

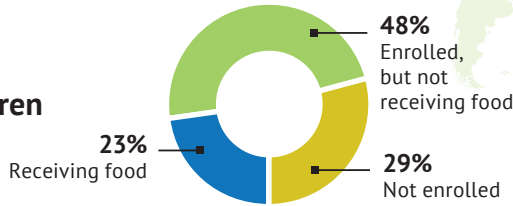


FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
Ethiopia

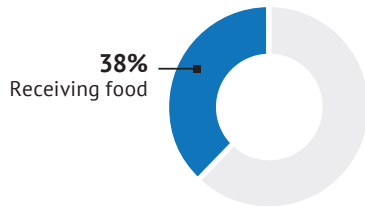


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	8,487,951	3,502,463	Unknown
Primary School	20,995,984	17,960,654	6,911,733*
Secondary School	9,090,869	3,471,073	0
TOTAL	38,574,804	24,934,188	6,911,733

* The number of children fed is inclusive of schoolchildren in pre-primary through grade 8.



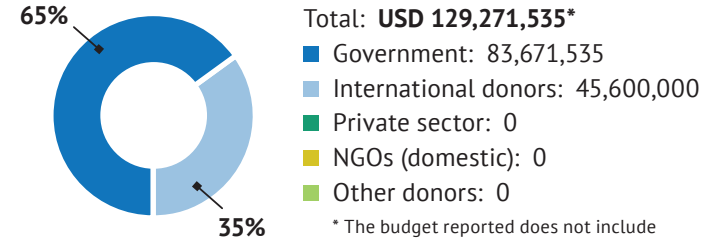
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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



* The budget reported does not include a monetary value for the amount allocated by local governments for the Home-Grown School Feeding Program.

- 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

None

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: None

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...

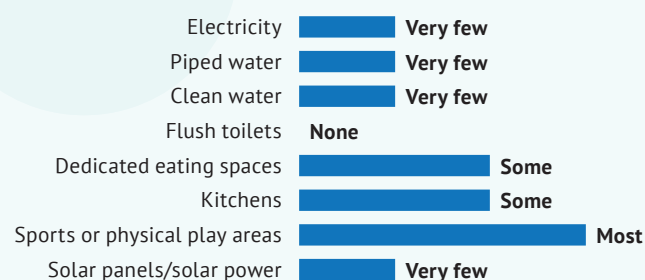
- On school grounds
- To school age children

Additional Information

School meal programs in Ethiopia served salt, oil, and wheat flour that was fortified with iodine, zinc, and/or vitamins A, B6, B12, and D3. In addition, the Home-Grown School Feeding Program distributed nutritional supplements containing iron and folic acid which were provided to students in the form of a pill or drops. No beverages with non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners were made available to students. Produce from school gardens was consumed by students, and obesity is generally not considered to be a problem in Ethiopia.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **50,161**

- At least 50-75% 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

Small-scale farmers provided grains and legumes to the Home-Grown School Feeding Program, and farmers received support to facilitate their engagement with the program (including agricultural subsidies, advice or tools to prevent post-harvest losses, assistance to produce specific crops or foods for the school meal program, and other types of agricultural extension). All cooks and catering association leaders were women, and the cooks were paid both in cash and in kind and were provided with training in food safety/hygiene. In addition, youths participated in loading, transporting, and preparing food, as well as other activities.

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

To reduce the use of firewood/charcoal as fuel, fuel efficient (energy efficient) stoves and alternative fuels were used. The local agro-ecology was taken into consideration when selecting the school menu, and efforts to reduce the distance between where the school food is produced and the school included measures to increase local procurement, production, and processing capacity, as well as menu modifications and changes in storage facilities. Efforts to limit food waste included checking the expiration dates of food frequently.

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

In the 2022-2023 school year, school meal programs in Ethiopia were affected by slow onset emergencies (e.g., drought), natural disasters, an economic/financial crisis, and conflict. These emergencies caused some schools in the country to close temporarily, and school feeding activities were disrupted in these areas for about 3-8 weeks. These emergencies significantly decreased the accessibility (availability and affordability) of food for the school feeding programs and resulted in a decrease in the variety of food items served. The programs responded to higher food prices by substituting imported staple foods with alternative foods that were both domestically produced and imported. As needed, the Ethiopian Disaster Management Commission is responsible for food reserves in the country and is empowered to distribute emergency foods to schools.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. The government’s leadership in school feeding activities has increased.
2. The level of awareness and participation on the part of the community has increased.
3. There has been an expansion of school gardening.

Challenges

1. Rapid escalation of food prices
2. Insecurity/conflict
3. Decline in participation on the part of school feeding partners
4. Drought

Home-Grown School Feeding Program

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education
- Regional governments managed the program (Decentralized decision-making).
- Regional governments procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	Unknown	–	–
Primary School	6,911,733*	–	–
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	6,911,733	–	–

* The number of children fed is inclusive of schoolchildren in pre-primary through grade 8.

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Blended grain-based products
- Legumes
- Nuts and seeds
- Liquid oils
- Salt
- Tea

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 meet agricultural goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

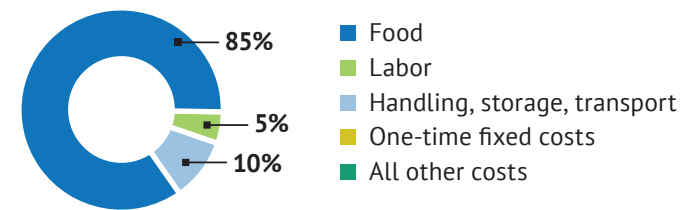
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Targeting based on grade levels (pre-primary through grade 8) as well as geography, school type, and school characteristics (targeting communities and schools that were food insecure, affected by drought or conflict, and/or had high rates of school dropout and low rates of girls' school enrollment)

Expenses



Food Sources

75% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
3% Purchased (foreign) 23% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The Home-Grown School Feeding Program began in 2012. It was implemented by partners and NGOs up until 2021, when the government role (along with the size of the program) expanded. For all school meal programs in Ethiopia, the Ministry of Education generates policy, standards, and manuals; facilitates planning; is responsible for budget allocation; conducts supportive monitoring and evaluation; and coordinates the efforts of both government and implementing partners.

Traditional (In Kind) School Feeding Program

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and the World Food Programme (WFP)
- Regional governments managed the program (Decentralized decision-making).
- Regional government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	772,663	51%	49%
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	772,663	51%	49%

Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Blended grain-based products
- ✓ Legumes
- ✓ Nuts and seeds
- ✓ Liquid oils
- ✓ Salt
- ✓ Tea

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

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snacks

Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Targeting based on grade levels (pre-primary through grade 8) as well as geography, school type, and school characteristics (targeting communities and schools that were food insecure, affected by drought or conflict, and/or had high rates of school dropout and low rates of girls' school enrollment)

Food Sources

15% Purchased (domestic)

15% Purchased (foreign)

0% In-kind (domestic)

70% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The Traditional (In Kind) School Feeding Program began in 1994. Although the program did not engage directly with farmers in the 2022-2023 school year, foods that were purchased domestically were procured in local markets and were often sourced originally from small-scale farmers.

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, Ethiopia.

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