

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
September 2017 - July 2018 (199 school days)

- Home Grown School Feeding

Lead Agency: Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education through School Agriculture & Food Mgt. Unit (SAFMU) and the World Food Program (WFP)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

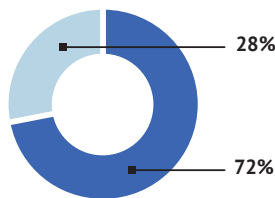
- ☒ National school feeding policy
- ☒ Nutrition
- ☒ Food safety
- ☒ Agriculture
- ☐ Private sector involvement

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

BUDGET

Total:
USD 6,950,000 (est.)

- ☒ National government: USD 1,935,000 (est.)
- ☒ International donors*: USD 5,015,000 (est.)
- ☐ 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/snacks are prepared on school grounds, in kitchens with closed cooking areas. All schools have gender private latrines/toilets and kitchens, most have clean water, some have electricity and piped water, very few have flush toilets or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias.

SPECIAL NOTES

The Gambia's school meal program receives multi-year and single-year cash and in kind donations from the World Food Program, the European Union, Japan, and South Korea. The budget figures provided above are approximations for the 2017-18 school year.

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: Pig meat (for religious reasons)

FOOD SOURCES

- ☒ Purchased (domestic) 75%
- ☐ Purchased (foreign)
- ☐ In-kind (domestic)
- ☒ In-kind (foreign) 25%

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- ☒ Handwashing with soap
- ☐ Height measurement
- ☐ Weight measurement
- ☒ Deworming treatment
- ☐ Eye testing/eyeglasses
- ☒ Other: nutrition monitoring
- ☐ 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

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

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

☒ = mandatory



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.

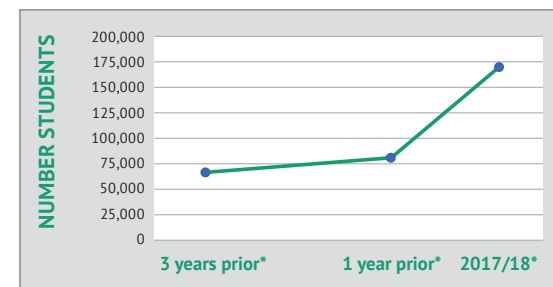
REPUBLIC OF The Gambia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	360,153	214,152	144,946*
Secondary school	284,102	212,134	20,476
Total	644,255	426,286	165,422*



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 644,255

Receiving school food:
165,422*

- ☒ Pre-schools
- ☐ Vocational/trade schools
- ☐ University/higher education
- ☐ Other

*This number includes some preschool children receiving food.

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:

Salt

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iodine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The program involved seven nutritionists, staff of the National Nutrition Agency paid by the government. Cooks were trained in nutrition, portions/measurement, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene. The program uses orange flesh sweet potatoes, biofortified with iron and zinc.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

1,220	Cooks and food preparers
7	Transporters
NR	Off-site processors
6	Food packagers and handlers
12	Monitoring
NR	Food service management
10	Safety and quality inspectors
NR	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

Smallholder farmers successfully competed to sell products to the program, and farmers received agricultural extension and school feeding-specific training. There was purposeful focus on: creating jobs or income-generating opportunities for women such as farming and contract gardening; leadership opportunities for women through local school feeding structures; opportunities for youth through young farmers' clubs; and jobs/opportunities for others groups through village development committees and the formation of village cooperatives.

CONTACTS: THE GAMBIA

Agency: Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education School Agriculture & Food Mgt. Unit (SAFMU)

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SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

The Gambia listed the following program successes:

- a) Attainment of gender parity in favor of girls; b) Improved attendance and retention rates in the Basic cycle; and
- a) Transfer of cost of feeding from beneficiary families.

Program strengths reported were: a) Improvement in community participation; b) Intersectoral coordination; c) Improvements in education and social indicators.

A setback reported was that the program targets were not achieved. The Gambia also reported that the program faces the challenge of capacity building of institutions and structures in coordination and implementation.

The introduction of the code of conduct in school feeding in The Gambia reduced the level of corruption drastically.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

a) Cost benefit analysis, and b) SABER (Systems Approach for Better Education Results) assessments. Benefits reported were that the program improved social wellbeing in communities and created job opportunities for women in communities.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Impact of school feeding on basic education

Program report: The Gambia

All data from the 2017-18 school year

HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING

Lead implementer(s): SAFMU & WFP

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:

Vulnerability to food insecurity

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school & Primary school	144,946*	51.58%*	48.42%*
Secondary school	20,476	45.61%	54.39%
Total	165,422*	53%*	47%*

*This number includes some preschool children receiving food.

FOOD ITEMS:

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

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

75% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	25% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The program uses two modalities simultaneously. 75% of the participating schools receive conditional cash transfers to purchase food for the program; in-kind donor contributions account for the remaining 25%. Of the food purchased in country, about 30% is from local sources near the schools. Donors include the European Union, Japan, and South Korea. WFP is a partner. In 2016/17, WFP handed over two regions for government implementation as part of a gradual handing-over process.

