
Objectives: 1) To understand whether school feeding (SF) programs are effective in improving physical health, cognition and educational outcomes for children worldwide. 2) To identify factors in context and delivery of SF programs that impact on effectiveness. 3) To understand implications for health equity.

Methods

Our Cochrane/Campbell review involves an interdisciplinary group based in Canada and Australia. Our review includes experimental and quasi-experimental studies. We searched published and grey literature with an information specialist. To reduce bias, two reviewers reviewed titles and abstracts, assessed full text of retrieved studies for inclusion/exclusion, data extraction and analysis. In addition to capturing study quality and outcome analysis, we conducted a process evaluation, including %RDI for energy, classroom quality, supervision, substitution and other factors. We performed subgroup analyses by age, sex and nutritional status in order to determine whom school meals work best for.

Results: Thus far, we identified 25 included studies; fifteen from LMIC; ten from HIC.