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

School year: 2020–2021
- National School Meals Programme

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**

In Antigua and Barbuda, all schools have electricity, piped and clean water, and gender-private flush toilets, while most have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and some have kitchens. School meals are typically prepared off-site in centralized kitchens, which are equipped with closed cooking areas, storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas or electric stoves.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This may result in some misalignment between the numbers of children in the country, enrolled in school, and receiving food.

**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: Soy sauce

**FOOD SOURCES**

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

**COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES**

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

**COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

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

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

**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

**COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES**

- Handwashing with soap
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**FOOD SOURCES**

- Purchased (domestic)
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- In-kind (domestic)
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**BUDGET**

Total: USD 1,480,104
- Government: USD 1,480,104
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture

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

**CONTRIBUTORS**

- Government
- International donors
- Private sector
- Other donors

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture

**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>2,970</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>9,845</td>
<td>10,123</td>
<td>6,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>6,890</td>
<td>7,856</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>19,705</td>
<td>20,029</td>
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**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

**CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021**

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**NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD**

- 3 years prior
- 1 year prior
- 2020–2021

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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 16,735
- Receiving school food: 6,861

41% of children received school meals in Antigua and Barbuda.

Food was also provided to some students in...
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:
Not applicable

Micronutrients:
Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Nutritional requirements for food baskets are in place to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, and food items produced in school gardens are consumed by students. Special training is required for cooks and caterers in nutrition, food safety/hygiene, portion measurements, and menu planning.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED
Not specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooks and food preparers</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transporters</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-site processors</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packagers and handlers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food service management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety and quality inspectors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

Farms of all sizes supply products for the National School Meals Programme. While most of the products are imported, vegetables and ground provisions are purchased from local farmers. Some beef, fish, and chicken is from local vendors, but the program also purchases imported chicken and fish. There has been a purposeful focus on creating jobs and/or income-generating opportunities through the Labour Job Program.

CONTACTS: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Agency: National School Meals Programme
Website: facebook.com/antiguansmp

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Antigua and Barbuda include reduced hunger, as participants receive at least one nutritious meal a day. The program also reduces expenses for families, as they no longer have to provide lunch for the children. The National School Meals Programme is funded entirely by the government, and ensuring its sustainability remains a challenge.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were alternately closed and not operating, or operating remotely, for several months of the 2020/2021 school year.
NATIONAL SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME

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

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

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

TARGETING:
Universal (public primary schools and one public pre-school)

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>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
- 60% Purchased (domestic)
- 40% Purchased (foreign)
0% In-kind (domestic)
0% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The National School Meals Programme began operating in 2005, and in the 2020/2021 school year, 31 public schools participated. Mechanisms to limit food waste include sealed food storage, fumigation/pest control of the storage area, and use of nearly expired food. There are plans to serve 7,250 children in the upcoming school year.