

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How will the kitchen be sustained after completion?

- After the conclusion of the Embu Project in partnership with Dubai Cares, Food4Education's feeding program will continue at county level. The kitchen constructed through this partnership will be classified as a public good of the county. Food4Education will continue to operate them in collaboration with Embu County Government and additional funding partners to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the kitchens and continued food provision for early childhood learners in Embu. If more than five kitchens are built in Embu County, the project can expand to other regions, including Muranga, Nyeri, Homa Bay, Siaya, and Kisii Counties, enabling wider reach and sustainability across multiple communities.
- Food4Education's exit strategy centres on galvanizing government support for school meals by encouraging the Kenyan Government to implement a national mandate which would codify the significance of school feeding initiatives. In the project county, Embu, Food4Education is successfully executing a school feeding program with financial commitment from the government. Food4Education is also members of both the National & Global School Meals Coalition: the National Coalition, chaired by the Ministry of Education, is an initiative of the government that encompasses a wide range of partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve, and scale up school feeding in Kenya, while the global School Meals Coalition is a much larger initiative with over 110 governments and 140 partners from a myriad of countries looking to drive actions that can re-establish, improve, and scale up food and nutrition systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. What is the timeframe for constructing the kitchen?

- For rural decentralized kitchens, construction takes 2-3 months. For urban centralized kitchens, construction takes 3-6 months.

3. How is the Food4Education kitchen different from other kitchens?

- The decentralized cooking facilities are designed as durable, permanent masonry structures optimized for school feeding operations and prioritize the health and safety of kitchen staff, the school students, and the local community. Food4Education uses a range of construction technologies to ensure that the rural kitchen structures are durable short- and long-term, based on the current models that have served i well with the 62 kitchens already in operation. Each kitchen is built with high-quality block walls and finished with cement render to protect the sub-structure from water damage. The foundations are reinforced concrete rings, then structural masonry walls, with cement render, and a reinforced concrete ring-beam under the roof structure. Roofs are finished with terrazzo floors, internal and external plastering, and weather-resistant waterguard

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paint. Roofing consists of steel roofing sheets supported by pressure-treated cypress timber trusses and purlins, ensuring both structural integrity and long-term durability.

- Each kitchen has:
 - A pack station with stainless-steel sinks
 - Preparation tables and cold tables made from stainless steel
 - Cold storage facilities (freezers and chillers)
 - A hot plate station
 - Industrial single and double ovens
 - High-capacity clean-energy stoves redesigned to remain in line with Food4Education's commitment to clean-energy and durability standards
- The kitchens are built for clean energy use, with layouts optimized for eco-briquettes, compressed biomass made from sawdust and other forms of agricultural waste organic refuse. Compared to firewood or charcoal, eco-briquettes burn longer and at higher, more stable temperatures, allowing faster, more consistent cooking. By switching to eco-briquettes, Food4Education has reduced cooking time by nearly 50%, significantly improving energy efficiency while cutting fuel costs and carbon emissions.
- By investing in high-quality materials upfront, Food4Education ensures longevity, and reduces constant maintenance costs.

4. How much does each kitchen serve? How many staff will be hired?

- Each kitchen will approximately support 21 schools within 1 ward and will directly benefit 400 learners from ages 3-6 years, 50% girls and 50% boys. It will also indirectly benefit 164 employees, including kitchen officers, uji champions, porridge servers, cooks, riders, program analysts, program associates, and Food Program Officers (FPO), 83% women.

5. How do you track program impact?

- Food4Education is committed to monitoring, evaluating, and improving its impact on children, local supply chains and government systems. The organization applies participatory methods to gather feedback from children, parents, community members and governments and disaggregates its data to track how the program benefits girls. Its model addresses children's nutritional needs to improve educational outcomes, while guaranteeing quality and affordability.
- Food4Education assesses its success through a range of rigorous program indicators such as cost per meal and evaluate nutritional impact based on meal diversity, nutrient content, and meal distribution patterns. The platform allows the organization to track

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kitchen input procurement and stove usage, which is then analysed using machine-learning models to understand how resources are used, measure stove performance, and understand cost and environmental implications.

- For the Embu Project, monitoring and evaluation will be coordinated under Food4Education's standard protocol for M&E across its programs. In Embu County, the M&E function will incorporate a combination of metrics including impact on nutritional intake, income, and forth.
- Impact Team will conduct follow-up analyses at least twice per year.

6. How does donor investment strengthen strategy and local feeding?

- Food4Education's work in school feeding is strengthened through strategic partnerships and collaboration with international actors. The partner actively collaborates and coordinates with the World Food Programme (WFP), which has a longstanding history of addressing school hunger on a global scale.
- Food4Education is a member of the National School Meals Coalition and it is strategically positioned to deliver integrated action in school feeding through advocacy, guideline setting, capacity development, and technical support. This collaborative body ensures that the project aligns harmoniously with existing initiatives, avoiding the risk of overlap and maximizing impact.