**SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)**
School year: 2020
- School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas (SFPPPA)

**Lead Agency:**
Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME)

**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

Prohibited food items: “Junk food”

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

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

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

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

**BUDGET**
Total: USD 84,666,667
- Government: USD 79,000,000
- International donors*: USD 5,666,667
- 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 schools in Bangladesh have clean water, most have electricity and flush toilets, some have piped water, and very few have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias or kitchens. In the small percent of schools with their own kitchens, the kitchens are typically equipped with storage facilities and charcoal or wood stoves.

**SPECIAL NOTES**
Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. Partly for this reason, numbers for school-age populations and school enrollment may not perfectly align.

**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

**CHILDREN 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>8,657,769</td>
<td>3,947,852</td>
<td>411,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>14,724,290</td>
<td>17,603,840</td>
<td>2,560,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>21,456,208</td>
<td>15,954,852</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44,838,267</td>
<td>37,506,544</td>
<td>2,971,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 36,180,498

Receiving school food:
- Yes: 2,560,210
- No: 0
- Other: 0

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

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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, micronutrient fortified biscuits

Micronutrients:
- Iron, iodine, zinc, phosphorus, calcium, thiamine (B1), riboflavin (B2), niacin (B3), pantothenic acid (B5), pyridoxine (B6), biotin (B7), folic acid (B9), and vitamins A, B12, D, and E

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over 30 nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Bangladesh, and the foods produced in school gardens are consumed by students, teachers, and other school personnel.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Bangladesh School Feeding Impact Evaluation (2009, authored by the World Food Program)
Various monitoring reports

RESEARCH NEEDED

A cost-benefit analysis of school feeding in Bangladesh; a national costing analysis for school feeding; a food safety and quality assessment; an impact evaluation of school feeding on nutrition, economic, and agricultural outcomes; and research on effective community engagement in school feeding.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- 4,544 Cooks and food preparers
- 600 Transports
- 1,600 Off-site processors
- 700 Monitoring
- 15 Food packagers and handlers
- 15 Food service management
- 15 Safety and quality inspectors
- 15 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
- 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

Small-scale farmers provide roots/tubers, eggs, and vegetables for the hot meal component of the school feeding program, while items such as rice, lentils, oil, and fortified biscuits are centrally procured. The private sector provides food trading, processing, and transport services and also provides utensils. Cooks, who are predominantly women, are paid in cash and earn USD 75–85 per month. Communities contribute to the establishment of kitchens and participate in monitoring the program, and mothers groups also assist in the distribution of cooked meals to the school children.

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Bangladesh, the nutrition sensitive “National School Meal Policy 2019” was approved on 19 August 2019 by the Honorable Prime Minister in the Cabinet. The School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas (SFPPPA) is implemented in 104 sub-districts and reaches approximately three million school children, and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is now considering a larger school feeding program to reach children in other areas. Among the recent challenges related to school feeding, there is a need for improvement in inter-ministerial coordination and engagement. To increase the program’s sustainability, there is also a need to shift the funding for school feeding from being a development (project-based) budget to a revenue-based budget. With consideration of children’s nutritional needs, there is furthermore a need to expand beyond a focus on fortified biscuits (i.e., to scale up the meals component of the program).

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the 2020 school year in Bangladesh, with schools closed but operating remotely for part of the year. In response, there was a shift in school feeding modality from in-school meals/snacks to take-home rations (home delivery of biscuits) from March 2020 to September 2021. The pandemic resulted in an increase in the number of students fed but a decrease in the frequency of school feeding, and the hot cooked meals component of the program was deeply impacted. In 2020–2021, Bangladesh also experienced an economic/financial crisis, along with floods and riverbank erosion.

CONTACTS: BANGLADESH

Agency: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME)
SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME
IN POVERTY PRONE AREAS (SFPPPA)

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Primary & Mass Education (lead agency),
Directorate of Primary Education (implementing agency),
World Food Program (provides technical assistance)

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
• In-school snacks
• Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• 6 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Geographic targeting to provide universal coverage for pre-school and
primary school students in 104 sub-districts

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>411,160</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>2,560,210</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,971,370</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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 School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas (SFPPPA) began in
2001 and operates in 104 sub-districts in Bangladesh. Starting in 2010, the
World Food Program gradually handed over management responsibility
to the Government. In-school snacks, which are served in 88 sub-districts,
take the form of a 75-gram pack of fortified biscuits, and the Department
of Primary Education manages the central procurement of fortified biscuits
from enlisted biscuit manufacturers and the delivery of biscuits to primary
schools through NGOs. Since October 2019, hot cooked meals (including
vegetable khichuri and khichuri with boiled eggs) have also been prepared
on a daily basis in 16 sub-districts.