

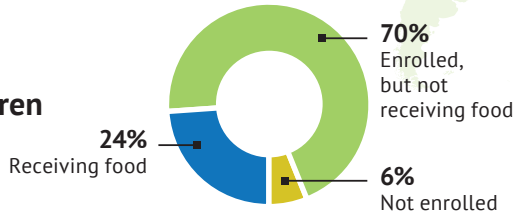


DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
Sri Lanka

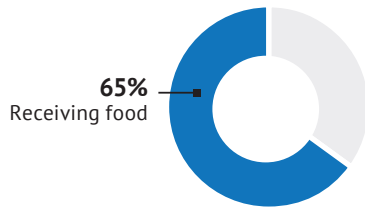


School Meal Coverage (2022)

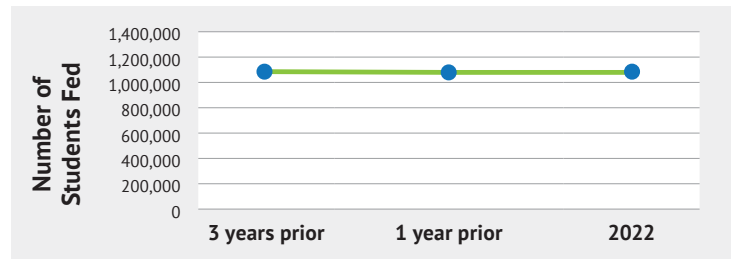
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	631,870	425,729	0
Primary School	1,692,475	1,665,457	1,077,911
Secondary School	2,848,210	2,598,417	0
TOTAL	5,172,555	4,689,603	1,077,911



National Laws, Policies, and Standards

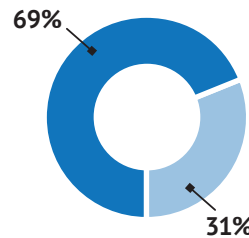
National school feeding policy

- Nutrition
- Health
- Food safety
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)
- Climate/environment policy
- Private sector involvement

The country had ...

- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding
- National system for monitoring school feeding

Budget



Total: **USD 33,130,440**

- Government: 22,930,440
- International donors: 10,200,000
- Private sector: 0
- NGOs (domestic): 0
- Other donors: 0

- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

School Foods and Beverages

Whole grains

- Refined/milled grains
- Blended grain-based products

Legumes

- Nuts and seeds

Eggs

- Dairy
- Poultry and game meat
- Red meat
- Processed meat

Fish and shellfish

- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- White roots and tubers

Fruits

Dark green leafy vegetables

- Cruciferous vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Deep-fried foods
- Sweets

- Liquid oils
- Semi-solid and solid fats

Salt

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- 100% fruit juice
- Other fruit drink
- Tea
- Other sugar-sweetened beverages

Prohibited food items

Foods that contain a high amount of salt, sugar, oils, and which are highly processed as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

Food Sources

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- In-kind (foreign)

Special Notes: Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

Nutrition

School feeding program(s) include/involve 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**

Limitations on food and beverage marketing...

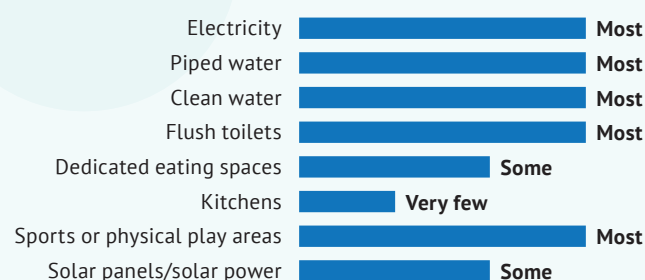
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

Additional Information

At least five nutritionists, employed by the Ministry of Health, were involved with the School Nutrition Programme during the 2022 school year. Several approaches were used to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, including nutritional requirements for food baskets, food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **18,000**

- At least 100% paid
- 75-99% women

There was a focus on creating job opportunities for...

