

Bangladesh



Bangladesh joined the Coalition in July 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Secretary of Education in November 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) has made significant progress against all four of its commitments to the Coalition. The timeline for some commitments has been revised due to delays in the approval of the proposed Government Primary School Feeding Project.

- The Government doubled its annual budget allocation for school meals from USD75 million to USD150 million.
- Coverage of the national school meals program has increased from 104 to 150 sub-districts, which will be implemented over a three-year period until December 2027.
- The Government has improved the food basket to achieve nutritional outcomes through diversified commodities. to now include bun, seasonal local fruits, eggs and UHT milk in addition to fortified biscuits, starting in July/August 2025.
- The Government is expanding the programme to all remaining 349 sub-districts from 2026, to reduce regional disparities and ensure all children in government primary schools have access to school meals, rather than incorporating school meals into the fifth phase of the Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP5) as initially planned.

In addition to progress on its commitment, Bangladesh has included school feeding in another development initiative: Pre-primary and Primary Education Improvement Project for Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, funded by the Government and the World Bank, covering approximately 210,000 school children from July 2025.

Next steps

Bangladesh has over 20 million primary school children, of whom approximately 14 million are enrolled in over 65,500 Government Primary Schools that primarily serve children from low-income families.

The Government recognizes school meals are a systemic solution to addressing child hunger and poverty and that they play a vital role in improving child nutrition, learning outcomes, long-term well-being and health equity, also contributing to strengthening food systems, boosting local economies and promoting equality in education by keeping girls in school.

Bangladesh therefore requires support from international financing institutions and other development partners to scale up the programme and would also benefit from support in generating evidence on various aspects of the programme, including financing strategy, value for money and impact.

Highlights

- Bangladesh recognizes school meals are a systemic solution to addressing child hunger and poverty and play a vital role in improving child nutrition, learning outcomes, long-term well-being and health equity, contributing to strengthening food systems, boosting local economies and promoting gender equality.
- The Government doubled its annual budget allocation for school meals from USD75 million to USD150 million and coverage of the national programme has increased from 104 to 150 sub-districts, to be implemented through December 2027.
- A new food basket will be introduced starting July/August 2025 to improve nutrition, expanding beyond fortified biscuits to include eggs, bananas, milk, and other fresh foods.