

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
September 2018 - July 2019 (207 days)

- Liberia School Feeding Programme (by WFP)
- Mary's Meals International School Feeding Programme
- Liberia Empowerment through Attendance Reading and Nutrition Project (LEARN)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education

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

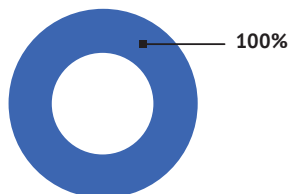
Total:
USD 10,273,520

☐ National government:
USD 0

☒ International donors*:
USD 10,273,520

☐ 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 school grounds. Most schools have clean water, latrines and kitchens; very few have electricity, piped water, flush toilets, or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. All schools participating in the feeding programs have on-site kitchens, with open or closed cooking areas.

SPECIAL NOTES

The three programs are funded by implementing partners: Mary's Meals International, Save the Children, and the World Food Program (WFP).

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: Food items that are not safe for human consumption.

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**

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

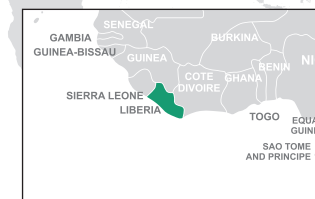
☒ = mandatory

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.

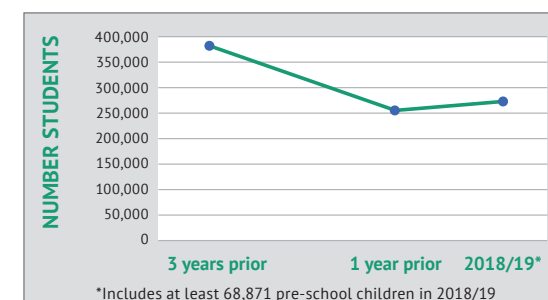
REPUBLIC OF Liberia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2018-19

School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	1,194,709	1,194,709	176,756
Secondary school	272,832	272,832	29,100
Total	1,467,541	1,467,541	205,856

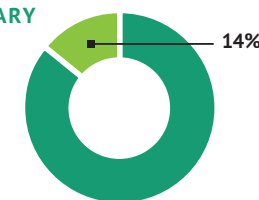


COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,467,541

Receiving school food:
☒ 205,856

- ☒ **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:

Grains/cereals, oil, salt, pulses/peas, Corn Soya Blend

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iodine, Iron, Vitamin A, Vitamin D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Schoolchildren in Liberia are supposed to receive de-worming treatments and health and nutrition education. Most or all cooks in Liberia's school feeding programs are trained in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, and food safety and hygiene; some are also trained in food preparation.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

2,785	Cooks and food preparers
98	Transporters
0	Off-site processors
48	Food packagers and handlers
143	Monitoring
0	Food service management
5	Safety and quality inspectors
0	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

There was purposeful focus on creating jobs or income-generating opportunities for women and for youth. Between 75 and 100% of the cooks were women. Cooks and food monitors are compensated cash or in-kind payments. The Parent-Teachers Associations (PTAs) were encouraged to pay the cooks in many cases, and to contribute condiments for food preparation in schools. The WFP program—in particular—involved farmers, working primarily through farmer organizations and providing school feeding-specific training and forward contracts.

CONTACTS: LIBERIA

Agency: Ministry of Education

Website: www.moegov.lr

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes:

- 1) Development of National School Feeding Policy and School Feeding Code of Conduct to support Government involvement in the management of the school feeding program;
- 2) Inclusion of school feeding in different sector priority plans and the National Development Plan;
- 3) Involvement of multiple organizations in the implementation of school feeding;
- 4) Improved coordination of the program at national level;
- 5) Conducted of programme related assessment like the Systems Approach to Better Education Results (SABER) survey in Liberia;
- 6) Shifting priority to Home Grown School Feeding by partners and the government.

Strengths:

- 1) Expansion of program coverage (in terms of geographic) to 14 out of 15 counties.
- 2) Established coordination of program activities with partners implementing school feeding program.
- 3) Increasing community participation and support through providing cooks, firewood and other community services

Setbacks:

- 1) Inability to provide school meals for the entire student population in Liberia due to limited funding;
- 2) The Ebola Virus Disease outbreak was major disruption of prior gains.

Concerns:

- 1) There were instances of food theft and mismanagement, mainly at the school level.

Challenges:

- 1) Funding situation faced by government and partners to provide meals for the entire student population;
- 2) Limited institutional and personnel capacity to successfully implement school feeding program;
- 3) Limited national production to meet school feeding needs from locally-produced commodities to fully actualize HGSP.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Zero Hunger Review; System Approach for Better Education Results (these studies are pending to be published though they have been validated).

Evidence on students and families are as follows:

- a) The System Approach for Better Education Result (SABER);
- b) The WFP school feeding evaluation of 2017 for example shows that Girls Take Home Rations provided as family rations serves a critical safety net purpose for families.

RESEARCH NEEDED

- a) Cost-Benefit analysis (CBA);
- b) Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA);
- c) Supply Chain study for locally produced food commodities.

LIBERIA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME (WFP)

Lead implementer(s): World Food Program

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals
- Other: To achieve gender parity

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations
- Conditional cash transfer

TARGETING:

Geographic and individual student characteristics

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	45,714	53%	47%
Primary school	70,135	54%	46%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	115,849	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

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

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

Yes - Purchased (domestic)	0 - In-kind (domestic)
Yes - Purchased (foreign)	0 - In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The WFP program reported 48% of the food used in the program was purchased from locally/near schools (largely from women farmers and via farmer organizations). The program uses three modalities: daily in-school meals, monthly take-home rations (which reached 4,000 girls), and cash transfers which go to schools for daily meals. For the reported school year, WFP reached 24% fewer children in Liberia than planned. Donors to the program were Denmark, Germany, and private donors.



MARY'S MEALS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Mary's Meals International

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	39,887	—	—
Primary school	51,467	—	—
Secondary school	29,100	—	—
Total	120,454	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals*	Oil*	Salt*
Legumes* and nuts		

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

5% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
95% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The Mary's Meals program worked in 304 public and 192 private schools, and provided in-school meals five days per week for the ten-month school year.

LIBERIA EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ATTENDANCE, READING, AND NUTRITION PROJECT (LEARN)

Lead implementer(s): Save the Children International

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

TARGETING:

- Geographic
- Individual student characteristics
- Encourage girls enrollment

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	23,157	64%	36%
Primary school	27,996	61%	39%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	51,153	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals* Oil* Salt*

Legumes* and nuts

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

Yes - Purchased (domestic) 0 - In-kind (domestic)

Yes - Purchased (foreign) Yes - In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

Save the Children's in-school meals fed the children five times per week during the ten-month school year. Take-home rations were provided monthly over the school year to 14,442 pre-school and primary school girls. In the future, the program will provide take-home rations only to girls in grades 4–6.

