

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Feeding Program
(Programme d'Alimentation Scolaire)

Lead Agency: Ministry of National Education, Directorate of School Management Support (Direction d'Appui à la Gestion des Etablissements – DAGE)

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

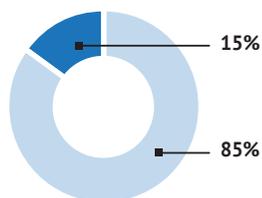
BUDGET

Total: USD 29,699,977

- Government: USD 4,329,234
- International donors*: USD 25,370,744
- 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

Some schools in Niger have running water, latrines, and kitchens, while very few have electricity, clean water, flush toilets, or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. The school kitchens are typically equipped with storage facilities and either charcoal/wood stoves or gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

None

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other (Scholarships for girls)

- 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 (Porridge made from millet flour, rice, or super cereal plus)

Prohibited food items: Pork

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight 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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REPUBLIC OF THE Niger



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	2,449,783	180,352	2,164
Primary school	4,124,636	2,806,023	453,385
Secondary school	3,219,958	693,039	157,164
Total	9,794,377	3,679,414	612,713

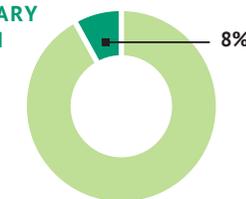
The number of secondary students includes 42,490 students of vocational/trade schools.



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 7,344,594

Receiving school food: 610,549



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

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:

Legumes, oil, salt

Micronutrients:

Iron, vitamin A, iodine, zinc, folic acid, calcium, and vitamin D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 4 nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Niger. Nutritional supplements or micronutrient powders are provided directly to the students and also included in the food served. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Past studies have shown that children from canteen schools exhibit more regular school attendance and higher rates of school success and graduation. Girls, in particular, stay in school and attend classes regularly and are assured of protection against early marriage and unwanted pregnancies, and they are better educated on issues of reproductive health and women's well-being. The meals served support students in their cognitive development and give them a comparative advantage in their physical development and learning.

RESEARCH NEEDED

There is need for a universal study that captures the extent to which the country's executives and civil servants have benefited from school feeding programs during the school cycle.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

2,620	Cooks and food preparers
324	Transporters
	Off-site processors
	Food packagers and handlers
	Monitoring
5	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**
 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

Schools with canteens supported by the Government (known as "state canteens") are sometimes supplied through OPVN stores (*Office des Produits Vivriers du Niger*), which is a government food reserve. The Government of Niger buys and stores foodstuffs and then sells them at moderate prices or distributes them to vulnerable populations or victims of disasters. In the case of state canteens, funds are also given to local governments that then purchase food from retailers or wholesalers. Farmers also provide vegetables, legumes, grains, and oil directly to the participating schools, and the private sector provides food trade, transport, and utensils. Parents voluntarily provide in-kind and cash contributions to support the program.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school meal programs in Niger, school feeding has greatly improved children's access to school, especially in rural areas. School feeding has also made it possible to ensure the return to school and the regular school attendance of children in conflict zones (i.e., the regions of Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri). In addition, school feeding has significantly improved the retention of girls in school, especially in rural areas, and has provided them with social protection, thereby reducing the risk of early marriage. Among the recent challenges related to school feeding, the conflict in the east of the country linked to Boko Haram has caused school closures, including those canteens in the southern Diffa strip. Terrorism in the Tahoua and Tillabéri regions and the threat of attacks, theft, and looting along the border of the Maradi region with Nigeria have similarly disrupted school feeding efforts. Food insecurity, a fodder deficit, and natural disasters such as floods have exacerbated the situation, resulting in further population displacement and/or the occupation of schools by the affected populations. In addition, there are some concerns about corruption and mismanagement in the School Feeding Program.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, funding for school feeding in Niger increased, and the number of students reached through the School Feeding Program increased. There was a temporary change in the venue of food distribution and in the modality through which food was provided. Specifically, rations were given to all students in canteen schools, whereas before they had been provided only to girl students. The pandemic contributed to an improvement in school hygiene (e.g., washing hands with soap and water before and after each meal) and resulted in a greater mobilization of resources for school feeding in 2021. During the 2020–2021 school year, Niger was also affected by slow onset emergencies (e.g., drought), natural disasters, conflict, and an economic/financial crisis.

CONTACTS: NIGER

Agency: Ministry of National Education
Website: www.education.gouv.ne

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM PROGRAMME D'ALIMENTATION SCOLAIRE

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of National Education, Directorate of School Management Support (*Direction d'Appui à la Gestion des Etablissements – DAGE*); 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
- Take-home rations
- Other (Scholarships for girls)

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- In-school meals are provided 5 times per week for sedentary schools and 7 times per week for nomadic schools. Take-home rations are provided quarterly.
- During the school year

TARGETING:

School children are targeted to receive food based primarily on geographic factors, such as the level of food insecurity; the rates of school attendance/absenteeism and completion/abandonment; the prevalence of nomadism; and the existence of an emergency situation, such as conflict. Take-home rations are typically targeted towards girl students with at least 80% school attendance rates. However, during the COVID-19 crisis, rations were given to all students in canteen schools.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	2,164	49%	51%
Primary school	453,385	49%	51%
Secondary school	157,164	45%	55%
Total	612,713	48%	52%



FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Other vegetables	Other: Porridge made from millet flour, rice, or super cereal plus
Legumes, pulses, nuts*	Oil*	
Dairy products	Salt*	
Meat	Sugar	
Green, leafy vegetables	Water	

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

35% Purchased (domestic)	5% In-kind (domestic)
10% Purchased (foreign)	50% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Feeding Program began in 1972 and operated in 2,694 public schools as of 2020–2021. In this year, take-home rations (comprised of cereals/grains, legumes, oil, and salt) were provided to all students in canteen schools.