SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020–2021
- School Lunch Program (Khlong can Arhan KrangwanKhrang)
- School Milk Program (Kan Abanser (Nom) Rongrian)

Lead Agency:
Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC), Ministry of 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 1,045,111,212
- Government: USD 1,045,111,212
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

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
All or nearly all schools in Thailand have electricity, piped and clean water, latrines, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. Both gas stoves and charcoal or wood stoves are used in the school kitchens.

SPECIAL NOTES
Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of 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: "Junk food"

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
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

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

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS
KINGDOM OF
Thailand

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>2,244,861</td>
<td>1,688,526</td>
<td>875,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>4,710,334</td>
<td>4,886,781</td>
<td>3,063,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>5,077,238</td>
<td>5,854,817</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,032,433</td>
<td>12,430,124</td>
<td>3,959,102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While this report describes in detail the two large-scale school feeding programs in Thailand, the numbers of students receiving food in the table above is inclusive of beneficiaries in programs of all sizes.

NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>5,000,000</th>
<th>4,000,000</th>
<th>3,000,000</th>
<th>2,000,000</th>
<th>1,000,000</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 years prior</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year prior</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020–2021</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 9,787,572
Receiving school food:
- 3,063,142

Food was also provided to some students in...
- Pre-school
- 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:
Grains/cereals, legumes, oil, salt, among others

Micronutrients:
Iron, iodine, among others

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Micronutrient supplements were added to the food and also given directly to the children. Foods produced in school gardens are partly consumed by the students and partly sold. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for school menus, food restrictions on or near school groups, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education in the schools.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Studies have been conducted regarding the school feeding budget

RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- 50,000 Cooks and food preparers
- 3,000 Transporters
- 245 Off-site processors
- 29,642 Food packagers and handlers

*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
- Youth
- Other groups
- 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

Competitive processes are followed to secure contracts for the school feeding programs, with preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer associations/small companies. Engagement with the programs on the part of students’ parents is voluntary but encouraged.

CONTACTS: THAILAND

Agency: Ministry of Education

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the successes related to school feeding in Thailand, students have access to nutritious food, school meals/snacks prevent malnutrition in children, and there has been an increase in students’ academic achievement. However, funding for the school feeding programs was inadequate in the 2020–2021 school year, and school principals had to solicit support from the community and the Local Administration Officer. Augmentation of the school feeding budget is therefore warranted.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Thailand were generally open during the 2020–2021 school year, with the exception of June 2021 when schools operated remotely. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of students who received food through school feeding programs decreased, and there was a temporary change in feeding modality. Specifically, while schools were closed, meals were not provided at school, but the students’ families were provided with cash/monetary support or vouchers to purchase food. Thailand was also affected by an economic/financial crisis during the 2020–2021 school year.
**SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

**KHRONG KAN ARHAN KRANGWANKHRONG**

Lead implementer(s): Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC)

**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

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

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

**TARGETING:**
- Universal (preschools and primary schools)

**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>872,161</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>3,036,882</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>3,909,043</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:**
- Grains, cereals*
- Legumes, pulses, nuts*
- Dairy products
- Eggs*
- Meat
- Poultry*
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables*
- Other vegetables*
- Fruits*
- Oil*
- Salt*
- Sugar*
- Dairy milk
- Fruit Juice
- Water

**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 School Lunch Program began in 1952 and, as of 2020–2021, operated in 29,642 schools—all the schools under the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC).

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**SCHOOL MILK PROGRAM**

**KAN AHAN SERM (NOM) RONGRIAN**

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Agriculture

**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

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

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

**TARGETING:**
- Universal (pre-schools and primary schools, with access to school lunches regarded in Thailand as a right for all students under age 12)

**HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?**

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,909,043</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:**
- Dairy milk
  - 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 School Milk Program began in 1952. Food costs account for about 70% of the program costs, while the remaining 30% is used for handling, storage, and transportation of the milk.