



A Brief Overview of the Impact of the Government School Feeding Programme



Introduction

The government of Bangladesh with technical support from WFP started a national school feeding program in September 2011, which initially supported 55,000 students and reached 2.53 million children by 2016. To measure the effectiveness of the project in improving school enrolment, attendance and primary grade completion rate, WFP undertook three-round of panel survey (2012, 2014 and 2016) of the primary schools under the project and primary schools not supported by the project.

Surveyed Number of Sample Primary Schools

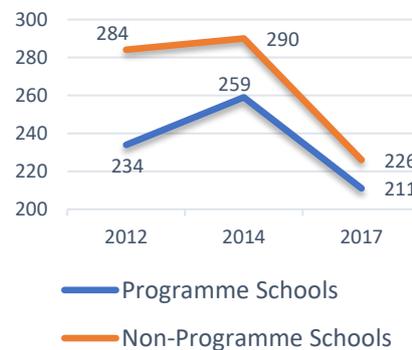
Survey Year	Programme School	Non-programme School
2012	312	156
2014	312	156
2017	312	156

Major Findings of the Survey

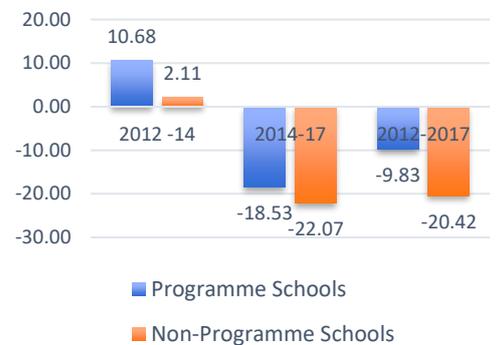
School Enrolment

School enrolment increased in programme schools first two years (for 2012-14) of the project, which was much higher than that of the non-programme schools. School enrolment suddenly dropped in the later years (from 2014-17), but the fall was estimated 10 percent less in participating schools.

Change in average enrolment over the year



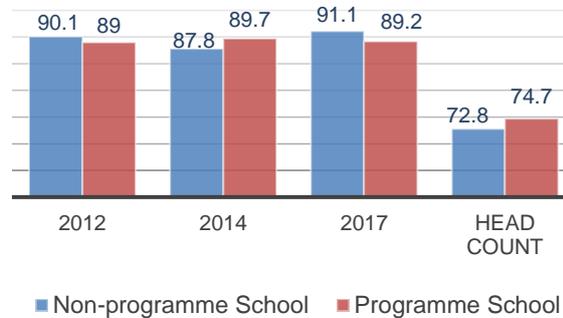
Percentage change in enrolment over the year



Attendance Rate

Based on the data collected from school attendance registers, there appears to have been no significant difference of school attendance between the programme and the non-programme schools.

Attendance rates of the Programme and Non-programme Schools

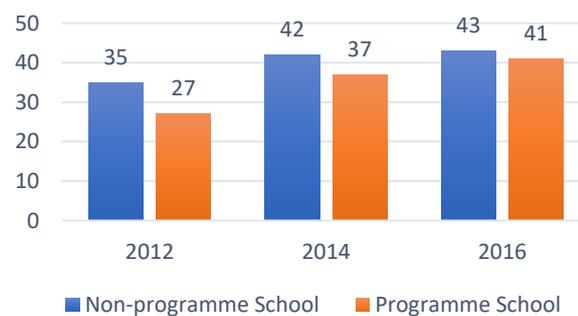


However, attendance rate estimated based on headcount shows slightly better performance (1.9 percentage points higher) for the programme schools.

Primary Grade Completion Rate

Completion rate is the percentage of students from the same cohort who were admitted in grade 1 five years earlier and completed their primary education.

Change in primary grade completion rate



Between the year 2012 and 2016, the overall completion rate increased by 14 percent and 8 percent respectively for the programme and non-programme schools, which suggests 6 percentage points are attributable to the programme.

Comparative Outcomes of School Feeding Programme for Biscuit and Hot Meal Modalities

Comparison was made between schools providing biscuits, meal and schools without any feeding support. The study collected data from a sample of 50 schools of each type.

