Annual Report
on SDG2 Zero Hunger

2.3 Student Hunger

2.3.2 Does your university as a body provide interventions to prevent or alleviate hunger among students? (e.g. including supply and access to food banks/pantries)

Thaksin University recognizes that students may experience temporary food insecurity during periods of high academic pressure or unexpected crisis events. To address this, the university provides direct, practical, and responsive hunger-alleviation interventions, ensuring that students have access to adequate nutritional support when they need it most.

Through free meal provision during examination periods and emergency food assistance during natural disasters, the university demonstrates its commitment to reducing food-related financial burdens and supporting student well-being across its Songkhla and Phatthalung campuses.

1. Free Meal Provision during Examination Periods: The "Energy Boost for Final Exams" Program

The "Energy Boost for Final Exams" Program (Term Thong, Term Phalang, Phichit Final) is a targeted institutional welfare mechanism deployed across Thaksin University's Songkhla and Phatthalung campuses. Designed to mitigate acute food insecurity and stress induced by rigorous academic evaluation cycles, the initiative provides complimentary, nutritionally balanced evening meals to the student body.

During the primary assessment period from 3 to 13 March 2025, the university coordinated decentralized food distribution networks located strategically across student residential zones (dormitories) and high-density common study spaces. This direct-access logistical model eliminates geographic and financial barriers to adequate nutrition, effectively reducing discretionary living costs and preventing meal-skipping behaviors during periods of peak cognitive demand. Beyond physiological sustenance, the intervention reinforces cognitive endurance, mitigates transitory financial vulnerability, and operationalizes institutional social safety nets within the higher education learning environment.



Figure 1 Free meal distribution under the "Energy Boost for Final Exams" programme at Thaksin University in 2025

Public source: https://www.tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=4910

2. Emergency Food Assistance during Flooding

During the acute hydrological crisis across Southern Thailand in 2025, Thaksin University activated an emergency disaster relief architecture to safeguard nutritional continuity for vulnerable cohorts. Operating through an integrated volunteer mobilization framework—engaging academic staff, administrative personnel, and student volunteers—the university deployed emergency food operations targeting on-campus residential students and surrounding displaced communities.

To counteract the collapse of municipal supply chains, road network disruptions, and commercial closures, the university established on-site meal production hubs. These facilities prepared and distributed complimentary, ready-to-consume meals directly to dormitory residents throughout the active emergency interval, ensuring critical daily caloric intake and preventing meal deprivation. Concurrently, broader humanitarian logistics were channeled through the Pan Nam Jai (Sharing Kindness) Relief Center, which orchestrated the sourcing and distribution of shelf-stable provisions, clean drinking water, and essential humanitarian aid to both isolated students and affected off-campus peri-urban residents.

This coordinated intervention demonstrates institutional disaster preparedness and rapid-response capability, showing how mobilizing internal logistics can alleviate acute financial distress and reinforce human security amidst climate-induced crises.



Figure 2 Emergency community kitchen and free meal assistance for students during the 2025 flooding emergency



Figure 3 Thaksin University's “Pan Nam Jai” relief initiative supporting flood-affected students and surrounding communities

Public evidence:
https://tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=5632
https://tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=5634
https://tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=5631
https://iasp.tsu.ac.th/detail.php?aNum=20251123140853&id_list=1573

Outcomes and Impact

The strategic deployment of targeted food assistance frameworks yielded direct socioeconomic, academic, and operational impacts, bolstering individual student resilience against acute stressors:

- **Mitigation of Acute Financial Burden and Cognitive Enhancement:** The subsidized and complimentary meal programs executed during high-stakes examination cycles directly lowered daily out-of-pocket living expenses for the student body. Removing economic and logistical barriers to adequate nutrition minimized meal-skipping behaviors, directly stabilizing cognitive endurance, mental focus, and academic retention during periods of intensive assessment.

- **Nutritional Continuity and Human Security in Disasters:** During extreme climate-induced hydrological disruptions, decentralized emergency cooking hubs and direct distribution channels preserved uninterrupted dietary intake for residential students isolated in dormitories. This prevented transitory malnutrition and insulated vulnerable cohorts from severe commercial price shocks and localized supply-chain failures.

- **Institutional Adaptive Capacity and Resource Mobilization:** The successful execution of these crisis interventions validated and refined Thaksin University's operational protocols for cross-departmental coordination, volunteer engagement, and rapid supply-chain repurposing under emergency constraints.

Collectively, these systematic interventions substantiate Thaksin University's institutional capacity to deliver responsive, equity-oriented social safety nets during compounded socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities. Crucially, these initiatives align with the core targets of UN Sustainable Development Goal 2: **Zero Hunger (SDG 2)**—specifically providing immediate, crisis-resilient nutritional protection that underpins and reinforces the university's broader agroecological and sustainable food system commitments detailed in **SDG 2.3.1**.