- Women
- Youth
- Other Groups

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**
- School gardens**

Complementary Education Programs

- Food and nutrition**
- Agriculture**
- Environment/climate/sustainability
- Hygiene**
- Health**
- Reproductive health**
- HIV prevention**
- Physical education**
- Mental health**

Additional Information

Cooks/caterers received special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene.

Environmental Sustainability

Targeted climate-friendly foods

- Yes No

Steps taken to limit food waste

- Sealed food storage
- Fumigation/pest control in storage area
- Use of hermetic bags or larger hermetic storage system
- Routine testing/monitoring of dry food storage
- Use of nearly-expired food
- Use of usable but “imperfect” commodities or produce
- Campaign to reduce how much food students throw away

Steps taken to limit package waste

- Re-use of bags/containers
- Recycling
- Use of compostable materials
- Use of “bulk serve” containers
- Prohibiting specific types of packaging

Additional Information

Uneaten/unusable food was composted off of school grounds, and biogas from school-based anaerobic biodigesters was used for cooking at schools.

Emergencies

Experienced disruptions to school feeding due to emergencies

- Yes No

Strategies to address the impact of emergencies

- Seek alternative food sources or suppliers
- Changes in numbers of students fed
- Negotiate better prices with existing suppliers
- Establish alternative supply routes or transportation methods
- Source different or alternative food
- Release of food reserves
- Increase funding or budget allocation for school feeding
- Collaborate with local producers or suppliers to reduce dependence on global supply chains
- Changes in delivery method
- Changes in feeding modality
- Changes in feeding frequency
- No particular strategy was used

Additional Information

The School Nutrition Programme in Sri Lanka was affected by an economic/financial crisis, a health epidemic/pandemic, extreme food price inflation, and supply chain disruptions. Due to these emergencies, some schools were closed for one month or more during the school year, and school feeding operations ceased temporarily in all schools/regions. During this time, the accessibility (availability and affordability) of food decreased significantly; the cost of purchasing food increased significantly though the budget remained the same; and slight adjustments to the menu were made to include rice for all five days per week. An additional outcome of the emergencies was that caterers were motivated to use locally available and nutritious food items.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. Revised the existing circulars/guidelines to align with the challenges faced by the economic crisis.
2. Establishment of a separate budget line item for the School Nutrition Programme in the national budget.
3. Increased student coverage in the program.

Challenges

1. Disruptions in financial support.
2. Sudden departure of caterers from the program.

School Nutrition Programme

Management

- Lead implementer(s): School Health and Nutrition Branch of the Ministry of Education
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- Caterers procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	1,070,000	50%	50%
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	1,070,000	50%	50%

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Legumes
- Eggs
- Fish and shellfish
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Salt

Elements of Home-Grown School Feeding

- Objective for small-scale farmers to benefit from access to a stable market
- Local food sourcing
- Small-scale farmers involved by selling directly (or through their farmer organization) to the program or the schools
- Additional support provided to small-scale farmers
- Country had a law/policy/standard related to small-scale farmers and school feeding programs
- Preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies in tendering procedures
- Effort is made to reduce food miles

Objectives

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To address gender-specific challenges
- To reduce hunger
- 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

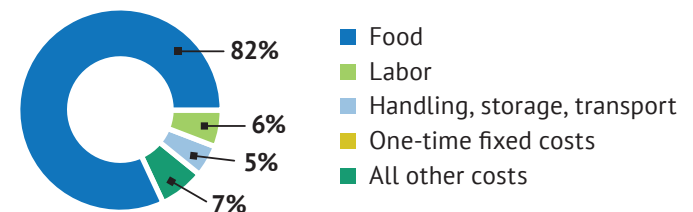
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Grade levels (1-5)

Expenses



Food Sources

- Yes - Purchased (domestic)
- Yes - Purchased (foreign)

- No - In-kind (domestic)
- Yes - In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

Feedback from teachers/principals and students was considered when planning school meal menus. In the 2022 and 2023 school years, the World Food Program donated rice and dhal, while Save the Children donated rice, dhal, and pink salmon for 850 schools.

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs® collects data from government sources and is funded, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture. Contact info@gcnf.org for more information.

Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, Sri Lanka.

<https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>