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

School year: 2020–2021

- National Integrated School Feeding Program (Programme National d’Alimentation Scolaire Intégré – PNASI)
- School Feeding Program funded by the World Food Program (WFP)
- USDA-Funded Feeding Program implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Small-Scale School Feeding Program funded and implemented by Benin Childhood Education and Health for All (Bénin Enfance Education et Santé pour Tous – BEST)
- Small-Scale School Feeding Program funded and implemented by Médecins du Monde

**Lead Agency:** Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMP)

**NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS**

- National school feeding policy
- Food safety
- Nutrition
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement
- Line item in the national budget...
  - Yes
  - No
  - No response

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Some schools in Benin have electricity, clean water, latrines, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, though very few have piped water and kitchens. School kitchens are typically equipped with either open or closed cooking area, storage facilities, serving utensils, and charcoal or wood stoves.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Some population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This report includes detailed information for five programs, which together provided food for 47% of the 1,780,449 children enrolled in pre-school and primary school in Benin.

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**REPUBLIC OF Benin**

**COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES**

- Handwashing with soap
- Height 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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**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:** Canned food and seasoning cubes

**FOOD SOURCES**

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

**LINE ITEM IN THE NATIONAL BUDGET**

- Yes
- No
- No response

**BUDGET**

Total: USD 29,653,330

- Government: USD 22,127,750
- International donors*: USD 7,525,580
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture

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**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>705,218</td>
<td>154,162</td>
<td>11,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>2,043,937</td>
<td>1,626,287</td>
<td>824,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>1,866,128</td>
<td>886,445</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,615,283</td>
<td>2,666,894</td>
<td>835,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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: 3,910,065

- Receiving school food: 824,087
- Food was also provided to some students in...
  - Pre-schools
  - Vocational/trade schools
  - Other

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GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture; agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.
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:
Grains/cereals, oil, salt

Micronutrients:
Iodine, vitamins A and D

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- Cooks and food preparers: 9,770**
- Transporters: 53
- Off-site processors: 635
- Food packagers and handlers: 59
- Monitoring: 20
- Food service management: 95
- Safety and quality inspectors: 59
- Other: 53

*If blank, no response was provided.
** These 9,770 cooks are not generally paid on a regular basis, but they occasionally receive a lump sum of money to incentivize them and recognize their work.

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 [Yes] [No] [No response]
- Youth [Yes] [No] [No response]
- Other groups [Yes] [No] [No response]
- 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 transport and in the provision of supplies (utensils) for school feeding programs in Benin. The community is also engaged in supplying condiments to prepare the dry rations made available to the schools. Parents contribute to the program through lump-sum contributions either in-kind or as non-compulsory cash donations. School canteens provide income-generating activities for women’s groups and for young people who are mostly involved in logistics, transport, school gardens, and school field activities. Most school feeding programs in Benin give preferential treatment to women when hiring cooks and service providers and encourage them to assume leadership positions in canteen management committees.

SUCCESES AND CHALLENGES
Successes related to school feeding in Benin include the agreement signed with WFP in 2017 for the National Integrated School Feeding Program; the 2018 round table to mobilize resources for school canteens; and the extension of the program to cover up to 75% of pre-school and primary school children from 2022 onwards. However, there are challenges related to storing and securing food, shortages of staff, losses along the supply chain, difficult access to schools at certain times (when roads are in poor condition or there is flooding, etc.), water shortages for school canteens, and the inadequate commitment of certain communities.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of students receiving food, as well as the frequency of school feeding, decreased. There was also a temporary change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). The COVID-19 pandemic revealed a need to assess new needs and strengthen assistance, for example, by ensuring sufficient hand washing facilities as well as creating regional food reserves to facilitate distribution in schools. Canteen managers have intensified the focus on hand washing and hygiene measures in the preparation and distribution of meals.

CONTACTS: BENIN
Agency: Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMP)
General email address: memp.info@gouv.bj

STUDIES CONDUCTED
Cost-Benefit Analysis of School Feeding in Benin with Mastercard (2018); diagnosis of school feeding in Benin with the SABER tool (2014 and 2017); diagnosis of constraints and recommendations for the operation of the Government’s school feeding project (2017).

RESEARCH NEEDED
Impact evaluation of school canteens in Benin; capitalization of lessons learned from school canteens in Benin with an emphasis on their sustainability; an assessment of the feasibility of school feeding based on local products in Benin (i.e., direct purchase from small farmers).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Twelve nutritionists are engaged in the five school feeding programs in Benin. Health education, physical education, and food and nutrition education are utilized to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity. Cooks/caterers also receive special training in menu planning, portions/measurements, nutrition, and safety and hygiene. Some of the products produced in school gardens are consumed by students, while the rest is sold.

