



School Feeding Programmes: summary of good practices

At the **CSTL Technical Committee Meeting** held remotely on **9 June 2020**, several Member States presented on good practices and plans for school feeding schemes in the context of COVID-19.

Certain common themes emerged across several of the Member States. These included:

- School nutrition programmes improve school outcomes.
This was highlighted by Ms Pontsho Sepoloane (SADC Secretariat) in her presentation—*Best practices and adaptations in the context of COVID-19*—and was reiterated by Botswana and Malawi in theirs (including improved retention and attendance).
- Food is distributed to vulnerable learners (and their families) during lockdown (Botswana, Eswatini and Malawi).
- Screening of and educating those handling food (in particular, food preparers) is important for ensuring health safety (Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi).

Best practices specific to individual Member States include:

Botswana

- Fully-fledged kitchens have been established or constructed in all schools, which enhances storage and cooking.
- Food for the feeding programmes is sourced from local subsistence farmers, which supports the local community.
- Health workers provide education to those handling food.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Eswatini

- Programme funding by government is seen as crucial.
School feeding programmes are mainly government-funded, which improves scalability. The government provides strong leadership.
- Programme coordination and collaboration with partners is important.
A multi-stakeholder School Feeding Panel coordinates all school feeding activities in the country.
- Schools were encouraged to manage stock carefully to prevent spoilage during closures.

Lesotho

- Importance of monitoring
WFP schools with feeding programmes are monitored regularly, which has reduced the incidence of schools inflating their enrolment numbers.
- Measures implemented to ensure service providers (cooks, farmers and transporters) are paid on time
This encourages the reliability of the supply of services.

Malawi

- Partnerships are important for scaling-up school meal programmes across the country.
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology developed guidelines on the distribution of food to learners during lockdown.
PPE are in place at any distribution of food.
- Feeding programmes work best in conjunction with other programmes (WASH, De-worming, etc.).
- Involving the media is critical for advocacy interventions.