SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020–2021
• Food Service Program
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
  - No response

BUDGET
Total: USD 846,000
  - Government: USD 846,000
  - 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 Palau have electricity and clean water, and most schools have piped water, flush toilets, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. The school kitchens are usually equipped with refrigeration, storage facilities, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES
Some population and enrollment 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

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

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.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
Prohibited food items: Most canned meat items and processed meats, ketchup, food enhancer (Ajinomoto), “junk food”

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

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDBREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

<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>746</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1,712</td>
<td>1,712</td>
<td>1,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>2,211</td>
<td>2,211</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,669</td>
<td>4,449</td>
<td>2,259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3 years prior</th>
<th>1 year prior</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,449</td>
<td>2,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years prior</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year prior</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 3,923
Receiving school food: 2,259
Food was also provided to some students in...
- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

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

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NUTRITION
School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:
- Fortified foods
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified:
- Dairy products, eggs, oil, salt

Micronutrients:
- Iron, vitamin A, iodine, calcium, vitamin D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
At least two nutritionists are involved in school feeding in Palau. Some of the foods produced in school gardens are consumed by the students, and some are provided to their families to cook and eat at home.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
None

RESEARCH NEEDED
Qualitative and quantitative research that tracks the status of school feeding in Palau over time and provides guidance on how the school feeding program can be improved.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*:
- 30 Cooks and food preparers
- 2 Transporters
- Off-site processors
- Food packagers and handlers
- 1 Monitoring
- 1 Food service management
- Safety and quality inspectors
- 2 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 □ No response
- 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
Farmers provide foods such as vegetables, fruits, fish, eggs, dairy, poultry, and other products for the school feeding program. All cooks/caterers are remunerated for their work, and students’ parents occasionally contribute to the program by offering in-kind food donations.

CONTACTS: PALAU
Agency: Ministry of Education
Website: www.palaumoe.net

SUCCESES AND CHALLENGES
Recent successes related to school feeding in Palau include increased funding for the Food Service Program, healthier school meals, kitchen improvements, professional development for cooks, and the involvement of nutritionists. Challenges include limited food supplies for the store vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic, and limited funding that leaves the program vulnerable to setbacks. It would be preferable if the program received sufficient and consistent funding to steadily improve itself and remain resilient.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the amount of funding for school feeding in Palau increased. There was a temporary change in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families), and when meals were not prepared at school, ingredients were delivered to students’ homes to prepare and eat at home. The crisis helped government leaders to realize that some students need daily food assistance. As a result, breakfast has been added to the Food Service Program.
FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Universal

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>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1,712</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,259</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

FOOD SOURCES:
- 95% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 3% In-kind (domestic)
- 2% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Among other objectives, the Food Service Program is partly aimed at promoting local fisheries and agriculture in Palau. In 2020–2021, the program operated in 18 public schools—all schools in the public school system in Palau.