KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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

Prohibited food items: “Junk food” and carbonated drinks

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast: Grains/cereals, Roots, tubers, Legumes and nuts
- Lunch: Grains/cereals, Roots, tubers, Legumes and nuts
- Dinner: Grains/cereals, Roots, tubers, Legumes and nuts
- Snacks: Fish, Green, leafy vegetables, Other vegetables
- Take-home rations: Fruits, Oil, Salt
- Conditional cash transfer: Sugar

EDUCATION OTHER

- Nutrition
- Physical education
- Food and agriculture
- Reproductive health
- Hygiene
- HIV prevention

BUDGET

Total: USD 4,816,726
- National government: USD 4,188,578
- International donors*: USD 628,148
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

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

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 178,555
Receiving school food: 74,726

GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity incorporated in 2006. Funding for this survey and a follow-up survey in 2021 is being provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture under agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

SPECIAL NOTES

As of 2019, the Government of Bhutan has complete ownership, funding, and management of school feeding in the country.

NR = No Response

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Bhutan have electricity, piped and clean water, and kitchens. Most have dedicated eating spaces. Some have latrines while others have flush toilets.

GCNF GLOBAL SURVEY

This report is based on a sample survey. Results are representative of all school-feeding programs in Bhutan. More information is available at www.gcnf.org.
NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve the following:

- Fortified foods
- Biofortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified:
Grains/cereals, oil, salt

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine, Zinc, Folate, Vitamin B12, Thiamine, Niacin, Vitamin B6

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

1,003 Cooks and food preparers
55 Transporters
NR Off-site processors
20 Food packagers and handlers
61 Monitoring
10 Food service management
1 Safety and quality inspectors
4 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

Bhutan reports that obesity is not a major issue compared to other micronutrient deficiency diseases. However, with the changing lifestyles that accompany economic development, obesity is gradually on the rise.

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Strengths of the School Feeding Program include:

1. Central procurement: Before July 2014, schools were given a stipend and independently purchased both perishable and non-perishable items. Since July 2014, the stipend has been apportioned into 60% for non-perishable items to be centrally supplied to schools and 40% to be retained in the schools for buying perishable items as before. Thus, the responsibility of school feeding is shared between the Ministry of Education, schools and the local government. District Education Officers are responsible for securing 40% of the budget and overseeing the program in their district. The school feeding program is standardized in all schools whilst the nation is benefiting from economies of scale for food procurement.

2. Rice fortification: While it is mandatory for citizens to consume fortified salt, the Royal government initiated the rice and oil fortification program for school feeding to curb micronutrient deficiency problems in 2017. This was first pioneered by WFP. Since 2018, all schools have been supplied with fortified oil (with two micronutrients) and rice (with eight micronutrients).

3. WFP handover: At the beginning of 2019, all feeding programs were fully taken over by the government, and this has fully transitioned to the National Feeding Program.

Challenges include providing a suitably diversified food basket to meet the nutritional requirements of children, given the limited stipend available.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

Impact of school feeding on the ‘Health and Studies’ of students

CONTACTS: BHUTAN

Agency: School Health and Nutrition Division, Department of School Education, Ministry of Education
Email: schoolfeeding@moe.gov.bt
NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals
- Other: Enroll girls and complete their basic education

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
- In-school meals
- Five days per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Geographic, based on typical walking distance to school and parents’ economic status

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>4,109</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>56,720</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,829</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals*
- Fruits
- Poultry
- Legumes & nuts
- Salt*
- Green leafy vegetables
- Eggs
- Meats
- Roots/tubers
- Oil*
- Fish
- Dairy products
- Sugar
- Other vegetables
- Salt*
- Oil*

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
- 100% Purchased (domestic and foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:
School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds) in closed cooking areas that generally have piped water, electricity, and storage space. Meals include some (but very little) packaged, processed foods.

WFP SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): WFP

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

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>13,028</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,897</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals*
- Pulses
- Legumes and nuts
- Oil*

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
- 80% Purchased (foreign)
- 20% In-kind (domestic)

NOTES:
The WFP School Feeding Program in Bhutan began in 1974. In the 2018 school year, the program provided two meals per school day to the participating students. Over several years, WFP has gradually handed over its caseload to the government’s National School Feeding Program. As of 2019, the Government of Bhutan has complete ownership, funding, and management of the program.