SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
Most recently completed school year:
March 2017 – March 2018 (200 days)
National School Nutrition Program (NSNP), supplemented by
a. Private sector in-school breakfast partnerships in support of the NSNP
b. Non-Government Organizations in some Early Childhood Development Centers

Lead Agency: Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS
☯ National school feeding policy
☯ Nutrition
☯ Food safety
☯ Agriculture
☯ Private sector involvement

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

BUDGET
Total: USD 413,114,797
☯ National government: USD 413,114,797
☯ International donors*: USD 0
☯ Private sector: USD 0
☯ Other donors: USD 0

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

INFRASTRUCTURE
Most of the schools in South Africa have electricity, piped water, clean water, latrines, and flush toilets. Some have kitchens and very few have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias.

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SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total #</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>8,103,135</td>
<td>8,103,135</td>
<td>6,071,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>4,372,304</td>
<td>4,372,304</td>
<td>2,874,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,475,439</td>
<td>12,475,439</td>
<td>8,945,609</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 years prior 1 year prior 2017/18

10,000,000
9,000,000
8,000,000
7,000,000
6,000,000
5,000,000
4,000,000
3,000,000
2,000,000
1,000,000
0

NUMBER STUDENTS

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 12,475,439
Receiving school food:
☯ 8,945,609

Food was also provided to some students in
☯ Pre-schools ☐ Vocational/trade schools ☐ University/higher education ☐ Other

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.
NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involves 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:
Cereals, salt

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine, Vitamin D, Zinc, Folate, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

South Africa considers obesity to be a concern and is taking measures to address it in schools. Six nutritionists were involved in the reported school year; and cooks are paid, and are trained in nutrition, menu planning, proportions/measurements, and food safety/hygiene. In addition to promoting a balanced diet for learners, the government has issued guidelines regarding food/snacks that are sold in truck-shops at or near schools.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

- 55,000 Cooks and food preparers
- 5,000 Transporters
  - NR Off-site processors
  - NR Food packagers and handlers
  - NR Monitoring
  - NR Food service management
  - NR Safety and quality inspectors
  - NR Other

Farmer 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

School Governing Bodies are involved in the appointment of cooks and in some cases, procure food at school level. In-school breakfast programs may be supported by private sector or community partners, and support for infrastructure and nutrition education are encouraged. The private sector provides tangible inputs (food, kitchens, monitoring strategy, training, etc.), not funding. Non-governmental groups extend the coverage of school feeding in several ways, either by delivering meals to NSNP schools under a contract from DBE, by reaching out to schools that are needy but not eligible for NSNP support, by targeting pre-school children, or by adding a second meal at schools where NSNP provides only one meal a day.

CONTACTS: SOUTH AFRICA

The program started in 1996. In 2004, the Primary School Nutrition Program was transferred from the Department of Health to Education. Although policies are from national offices of Education, Agriculture and Health, the procurement is decentralized to provinces, districts, and sometimes schools. School Principals also make decisions on involvement with the private sector. Many schools in South Africa have legal standing and can take legal decisions through the School Governing Bodies.

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes in the South African program included: the continuous provision of cooked meals to primary and secondary learners funded by the government; improved protein on the menu with the addition of canned pilchards and ultra high temperature (UHT) treated milk; and deworming of all primary school learners linked to feeding.

Strengths of the program included: Government funding of the feeding program; policies in place to guide implementation of the program; and experienced and capable officials at provincial and national levels.

A major setback of the program was a drought and inflation of food prices in 2016/17, but additional funding was provided by National Treasury to avert possible negative effects. Challenges related to school feeding included: funding to improve school meals, especially with regard to the variety of protein foods, targeted in-school breakfast is limited; procurement from smallholder farmers; centralized procurement of protein foods to ensure good quality is maintained; and theft and pilferage of food items at schools.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

A study commissioned by the Department of Basic Education, and Monitoring and Evaluation showed school feeding had a positive impact on learner participation and attendance and addressed child food security in communities.

Working paper School Feeding in South Africa: What we know, what we don’t know, what we need to know, what we need to do, by S. Devereux, et al, 2018

RESEARCH NEEDED

A national study of the impact of the NSNP on learners; a cost-effective delivery model.
NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM (NSNP)

Lead implementer(s): Department of Basic Education

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet educational goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
• In-school meals
• Five times per week for the entire year

TARGETING:
Geographic, based on poverty indicators

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 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>Yes</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>6,071,170</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>2,874,439</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,200,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals*
- Legumes and nuts
- Dairy products
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Salt*
- Oil

* fortified

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

NOTES:
The NSNP was started in 1996, and since 2004 has been implemented by the Department of Basic Education’s NSNP Directorate. Some aspects are managed by the School Governing Bodies. The National Food and Nutrition Security Coordinating Team is responsible for coordinating all government food programs. The NSNP is supplemented by private sector (in-kind) investments in school breakfasts, kitchens, training, and monitoring, and by non-governmental groups that provide food for pre-schoolers in some areas. In addition to paid cooks, Volunteer Food Handlers assist at the school level. The government encourages the participation of cooperatives and small, medium, and macro enterprises.