Sarah Taylor. Examining the role that school feeding plays as a protective and promotive form of social protection in the nutrition of children and their households: A case study from Zimbabwe. (Hons Disaster Risk Science, 2010).

School feeding programmes (SFPs) are often cited in literature as an excellent safety net and social protection intervention because of their apparent transformative effects in alleviating poverty. In particular, SFPs are argued to be both protective, in alleviating the immediate hunger of the children, and promotive, in attracting children to the school, helping them to concentrate better and aiding them to receive an education to become more productive adults in the future. The research considered this claim by studying a school breakfast scheme at a primary school run by the Village of Hope (VOH), a non-profit organisation, in Mt. Hampden near Harare, Zimbabwe. Of particular interest was the perceived protective and promotive impact of the SFP on children who were sponsored by VOH to attend the school along with their households who lived in impoverished communities nearby. The study, using a sample of children and households from the Grade Five class, found the SFP to benefit the child in both protective and promotive ways because the children’s immediate hunger was alleviated so that they could concentrate better in school. It was also thought to help prevent deficiency diseases such as kwashiorkor through supplementing the children’s diets with extra protein. For the households, there was an indirect protective benefit from the SFP because they did not have to worry if there was no food for the child at home. The promotive aspect was not as obvious and would require further study to validate.