### REPUBLIC OF Benin

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

**Most recently completed school year: September 2017 - July 2018 (180 school days)**

- National Integrated School Feeding Program
- World Food Program Interim Strategic Plan for Benin (School Feeding Activity)
- International Food For Education (FFE) and Child Nutrition program
- Global Partnership for Education Program

**Lead Agency:** Ministry of Maternal and Primary 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]

#### BUDGET

- Total: USD 47,808,948
  - National government: USD 23,800,000 (50%)
  - International donors: USD 24,008,948 (50%)

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Few schools in Benin have electricity, running or drinking water, cafeterias, or flush toilets. Some schools have latrines, and most have some type of kitchen. It is anticipated that private sector engagement may fill some of these infrastructure deficits.

#### SPECIAL NOTES

None

### MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
  - Take-home rations
  - Conditional cash transfer

#### FOOD SOURCES

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

#### COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Height measurement
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Weight measurement
- Menstrual hygiene
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Drinking water
- Deworming treatment
- Water purification
- Other vegetables
- Oil
- SALT
- Sugar

Prohibited food items: Genetically-modified foods

#### COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Nutrition
- Physical education
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention

#### SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

**CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18**

<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>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>519,176</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>519,176</strong></td>
<td><strong>53%</strong></td>
<td><strong>47%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### COVERAGE: PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

- Total number primary school-age children: 3,613,181
- Receiving school food: 519,176

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NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve 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:
Oil, salt

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
Vitamin A, Iodine, Vitamin D

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

- 5,113 Cooks and food preparers
- 14 Transporters
- 0 Off-site processors
- 175 Food packagers and handlers
- 28 Monitoring
- 42 Food service management
- 16 Safety and quality inspectors
- 237 Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...
- Yes
- No

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...
- Yes
- No

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...
- Women
- Youth
- Other groups

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)
- Yes
- No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 16 nutritionists were involved in these school feeding programs in Benin. Cooks are trained in nutritional matters and several complementary activities also promote good nutrition, including: nutrition monitoring, deworming, nutrition education, and efforts to prevent or mitigate weight gain or obesity.

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

There have been several recent achievements related to school feeding in Benin.
- 2014: Adoption of the National School Food Policy
- 2015: National School Feeding Forum with the support of the WFP Center of Excellence based in Brazil
- 2016, 2017, and 2018: United Nations Day of School Feeding to highlight the program and advocate for the African School Food Day
- 2017: Agreement with the WFP for the National Integrated School Feeding Program
- 2018: A Round Table for resource mobilization for school canteens

As challenges, Benin experiences management problems, inadequate storage and security of food supplies, lack of personnel, breaks in the supply chain, hard-to-reach schools (roads in bad condition, flooding, etc.), water problems for the operation of canteens, and the weak commitment of some communities.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

National School Feeding Policy (2014)
Diagnosis of constraints and recommendations for the functioning of the Government School Feeding Project (April 2017)
Diagnosis of School Feeding in Benin with the SABER Tool (in 2014 and 2017)
Cost Benefit Analysis of School Food in Benin with Mastercard (May-June 2018)

RESEARCH NEEDED

- Impact assessment of school canteens in Benin
- Sustainability of school canteens in Benin
- Feasibility study of school feeding with local products in Benin (i.e., direct purchases from small-scale farmers)

CONTACTS: BENIN

Agency: Ministry of Maternal and Primary Education
Email: mempmatprim@gmail.com
NATIONAL INTEGRATED SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): School Food Directorate of the Ministry of Maternal and Primary Education

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
- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Geographic and individual student characteristics (especially in areas of high food insecurity with dispersed populations, limited resources, and low female school attendance rates)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<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>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>256,873</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>256,873</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals
- Legumes and nuts
- Salt
- Oil

FOOD SOURCES:
- 55% Purchased (domestic)
- 45% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:
This program began in 2000. Through elections for the canteen management committees, some women have leadership positions.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM INTERIM STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BENIN (SCHOOL FEEDING ACTIVITY)

Lead implementer(s): World Food Program

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
- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Geographic characteristics (especially areas of high food insecurity and low rates of school attendance and retention)

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<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>161,537</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>161,537</td>
<td>65%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals
- Roots/tubers
- Legumes and nuts
- Oil

FOOD SOURCES:
- 55% Purchased (domestic)
- 45% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:
This program began in 2015. The World Food Program is responsible for all key decision-making.
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION (FFE) AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Catholic Relief Services

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet educational goals
• 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 (5 days per week during the school year)
• Take-home rations (quarterly during the school year)

TARGETING:
Geographic characteristics (especially rural areas of high food insecurity and low rates of school attendance)

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<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>41,653</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41,653</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
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FOOD ITEMS:
Grains/cereals
Legumes and nuts
Salt
Oil

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

NOTES:
This program began in 2014. Small-scale farmers receive agricultural extension, school feeding-specific training, and forward contracts (purchase agreements set prior to harvest) as part of this program.

Private sector actors are involved in transportation and the provision of supplies (e.g., utensils).

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): World Bank

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
• 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Geographic characteristics (areas with high rates of food insecurity; low rates of school enrollment; poor end-of-year performance and high drop-out rates; and rural areas)

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FOOD ITEMS:
Grains/cereals
Roots/tubers
Legumes and nuts
Fish
Eggs
Dairy Products
Oil
Salt

FOOD SOURCES:
Not reported.

NOTES:
Women are sometimes elected to be chairperson of the canteen management committees. The community also provides oversight of the management of these canteens. However, budget shortfalls meant that some targeted schools had to be covered by the National Integrated School Feeding Program, instead.