GCNF GLOBAL SURVEY 2021
NATIONAL INTEGRATED SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM
PROGRAMME NATIONAL D’ALIMENTATION SCOLAIRE INTÉGRÉ – PNASI
Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMP)

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- 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

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

TARGETING:
Geographic (Within all 77 communes of Benin, the program is targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity.)

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>11,366</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>668,884</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>680,250</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grains, cereals</th>
<th>Fruits</th>
<th>Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legumes, pulses, nuts</td>
<td>Oil*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green, leafy vegetables</td>
<td>Salt*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD SOURCES:
- 75% Purchased (domestic)
- 10% Purchased (foreign)
- 15% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The National Integrated School Feeding Program began operating in 2017, and in the 2020/2021 school year, the program reached 3,997 public schools. The program is nationally managed and operates in the 77 municipalities of the country, with a gradual increase in the number of schools covered. Food is generally procured from domestic sources, with some donated via bilateral aid. To limit food waste, cooks are trained to monitor the daily rations to be served to schoolchildren, and there is fumigation/pest control within sealed food storage facilities. There are plans to serve over 800,000 students in the upcoming school year.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP)
Lead implementer(s): World Food Program

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To provide a social safety net
- 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:
Geographic (Poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity are targeted.)

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>105,644</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>105,644</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grains, cereals</th>
<th>Oil*</th>
<th>Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legumes, pulses, nuts</td>
<td>Salt*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green, leafy vegetables</td>
<td>* fortified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The School Feeding Program funded by the World Food Program began operating in 2014 and reached 618 public schools during the 2020/2021 school year. In Benin, WFP engagement in the field of school feeding started in 1975. Even earlier, WFP used to support communities with food assistance in cases of natural disasters and catastrophes. The school feeding program has regional level representatives which ensures the relay of decisions and grassroots actions for the implementation of the program in beneficiary schools. National NGOs work on sensitization and community awareness of the program, which is a vector for grassroots development. Cooks are trained to limit food waste, and there is fumigation/pest control within sealed food storage facilities.
**USDA-Funded Feeding Program Implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**

**Lead Implementer(s):** Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

**Objectives:**
- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet agricultural goals

**Modalities of Providing Students with Food:**
- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

**Frequency and Duration:**
- 5 times per week for in-school meals and quarterly for take-home rations
- During the school year

**Targeting:**
In-school meals are geographically targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity. Take-home rations are targeted based on individual student characteristics (class attendance rate of at least 95% for one term).

**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>47,165</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>47,165</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Food and Beverage Items:**
- Grains, cereals*
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Other vegetables
- Salt*
- Oil*
- Water
- *fortified

**Food Sources:**
- 0% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 100% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

**Additional Information:**
The USDA-Funded Feeding Program implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) began operating in 2014 and reached 144 public schools in the 2020/2021 school year. This program has sub-offices at the regional level which ensures the relay of decisions and actions for the implementation of the program in beneficiary schools. Community involvement is essential for the mobilization of resources to carry out the activities of the project and ensure program sustainability. Food is procured from international sources through the USDA lifelink procedures.

**Small-Scale School Feeding Program Funded and Implemented by Benin Childhood Education and Health for All**

**Bénin Enfance Éducation et Santé pour Toous – Best**

**Lead Implementer(s):** BEST (International NGO)

**Objectives:**
- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To provide a social safety net
- 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:**
Geographic (Targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity)

**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>293</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Food and Beverage Items:**
- Grains, cereals*
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Other vegetables
- Salt*
- Oil*
- Water
- *fortified

**Food Sources:**
- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

**Additional Information:**
This program began operating in 2019, covering one public school in the 2020/2021 school year. This program also has sub-offices at the regional level which ensures the relay of decisions and actions for the implementation of the program in beneficiary schools. Food is procured locally by the International NGO BEST through restricted consultation procedures. To limit food waste, fumigation/pest control is utilized within sealed food storage facilities.
SMALL-SCALE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FUNDED AND IMPLEMENTED BY MÉDECINS DU MONDE

Lead implementer(s): Médecins du Monde (International NGO)

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

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

TARGETING:
Geographic (Targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity)

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>2,101</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>2,101</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Other vegetables
- Oil
- Salt
- Water

* 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:
This program began operating in 2020 and operated in two public schools during the 2020/2021 school year. Food is procured locally by the NGO Médecins du Monde through restricted consultation procedures. To limit food waste, fumigation/pest control is utilized within sealed food storage facilities.