SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020
- National School Feeding Programme
- Home-Grown School Feeding Pilot Project

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Training, Nutrition Unit

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

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: Fermented maize meal drink

Prohibited food items: Unhealthy snacks and sweets

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.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDR EN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

<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>84,150</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>293,991</td>
<td>244,300</td>
<td>244,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>137,921</td>
<td>130,296</td>
<td>130,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>516,062</td>
<td>374,596</td>
<td>379,336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVERAGE:

- PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
  - Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 431,912
  - Receiving school food: 374,596
  - Food was also provided to some students in...
    - Pre-schools
    - Other

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population/enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.
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, salt

Micronutrients:
Iodine, vitamin A, vitamin D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least four nutritionists are engaged with schools feeding in eSwatini. Some products from the school gardens are consumed by the students, while others are sold.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Evaluation of the National School Feeding Programme (2010–2018), conducted by the World Food Program

RESEARCH NEEDED

Research on the needs of schools for efficiency in programming.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- 911 Cooks and food preparers
- 24 Transporters
- 50 Food packagers and handlers
- 15 Monitoring
- 20 Food service management
- 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

Small-scale farmers provide grains, vegetables, dairy products, meat, and poultry for the school feeding programs. Over 75% of the cooks are women, and they are paid in cash. Parents and other community members engage with the programs by providing firewood, providing land for the school gardens, and contributing labor to maintain the school gardens.

CONTACTS: eSWATINI

Agency: Ministry of Education and Training

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in eSwatini include continued government funding, the recruitment of personnel for program implementation and monitoring, and the program support provided by development partners, including Save The Children, World Vision, and the World Food Program (WFP). The National School Feeding Programme also switched from using government transport to using private transporters to ensure the timely delivery of food. Recent challenges include fiscal concerns as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated these concerns and interrupted school feeding activities. There are also some concerns about food mismanagement in schools.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused schools in eSwatini to operate remotely for several months in early 2020. Subsequently, some schools reopened for in-school learning while others continued to operate remotely for the remainder of the 2020 school year. As a result, school feeding activities were temporarily disrupted, and there was no substitution of take-home rations for children that did not come to school. The pandemic triggered a decrease in the amount of funding available for school feeding in eSwatini, with a funding shortfall of over USD 826,000. Consequently, the number of students and size of rations decreased. Nevertheless, the public health crisis brought some improvements in hygiene standards and in the provision of potable water and handwashing facilities in schools.
NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Save The Children UK

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet educational goals
• To meet nutritional and/or health goals
• To provide a social safety net
• To prevent or mitigate obesity

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• Meals were served five times per week, and take-home rations were provided biannually.
• Throughout the school year (for in-school meals) and outside the school year (for take-home rations)

TARGETING:
In the 2020 school year, school meals were targeted towards school levels that returned to in-person learning. Take-home rations were targeted geographically, based on indicators of vulnerability.

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>4,500</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>231,865</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>118,638</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>355,003</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals*  Poultry  Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts  Fish  Sugar
Dairy products  Green, leafy vegetables  Tea
Eggs  Other vegetables  Water
Meat  Oil*
Fermented maize meal drink * fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
20% Purchased (domestic)  1% In-kind (domestic)
75% Purchased (foreign)  4% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The National School Feeding Programme of eSwatini began in 1962. Several methods are used to limit food waste in the program, including the use of sealed food storage and pest control, use of nearly-expired food, and a workshop on post-harvest losses. To limit package waste, bags/containers are re-used or sold to raise funds for the program.

HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PILOT PROJECT

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Training, Nutrition Unit

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 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:
In the 2020 school year, school meals were targeted towards school levels that returned to in-person learning.

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>240</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>12,435</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>11,658</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24,333</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals  Fish  Oil*
Legumes, pulses, nuts  Green, leafy vegetables  Salt*
Dairy products  Other vegetables  Water
Fermented maize meal drink * fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
60% Purchased (domestic)  0% In-kind (domestic)
40% Purchased (foreign)  0% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The Home-Grown School Feeding Pilot Project began in 2019 and particularly engages with women and youth small-scale farmers to source its menu items. 99% of the funding for this program is provided by the WFP and the FAO.