SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year: January 2018 - November 2018 (212 school days)

- School Feeding Program (Programa Merenda Eskolar)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport—National Directorate of Social Action for School

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

Line item in the national budget: Yes

BUDGET

Total: USD 13,000,000
- National government: USD 13,000,000
- International donors: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

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

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2018

<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>462,657</td>
<td>332,617</td>
<td>302,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>136,872</td>
<td>61,933</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>599,529</td>
<td>394,550</td>
<td>302,447</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- = mandatory

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

OTHER
- School gardens
- Physical education

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

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

- Grains/cereals
- Fish
- Roots, tubers
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Legumes and nuts
- Other vegetables
- Dairy products
- Fruits
- Eggs
- Oil
- Meat
- Salt
- Poultry
- Sugar
- Prohibited food items: Frozen chicken, Sosis, noodles, and canned foods

FOOD SOURCES

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most meals are prepared on site in open cooking areas. Most schools have piped clean water, electricity, and latrines. None have flush toilets, very few have dedicated eating spaces, and only some have kitchens.

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-10960002.
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:
None

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A diverse set of food items are used in the school feeding program of Timor-Leste. For health-related reasons, frozen chicken, Sosis, noodles and canned foods are prohibited in the program. Unhealthy drinks and noodles in small packets are also restricted on or near school grounds.

Timor-Leste reports that obesity is not considered a problem in the country.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

- **1,108** Cooks and food preparers
- NR Transporters
- NR Off-site processors
- NR Food packagers and handlers
- NR Monitoring
- NR Food service management
- **64** 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

Parent and teachers associations (PTAs) have responsibility for activities including the school feeding program; parents are involved in preparation, handling, and/or cleaning up in the program; civil society has a monitoring role.

CONTACTS: TIMOR-LESTE

Agency: National Directorate of Social Action for School, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
Website: www.moe.gov.tl

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes reported by Timor-Leste are: Reduction in the number of children abandoning school; use of local food; benefits to parents in support of increased production. Specific strengths reported are the program's School Feeding Manual; some schools have set up bank accounts; and the budget for school feeding is now separately defined in the state budget.

In terms of setbacks, there was a food (fish) poisoning in Timor-Leste in 2015 that affected more than 100 students, and strong winds damaged several schools in 2018, resulting in decreases in the program.

Challenges for the program include the fact that the program budget is not guaranteed, being dependent on the overall state of the national budget; few schools have kitchens and storage facilities; and there is no system in place for regular monitoring. There are concerns regarding reporting, and there is a need to improve the system of oversight/monitoring.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

- Management of school feeding (control and monitoring) and food preparation
- Evaluation of the school feeding program
SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM
(PROGRAMA MERENDA ESKOLAR)

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education - National Directorate of Social Action for School

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
- In-school meals

TARGETING:
Reported as not applicable

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>21,832</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>280,615</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>302,447</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals
- Legumes & nuts
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Oil
- Salt

FOOD SOURCES:
- 50-75% Purchased (domestic)
- 25-50% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:
The program began in 2006. Timor-Leste reports that 90% of the program's budget goes to food costs, and 10% is for handling, transportation and storage. An estimated 50-75% of the food for the program in the most recently completed school year was purchased locally.

There is an effort to limit food and packaging waste, and packaged, processed foods are not used in the program.