SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021
- School Canteen Program (Programa de Alimentação Escolar)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Guinea-Bissau have latrines, most have clean water and kitchens, and very few have electricity, piped water, or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School kitchens are generally equipped with storage facilities and charcoal or wood stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

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
- 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

BUDGET

Total: USD 2,942,533
- Government: USD 260,000
- International donors*: USD 2,682,533
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

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

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

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GCNF GLOBAL SURVEY 2021

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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:
- Grains/cereals
- Micronutrients: Vitamin A, iodine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
At least two nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Guinea-Bissau, and micronutrient supplements are added to the food and also provided directly to the children. Health education and physical education are provided to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
Studies have documented the impact of school feeding on hunger, dietary quality, and income generation.

RESEARCH NEEDED
A SABER (Systems Approach for Better Education Results) study to measure the degree of government commitment to school feeding.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*
- 350 Cooks and food preparers
- Transporters
- Off-site processors
- Food packagers and handlers
- Monitoring
- 57 Food service management
- Safety and quality inspectors
- Other

*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  Other groups
- Youth  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
The 2,550 cooks in the School Canteen Program are predominantly women, and less than one quarter receive any remuneration for their work. Food items, including grains and roots/tubers, are purchased from associations of small-scale farmers, and the private sector is engaged in food transportation.

CONTACTS: GUINEA-BISSAU
Agency: Ministry of Education / General Directorate of Social Affairs and School Canteens
Website: http://www.guinebissaurepublic.com/education-2/

SUCCESES AND CHALLENGES
Recent successes related to school feeding in Guinea-Bissau include the publication of the 2019 school canteen law, the creation of a government structure for managing the school feeding program, and the general state budget for school meals. Challenges have included changes in government, as well as strikes in the education sector.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
For several months in the 2020-2021 school year, some schools in Guinea-Bissau were open while others were operating remotely. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decrease in the number of students who received food through the School Canteen Program, a temporary shift from targeting students to targeting their families, and a temporary shift in the modality of school feeding. Specifically, when meals were not prepared at school, some ingredients were delivered to students’ homes to prepare and eat at home. Guinea-Bissau was also affected by an economic/financial crisis in the 2020-2021 school year.
SCHOOL CANTEEN PROGRAM
PROGRAMA DE ALIMENTAÇÃO ESCOLAR

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Planning

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
• Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• Five times per week (in-school meals) or monthly (take-home rations) during the school year

TARGETING:
Geographic targeting based on school conditions; take-home rations are conditional on students maintaining an 80% attendance rate.

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>5,567</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>219,419</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>224,986</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals*  Dairy products  Water
Roots, tubers      Oil
Legumes, pulses, nuts  Salt
* fortified

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The School Canteen Program operates in both public and private schools, including community schools and madrasas. It prioritizes procurement from family farmers with agricultural subsidies, school feeding-specific training, and purchase agreements set prior to harvest (forward contracts).