SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020
- National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), supplemented by private sector breakfast partnerships in support of the NSNP

Lead Agency: Department of Basic Education

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS
- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...
Yes  No  No response

BUDGET
Total: USD 519,657,600
- Government: USD 519,657,600
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0*
- Other donors: USD 0

*Several private sector food corporations support the NSNP through breakfast partnerships in 190 schools, though the monetary value of their contribution is not known.

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture  Yes  No  No response

INFRASTRUCTURE
Most schools in South Africa have electricity and clean and piped water. Some have kitchens, and few have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. All types of stoves (charcoal or wood, gas, and electric) are in use in the school kitchens.

SPECIAL NOTES
Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY
Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

- Snacks  Take-home rations  Other

Grains, cereals  Roots, tubers  Legumes, pulses, nuts  Dairy products
- Eggs  Meat  Poultry  Fish

Green, leafy vegetables  Other vegetables  Fruits  Oil  Salt  Sugar

Dairy milk  Yogurt drink  Fruit juice
- Tea  Water  Other

Dairy milk  Yogurt drink  Fruit juice
- Tea  Water  Other

Prohibited food items: Unhealthy foods, powdered milk blends, unpasteurized milk.

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
- Handwashing with soap  Height measurement
- Weight measurement  Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment  Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment  Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene  Drinking water
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- Food and nutrition  Health
- Agriculture  Reproductive health
- School gardens  HIV prevention
- Hygiene  Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs is the property of GCNF and is protected by copyright. It may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent. Contact: info@gcnf.org ©2019. The Global Child Nutrition Foundation. All rights reserved.

GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture, agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.
NUTRITION
School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:
- Fortified foods
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified:
- Maize, grains/cereals, salt

Micronutrients:
- Iron, vitamin A, iodine, zinc, folic acid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Products from the school gardens are partly consumed by the students, and vitamin A-biofortified maize was included in the school meal menu.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
Implementation Evaluation of the National School Nutrition Programme, conducted by the Department of Basic Education (2016).

RESEARCH NEEDED
Research on the impact of the National School Nutrition Programme on children’s learning outcomes.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*
- 62,647 Cooks and food preparers
- Transporters
- Off-site processors
- Food packagers and handlers
- Monitoring
- Food service management
- Safety and quality inspectors
- Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...
- Yes
- No
- No response

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...
- Yes
- No
- No response

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...
- Women
- Other groups
- Youth
- No response

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...
- Yes
- No
- No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?
- Yes
- No
- There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Across South Africa’s nine provinces, five provinces use a centralized model for the National School Nutrition Programme, whereby service providers are appointed to procure and deliver food according to the provincial menu. Four provinces use a decentralized model whereby funds are transferred to schools to procure food according to an approved provincial menu. The private sector provides catering services and supplies (utensils) for the program, and parents and other community members monitor the program and assist in food preparation.

CONTACTS: SOUTH AFRICA
Agency: Department of Basic Education
Website: www.education.gov.za

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES
Among the successes related to school feeding in South Africa, funds are usually disbursed in a timely manner by the National Treasury. The decentralized nature of the program means that schools in the provinces can work with small suppliers and support economic development in their communities. Random and non-random monitoring is conducted at multiple levels (national, provincial, district, and school). A recent impact evaluation conducted by the Department of Basic Education found that the school feeding program led to increased enrollment and improved attendance, and that households and communities are reached through their children, thereby helping to break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition, poverty, and chronic disease.

Challenges related to school feeding include a lack of food preparation areas (kitchens), inadequate space for food storage, limited access to running water, and the timely delivery of the correct and high quality goods. In addition, there are some concerns about the potential for mismanagement/corruption.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
The COVID-19 pandemic caused schools in South Africa to close entirely and/or operate remotely for several months in early 2020. This prompted a change in feeding modality, as meals which would typically be eaten in-school were made available to be picked up by students or parents and eaten at home. However, in the event of a future crisis, it is imperative to establish a system to provide children with food parcels. The pandemic has led to the development of an online monitoring system for the National School Nutrition Programme.
NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME (NSNP)
SUPPLEMENTED BY PRIVATE SECTOR BREAKFAST PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF THE NSNP

Lead Implementer(s): Department of Health

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
- In-school meals

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:
The NSNP provides meals to all non-fee-paying schools in poor socio-economic areas. Some provinces target learners in other schools, as well.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 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>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>6,656,826</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>2,956,804</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,613,630</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals*
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Fish
- Dairy products
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt*
- Dairy milk
- Tea

* fortified

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The NSNP began in 1994 and has a mandate to provide a lunch meal to all schools that are classified as non-fee-paying schools in South Africa (i.e., those categorized as quintiles 1 through 3 in the South African schools classification system). In addition, the program also operates in ‘special schools’. The provision of breakfast is contingent upon available funds or support from the private sector. Food waste in the NSNP is minimized by distributing any excess food to orphans and other vulnerable people.