

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:  
September 2017 – July 2018 (188 days)

- Community-led Home Grown School Meals Program
- Mary's Meals School Meals Program
- World Food Program School Meal Programs (centralized and decentralized/home-grown models)
- NAPE/GIZ School Breakfast Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

## 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

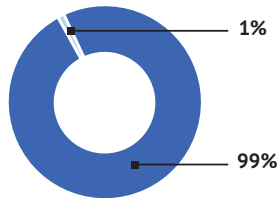
Total:  
USD 15,278,770

☐ National government:  
USD 125,830

☒ International donors\*:  
USD 15,152,940

☐ Private sector: N/A

☐ Other donors: N/A



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

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Meals of participating schools are prepared on-site in open or closed cooking areas using charcoal or wood stoves. All schools in the country have latrines; some schools have piped water, clean water, dedicated eating spaces, and kitchens; but very few schools have electricity or flush toilets.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Some data from UNESCO (2017) were used to complete this report.

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:** Sugary and/or carbonated drinks; "junk food"; foods that are challenging to prepare at school and can easily cause illness if not prepared properly

## 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.



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.

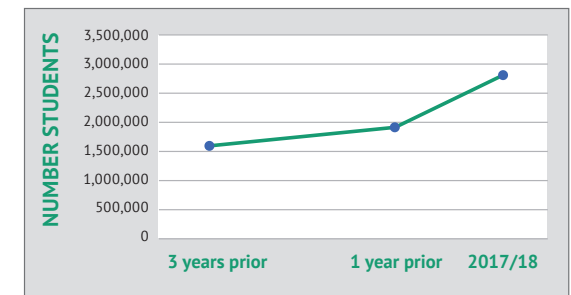
# REPUBLIC OF Malawi



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

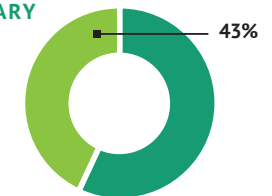
School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	4,433,977	4,433,977	2,726,365
Secondary school	1,915,336	998,940	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,349,313</b>	<b>5,432,917</b>	<b>2,726,365</b>



### COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 6,349,313

Receiving school food:  
2,726,365



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:

Grains/cereals, oil, and salt

### Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine, Zinc, Folate, Vitamin B12, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Vitamin C, Calcium

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Approaches to improve nutrition through school feeding programs in Malawi include having nutrition requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, nutrition education, food education, and health education. To prevent or mitigate obesity, cooks are trained in nutrition, portion measurement, and menu planning. Malawi reported that 32 nutritionists were involved in the programs, four at the national level and 28 at the district level.

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs

0	Cooks and food preparers
16+	Transporters
150+	Off-site processors
NR	Food packagers and handlers
28+	Monitoring
NR	Food service management
4+	Safety and quality inspectors
+D54	Other: D53 Education Statistical Bulletin

### 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

Several programs directly involve farmers by either purchasing from small-scale farmers or providing them with inputs (including seed) and training in order to produce food for the school meals. Women are included on the local committees that run the programs and are encouraged to chair the committees. No cooks were reported in the "jobs created" section above, as it was reported that very few or none of the cooks were paid in any form.

## CONTACTS: MALAWI

**Agency:** Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology

**Website:** [www.education.gov.mw](http://www.education.gov.mw)

**Email:** [education@education.gov.mw](mailto:education@education.gov.mw)

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes associated with school feeding programs in Malawi include increased school enrollment and reduced absenteeism and dropout rates. The programs are "community-owned", such that the communities (parents) prepare meals for the learners.

