Online Appendix

Online Appendix 1.

Balance of outcomes and child and household characteristics between sample communities and

communities excluded after the baseline due to the discovery of school feeding

	Longi	Longitudinal Sample		pped after baseline	Difference
	N	Mean/SE	N	Mean/SE	(1)-(2)
Math	4507	2.523	1295	2.361	0.162*
		[0.042]		[0.076]	
Literacy	4507	3.103	1295	2.843	0.259**
		[0.056]		[0.097]	
Age in years	4800	9.643	1376	9.530	0.113
		[0.044]		[0.082]	
Male	4800	0.518	1376	0.520	-0.002
		[0.007]		[0.013]	
Enrolled	4517	0.980	1266	0.987	-0.007
		[0.002]		[0.003]	
Private school	4780	0.105	1362	0.057	0.048***
		[0.004]		[0.006]	
Repeated grade	4160	0.143	1186	0.138	0.005
		[0.005]		[0.010]	
Absent previous school week	4251	0.148	1217	0.065	0.083***
		[0.011]		[0.013]	
Height-for-age z-scores	4338	-1.105	1271	-1.073	-0.032
		[0.020]		[0.037]	
Sick in previous week	4564	0.090	1318	0.086	0.004
N 1 6 111 111		[0.004]		[800.0]	
Number of target age children in the household (5-15 years)	4800	3.357	1376	3.480	-0.123**
		[0.025]		[0.049]	
Number of under 5 years old	4800	0.938	1376	0.922	0.017
		[0.014]		[0.025]	
Household size	4800	6.757	1376	6.871	-0.114
		[0.041]		[0.079]	
Head of the household is male	4800	0.798	1376	0.836	-0.038***
		[0.006]		[0.010]	
**	4800	0.656	1376	0.728	-0.072***
Household owns livestock		[0.007]		[0.012]	
Mother's age	4621	38.999	1309	38.506	0.494
-					
		[0.164]		[0.297]	

Mother's education	2078	6.038	463	6.201	-0.162
		[0.100]		[0.227]	
Wealth index	4363	13.925	1241	13.284	0.641*
		[0.183]		[0.316]	
Sold agriculture produce in the past	4800	0.463	1376	0.423	0.040***
year		[0.007]		[0.013]	
Per capita expenditure	4800	2065.831	1376	1886.849	178.982***
		[15.110]		[28.530]	
Urban	4796	0.064	1376	0.033	0.031***
		[0.004]		[0.005]	
Northern regions	4800	0.448	1376	0.710	-0.263***
		[0.007]		[0.012]	
Head of the household's age	4772	45.696	1372	46.255	-0.560
		[0.180]		[0.362]	
Treatment	4724	0.545	615	0.080	0.465***
		[0.007]		[0.011]	

Notes: Columns 1-2 test whether there were differences between sample communities and communities that were dropped after baseline due to discovery of presence of school feeding.

Online Appendix 2.

Balance of selected child and household characteristics at baseline (Panel A) and endline (Panel B) for the longitudinal sample, all children and stratified by gender, household poverty and northern regions

