



### Indonesia: Simulation of Free Lunch and Milk Program

#### Introduction

Gibran Rakabuming Raka, Vice President-Elect of Indonesia, recently resigned from his position as Mayor of Surakarta (Solo) on July 16, 2024. This strategic move is perceived as part of his preparation for his forthcoming role as Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, with his inauguration set for the end of October 2024.

Shortly after his resignation, Gibran initiated a simulation of the Free Lunch and Milk program at two elementary schools in Sentul, West Java, on July 23, 2024. The simulation was subsequently extended to Surakarta from July 24-26. Hasan Nasbi, a Prabowo-Gibran synchronization task force member, stated that these simulations are aimed at gathering data and identifying potential obstacles that could hinder the program's implementation (CNBC Indonesia, 2024).

During the West Java simulation on July 23, each food package was budgeted at Rp 14,900 (less than USD 1). The packages included rice, fried chicken, vegetables, a banana, and milk. In Surakarta, the simulation featured two menu versions: the first consisted of rice, fried chicken fillet, vegetables, and milk, while the second included rice, chicken steak, salad, and milk (Kompas, 2024). Gibran emphasized that maintaining a low budget should not compromise the quality and quantity of the food provided. Following these initial trials, the simulation is set to expand to other towns, including Depok and Surabaya. The results will be evaluated by nutrition experts, the private sector, and local governments to ensure thorough preparation for the program's official launch after the inauguration of Prabowo and Gibran (TVOne News, 2024).

#### Support and Partnerships

The simulations have garnered support from several companies, including GoTo and TikTok Indonesia, as well as the Organization of President Joko Widodo's political volunteers, Projo (CNBC Indonesia, 2024).



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	Menu Set 1	Menu Set 2	Menu Set 3	Menu Set 4
<b>Staple Food</b>	Rice	Rice	Rice Cake	Steamed Potato
<b>Food 1</b>	Fried Chicken	Egg Stew	Boiled Egg	Steamed Dumplings
<b>Food 2</b>	Tofu Fritters	Fried Tempe (fermented soybean cake)	Mixed Vegetables with Peanut Sauce	Boiled Egg
<b>Food 3</b>	Vegetables	Sauté Carrots	-	
<b>Fruit</b>	Banana	Banana	Banana	Banana

Table 1: Menu Sets for Free Lunch Simulation by Minister Airlangga Hartarto

(Source: CNBC Indonesia, 2024)

### Other Initiatives

In addition to Gibran’s simulations, the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartarto, and the Indonesia Food Security Review (ISFR) have conducted other free lunch program trials. Minister Hartarto’s simulation took place on February 29, 2024, at Junior High School Number 2 in Tangerang, Banten Province, with a budget of Rp 15,000 per food package (CNBC Indonesia, 2024).

ISFR, a think-tank focusing on food security, is conducting a series of simulations from July to September 2024 in partnership with the Bandung government. This initiative covers six elementary schools, preparing 2,500 food packages over three months, including meals for teachers (Kompas, 2024).

Arief Prasetyo Adi, head of the National Food Agency (NFA), highlighted during a June seminar that 10.21% of Indonesians suffer from undernourishment, with 26.1% of school-age children skipping breakfast. The NFA has provided eggs, milk, chicken, and fish to 25,000 elementary students 20 times in two months and offers educational programs on the importance of nutrition (TVOne News, 2024).



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### Comparative Analysis and Suggested Enhancements

To provide a robust evaluation, it is essential to consider similar programs in other countries, such as India's Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Brazil's National School Feeding Program. These programs have successfully improved student nutrition and educational outcomes:

#### ***India's Mid-Day Meal Scheme:***

India's Mid-Day Meal Scheme aims to improve children's nutritional status and encourage school attendance. The budget varies by state, generally around USD 0.2 per meal. The menu is diverse, including rice, lentils, vegetables, and sometimes eggs or milk. The program has resulted in increased school enrolment and attendance and improved nutritional status (Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, 2020).

#### ***Brazil's National School Feeding Program:***

Brazil's National School Feeding Program aims to provide nutritious meals to students and support local agriculture. The budget is approximately USD 0.3-0.5 per meal. The menu includes rice, beans, meat, vegetables, and fruit. The program has enhanced student health, improved educational outcomes, and supported local farmers (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2020).

### Suggested Enhancement

#### 1. Diverse and Locally Sourced Menus:

- Local Ingredients: Incorporate locally grown ingredients to support local farmers and reduce costs.
- Diverse Diet: Ensure a variety of food items to cater to different dietary needs and preferences. Consider adding legumes, fish, and seasonal fruits.
- Regular Menu Updates: Rotate menus periodically to maintain student interest and nutritional balance.



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### 2. Nutritional Education:

- Awareness Programs: Implement educational sessions about nutrition and healthy eating habits for students and parents.
- Involvement of Experts: Partner with nutritionists to design balanced meals and provide nutrition education.

### 3. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Data Collection: Regularly collect student health, attendance, and academic performance data to measure the program's impact.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establish channels for feedback from students, parents, and teachers to continually improve the program.

### 4. Community and Private Sector Engagement:

- Volunteer Programs: Encourage community members to volunteer in meal preparation and distribution.
- Corporate Partnerships: Strengthen partnerships with private companies for funding and logistical support.

### 5. Pilot Programs and Scaling:

- Gradual Expansion: Start with pilot programs in different regions to test various strategies and scale successful models.
- Adaptability: Be flexible in adapting the program based on regional needs and feedback from pilot programs.

## Conclusion

The experience gained from these simulations will serve as a benchmark for the new administration's effective implementation of the Free Lunch and Milk programs, enhancing children's nutrition across Indonesia.



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