

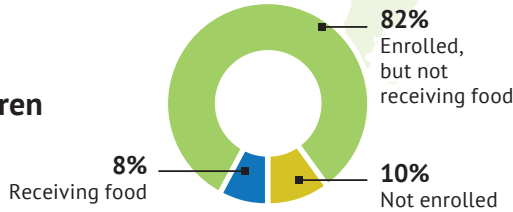


PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
Bangladesh

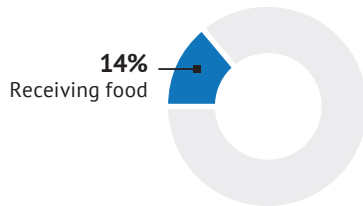


School Meal Coverage (2022)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	8,731,376	3,383,726	581,207
Primary School	14,586,473	17,162,365	2,366,692
Secondary School	22,375,244	16,070,344	0
TOTAL	45,693,093	36,616,435	2,947,899



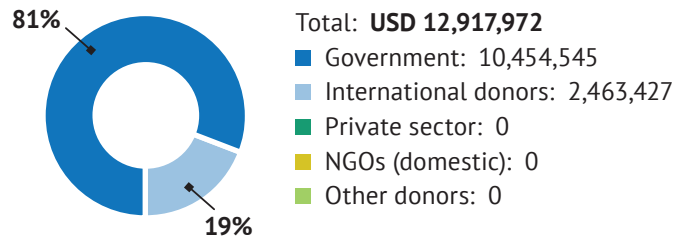
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

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

The country had ...

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

Budget



- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

School Foods and Beverages

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whole grains | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and shellfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid oils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refined/milled grains | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep orange vegetables and tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-solid and solid fats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blended grain-based products | <input type="checkbox"/> White roots and tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legumes | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts and seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark green leafy vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cruciferous vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> 100% fruit juice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Other fruit drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry and game meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep-fried foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweets | <input type="checkbox"/> Other sugar-sweetened beverages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Processed meat | | |

Prohibited food items

Cooked meals

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: Population and school 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...

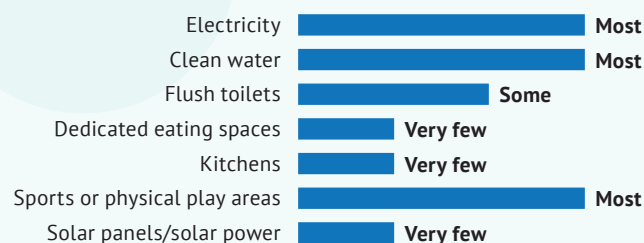
- On school grounds
- To school age children

Additional Information

In the 2022 school year, the School Feeding Programme in Poverty-Prone Areas provided fortified biscuits to children. Each child received a 75-gram pack of these biscuits five days a week, contingent on daily attendance. Nutritionists participated actively in the program, and with support from the World Food Programme (WFP), the government established minimum nutritional requirements for the school meals. Additionally, nutritional requirements for food baskets and various educational approaches were implemented to address and mitigate overweight and obesity among children.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: 0

- Percent paid: N/A
- Percent women: N/A

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

Fortified biscuits were purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures. The private sector played a role in food trading and transport for the school feeding program. There was a deliberate focus on creating leadership and income-generating opportunities for women, and a position within each School Management Committee (SMC) was designated to empower women in decision-making. Through the Essential Learning Package, the school feeding program continued to advocate for women's active roles and raise awareness to promote women's leadership within the SMC.

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

The school feeding program implemented several measures to limit food wastage, including sealed food storage, fumigation of storage areas, routine monitoring of dry food storage, and the use of nearly expired food. Packaging waste was minimized by reusing containers. Biscuits were purchased from selected manufacturers, and the cartons were typically sold and reused locally. However, the laminated foil packs used for biscuits were usually destroyed.

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

During the 2022 school year, the School Feeding Programme in Poverty-Prone Areas was affected by slow-onset emergencies and natural disasters. Despite these emergencies, schools were not closed and continued to function.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. Government ownership of the school feeding program
2. Nutrition-sensitive National School Meal Policy to ensure minimum nutritional requirements for schoolchildren as recommended by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
3. Higher school enrollment

Challenges

1. Despite having a policy in place for greater menu diversity, the school feeding program was limited to providing only biscuits.
2. Substantial funding would be required to expand the program nationwide.

School Feeding Programme in Poverty-Prone Areas

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and Directorate of Primary Education; and World Food Program Bangladesh
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- National government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	581,207	52%	48%
Primary School	2,366,692	53%	47%
Secondary School	0	—	—
TOTAL	2,947,899	52%	48%

Foods and Beverages

- Refined/milled grains

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 reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snacks

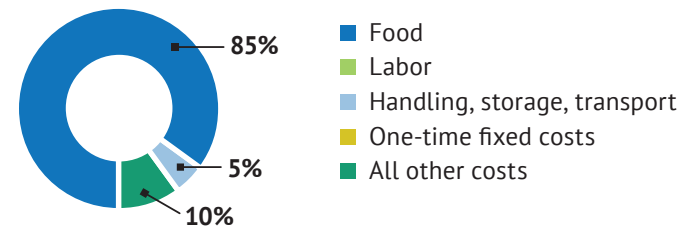
Frequency and Duration

- 6 times per week
- During the school year (Note that the program ended in June 2024)

Targeting

- Geographic (Poverty Prone Areas according to the Poverty Map), grade levels (pre-primary to grade 5), school types

Expenses



Food Sources

100% Purchased (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)

0% In-kind (domestic)
0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The government's school feeding program was limited to primary school students in grades pre-primary through five. The program was initially started in 2010 and was extended three times before concluding in June 2022. A new initiative, the Government School Feeding Programme (Phase-1), aims to provide meals to 3.46 million primary school students across 150 sub-districts and is currently awaiting approval.

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, Bangladesh.

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