	Child age in months	Male	House- hold size	Head of the house- hold is male	Mother's age	Wealth index	Has sold any produce in the past year	Livestock
			All ch	ildren				
School feeding	1.002	-0.026	-0.159	-0.003	1.092	0.206	-0.067	-0.015
	(1.491)	(0.019)	(0.315)	(0.041)	(0.730)	(1.554)	(0.055)	(0.048)
Constant	102.756***	0.535***	6.776***	0.806***	37.365***	13.219***	0.508***	0.676***
	(1.140)	(0.014)	(0.237)	(0.031)	(0.545)	(1.108)	(0.039)	(0.033)
Observations	3,170	3,170	3,170	3,170	3,052	2,902	3,170	3,170
R-squared	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.005	0.000
			Gi	rls				
School feeding	1.079	0.000	-0.161	0.040	1.059	0.461	-0.074	0.004
	(1.669)	(0.000)	(0.320)	(0.046)	(0.894)	(1.685)	(0.055)	(0.053)
Constant	101.259***	0.000	6.612***	0.768***	37.848***	13.156***	0.507***	0.648***
	(1.232)	(0.000)	(0.246)	(0.037)	(0.751)	(1.134)	(0.040)	(0.037)
Observations	1,517	1.517	1,517	1,517	1.461	1,387	1,517	1,517
R-squared	0.000	-,	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.005	0.000
	0.000		Below por		0.002	0,000	01000	0.000
School feeding	5.087**	-0.017	-0.089	-0.056	0.869	0.465	-0.018	0.027
	(2.547)	(0.037)	(0.535)	(0.047)	(1.442)	(0.910)	(0.082)	(0.061)
Constant	101.072***	0.530***	7.046***	0.872***	38.535***	8.028***	0.542***	0.742***
	(1.820)	(0.030)	(0.367)	(0.030)	(1.140)	(0.714)	(0.055)	(0.047)
Observations	721	721	721	721	708	665	721	721
R-squared	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.001	0.002	0.000	0.001
			Northern	regions				
School feeding	-0.323	-0.023	-0.122	-0.044	1.476	0.860	-0.078	-0.026
	(2.459)	(0.025)	(0.479)	(0.032)	(0.918)	(1.644)	(0.088)	(0.064)
Constant	102.577***	0.552***	7.202***	0.940***	36.093***	9.591***	0.498***	0.770***
	(2.031)	(0.017)	(0.341)	(0.020)	(0.623)	(1.242)	(0.066)	(0.042)
Observations	1,462	1,462	1,462	1,462	1,414	1,360	1,462	1,462
R-squared	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.006	0.006	0.002	0.006	0.001

	Child age in months	Male	House- hold size	Head of the house- hold is male	Mother's age	Wealth index	Has sold any produce in the past year	Livestock
				All childre	en		•	
School feeding	1.644	-0.011	-0.151	-0.036	0.803	-0.763	-0.004	-0.029
	(1.425)	(0.020)	(0.338)	(0.038)	(0.786)	(3.252)	(0.054)	(0.040)
Constant	130.809***	0.540***	7.501***	0.821***	40.534***	30.070***	0.320***	0.748***
	(1.038)	(0.016)	(0.236)	(0.027)	(0.579)	(2.414)	(0.038)	(0.025)
Observations	2,542	2,573	3,170	3,168	3,014	3,168	3,167	3,167
R-squared	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001
				Girls				
School feeding	0.734	0.000	-0.100	-0.006	1.332	-2.069	0.001	0.010
	(1.876)	(0.000)	(0.372)	(0.045)	(0.888)	(3.400)	(0.058)	(0.046)
Constant	129.561***	0.000	7.361***	0.804***	40.403***	30.857***	0.316***	0.727***
	(1.365)	(0.000)	(0.238)	(0.035)	(0.720)	(2.601)	(0.042)	(0.034)
Observations	1,179	1,198	1,198	1,198	1,158	1,198	1,197	1,197
R-squared	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.004	0.004	0.000	0.000
			Below	poverty lin	1e			
School feeding	7.802***	0.030	-0.114	-0.084	-0.527	0.258	-0.005	-0.084
	(2.933)	(0.040)	(0.560)	(0.054)	(1.499)	(2.836)	(0.084)	(0.059)
Constant	128.869***	0.514***	7.800***	0.855***	42.006***	24.241***	0.351***	0.829***
	(2.122)	(0.029)	(0.390)	(0.034)	(1.116)	(2.023)	(0.055)	(0.041)
Observations	595	602	721	721	689	721	721	721
R-squared	0.016	0.001	0.000	0.011	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.011
			North	nern region	ıs			
School feeding	2.254	0.000	0.068	-0.054	1.161	2.095	-0.025	-0.016
	(2.040)	(0.026)	(0.552)	(0.044)	(1.040)	(1.512)	(0.076)	(0.042)
Constant	129.107***	0.541***	7.685***	0.901***	39.417***	16.090***	0.299***	0.830***
	(1.510)	(0.020)	(0.351)	(0.026)	(0.720)	(1.100)	(0.063)	(0.019)
Observations	1,208	1,222	1,462	1,462	1,410	1,462	1,462	1,462
R-squared	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.003	0.018	0.001	0.000

