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**Indonesia launches free school meals programme – 9th January 2025**

## Level 0

Indonesia served free breakfast to 570,000 children and pregnant women on Monday. This is because of Indonesia's "Free Nutritious Meal Programme. The programme is an election promise of Indonesia's president. He wants to feed a quarter of Indonesians by 2029. Many of Indonesia's children under five do not eat well.

The president said: "Too many of our brothers and sisters go to school without breakfast." A mother said: "Thank God. This really helps us. We normally have to work hard preparing food, but now we don't." The government said: "For the first time, our country is conducting a nationwide nutrition program for children."

## Level 1

Indonesia served free breakfast to 570,000 children and pregnant women on Monday. This is because of the "Free Nutritious Meal Programme". More than 190 kitchens cooked the free food. More kitchens will soon spread nationwide. The programme was an election promise of Indonesia's president. He wants to feed a quarter of Indonesians by 2029. He also wants to end malnutrition. A fifth of Indonesia's children under five have poor nutrition.

The president said: "Too many of our brothers and sisters are below the poverty line [and] go to school without breakfast." The mother of an elementary school child said: "Thank God. This really helps us. We normally have to work hard preparing food, but now we don't." The government said: "This is a historic moment. For the first time, our country is conducting a nationwide nutrition program for children, and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers."

## Level 2

Indonesia is providing free school meals. Over 570,000 children and pregnant women got a free breakfast on Monday because of the "Free Nutritious Meal Programme". More than 190 kitchens in 20 provinces served the free food. More kitchens will soon spread nationwide. The programme was an election promise of President Prabowo Subianto. He wants to feed a quarter of Indonesians by 2029. Around 82 million people will get free food. Mr Subianto wants to end malnutrition in Indonesia. Around a fifth of children younger than five years old have poor nutrition.

President Subianto said: "Too many of our brothers and sisters are below the poverty line [and] go to school without breakfast." Many parents were happy. The mother of an elementary school child in Jakarta said: "Thank God. This really helps us. We normally have to work hard preparing food every morning, but now we don't." A government spokesperson said: "This is a historic moment for Indonesia. For the first time, our country is conducting a nationwide nutrition program for toddlers, students, and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers."

## Level 3

Indonesia has started a scheme to provide free school meals. It is called The Free Nutritious Meal Programme. Over 570,000 children and pregnant women received a free breakfast when the idea started on Monday. Cooks in more than 190 kitchens in 20 provinces helped to cook and serve the free food. More kitchens will start as the programme spreads nationwide. The plan was an election promise of President Prabowo Subianto. He hopes to feed a quarter of Indonesians by 2029. This will cost \$28 billion. Around 82 million people will get free food by that year. Mr Subianto wants to end malnutrition in Indonesia. Around 21.5 per cent of children younger than five years old suffer from poor nutrition.

President Subianto spoke about his hopes. He said: "Too many of our brothers and sisters are below the poverty line. Too many of our children go to school without breakfast." Many parents were happy. Hana Yohana, the mother of an elementary school child in the capital Jakarta, spoke to reporters. She said: "Thank God. This really helps us. We normally have to work hard preparing food every morning, but now we don't." Government spokesperson Hariqo Wibawa Satria spoke about the free meals. He said: "This is a historic moment for Indonesia. For the first time, our country is conducting a nationwide nutrition program for toddlers, students, and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers."