**SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)**

**School year:** 2020

- Namibia School Feeding Programme

**Lead Agency:** Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

**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 5,357,773
  - Government: USD 5,357,773
  - 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

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

**INFRASSTRUCTURE**

Most schools in Namibia have electricity, piped and clean water, and flush toilets, while just some schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. The school kitchens are usually equipped with storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas or electric stoves.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. Partly for this reason, numbers for school-age populations and school enrollment may not perfectly align.

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**MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY**

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

**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

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

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**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

**CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>131,006</td>
<td>47,692</td>
<td>27,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>416,136</td>
<td>532,595</td>
<td>330,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>249,366</td>
<td>221,169</td>
<td>40,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>796,508</td>
<td>801,456</td>
<td>398,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

- Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 665,502
  - Receiving school food: 370,856
  - Food was also provided to some students in...
    - Pre-schools
    - Vocational/trade schools
    - Other
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:
- Maize meal blend (grains/cereals, legumes, oil, salt, sugar)

Micronutrients:
- Iron, vitamin A, iodine, zinc, folic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, calcium

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Some of the food items produced in school gardens are consumed by students. Nutritional requirements for school food menus (food baskets) are intended to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
The Namibian School Feeding Programme: Transition Case Study (2012, authored by the Ministry of Education)
The Namibian School Feeding Programme: A Case Study (2012, commissioned by the Ministry of Education with technical and financial assistance provided by the World Food Program, Partnership for Child Development, and New Partnership for Africa’s Development)

RESEARCH NEEDED
Research regarding the nutritional value of meals consumed by learners and how the Namibia School Feeding Programme can contribute to efforts to overcome stunting in the country.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*
- 6,956 Cooks and food preparers
- 14 Transporter companies
- 6 Food packager and handler companies

Other private sector (for profit) actors involved...
- Yes

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

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?
- Yes
- No
- There are no food banks in this country.
NAMIBIA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

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
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
- 5 times per week for in-school meals; provision of take-home rations depends on the availability of the maize meal blend.
- During the school year

TARGETING:
Targeted towards public primary schools with needy learners, inclusive of some schools with combined grade levels. Take-home rations are targeted to the most vulnerable learners.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 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>27,244</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>330,115</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>40,741</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>398,100</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals*
- Legumes, pulses, nuts*
- Salt*
- Sugar*  
  * fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The Namibia School Feeding Programme operates in public schools and is expected to reach up to 450,000 students in 2021/2022. Take-home rations were made available March–May 2020 and December 2020 in an effort to limit food waste when schools were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other efforts to limit food waste on an ongoing basis include fumigation/pest control in storage areas and the use of nearly-expired foods, while efforts to limit packaging waste include the re-use of bags/containers. In the long term, Namibia aspires to eradicate poverty and therefore anticipates that the total number of school feeding beneficiaries (who are targeted based on need) should eventually decrease.