WFP launched a pilot initiative with hot meals for school children in collaboration with the MoPME/DPE in October 2013 in order to explore different modalities within school feeding. The hot meal is prepared with fortified rice, fortified oil, pulses and leafy and non-leafy vegetables. A study was commissioned to compare the outcomes of hot meals and fortified biscuits. The study looked into education and nutrition outcome of the two modalities.

Major Findings of the Survey

School Enrolment	<p>The drop in enrolment for hot meal schools was lowest, at 11 percent, implying a substantial impact on enrolment drop.</p> <p>In addition, hot meal schools have better enrolment than the biscuits and regular schools</p>	<h3>% Change in enrolment</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Modality</th> <th>% Change in enrolment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Comparison schools</td> <td>-19.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biscuit schools</td> <td>-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meal schools</td> <td>-11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Modality	% Change in enrolment	Comparison schools	-19.5	Biscuit schools	-14	Meal schools	-11	<h3>Average number of children enrolled</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Modality</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2013</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Meal schools</td> <td>205</td> <td>232</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biscuit schools</td> <td>181</td> <td>211</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comparison schools</td> <td>149</td> <td>184</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Modality	2017	2013	Meal schools	205	232	Biscuit schools	181	211	Comparison schools	149	184
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Attendance Rate	<p>Schools providing biscuits and hot meals were found to have higher attendance, 11 and 6 percentage points greater, respectively, than schools without any feeding support.</p> <p>Schools providing biscuits outperformed the schools with hot meals in terms of school attendance</p>	<h3>Attendance rate (%) based on head-counts in 2017</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Biscuit School</th> <th>Meal School</th> <th>Comparison School</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Girls</td> <td>77</td> <td>70</td> <td>64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys</td> <td>70</td> <td>67</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>74</td> <td>69</td> <td>63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Biscuit School	Meal School	Comparison School	Girls	77	70	64	Boys	70	67	62	Total	74	69	63
Category	Biscuit School	Meal School	Comparison School															
Girls	77	70	64															
Boys	70	67	62															
Total	74	69	63															

Percent of anaemic children	<p>Prevalence of anemia among children in comparison schools was found to be much higher than in schools providing meal and fortified biscuits (Meal 16.7 percent; Biscuits 4.7 percent higher).</p>	<h3>PROPORTION OF ANEMIC CHILDREN FOR BISCUITS, MEAL AND COMPARISON GROUP</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Biscuit</th> <th>Meal</th> <th>Comparison</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ALL</td> <td>10.6</td> <td>5.9</td> <td>22.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GIRLS</td> <td>10.5</td> <td>6.4</td> <td>21.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOYS</td> <td>10.8</td> <td>5.5</td> <td>23.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AGE 5-11</td> <td>10.4</td> <td>6.5</td> <td>25.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Biscuit	Meal	Comparison	ALL	10.6	5.9	22.5	GIRLS	10.5	6.4	21.4	BOYS	10.8	5.5	23.9	AGE 5-11	10.4	6.5	25.5	<p>The differences across groups (i.e., biscuit-comparison, meal-comparison and meal-biscuit) are statistically significant at a 1 percent level.</p>
Category	Biscuit	Meal	Comparison																				
ALL	10.6	5.9	22.5																				
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Percent of malnourished children according to BMI for age	<p>Children provided with hot meals appear to have a better BMI status than the children in comparison schools and biscuit distribution schools.</p>	<h3>PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WITH NORMAL WEIGHT</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Biscuit</th> <th>Meal</th> <th>Comparison</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ALL</td> <td>73.1</td> <td>77.7</td> <td>77.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GIRLS</td> <td>72.6</td> <td>79.9</td> <td>77.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOYS</td> <td>73.7</td> <td>75.3</td> <td>77.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AGE 6-11</td> <td>73.8</td> <td>78.2</td> <td>77.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Biscuit	Meal	Comparison	ALL	73.1	77.7	77.2	GIRLS	72.6	79.9	77.2	BOYS	73.7	75.3	77.2	AGE 6-11	73.8	78.2	77.9	<p>The dominance of meal over biscuit, with a 5.2 percent less thin child under meal, is statistically significant at a 5 percent level.</p>
Category	Biscuit	Meal	Comparison																				
ALL	73.1	77.7	77.2																				
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