SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020–2021
- Home-Grown School Feeding Program
- Traditional School Feeding Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

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: In areas with a large Muslim population, pork and other non-halal food are not served.

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.

INFRUSTRUCUTURE
Most schools in Cambodia have clean water and kitchens; some have electricity, piped water, and flush toilets; very few schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds) in kitchens typically equipped with open cooking areas, on-site water (not piped), storage facilities, serving utensils, and charcoal or wood stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES
The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists the World Food Program as receiving support from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program in 2019 for school feeding activities in Cambodia.

BUDGET
Total: USD 7,233,478
- Government: USD 2,205,400
- International donors*: USD 4,241,238
- Private sector: USD 786,840
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture

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

CHILDERN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

- Pre-school: 1,066,385
- Primary school: 2,055,437
- Secondary school: 1,806,618

Total: 4,928,440

- Receiving food: 3,447,455
- Receiving food: 277,881

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

- Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 3,862,055
- Receiving school food: 260,977

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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/caters in nutrition
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

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

Micronutrients:
- Iron, iodine, zinc, folic acid, thiamine, niacin, and vitamins A, B6, B12, and D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
At least three nutritionists are engaged in school feeding activities in Cambodia, one supported by the WFP and two by the government. Cooks/caterers receive special training in nutrition, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions which prohibit the selling of unhealthy food on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education. Very few packaged and processed foods are used in the school feeding programs. Produce from school gardens is consumed by students.

RESEARCH NEEDED
Studies that support improvement of the Home-Grown School Feeding Program and studies on institutional capacity.

NUTRITION

Agriculture, Employment, and Community Participation

Jobs created by school feeding programs* 2,077

- Cooks and food preparers 60
- Transporters
- Off-site processors
- Food packagers and handlers
- Monitoring
- Food service management
- Safety and quality inspectors
- 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
- 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

Food for the program is purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures in which farms of all sizes successfully compete. Farms provide grains/cereals, legumes, eggs, meat, fish, and vegetables, among other items. Private sector companies are engaged in food trading, food processing, transport, and the supply of utensils to the school feeding programs. Students’ families and other community members contribute in-kind to the school feeding programs. Community members contribute to program implementation and management (e.g., providing incentives for the cooks in cash or in kind for WFP-supported schools), providing utensils, infrastructure/renovation, etc.). Most of the school cooks are women, and at least one woman is assigned as a member of each school support committee. The Home-Grown School Feeding Program has an objective of supporting local economies and empowering women through their engagement in supplying food to schools.

CONTACTS: CAMBODIA
Agency: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport/World Food Program (WFP)
Website: http://www.moeys.gov.kh/en/

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the 2020–2021 school year, schools were closed but operating remotely for several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, students could only attend school for 136 days, rather than the usual 210 days in a school year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, school feeding operations were temporarily suspended, and there was a decrease in the number of students fed as well as the frequency of school feeding. There were also temporary changes in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families), in the venue (location) of distributing/receiving food, and in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). The WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) distributed take-home rations 5 times (three times in 2020 and twice in 2021). Overall, the COVID-19 crisis resulted in the strengthening of hygiene, food safety, nutrition, and health promotion for children. Cambodia was also affected by natural disasters during the 2020-2021 school year, and the government provided cash-based transfers for flood victims in the Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Pursat, and Siem Reap Provinces.
HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS)

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

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

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

TARGETING:
Targeted based on geographic characteristics (areas with high food insecurity, high malnutrition, and low education performance) and individual student characteristics (based on government classifications of income and vulnerability)

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>13,660</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>206,914</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>220,574</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals*  Meat  Oil*  Other vegetables
Roots, tubers  Fish*  Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts  Green, leafy vegetables
Eggs  Other vegetables
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
60% Purchased (domestic)  15% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)  25% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The Home-Grown School Feeding Program began operating in 2014, and in the 2020–2021 school year, 887 public schools participated in the program. Take-home rations are not a regular part of this program, but were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure school children and their families still received support. The Home-Grown School Feeding Program has two models that fully or partially procure food commodities from local producers/suppliers. For those schools that partially procure foods locally (e.g., meat/fish/eggs, fresh vegetables), WFP provides other complementary food from its own warehouse (rice and oil).

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) with technical assistance support from WFP

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

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

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

TARGETING:
Geographic (targeted towards areas of high food insecurity and poor performance in primary education)

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>3,243</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>54,063</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,306</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals*  Fish  Oil*  Water
Legumes, pulses, nuts  Salt*  Oil*
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
0% Purchased (domestic)  20% In-kind (domestic)
10% Purchased (foreign)  70% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The Traditional School Feeding Program began in 1999 and shifted in the direction of a home-grown model of local procurement by 2020. The in-school meals were suspended for most of the 2020–2021 school year, though some resources were reallocated to deliver take-home rations during this time. About 70% of the food for the program is donated in-kind from the U.S. In addition, canned fish are donated by the Government of Japan, and community members/parents contribute salt. Take-home rations are not a regular part of the Traditional School Feeding Program, but were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic to support school children and their families.