Notes: Panels A and B report balance in child and household baseline and endline covariates respectively, by treatment assignment for the full longitudinal sample and for the longitudinal sample stratified by gender, poverty status and northern regions. For each covariate, the coefficient for treatment was obtained through an OLS regression in which each covariate was the outcome and assignment to school feeding was the main regressor. Standard errors were clustered at the community level. The estimated school feeding coefficient provides the difference between the school feeding and control group in a child's backgrounds and its standard errors for the full longitudinal sample, in order to ascertain whether there were systematic biases induced by attrition.

Online Appendix 3.

Predictors of endline program uptake in treatment communities

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Child age in months	-0.000	-0.001	-0.001	-0.002***
Clind age in mondis	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Child aged 5-11 years at baseline	0.170***	0.174***	0.173***	0.017
Clind aged 5 11 years at baseline	(0.044)	(0.042)	(0.042)	(0.043)
Male	0.025	0.011	0.011	0.018
Trial C	(0.024)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.028)
Below poverty line	0.144***	0.108***	0.107***	0.026
Below poverty mile	(0.035)	(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.029)
Northern regions	0.197**	0.175**	0.179**	0.006
110111111111111111111111111111111111111	(0.077)	(0.072)	(0.075)	(0.066)
Math standardized scores at baseline	(0.017)	-0.050**	-0.049**	-0.024
		(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.016)
Literacy standardized scores at baseline		-0.093***	-0.092***	-0.026
		(0.024)	(0.024)	(0.017)
GSFP program (HGSF is baseline)		(0.02.)	0.022	(0.017)
			(0.075)	
Child is currently enrolled in primary school			,	0.294***
y i				(0.049)
Grade at baseline				0.007
				(0.013)
Private school				-0.638***
				(0.068)
Child's HAZ at baseline				-0.018*
				(0.010)
Child has fallen sick in the past week				-0.014
•				(0.049)
Age of household head				-0.001
				(0.002)
Mother's age				-0.001
•				(0.002)
Household size				0.006
				(0.005)
Household sold produce in the past year				0.043
				(0.035)
Wealth index				-0.006**
				(0.002)
Constant	0.423***	0.478***	0.465***	0.889***
	(0.119)	(0.115)	(0.122)	(0.144)
Observations	1,333	1,247	1,247	997
R-squared	0.077	0.118	0.118	0.415

Notes: This table presents results from linear probability models examining predictors of school feeding uptake at endline for children in the treatment arm. We regress uptake on a set of variables, including key predictors of heterogeneity (Col.1); baseline scores in the various competencies (col. 2); modality of school feeding (col.3) and child- and household-level characteristics. All models clustered the standard errors at the community level.

Online Appendix 4.

Balance of raw test scores for baseline sample prior to attrition

	Bal	ance by treatment as	signment and attrit	ion
	Math	Literacy	Math	Literacy
School feeding	0.073	0.106	0.141	0.049
	(0.146)	(0.211)	(0.252)	(0.282)
Child in longitudinal sample			0.265	0.342
			(0.177)	(0.228)
School feeding * Longitudinal sample			-0.070	0.068
			(0.273)	(0.303)
Constant	-1.492***	-1.304***	-1.734***	-1.618***
	(0.165)	(0.209)	(0.199)	(0.264)
Obs.	3,262	3,262	3,262	3,262
R-squared	0.204	0.144	0.205	0.146
Baseline control	1.54	1.78		
	(2.01)	(2.40)		
Baseline treatment	1.67	1.93		
	(2.05)	(2.51)		
Baseline control - lost to follow-up			1.13	1.28
			(1.51)	(1.88)
Baseline control - longitudinal sample			1.57	1.81
			(2.04)	(2.43)
Baseline treatment - lost to follow-up			1.68	1.97
			(2.07)	(2.56)
Baseline treatment - longitudinal sample			1.51	1.58
			(1.85)	(1.83)

