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SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020–2021
• National School Feeding Programme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Technical & Vocational Training

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS
☐ National school feeding policy
☐ Nutrition
☐ Food safety
☐ Health
☐ Agriculture
☐ Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No response

BUDGET
Total: USD 5,256,619
☐ Government: USD 5,256,619
☐ International donors*: USD 0
☐ Private sector: USD 0
☐ Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ No response

INFRASTRUCTURE
All schools in The Bahamas have electricity, piped and clean water, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. Some schools have kitchens, which are used for curriculum-based instruction. However, meals for the National School Feeding Programme are prepared by caterers in private facilities (not in school kitchens).

SPECIAL NOTES
Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

COMMONWEALTH OF The Bahamas

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
☐ Handwashing with soap
☐ Height measurement
☐ Weight measurement
☐ Testing for anemia
☐ Deworming treatment
☐ Eye testing/eyeglasses
☐ Hearing testing/treatment
☐ Dental cleaning/testing
☐ Menstrual hygiene
☐ Drinking water
☐ Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
☐ Food and nutrition
☐ Agriculture
☐ School gardens
☐ Hygiene
☐ Health
☐ Reproductive health
☐ HIV prevention
☐ Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY
☐ Breakfast
☐ Lunch
☐ Dinner
☐ Snacks
☐ Take-home rations
☐ Other

No prohibited food items: Fried foods and sugar-sweetened beverages

FOOD SOURCES
No information provided

Prohibited food items: Fried foods and sugar-sweetened beverages

CHILDMEN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

School level  Total  # Enrolled  # Receiving food
Pre-school  10,130  3,734  90
Primary school  31,600  28,493  3,786
Secondary school  31,910  26,907  2,125
Total  95,270  59,134  6,000

90
3 years prior  1 year prior  2020–2021
0
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0

NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 63,510
Receiving school food: 5,910

Food was also provided to some students in...
☐ Pre-schools  ☐ Vocational/trade schools  ☐ Other

3 years prior  1 year prior  2020–2021

100%
NUTRITION
School feeding program(s) included/involved 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/biofortified:
Not applicable

Micronutrients:
Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
At least three nutritionists are involved in the National School Feeding Programme. To prevent or mitigate obesity, there are nutritional requirements for school meals and snacks, as well as food restrictions on or near school grounds. In addition, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education are incorporated into the school curriculum.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
None

RESEARCH NEEDED
Research on the impact of the National School Feeding Programme on student behavior, attendance, health, and overall success.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooks and food preparers</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transporters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-site processors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packagers and handlers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food service management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety and quality inspectors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If blank, no response was provided.

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

- Yes
- No
- No response

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

- Yes
- No
- No response

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

- Women
- Youth
- Other groups
- No response

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

- Yes
- No
- No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes
- No
- There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Small-scale farmers sell food items directly (or through farmers’ organizations) to the school feeding program. Farm-fresh items include poultry, eggs, green, leafy vegetables, legumes, and roots/tubers.

CONTACTS: THE BAHAMAS
Agency: Ministry of Education Technical & Vocational Training
Website: www.ministryofeducationbahamas.com

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES
Recent successes related to school feeding in The Bahamas have included extensive professional development programs for food handlers/caterers and the introduction of standardized requirements for nutrition and portion sizes. Recent challenges have included a lack of human resources/personnel and difficulties associated with the continuous monitoring and evaluation of food handlers/caterers by the central office.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
During the 2020–2021 school year, some schools in The Bahamas were open, while other schools operated remotely. The number of students reached and the budget for school feeding increased in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was also a temporary shift in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families), with students’ families provided with cash/monetary support or vouchers to purchase food. Feeding operations were thereby maintained without interruption. In the course of responding to the COVID-19 crisis, the school feeding program digitized the application process for school feeding and developed an up-to-date database of parents and students.
NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Technical & Vocational Training

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
• In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Not specified

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 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>90</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>3,785</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>2,125</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>67%</strong></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Dairy milk
- Fruit juice
- Water
- * fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
No information provided

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The National School Feeding Programme began in 1987. A committee to oversee school feeding in the country is jointly comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Education, Technical & Vocational Training and the Department of Social Services. Key decision makers in the school feeding program also include the Departments of Agriculture and Health.