

# School feeding programs: creating brighter, healthier futures for children worldwide



**DSM**

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## What's the risk of malnutrition for children?

Millions of school children worldwide suffer from hunger, with many chronically lacking both the calories and micronutrients they need for optimal physical and cognitive health and development.<sup>1</sup> This can affect their educational performance, including their ability to concentrate and learn, and subsequently impact their lives as adults. School feeding programs provide an effective and cost-efficient solution to ensure that children receive both the calories and micronutrients they need to stay healthy and reach their full potential.



The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that around 305 million primary school kids in low- and middle-income countries currently benefit from school feeding initiatives.<sup>2</sup> However, 73 million children across 60 countries still live in extreme poverty with no access to national school feeding programs, and school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to have further increased the number of malnourished children globally.

1) United Nations, 'WHO Hunger Statistics', WHO Hunger Statistics | UNIC Canberra <https://un.org.au/2014/05/14/who-hunger-statistics/#content>, accessed on 21 January 2021.

2) World Food Programme, 'A chance for every schoolchild, Partnering to scale up School Health and Nutrition for Human Capital' <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000112102/download/> [report], January 2020.

3) World Health Organization, 'Multiple micronutrient powders for point-of-use fortification of foods consumed by children 2–12 years of age', WHO | Multiple micronutrient powders for point-of-use fortification of foods consumed by children 2–12 years of age <https://www.who.int/elena/titles/micronutrientpowder-children/en/>, accessed on 21 January 2021.

## From feeding to nourishing: ensuring optimal nutrition for all children

Together, the public and private sectors can roll out nutrition interventions providing fortified foods such as rice, or point-of-use fortification like micronutrient powders (MNPs) to help combat malnutrition in children.

### 1. Micronutrient powders (MNPs)

MNPs are scientifically proven to provide the nutrients that children need for physical and cognitive development. These solutions are supplied in convenient, single-dose sachets for mixing directly into meals prepared at schools, ensuring that they provide both calories and sufficient vitamins and minerals. MNPs can also be made available to children who are unable to attend school due to closures or illness, for home use. As MNPs have a minimal impact on the taste, texture or appearance of food, they also guarantee acceptability.

### 2. Food fortification

A proven, safe and cost-effective way to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in children, fortification can enhance the nutritional value of ready-to-eat or prepared meals — such as rice, cereal blends, juice, milk, baked goods and yogurt — supplied at schools. Fortifying school meals allows governments to quickly improve the health status of children at a regional or national level.

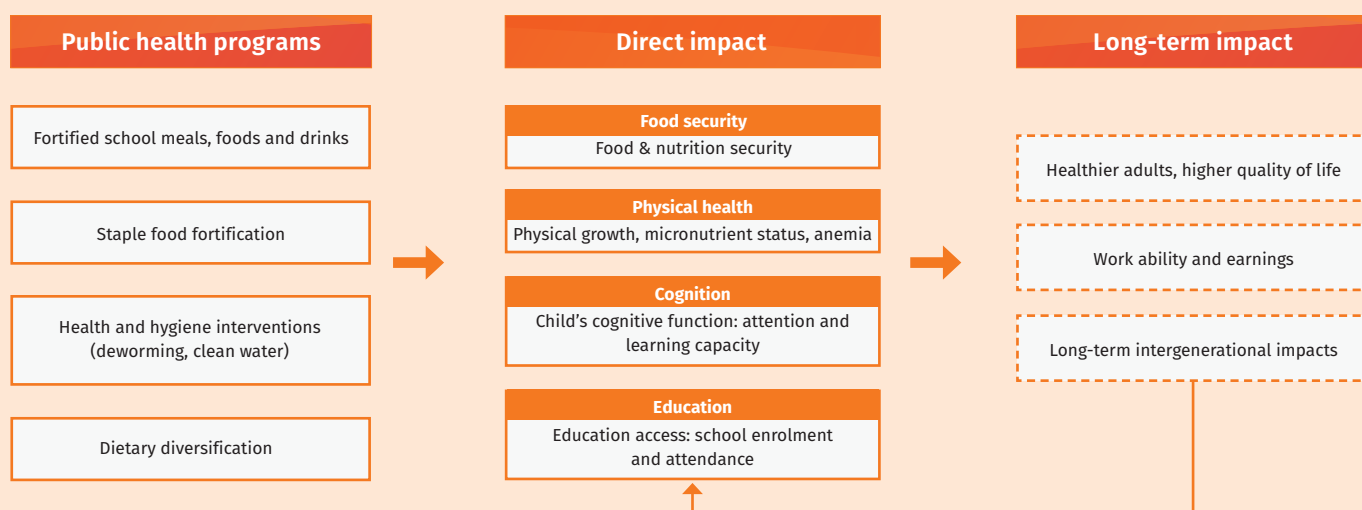
Optimal school nutrition can support children's cognitive function, immunity and wellbeing, allowing them to attend school consistently and perform better both academically and professionally later in life.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends point-of-use fortification of foods with iron-containing micronutrient powders for children aged 6 months to 12 years in populations where the prevalence of anemia is 20% or higher.<sup>3</sup>

### Keeping the world's growing population healthy

With a broad portfolio of high-quality, science-backed ingredient solutions and expert services, DSM is your purpose-led, end-to-end partner for planning and implementing school feeding programs. Together, we can accelerate progress towards ending world hunger and allowing the most vulnerable children, and society as a whole, to prosper.

## Pathways and entry points for nutrition-sensitive school feeding



Let's work together to ensure that all children have access to the nourishing food they need to grow, develop and thrive. Partner with us at [www.nutritionimprovement.com](http://www.nutritionimprovement.com)