prohibited on all school premises, and that obesity is not considered a problem.

Four inter-sectoral bodies deal with school feeding in Nepal: The National Food for Education and the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Steering Committees provide policy-level guidance. The Project Coordination Committee and the Mid-Day Meal Management Directorate deal with operational issues.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

5,300	Cooks and food preparers
6	Transporters
NR	Off-site processors
NR	Food packagers and handlers
NR	Monitoring
NR	Food service management
1	Safety and quality inspectors
NR	Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

Yes No NR

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

Yes No NR

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women
- Youth
- Other groups

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

Yes No NR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Most cooks are school assistants who are paid a bit more by the government, school, or community to also cook; 25% or less are women. The program focuses on leadership positions for women. There has been very limited linkage with local agriculture production. Parents are required to support the program, providing fuel/firewood, helping with meal preparation and management, and creating awareness re school meals and education.

CONTACTS: NEPAL

Agency: Center for Education and Human Resource Development and Food for Education Project (FFEP), MOEST

SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES

Nepal reports that school feeding has contributed positively to increasing school enrollment and attendance and providing needed proper meals for children, especially in regions of high food insecurity and low educational performance. School feeding activities have contributed to achieving gender parity in primary education and reducing socio-cultural discrimination.

Positive recent developments related to school meals in Nepal include the Free and Compulsory Basic Education Act of 2018, which guarantees school meals for children in areas with low Human Development Index scores; the expansion of school meals to cover an additional 720,000 children through the additional investment of 10.98 million USD for the 2018/19 school year; and the School Sector Development Plan (SSDP) that recognizes school meals as a cross-cutting tool for improved nutrition and health that can contribute to increased school participation and learning outcomes.

The program has faced several recent challenges, however. Nepal's terrain and topography pose ongoing access and logistical challenges and supply chain management issues, especially during the rainy (monsoon) season. A devastating earthquake in 2015 severely damaged schools, disrupting over 30,000 classrooms and causing delays for the planned expansion of the Mid-Day Meal Program. A prolonged transition to a Federal form of government and related de-centralization efforts have also been challenging. There has been increasing demand for school meals from local government, straining the limited resources at the national level. In general, funding for the program needs to better cover the costs of operation and management.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

1. Assessment of the Cash-based Pilot School Meal Programme with Three Alternative Modalities Combined with Complementary Nutrition-Sensitive Literacy Education, 2018, by the World Vegetable Center with support of WFP and USDA.

2. Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Nepal National School Meals Programme, 2018, by WFP and Mastercard Inc.

RESEARCH NEEDED

A. Impact of school meals with other nutrition interventions on the reduction of anemia prevalence in adolescent girls.

B. Semi-centralized and/or decentralized system of supply chain and management modality and its impact on local agriculture.

MID-DAY MEAL PROGRAM DIVA KHAJA KARYAKRAM

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

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

TARGETING:

Geographic, Individual, Other: Targeting is based on socio-cultural equity index

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	88,000	53%	47%
Primary school	312,000	53%	47%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	400,000	53%	47%

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals	Poultry	Salt*
Legumes and nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Dairy products	Fruits	
Eggs	Oil	

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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

NOTES:

The program costs USD 32.83 per student per year on average. Schools buy food in local markets, though it may not be locally produced. A study of the pilot program showed school meals benefited and involved families. Over 70% of food for the pilot was procured from local farmers; many were the students' parents. Some parents, hired as cooks, received training in nutrition and food preparation, and many women stepped into leadership roles managing the school meals.



FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM SHIKSHYA KO LAGI KHADYA KARYAKRAM

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

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

TARGETING:

Geographic

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	25,900	52%	48%
Primary school	171,600	53%	47%
Secondary school	38,500	52%	48%
Total	236,000		

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals*	Legumes and nuts	Salt*
Oil*	Other foods selected by schools	

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

2% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	98% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) started school feeding in Nepal in 1967. Owing to the effectiveness of this program, specifically in terms of increasing school enrollment and attendance, the government of Nepal introduced a centrally-funded school feeding program in select districts. WFP uses donated food and funding from various bilateral and multilateral donors. In the 2017/18 school year, the cost per student averaged USD 31.09, and resources for the program came primarily from the United States Department of Agriculture's McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, supplemented by a \$1,751,213 contribution of the Government of Nepal. Although funding was adequate to cover 100% of planned beneficiaries, there was a five-month pipeline break due to the timing of the food arriving from the U.S.