SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program (All Pkin for Learn)
- Hot Meal for Lunch (World Food Program)
- School Feeding and Nutrition Project (Caritas Bo)
- School Feeding Program (Joint Aid Management – JAM)
- School Feeding Program (Plan International)

Lead Agency: National School Feeding Secretariat

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Food safety
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...

Yes  No  No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 18,469,142

- Government: USD 12,228,358
- International donors*: USD 6,240,784
- 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.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Very few schools in Sierra Leone have electricity, piped water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, or kitchens. Some have clean water, and most have latrines. Schools that participate in the school feeding programs tend to have kitchens with an open cooking area, serving utensils, and charcoal or wood stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The report includes detailed information for three programs, which together provided food for 82% of the 485,674 children reached by large-scale school feeding programs in Sierra Leone.

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

Prohibited food items: Non-nutritious foods, such as "Maggi" seasoning

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Health
- Agriculture
- Reproductive health
- School gardens
- HIV prevention
- Hygiene
- Physical education

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

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN 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>663,023</td>
<td>138,170</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1,245,193</td>
<td>1,759,773</td>
<td>485,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>1,264,270</td>
<td>492,140</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,172,486</td>
<td>2,390,083</td>
<td>485,674</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,350,463

Receiving school food: 485,674

Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other
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:
- Oil, salt, dairy products, grains/cereals, legumes

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

**Agriculture, Employment, and Community Participation**

- Jobs created by school feeding programs*:
  - **3,228** Cooks and food preparers
  - **4** Transports
  - **4** Off-site processors
  - **1** Food packagers and handlers
  - **1** Monitoring
  - 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
  - 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 private sector is engaged in food trading, transport, catering, and the provision of supplies (utensils) for school feeding programs in Sierra Leone. The community is also engaged in preparing and distributing the food. Some programs give preferential treatment to women when hiring service providers.

**Contacts: Sierra Leone**

Agency: Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE)
Website: www.mbsse.gov.sl

**Successes and Challenges**

Successes related to school feeding in Sierra Leone include declines in the rate of children’s illness and mortality, reduced expenditures needed for children’s health, and increased enrollment, attendance, and academic achievement in project communities. However, there is a need for additional resources to support home grown school feeding and policy reforms to promote agriculture and school feeding at the national level. The government also needs to strengthen the National School Feeding Secretariat to be more autonomous and capable of leadership on school feeding.

**Emergencies/COVID-19 Pandemic**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions introduced (such as market lockdowns), take-home rations were provided to households in at least some project communities to alleviate food shortages. This elicited greater community interest in, and support for, the school feeding programs.
MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM
ALL PIKIN FOR LEARN

Lead implementer(s): National School Feeding Secretariat

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet educational goals
• To meet agricultural goals
• To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
• In-school meals
• Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• 5 days per week during the school year
• Annual take-home rations

TARGETING:
Targeting is conducted with the support of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE)

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>52,287</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52,287</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals*
- Fish
- Dairy products
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Meat
- Other vegetables
- Oil
- Salt*
- Water

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
- 0% Purchased (domestic)
- 99% Purchased (foreign)
- 1% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Food is generally procured by implementing partners from international sources, with some donated by students’ families. This program makes provisions for quarterly stakeholders meetings, which serve as an opportunity for parents, teachers, and School Management Committees to discuss the school feeding program.

HOT MEAL FOR LUNCH
WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE)

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

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

TARGETING:
Targeted towards areas that are considered vulnerable (with all schools within the selected chiefdoms receiving school meals)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

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<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>327,301</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>327,301</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
- 0% Purchased (domestic)
- 50% Purchased (foreign)
- 50% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Students provide fuel for the stoves used to prepare school lunches, and cooks in this program are remunerated with a daily food ration.
SCHOOL FEEDING AND NUTRITION PROJECT
CARITAS BO
Lead implementer(s): National School Feeding Secretariat

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
- In-school meals

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

TARGETING:
Targeted towards areas that are considered vulnerable

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School level</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>17,054</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17,054</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

FOOD SOURCES:
- 20% Purchased (domestic)
- 30% Purchased (foreign)
- 5% In-kind (domestic)
- 45% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Small-scale farmers are engaged by providing grains/cereals, legumes, and oil for this program. Micronutrient supplements or powders are added to the food served to children. An increase in school enrollment meant that funds were not adequate in the 2020-2021 school year to achieve the program targets.