

School Meal In The Time of COVID 19:
Impact and Responses
Government of Meghalaya

August 28, 2020

Brief State Profile

Total Number of Districts in the State	11
Total Number of Sub-Divisions	15
Total Number of Blocks	46

Total No. of existing Institutions cover under Mid Day Meal Programme

Category	Primary	Upper Primary	Total
Government + SSA	5447	2302	7749
Government Aided	2492	986	3478
Special Training Centres	437	139	576
Total	8376	3427	11803

Total Number of Children Enrolled

Category	Primary	Upper Primary	Total
Government + SSA	272517	97745	370262
Government Aided	136381	77189	213570
Special Training Centres	6195	2433	8628
Total	415093	177367	592460

Total Number of Cook-cum-helpers Engaged

SC	ST	OBC	Minority	Others	Total
388	17551	92	272	97	18400

MDM Scenario Pre COVID

- During the pre COVID-19, all Government and Government Aided Primary and Upper Primary Schools in the State provide and serves Cooked Mid Day Meal in schools in all school working days.
- Cook-cum-helpers prepare the meal and serve the cooked meal to the school children after tasting of food by the teachers.
- Meals served to the school children contains the essential nutrients which improves the nutritional status of the school children.

MDM Scenario During COVID

- The Education Department, Government of Meghalaya is implementing and monitoring the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to various Government and Government Aided Schools and SSA Schools. In view of the said closure of the schools in the State and in order not to deprive the said scheme to the eligible children, State Government is providing Food Security Allowance by Distributing free Foodgrain and Cooking cost to the parents of the school children as per norms through the School Managing Committee (SMC) of the respective schools and by following the State COVID-19 protocols.
- Monitoring and Inspections is being done by all District School Education Officers, Sub-Divisional School Education Officers, Sub-Inspectors, BRCs, BRPs, CRCs to see that all SMCs follow the instructions and also to disburse foodgrain and cooking cost to the parents of the school children.
- Records of distribution of foodgrain and cooking cost is maintained and photographs are recorded.

Three Core Response Strategies

- During closure of schools due to COVID19, foodgrains and cooking cost is given to the parents of the school children to provide nutritional food. Parents are asked to collect foodgrains and cooking cost from the respective schools. The School Managing Committees are directed to issue foodgrain and cooking cost as per entitlement per child per day.
- All District School Education Officers, Sub Divisional School Education officers and inspecting staffs are to monitor and inspect that all Government and Government Aided Schools including SSA Schools availing Mid Day Meal abide by the instructions.
- The Inspecting staffs are also directed to instruct the parents of the school children to come and collect the entitlement of foodgrain and cooking cost from the schools for the entire period of closure of schools. The inspecting staff should also see that the parents of the school children are getting foodgrains and cooking cost as per entitlement.
- Registers for disbursement of the above, are to be maintained at the schools and also reports of the same should be submitted to the respective District School Education Officers, Sub Divisional School Education officers and to the Directorate of School Education and Literacy.