Notes: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Columns 1-4 test whether there were differences in raw scores by treatment arm prior to attrition. This is achieved through an OLS regression in which each child test score at baseline is regressed on a treatment dummy. Columns 1-4 add a dummy if the child was in the longitudinal sample and an interaction between longitudinal sample and treatment in order to investigate survey attrition bias. All models include child age in months and standard errors are clustered at the community level. Raw test scores appeared balanced by treatment arm prior to attrition, and there is no evidence of differential attrition by treatment being associated with raw test scores.

Online Appendix 5.

Descriptive statistics of raw test scores at baseline and endline, by child gender, household poverty status, and Northern regions

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s E

Notes: The value displayed for t-tests are the differences in the means across the groups. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent critical level. Household poverty is a dichotomous indicator having the value of one if the household had baseline per capita consumption levels falling below the national consumption poverty line in 2013. Northern regions include Upper West, Upper East, and Northern region. Southern regions include Western, Central, Greater Accra, Volta, Eastern, Asanti, Brong Ahafo.

Online Appendix 6.

Treatment effects of school feeding on child learning, by child age group at baseline

0.161** (0.078)	0.132* (0.076)	0.177** (0.086)
(0.078)		
(0.078)		
,	(0.076)	(0.086)
2,011	2,006	2,045
0.061	0.124	0.135
0.040	0.123	0.096
(0.126)	(0.108)	(0.128)
267	268	269
0.167	0.201	0.185
	0.061 0.040 (0.126) 267	0.061 0.124 0.040 0.123 (0.126) (0.108) 267 268

Notes: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. The table above illustrates intent-to-treat effects on each outcome estimated through ANCOVA for different age cohorts. All models were estimated through OLS and standard errors in parentheses were clustered at the community level. For each outcome, the model controls for the baseline value of the outcome, and region dummies. Math and literacy scores are age-standardized. Composite indices were computed as averages of the standardized scores and then they were standardized to the control group within each round.

Online Appendix 7.

Heterogeneity in treatment effects by length of program exposure

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Maths	Literacy	Composite: math and literacy
School feeding	-0.0110	-0.0393	-0.0242
	(0.147)	(0.153)	(0.167)
Two years of exposure	-0.0775	-0.166	-0.136
	(0.104)	(0.131)	(0.129)
School feeding * Two years of	` ,	, ,	` ,
exposure	0.177	0.201	0.224
	(0.136)	(0.149)	(0.154)
Observations	2,278	2,276	2,290
R-squared	0.069	0.132	0.122

Notes: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. The table above illustrates intent-to-treat effects on each outcome estimated through ANCOVA. Both models were estimated through OLS and standard errors in parentheses were clustered at the community level. For each outcome, the model controls for the baseline value of the outcome, and region dummies. Math and literacy scores are age-standardized. Composite indices were computed as averages of the standardized scores and then they were standardized to the control group within each round. Two years of exposure is a dummy equal to zero if the child was above below 5 years or was in grade 5 at baseline.

Online Appendix 8.

