

# KUSUMA MID-DAY MEAL

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – FEBRUARY 2012

<b>Partner:</b>	The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)
<b>Location:</b>	Nayagarh, Orissa and Medak, Andhra Pradesh, India
<b>Target Group:</b>	School children aged 6 to 16 years in Government Primary, Middle & Secondary Schools
<b>Number of Beneficiaries:</b>	14,000 Students
<b>Grant Period:</b>	1 November 2009 – 31 October 2012
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	£271,353 (3 years)



## Objective

To provide good quality mid-day meals to 14,000 underprivileged children who attend government schools children in Nayagarh, Orissa and Medak, Andhra Pradesh.

## Description

The provision of a free, nutritious and cooked mid-day meal motivates parents to send their children to school, thereby improving classroom enrolment, retention and participation. It also prevents hunger and malnutrition, which impede a child's ability to concentrate and learn. An indirect benefit of the project is socialisation, where children are encouraged to enjoy a meal together as equals, irrespective of gender or caste.

The food is prepared in a mechanised kitchen to maintain standards of hygiene and quality. Training on cooking skills is provided to the staff who prepare the meals, and parent-teacher meetings are held to improve meal composition and food choice.

In Nayagarh, TAPF manages the cooking and distribution of the food through a decentralised kitchen, which is run by Self Help Group (SHG) members (teams of local women) and school headmasters. In Medak, the cooking is done in a centralised kitchen.

## Progress

In Nayagarh, the mid-day meals were delivered on 225 days in both 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. 7,000 children were fed in 109 primary schools and 78 secondary schools in the district. 575 SHG members have been

trained in quality management, purchasing and monitoring.

In Orissa, the mid-day meals were delivered on 210 days in both 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. 7,000 children were fed in 32 schools the district.

## Results

The ORG Centre for Social Research (The Nielsen Company) completed an Impact Assessment Report on the project in December 2010, which showed that, over three years, enrolment and attendance levels increased in both districts.

- Attendance levels in Classes 1-7 as a proportion of total students from 38 schools had increased from 63 to 72 per cent.
- Enrolment levels in Classes 6-8 in actual student numbers from 13 schools had increased from 1,240 to 1,430.

## Challenges

- Maintaining a uniform standard of cooking in the de-centralised kitchens.
- Receiving timely reimbursements from the government.
- Political agitations resulting in the closure of schools and disruption to the meal delivery service.

## New Development

At a series of meetings, schoolteachers, village heads and parents gave their feedback on the project. It was noted that the meals had improved the overall health of the children as well as their concentration.



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