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 (Ali Pikin for Learn) Program

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
- Handwashing with soap
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Height measurement
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Drinking water
- Water purification
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification
- Professional development

Prohibited food items: none

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

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COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- Nutrition
- School gardens
- Physical education
- Food and agriculture
- Physical education
- Reproductive health
- Physical education
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

FOOD SOURCES
- Purchased (domestic)
- In-kind (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (foreign)

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.

INFRASTRUCRURE
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.

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

 Infrastructures are often used to represent funding from multiple donors.

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

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

SUCCESSES 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.
SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

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

TARGETING:
Geographic

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>806,000</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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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)

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

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FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals*
- Oil*
- Salt
- Legumes and nuts
- Other vegetables
- Fish
* 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.