SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year: March 2017 – March 2018 (200 days)

National School Nutrition Program (NSNP), supplemented by
a. Private sector in-school breakfast partnerships in support of the NSNP
b. Non-Government Organizations in some Early Childhood Development Centers

Lead Agency: Department of Basic Education, 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

**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

**CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18**

<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>8,103,135</td>
<td>8,103,135</td>
<td>6,266,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>4,372,304</td>
<td>4,372,304</td>
<td>2,891,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,475,439</td>
<td>12,475,439</td>
<td>9,157,346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>Dinner</th>
<th>Snacks</th>
<th>Take-home rations</th>
<th>Conditional cash transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD SOURCES**

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

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Most of the schools in South Africa have electricity, piped water, clean water, latrines, and flush toilets. Some have kitchens and very few have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias.

**BUDGET**

Total: USD 503,079,000
- National government: USD 503,079,000
- 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.

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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 12,475,439

Receiving school food: 9,157,346

Food was also provided to some students in

- Pre-schools
- University/higher education

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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:
- Cereals, salt

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
- Iron, Vitamin A, Iodine, Vitamin D, Zinc, Folate, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin

Jobs created by school feeding programs:
- **55,000** Cooks and food preparers
- **5,000** Transporters
- **NR** Off-site processors
- **NR** Food packagers and handlers
- **NR** Monitoring
- **NR** Food service management
- **NR** 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

South Africa considers obesity to be a concern and is taking measures to address it in schools. Six nutritionists were involved in the reported school year; and cooks are paid, and are trained in nutrition, menu planning, proportions/measurements, and food safety/hygiene. In addition to promoting a balanced diet for learners, the government has issued guidelines regarding food/snacks that are sold in truckshops at or near schools.

A study commissioned by the Departments of Basic Education, and Monitoring and Evaluation showed school feeding had a positive impact on learner participation and attendance and addressed child food security in communities.

Working paper School Feeding in South Africa: What we know, what we don't know, what we need to know, what we need to do, by S. Devereux, et al, 2018

A national study of the impact of the NSNP on learners; a cost-effective delivery model

The program started in 1996 In 2004, the Primary School Nutrition Program was transferred from the Department of Health to Education. Although policies are from the national offices of Education, Agriculture and Health the procurement is decentralized to provinces, districts and sometimes schools; School Principals also make decisions on involvement with the private sector. Many schools in South Africa have legal standing and can take legal decisions through the School Governing Bodies.
**NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM (NSNP)**

**Lead implementer(s):** Department of Basic Education

**OBJECTIVES:**
- To meet educational goals

**MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:**
- In-school meals
- On school days for the entire year

**TARGETING:**
Geographic, based on poverty indicators

**HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 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>Yes</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>6,266,304</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD ITEMS:**
- Grains/cereals*
- Legumes and nuts
- Dairy products
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Salt*
- Oil
- * fortified

**FOOD SOURCES:**
- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

**NOTES:**
The NSNP was started in 1996, and since 2004 has been implemented by the Department of Basic Education’s NSNP Directorate. Some aspects are managed by the School Governing Bodies. The National Food and Nutrition Security Coordinating Team is responsible for coordinating all government food programs. The NSNP is supplemented by private sector (in-kind) investments in school breakfasts, kitchens, training, and monitoring, and by non-governmental groups that provide food for pre-schoolers in some areas. Paid cooks are called Volunteer Food Handlers, they prepare meals at schools. The government encourages the participation of cooperatives and small, medium, and macro enterprises.