Descriptive statistics of intermediate outcomes, full sample

	Baseline				Endline						
	С	ontrol	Schoo	l feeding		C	ontrol	Schoo	l feeding		
	NT.	Mean	N.T.	Mean	D:66	N T	Mean	NT.	Mean	D:66	
	N	(SE)	N	(SE)	Diff.	N	(SE)	N	(SE)	Diff.	
Child is enrolled	1,35 3	0.988	1,60 4	0.981	0.007	1,19 5	0.884	1,37 7	0.932	0.049***	
		[0.003]		[0.003			[0.009]		[0.007]		
Days attended over past	1,29 1	4.881	1,50 8	4.828	0.052**	1,05 6	4.665	1,28 4	4.685	-0.02	
week		[0.018]		[0.019]			[0.030]		[0.026	6	
Cont	1,36 8	2.336	1,58 9	2.436	-0.100*	1,04 9	4.269	1,27 8	4.496	0.227***	
Grade		[0.039]		[0.037			[0.061]		[0.055		
Digit span (raw)	1404	4.123	1579	4.365	0.242***	1186	4.173	1343	4.381	-0.208**	
		[0.059]		[0.056]	9.2.2		[0.072]		[0.068]		
SPM (raw)	1404	3.819	1579	3.967	-0.148	1186	2.993	1343	3.243	0.249***	
		[0.070]		[0.065			[0.057]		[0.055	0.249	
Digit span (age- standardized)	1398	-0.063	1565	0.011	-0.074**	1147	-0.035	1284	0.099	0.134***	
		[0.026]		[0.024			[0.028]		[0.028	0110	
SPM (age-standardized)	1395	-0.065	1569	-0.010	-0.056	1150	-0.033	1288	0.119	0.152***	
		[0.026]		[0.024			[0.029]		[0.028	0.132	
Height-for-age z-scores	1354	-1.112	1540	-1.054	-0.058	1020	-1.211	1165	-1.123	-0.088*	
		[0.037]		[0.033			[0.039]		[0.036]		
BMI-for-age z-scores	1374	-0.676	1551	-0.657	-0.019	1012	-0.869	1148	-0.803	-0.066	
		[0.025]		[0.023			[0.034]		[0.031]		

Notes: The value displayed for t-tests are the differences in the means across the groups. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1,5, and 10 percent critical level. Enrolment is a dichotomous variable indicating whether the child is enrolled school, respectively; attendance is an indicator counting the number of days the child attended by the child in the past school week (conditional on enrolment). The indicator ranges from 0 to 5 days. Grade provides the educational grade (in years) the child is currently enrolled in. SPM stands for standardized progressive matrices.

Treatment effects of school feeding on child probability of no having breakfast before school, number of meals consumed and dietary diversity

Online Appendix 9.

	No breakfast		Numbe	r of meals	Dietary diversity		
			Panel A. A	All children			
School feeding	-0	.003	0.	066	-0	0.027	
	(0	.019)	(0.	081)	(0	.147)	
Observations	3	,139	2.	529	2	,471	
R-squared	0	.110	0.	070	0	.010	
			Panel B	. Gender			
_	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	
School feeding	0.005	-0.006	0.129	0.017	-0.124	0.066	
	(0.025)	(0.026)	(0.086)	(0.093)	(0.198)	(0.205)	
Observations	1,184	1,361	1,173	1,356	1,143	1,328	
R-squared	0.199	0.141	0.074	0.079	0.020	0.013	
		Pane	el C. Household	poverty at bas	eline		
	Poor	Nonpoor	Poor	Nonpoor	Poor	Nonpoor	
School feeding	0.036	-0.016	0.074	0.072	-0.342	0.040	
	(0.035)	(0.023)	(0.101)	(0.092)	(0.263)	(0.159)	
Observations	712	2,426	591	1,938	576	1,895	
R-squared	0.170	0.109	0.109	0.065	0.016	0.011	
			Panel D. Geog	graphical area			
_	North	South	North	South	North	South	
School feeding	0.010	-0.016	0.068	0.063	-0.045	-0.008	
	(0.020)	(0.031)	(0.123)	(0.108)	(0.232)	(0.187)	
Observations	1,449	1,690	1,203	1,326	1,176	1,295	
R-squared	0.009	0.060	0.101	0.047	0.010	0.010	