However, over the last five years, Malawi school meal programs have been negatively impacted by floods, droughts, and pest outbreaks that all affected agricultural production. Malawi's dependence on rain-fed agriculture, combined with a once-a-year growing cycle, make it difficult to produce for the programs. An inadequate budget makes it difficult to expand school feeding to all schools in the country. Malawi is also characterized by a lack of infrastructure and equipment in schools. Other challenges include the dependence on donors to fund the programs, and the contribution of school feeding to deforestation, as wood is the most common fuel source used in cooking.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

None listed

## RESEARCH NEEDED

- Effect of school feeding on students' nutritional status and class performance
- Differences in availability and nutritional content between locally produced foods and imported foods used in school feeding programs

## COMMUNITY-LED HOME GROWN SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology

### OBJECTIVES:

- Meet educational goals
- Provide social safety nets
- Meet agricultural goals
- Meet nutrition and health goals

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In school meals
- Served approximately three times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

This program is intended to be universal, but actually reaches just 0–25% of students

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	N/A		
Primary school	705,000	52%	48%
Secondary school	N/A		
<b>Total</b>	<b>705,000</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>48%</b>

### FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals*	Fruits	Salt*
Legumes and nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Roots/tubers	Oil*	

\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

<b>100% Purchased (domestic)</b>	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

### NOTES:

This program operates in 34 education districts. Farmers were provided with seed to produce some of the food used in this school feeding program. They were also provided with extension and training specific to school feeding. Most jobs to implement the program are performed by volunteers.



## MARY'S MEALS SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

**Lead implementer(s):** Mary's Meals

### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Served five times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Geographic: Targeting is based on indicators of vulnerability, as identified through the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee Reports (MVAC) and District Development Plans.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	12,205	52%	48%
Primary school	1,015,395	51%	49%
Secondary school	N/A		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,027,600</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

### FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals\*  
\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

<b>100% Purchased (domestic)</b>	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

### NOTES:

The Mary's Meals program began in 2002. The corn-soya blend included in the food basket is manufactured in country, and participating schools prepare the meals on-site. Maize and soy are procured from small-scale farmers.

## WORLD FOOD PROGRAM SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### (CENTRALIZED AND DECENTRALIZED/ HOME-GROWN MODELS)

**Lead implementer(s):** World Food Program and the Ministry of Education

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Meet educational goals
- Provide a social safety net
- Meet agricultural goals
- Meet nutrition and health goals

#### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- In-school snack
- Take-home rations
- Conditional cash transfers

#### TARGETING:

Geographic targeting based on vulnerability to food insecurity and education- and nutrition-related indicators. Take-home rations and cash transfers were provided to girls and orphan boys in upper grades (5–8) that had a minimum daily school attendance of 80%.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	28,279	51%	49%
Primary school	1,059,905	51%	49%
Secondary school	N/A		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,088,184</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>

#### FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals (Corn Soy Blend)*	Meat	Fruits
Legumes and nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Salt*
Roots/tubers	Oil*	Sugar
Eggs		* fortified

#### FOOD SOURCES:

<b>30% Purchased (domestic)</b>	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	<b>70% In-kind (foreign)</b>

#### NOTES:

This program includes a variety of feeding modalities, including those that are centralized or home-grown meals served in-school, as well as take-home rations and cash provided to students. Food that is purchased is procured from local sources, specifically from small-scale farmers. Students' families contributed mandatory in-kind contributions in the form of fuel wood and labor to prepare the meals.

## NAPE/GIZ SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME

**Lead implementer(s):** School Health, Nutrition, and HIV/AIDS Department of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology

#### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- Meet nutrition and health goals

#### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Served five times per week during the school year

#### TARGETING:

Intended to be universal

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	9,155	—	—
Primary school	106,516	50%	50%
Secondary school	N/A		
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,671</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

#### FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals*	Green, leafy vegetables	Salt*
Legumes and nuts	Oil*	Sugar
Meat		* fortified

#### FOOD SOURCES:

<b>75% Purchased (domestic)</b>	<b>25% In-kind (domestic)</b>
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

#### NOTES:

This home-grown program began in 2016, with government providing policy support and GIZ providing technical and financial support. Sweet potatoes that have been biofortified with Vitamin A are included in the food basket. A quarter of the food included in the program takes the form of legumes, whereby communities received seeds to produce the legumes for the school meal program. In addition to food, some of the program budget was also allocated to construction.

