

## 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

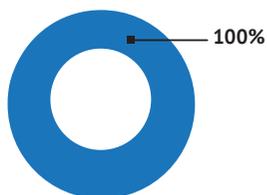
Line item in the national budget...

- 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

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

## 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

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

## FOOD SOURCES

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- 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
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

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



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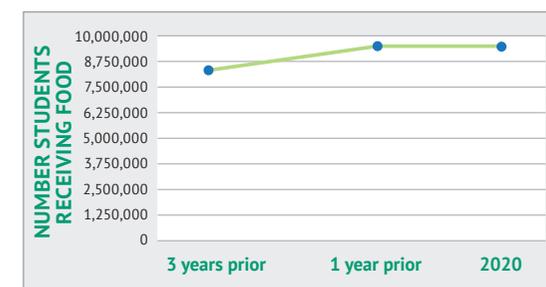
# REPUBLIC OF South Africa



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

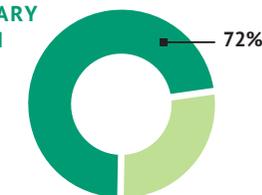
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	4,683,700	835,827	0
Primary school	8,478,358	8,000,730	6,656,826
Secondary school	4,921,270	4,695,897	2,956,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,083,328</b>	<b>13,532,454</b>	<b>9,613,630</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 13,399,628

Receiving school food: 9,613,630



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

## NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved 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/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

*\*If blank, no response was provided.*

### 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](http://www.education.gov.za)

## SUCCESSSES 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?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	6,656,826	–	–
Secondary school	2,956,804	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,613,630</b>	–	–

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Green, leafy vegetables	Dairy milk
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Fruits	Tea
Fish	Oil	
Dairy products	Salt*	

\* fortified

#### FOOD SOURCES:

<b>100% Purchased (domestic)</b>	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.

