SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021
- PM Poshan (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman)
  This program was earlier called the 'National Program for Mid-Day Meal in Schools', popularly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Lead Agency: 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 1,733,732,333
- Government: USD 1,733,732,333
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture

INFRASTRUCTURE
All schools in India have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens; most have electricity, piped and clean water; and some have flush toilets. School meals are prepared in numerous locations, including on-site (on school grounds), off-site in centralized (not private kitchens), and off-site in private facilities (caterers). Kitchens are typically equipped with either open or closed cooking areas, on-site water and piped water, storage facilities, electricity, serving utensils, and either gas stoves or charcoal or wood stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES
This report draws from information published by the Government of India for the 2020–2021 school year at http://mdm.nic.in/mdm_website/, in addition to the Government of India's response to the 2019 Global Survey of School Meal Programs. In addition, population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete the 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: Artificial colors, additives, "junk foods"

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

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total # Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>69,409,920</td>
<td>42,401,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>121,821,480</td>
<td>121,700,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>177,585,040</td>
<td>134,043,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>368,816,440</td>
<td>298,145,296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BUDGET
Total: USD 1,733,732,333
- Government: USD 1,733,732,333
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- 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.

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 299,406,520
Receiving school food:
- Yes
- No
- No response

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

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs is the property of GCNF and is protected by copyright. It may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent. Contact: info@gcnf.org ©2019. The Global Child Nutrition Foundation. All rights reserved.

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:
- Salt
- Micronutrients: iodine, iron, zinc, folic, and vitamin A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education. Cooks/caterers receive special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Intergenerational nutrition benefits of India’s national school feeding program, authored by S. Chakrabati et al. (July 2021); School meals in India—Tracking state government response to coronavirus (WFP India, 2021); Making the mid-day meals functional following school re-opening-COVID-19 response (WFP India, 2020)

RESEARCH NEEDED

Not specified

Agriculture, Employment, and Community Participation

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

2,595,000

- Cooks and food preparers
- Transports
- 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 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

Engagement on the part of parents is voluntary, but they are encouraged to monitor the quality and taste of the food provided to the students, and mothers are encouraged to take turns overseeing the feeding of the children, thus ensuring quality and regularity of the meals.

CONTACTS: INDIA

Agency: Ministry of Education
Website: http://mdm.nic.in/mdm_website/

Successes and Challenges

Positive developments related to school feeding in India include: (1) Increased enrollment and retention of students, (2) Having lunch together erodes class differences and prejudices between students; and (3) The Government is helping underprivileged children by providing them with a healthy, balanced meal that they would otherwise not receive, and the meal serves as an incentive for them to continue their education. Among the challenges associated with the PM Poshan program, the scheme involves extensive logistical challenges, and there have been food losses linked to states not following Central Government guidelines. Schools do not always receive their quota of food grain as scheduled, while at the same time, some schools were overstocked, creating a need for additional storage. The implementation of a system of unique 12-digit identity numbers (Aadhaar) has helped states mitigate corruption by reducing the number of “ghost students” from the rolls. However, there have been instances of the grain being pilfered or adulterated.

Emergencies/Covid-19 Pandemic

Schools in India were closed for nearly all of the 2020–2021 school year. As a result of the pandemic, the program decreased the level of food basket variety but increased the number of students fed, the frequency of school feeding, the size of rations, and the amount of funding. 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). Some meals were prepared at school but made available to take home, while other meals were no longer prepared at school, but some ingredients were delivered or provided to students or their parents to prepare and eat at home. The program adopted a mixed model of distribution through schools, Fair Price Shops, or homes, and the frequency of distribution varied from state to state, ranging from monthly to quarterly, based on the local conditions. In some cases, students’ families were provided with monetary support in the form of electronic payments or electronic vouchers with which to purchase food.
PM POSHAN
PRADHAN MANTRI POSHAN SHAKTI NIRMAN

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education
(formerly the Ministry of Human Resource Development)

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:
• 5 times per week for in-school meals; quarterly or termly for take-home rations
• Throughout the year

TARGETING:
Universal

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>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>67,538,472</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>38,720,840</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>106,259,312</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The PM Poshan program, popularly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM), began operating in 1995 and covered 1,108,918 public schools in the 2020–2021 school year. It is the largest such program in the world. The Central Government provides subsidized food grain via the Food Corporation of India through a centralized procurement process, and the grains are allocated to state governments according to their needs. The program aims to provide hot meals to all children studying in Government, Local Body and Government-aided primary and upper primary schools and the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education centers, including Madrasa and Maqtabs. An additional objective of the program is to provide nutritional support to children in drought-affected areas during summer vacation.