Notes: The table above illustrates intent-to-treat effects on each outcome estimated for the full sample and for the subgroups through a basic OLS regression of each outcome over school feeding arm and controlling for region dummies. We note that number of meals and dietary diversity were only collected at endline, therefore we could control for the baseline value of the outcome as in the case of no breakfast. No breakfast is an indicator variable of whether the child has had breakfast before going to school in the previous day. Number of meals is the total number of meals, including snacks, consumed by the child in the previous day. Dietary diversity is the sum of the following nine food groups consumed by the child in the previous day: cereals, roots and tubers; vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables; other fruits and vegetables; meat and fish; eggs; legumes; dairy; oil.

Online Appendix 10.

Heterogeneity of impact by treatment modality

The analysis plan did not include the comparison in treatment effects by school feeding implementation modality. This is because, by design, the comparison between the standard GSFP and the HGSF modality was geared only toward assessing the impact of HGSF on small-holder farmers income and production (see Gelli et al. 2016, for further discussion). However, different implementation modalities may affect program impact on child learning through variation in frequency of delivery of the meal, nutrition content, type of meal, timing of delivery (e.g., breakfast *viz* lunch), etc. The HGSF, through its emphasis on improving the quality of the meal, may, theoretically, lead to better cognition and learning as compared to standard GSFP through enhanced child health (Belot and James 2011).

Table 10.1 provides ITT estimates of child learning outcomes by considering GSFP, HGSF, and control as three separate arms. For both ANCOVA and difference-in-differences estimates, the last row in each respective panel includes an F-test that assesses the equality of the treatment effect coefficients related to GSFP and HGSF. In the case of ANCOVA, assignment to the HGSF arm led to significant increases in literacy, SPM, and the three composite indicators, as compared to control. However, in either set of estimates, we were never able to reject the null hypothesis of equality of the treatment effect coefficients between HGSF and GSFP, thus suggesting lack of heterogeneity in impact by program modality. This may be either attributable to insufficient power to detect significant differences (as by design this comparison was not initially pursued) and/or to challenges in the implementation. We tend to lean toward the second explanation, also in light of similar coefficient sizes for both modalities in most cases. We hypothesize that delayed reinmbursements to caterers for the costs incurred in supplying the meals may have diluted differences between the menus of the two arms (e.g., monitoring visits highlighted substantial deviations from the guidelines related to food fortification, which was initially supposed to happen in HGSF). Thus, the nutritional differences of the meals between the two modalities may have been too limited to have heterogenous impacts on children's academic achievements through the health and cognitive channels. A similar lack of heterogeneity by modality was evident in the group-disaggregated estimates (available upon request).

Table 10.1.

Treatment effects of school feeding on child learning, by school feeding modality

	Math	Literacy	Composite: math and literacy
GSFP	0.159*	0.121	0.166*
	(0.085)	(0.084)	(0.094)
HGSF	0.136	0.143	0.169*
	(0.087)	(0.089)	(0.100)
Constant	-0.229**	-0.291*	-0.339**
	(0.104)	(0.154)	(0.151)
Observations	2,278	2,274	2,314
R-squared	0.068	0.130	0.139
P(GSFP=HGSF)	0.782	0.823	0.983

Notes: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. The table above illustrates intent-to-treat effects on each outcome for the two school feeding modalities. GSFP is a dichotomous variable related to randomized assignment to the standard Ghana school feeding program, HGSF is a dichotomous related to assignment to "home-grown" school feeding pilot, endline is a dummy variable indicating the 2016 survey. Both models were estimated through OLS and standard errors were clustered at the community level. For each outcome, the model controls for the baseline value of the outcome, a dichotomous variable related to the randomized assignment to school feeding, and region dummies. The last row presents the p-values of a F-test assessing the equality of coefficients between the intent-to-treat effect related to GSFP and HGSF.