

Mid Day Meal Programme

Partner:	The Kusuma Foundation/ The Akshaya Patra Foundation
Location:	Bhubaneswar and Cuttack in Odisha, India
Key Beneficiaries:	Up to 100,000 children per day
Grant Period:	1 November 2009 – 31 March 2017



The Mid Day Meal programme provides a free, nutritious and cooked meal to promote enrolment, retention and participation in school.

The Kusuma Trust UK (The Trust) has supported the Mid Day Meal programme in India since 2009. By providing a Mid Day Meal in schools, we aim to encourage better rates of school enrolment, retention and participation. It also prevents hunger and malnutrition, which impede a child's ability to concentrate and learn.

The Trust supported the Mid-Day Meal programme in Nayagarh in Odisha and Medak in Andhra Pradesh from November 2009 to October 2012, providing 7,000 meals each day in 88 government schools in Nayagarh and 32 schools in Medak.

From April 2011 to June 2014, the Trust funded the construction of a centralised and fully mechanised kitchen to deliver up to 100,000 Mid-Day Meals each day to children in Cuttack, Odisha. The Trust awarded an annual grant to the Kusuma Foundation to manage the programme and the Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) constructed the kitchen. Equipment and vehicles were procured and kitchen staff trained and recruited. The kitchen is fitted with new equipment including boilers, rice cleaning machines, cold storage, custom made utensils, conveyer belts and hygienic packing and cleaning facilities. The kitchen was completed and inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Odisha on 25 June 2014.

In July 2014, a three-year feeding programme commenced for 45,000 children per day in 190 schools in the Cuttack region, which increased to 65,000 children in 2015. Each day the kitchen cooks approximately 5.5 tons of rice, 3.5 tons of vegetables and 1.2 tons of dhal. The food prepared in the kitchen is transported to schools using custom designed vans that are heat insulated, dust-free and have the ability to keep the food fresh. As well as the meals, additional nutritional supplements and health check-ups are provided for the children.

