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
- Yes
- No
- No response

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

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.
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

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

2,595,000

Cook 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.

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

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.

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.

CONTACTS: INDIA

Agency: Ministry of Education
Website: http://mdm.nic.in/mdm_website/
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% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

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 Madrassa and Maqtabs. An additional objective of the program is to provide nutritional support to children in drought-affected areas during summer vacation.