SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
Most recently completed school year: January – November 2018 (180 days)

- School Health and Nutrition

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)

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 14,207,620

- National government: USD 13,207,620
- International donors*: USD 1,000,000
- Private sector: N/A
- Other donors: N/A

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

School meals are prepared on-site in open cooking areas with charcoal or wood stoves. Most schools have latrines that are gender private. Some (60%) schools participating in the programme have on-site kitchens, some have clean and piped water, and very few have electricity and flush toilets. None has a dedicated eating space (cafeterias).

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: None

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

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.

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>370,000</td>
<td>354,847</td>
<td>330,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>215,106</td>
<td>136,497</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>585,106</td>
<td>491,344</td>
<td>330,171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 585,106

Receiving school food: 330,171

Food was also provided to some students in

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- University/higher education
- Other

NR = No Response
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 educational goals
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to provide a social safety net

Food items fortified:
- Grains/cereals, oil, and salt

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
- Iron
- Vitamin C
- Niacin
- Vitamin A
- Calcium
- Vitamin B6
- Folate
- Iodine
- Thiamine
- Riboflavin
- Selenium

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

| 2,409   | Cooks and food preparers     |
| 40      | Transporters                 |
| 3       | Off-site processors          |
| 3       | Food packagers and handlers  |
| 0       | Monitoring                   |
| 0       | Food service management      |
| 2       | Safety and quality inspectors|
| 0       | 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 school feeding program used the following approaches to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity: Nutritional requirements for food baskets, Food restrictions on or near school grounds, Nutrition education, Food education, Health education, and Physical education.

SPECIAL NOTES

The Lesotho Ministry of Education and Training has been engaged in a transition to national ownership of the program for a number of years as is represented by the significant investment made by the national government to the program. Housed within the national program are several meal requirements for food baskets, Food restrictions on or near school grounds, Nutrition education, Food education, Health education, and Physical education.

CONTACTS: LESOTHO

Agency: NR  
Website: NR  
Email: NR

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Country affected by:
- Slow-onset emergency (e.g., drought)
- Economic/financial crisis
- Health epidemic

Positive developments:
- Development of the National School Feeding Policy which advocates for Home Grown School Feeding
- Introduction of private companies (NMAs) to implement the school feeding program on behalf of the government
- Evaluation of the National School Feeding Programme

Strengths:
- The government is fully funding the implementation of the National School Feeding programme
- Relevant ministries are committed and participating in planning and implementing school feeding activities depending on their roles and responsibilities
- Local farmers through local purchase are involved hence school feeding is mostly supported by civil society

Challenges:
- The decreasing annual budget for school feeding programme
- Fluctuating weather conditions affect crop production thereby affecting local purchase systems organised for school feeding program.
- The scarcity of storage facilities promotes theft and spoilage as food is kept in houses used by the family members.
- Rising food prices due to economic melt down also affects the annual budget for the program

Setbacks:
The absence of the School Feeding Policy for more than 50 years led to a number of feeding models piloted with an effort to find the best future model for the country.

Concerns:
- Teachers use food commodities for their own benefit especially in schools that are not easily accessed.
- Teachers inflate the enrollment so that they can be allocated more food or extra money when cook/caterers are paid

STUDIES CONDUCTED

National School Feeding Policy of 2015, Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) statistical reports for 2017, WFP and MOET reports.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Five year Joint School Feeding Evaluation to inform decisions made for improved and sustainable school feeding program.
SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals
- Other: To provide jobs for the community

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

TARGETING:

Geographic, hard to reach schools, and parents not paying fees (Free Primary Education), schools located in townships of lowland districts, selected schools under Free Primary Education, and areas which have the potential for high agricultural production and very few areas where production is not that good.

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>56,752</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>330,171</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>386,923</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:

- Grains/cereals*
- Legumes and nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Oil *
- Salt*
- Sugar

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

- 50% Purchased (domestic)
- 34% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 16% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

This school meals program used the following approaches to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity: nutritional requirements food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, nutrition education, food education, health education, and physical education. Some packaged and processed foods were used.