

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
September 2017 – July 2018 (195 school days)

- School Feeding Program
- McGovern-Dole International Food For Education and Child Nutrition (All Pikin for Learn) Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School Education and School Feeding Secretariat

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- ☐ National school feeding policy
- ☒ **Nutrition**
- ☐ Food safety
- ☒ **Agriculture**
- ☐ Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

BUDGET

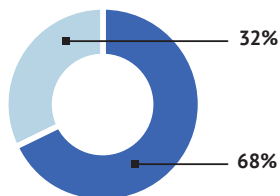
Total:
USD 7,365,230

☐ National government:
USD 2,365,230

☒ International donors*:
USD 5,000,000

☐ Private sector: USD 0

☐ Other donors: USD 0



*Contributions by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

School meals are prepared on-site in open cooking areas with charcoal or wood stoves. Most schools have latrines, some have clean water, very few have electricity, piped water, or flush toilets. None have dedicated eating spaces.

SPECIAL NOTES

A national school feeding policy has been drafted. Funding challenges prevented achievement of scale and consistency in the government's school feeding program.

NR = No Response

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- ☐ Breakfast
- ☒ **Lunch**
- ☐ Dinner
- ☐ Snacks
- ☒ **Take-home rations**
- ☒ **Conditional cash transfer**

- ☒ **Grains/cereals**
- ☐ Roots, tubers
- ☒ **Legumes and nuts**
- ☐ Dairy products
- ☐ Eggs
- ☐ Meat
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ **Fish**
- ☒ **Green, leafy vegetables**
- ☒ **Other vegetables**
- ☐ Fruits
- ☒ **Oil**
- ☒ **Salt**
- ☐ Sugar

Prohibited food items: none

FOOD SOURCES

- ☒ **Purchased (domestic)**
- ☐ Purchased (foreign)
- ☒ **In-kind (domestic)**
- ☒ **In-kind (foreign)**

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- ☒ **Handwashing with soap**
- ☐ Height measurement
- ☐ Weight measurement
- ☒ **Deworming treatment**
- ☐ Eye testing/eyeglasses
- ☐ Hearing testing/treatment
- ☐ Dental cleaning/testing
- ☐ Menstrual hygiene
- ☒ **Drinking water**
- ☐ Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- EDUCATION**
- ☒ **Nutrition**
- ☒ **Health**
- ☒ **Food and agriculture**
- ☐ Reproductive health
- ☒ **Hygiene**
- ☐ HIV prevention

☒ = mandatory

- OTHER**
- ☒ **School gardens**
- ☐ Physical education

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.



Gcnf is a non-political, non-profit entity incorporated in 2006. Funding for this survey and a follow-up survey in 2021 is being provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture under agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

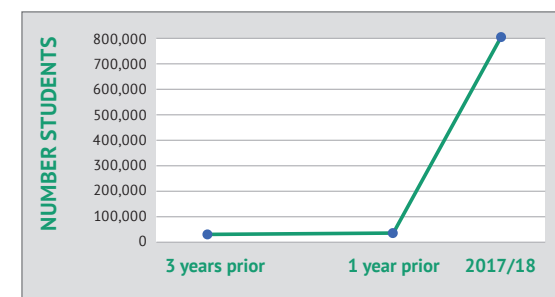
REPUBLIC OF Sierra Leone



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

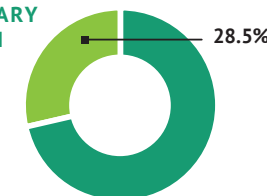
School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	1,108,071	800,000	806,000
Secondary school	1,720,091	1,340,000	0
Total	2,828,162	2,140,000	806,000



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,828,162

Receiving school food:
☒ 806,000



- Food was also provided to some students in
- ☐ pre-schools
 - ☐ vocational/trade schools
 - ☐ University/higher education
 - ☐ Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve the following:

- ☒ **Fortified foods**
- ☐ Bio-fortified foods
- ☒ **Micronutrient supplements**
- ☐ Nutritionists involved
- ☐ Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition
- ☒ **Objective to meet nutritional goals**
- ☐ Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified:

Oil, grains/cereals

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iron, Vitamins A, B6, and B12, Zinc, and Folic Acid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Handwashing with soap and deworming treatments are required aspects of school feeding programs in Sierra Leone. In addition, nutrition, health, food and agriculture, and hygiene education was provided to some or all students. In one of the two programs described, cooks were trained in nutrition, portion control, food safety, and health screening. Obesity is not considered to be a problem in the country.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

1,100	Cooks and food preparers
15	Transporters
NR	Off-site processors
NR	Food packagers and handlers
60	Monitoring
NR	Food service management
NR	Safety and quality inspectors
2	Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ NR

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ NR

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- ☐ Women
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Other groups

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Most (75-100%) of the cooks involved in the Sierra Leone school feeding programs were women who were paid in-kind and most received training relevant to their school feeding work. Community members provided condiments and firewood or charcoal. They also provided local materials and/or constructed kitchens, latrines, and storage facilities.

CONTACTS: SIERRA LEONE

Agency: The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

Website: <http://www.education.gov.sl/>

Email: info@education.gov.sl

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Sierra Leone reports that the strengths of school feeding programs in the country include: retention of students, closing gender gaps, and supporting regular attendance. Setbacks reported for the 2017/18 school year include: a change in central government in April 2018, the Ebola epidemic during the academic year, and the lack of human capacity for delivery. The new direction in government has given a face lift to school feeding by empowering the school feeding secretariat with the required staff to implement school feeding five days a week, in comparison to the cash transfer for two days per week of school feeding by the previous government. Sierra Leone reported that:

- Completing this survey was difficult due to the lack of data and poor management by the previous school feeding secretariat.
- There was poor accountability both in delivery and quality of food given to children during the distribution of temporary cash transfer to schools.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Study on the impact of school feeding on the nutritional status of students. Supply chain analysis to identify a suitable implementation model. Also a study on dietary recommendations could be helpful for future meal planning activities.

Program report: Sierra Leone

All data from the 2017-18 school year

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): School feeding secretariat

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Conditional cash transfer

TARGETING:

Geographic

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	N/A		
Primary school	806,000	53%	47%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	806,000	53%	47%

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals* Oil* Salt
Legumes and nuts Fish

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

90% Purchased (domestic) **10% In-kind (domestic)**
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The government program consisted of mandatory in-kind donations from parents and payments from the central government to the schools for local purchase of food, which was to be provided twice per week for the nine months of the school year. The government was unable to consistently fund the program, however.



MCGOVERN DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM (ALL PIKIN FOR LEARN)

Lead implementer(s): Catholic Relief Service (CRS)

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

TARGETING:

Geographical and individual student characteristics

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	N/A		
Primary school	30,000	47%	53%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	30,000	47%	53%

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals* Green, leafy vegetables Salt
Legumes and nuts Other vegetables
Fish Oil*

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

0% Purchased (domestic) **10% In-kind (domestic)**
0% Purchased (foreign) **90% In-kind (foreign)**

NOTES:

Food was provided 5 times/week for 9 months, and 8,519 girls received take-home rations one time in the school year. The program used packaged and processed foods from far away. To limit food waste, the program employed sealed food storage and fumigation/pest control and used nearly expired food. In addition to other topics, students in this program received life skills and psycho-social skills education.