

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:  
February - December 2018 (222 school days)

- National School Feeding Program
- WFP School Feeding Program

Lead Agency: 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

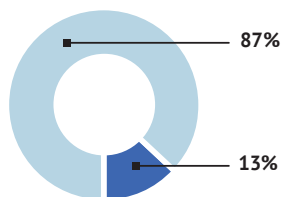
Total:  
USD 4,816,726

☐ 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.

## 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.

## SPECIAL NOTES

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

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" and carbonated drinks

## 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

☒ = mandatory

### OTHER

- ☒ School gardens
- ☒ Physical education

These are reported as required, though they are not yet 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.

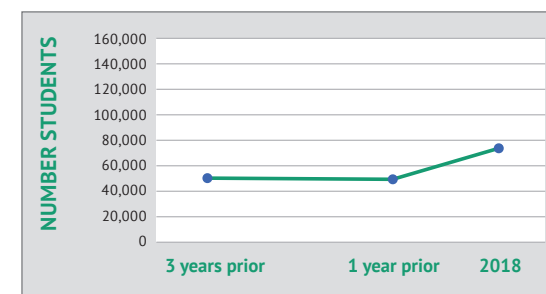
# KINGDOM OF Bhutan



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2018

School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	95,254	92,298	17,137
Secondary school	83,301	74,257	57,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>178,555</b>	<b>166,555</b>	<b>74,726</b>



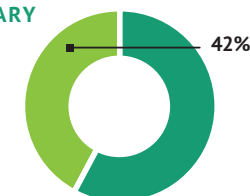
### COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 178,555

Receiving school food:  
☒ 74,726

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, salt

### Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine, Zinc, Folate, Vitamin B12, Thiamine, Niacin, Vitamin B6

## 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.

## 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

The National School Feeding Program gives equal opportunity to women job seekers, and women were encouraged to apply for the open vacancies for cooks and to participate in trainings. There is equal representation and participation of girl students in the management of the school feeding program at the school level.

## CONTACTS: BHUTAN

**Agency:** School Health and Nutrition Division, Department of School Education, Ministry of Education  
**Email:** schoolfeeding@moe.gov.bt

## 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

## 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?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	—	—
Primary school	4,109	—	—
Secondary school	56,720		
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,829</b>	—	—

### FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals*	Green leafy vegetables	Fish
Fruits	Eggs	Dairy products
Poultry	Meats	Sugar
Legumes & nuts	Roots/tubers	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?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	—	—
Primary school	13,028	50%	50%
Secondary school	869	49%	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,897</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>

### 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.