SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021
- Mid-day Meals (diwa khaja)
- Food for Education Programme (shiksha ko lagi khadya karyakram)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST)

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 38,621,469
- Government*: USD 33,761,371
- International donors**: USD 4,860,098
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

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

*The government budget includes only funds contributed by the federal government and does not include any support provided by local governments (owing to lack of data). However, in recent years, local governments in Nepal have begun contributing to school feeding activities.
**International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE
Most schools in Nepal have piped water and latrines, and some schools have electricity, clean water, and kitchens, while very few schools have flush toilets or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds) or off-site (either in centralized (not private) kitchens on in private facilities), and the kitchens are typically equipped with charcoal/wood stoves or gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES
None

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY
- Breakfast
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Other
- Other

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

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.

FOOD SOURCES
- Purchased (domestic)  □ Yes □ No □ No response
- In-kind (domestic) □ Yes □ No □ No response
- Purchased (foreign) □ Yes □ No □ No response
- In-kind (foreign)  □ Yes □ No □ No response

Prohibited food items: Packaged and/or processed foods that are high in sugar, salt, or fat

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

Children Receiving Food, 2020–2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>1,175,920</td>
<td>1,113,596</td>
<td>572,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>5,636,424</td>
<td>5,337,694</td>
<td>2,667,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>4,497,619</td>
<td>2,306,379</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,309,963</td>
<td>8,757,669</td>
<td>3,240,128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coverage: Primary and secondary school-age children: 10,134,043
Receiving school food: 2,667,139

Food was also provided to some students in...
- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

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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
- Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

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

Micronutrients:
- Iron, iodine, zinc, vitamins A, B1, B2, and B3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
The Food for Education Programme incorporates some measures to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, including nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED
Rigorous studies of the impact of school feeding in Nepal on children’s learning, nutrition, and health.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*:
- 20,542 Cooks and food preparers
- 20,542 Transporters
- 20,542 Off-site processors
- 20,542 Food packagers and handlers
- 20,542 Monitoring
- 20,542 Food service management
- 20,542 Safety and quality inspectors
- 20,542 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
- Youth
- Other groups
- Other

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
Funds for the Mid-day Meals program are disbursed to schools through local governments. Though schools then procure food locally, the food items are not necessarily produced locally, with some items sourced from elsewhere in Nepal or from other countries, such as India or China. The new school feeding guidelines encourage schools to use products sourced from local farmers. However, this is not mandatory, and while there are some cases in which farmers and/or farmers’ organizations are directly involved in school feeding, this practice is not yet followed at scale. Community engagement in school feeding—providing transportation, cooking fuel, vegetables, and monitoring services—is required, and women are expected to lead the Food Management Committees.

SUCCESES AND CHALLENGES
Recent successes related to school feeding in Nepal include a large expansion of school feeding to cover all children from early childhood development through grade 5 in the public school system. School feeding has been well recognized in the policies and plans of the federal government, and a national standard for school feeding in terms of quality, quantity, and nutrition has been established. Challenges related to school feeding include poor infrastructure in terms of kitchens and water systems, a lack of coordination among various sectors, and limited ownership of school feeding on the part of local governments. The current per capita funding allocation by the federal government is not considered adequate to cover the cost of food commodities, nor the cost of transport in remote mountain regions. Furthermore, there is not yet a culture of cost sharing, which could augment the resources available for school feeding. There are some concerns related to mismanagement/corruption at the local level and school level, particularly related to delays in the disbursement of funds and the disbursement of a smaller budget than expected.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Schools in Nepal were open for some months in the 2020–2021 school year and also operated remotely for several months. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted school feeding in Nepal and caused the amount of funding for school feeding to decrease, along with the number of students fed and the frequency of school feeding. The crisis also prompted some temporary changes in the Food for Education Programme, such as a change in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families) and a change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations).

CONTACTS: NEPAL
Agency: Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD)
Website: www.doe.gov.np

GCNF GLOBAL SURVEY 2021
## MID-DAY MEALS
**DIWA KHAJA**

**Lead implementer(s):** Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD)/Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST)

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

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

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

**TARGETING:**
Geographic targeting, reaching all students from Early Child Development up to grade 5 in targeted regions. (Across both school feeding programs, school feeding occurs in all regions and is universal up to grade 5 in Nepal.) Though targeting was intended to be universal for these school levels, school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic meant that not all students received meals in the 2020–2021 school year.

**HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 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>547,952</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>2,527,284</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,075,236</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:**
- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Oil
- Poultry
- Salt*
- Other vegetables
- Sugar
- Fruits
- Water
- * fortified

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

*If blank, no response was provided.*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**
The Mid-day Meals program began in 2008 and operated in 26,211 public schools as of 2020–2021.

## FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME
**SHIKSHA KO LAGI KHADYA KARYAKRAM**

**Lead implementer(s):** Food for Education Project, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST)

**OBJECTIVES:**
- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

**MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:**
- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

**FREQUENCY AND DURATION:**
- 6 times per week for in-school meals; quarterly for take-home rations
- During the school year

**TARGETING:**
Geographic targeting, reaching all students from Early Child Development up to grade 8 in targeted regions for in-school meals. Take-home rations are targeted based on both geographic factors and individual student characteristics.

**HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 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>25,037</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>139,855</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>164,892</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:**
- Grains, cereals
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Eggs
- Oil
- Poultry
- Salt*
- Other vegetables
- Sugar
- Fruits
- Water
- * fortified

**FOOD SOURCES:**
- 5% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 95% In-kind (domestic)

*If blank, no response was provided.*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**
The Food for Education Programme began in 1998 and operated in 1,429 public schools as of 2020–2021. The program hopes to reach about 246,755 students in the 2021–2022 school year.