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

School year: 2020–2021

- Programme of Advancement Through Health & Education (PATH) – Nutritional Subsidy and Breakfast Programme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Youth

**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**

All schools in Jamaica have electricity and clean water, and most schools have piped water, flush toilets, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. The school kitchens are typically equipped with closed cooking areas, storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas stoves.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Some population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

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**MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meal Type</th>
<th>Modality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Snacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Take-home rations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

**COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

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

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

**FOOD SOURCES**

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

**BUDGET**

Total: USD 45,338,116

- Government: USD 45,338,116
- 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.*

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

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**COVERAGE:**

**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 433,041

Receiving school food:

- Pre-schools: 119,846
- Vocational/trade schools: 48,030
- Other: 131,663

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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:
Green, leafy vegetables

Micronutrients:
Iron, vitamin B12, thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin B6, calcium

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Food items produced in school gardens are consumed by the students and also sold. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

A study of the impact of the PATH school feeding program on learners’ academic performance.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

1,200
- Cooks and food preparers
- Transportsers
- Off-site processors
- Food packagers and handlers
- Monitoring
- Food service management
- Safety and quality inspectors
- Other

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

PATH funds are distributed to schools to buy food, and farmers of all sizes provide vegetables, meat, poultry, and tubers for the school meal program. The private sector is also engaged in food trading, catering, and the supply of utensils. Students' families contribute to the school meal program by paying a partial price for meals.

CONTACTS: JAMAICA

Agency: Ministry of Education and Youth
Website: https://moey.gov.jm/

SUCCESES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Jamaica include an expansion in the provision of meals from three feeding days to five feeding days per week, an increase in the budgetary allocation per child; and an increase in the number of cooks. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated school closures presented a challenge for the PATH Nutritional Subsidy and Breakfast Programme.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Jamaica were closed but operating remotely for many months of the 2020–2021 school year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a decrease in the number of students fed and the frequency of school feeding. There was a temporary change in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families) and a temporary change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). While schools were closed, students' families were also provided with electronic payments or vouchers to purchase food. The pandemic demonstrated the versatility of the PATH school meal program, which found various mechanisms to reach and support the most vulnerable.
PROGRAMME OF ADVANCEMENT THROUGH HEALTH & EDUCATION (PATH) 
NUTRITIONAL SUBSIDY AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMME
Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Youth, School Feeding Unit

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
• Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• 5 times per week for in-school meals; 2 times per week for take-home rations
• During the school year

TARGETING:
Based on both geographic and individual characteristics, as per the Social Safety Net program.

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>11,817</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>71,816</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>48,030</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>131,663</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals  
Roots, tubers  
Meat  
Poultry  
Green, leafy vegetables*  
Water  
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
100% Purchased (domestic)  
0% Purchased (foreign)  
0% In-kind (domestic)  
0% In-kind (foreign)
If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The Programme of Advancement Through Health & Education (PATH) began in 1939 and aims to support vulnerable students. In 2020–2021, the program operated in 992 public and 27 private schools, inclusive of some boarding schools. Take-home rations are comprised of grains.