SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020-2021
• School Meals Program
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

BUDGET
Total: USD 910,413
☐ Government: USD 910,413
☐ International donors*: USD 0
☐ 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
All schools in Saint Kitts and Nevis have electricity, clean and piped water, flush toilets, and kitchens, and most schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. The school kitchens are typically equipped with refrigeration and electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES
None

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: Mayonnaise, pork

FOOD SOURCES
☒ Purchased (domestic) ☐ Purchased (foreign)
☒ In-kind (domestic) ☐ In-kind (foreign)

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.

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>1,660</td>
<td>1,275</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>4,459</td>
<td>3,153</td>
<td>3,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>3,975</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,094</td>
<td>7,205</td>
<td>3,406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of secondary students fed includes 94 students of vocational/trade schools.

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 8,434
Receiving school food: 3,406
Food was also provided to some students in...
☐ Pre-schools ☐ Vocational/trade schools ☐ Other

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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:
Not applicable

Micronutrients:
Not applicable

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- 60 Cooks and food preparers
- 9 Transporters
- 9 Off-site processors
- 9 Food packagers and handlers
- 6 Monitoring

*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
- Other
- 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
- No response

There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In-kind food donations are provided by the Central School Farm, and farms of all sizes provide green, leafy vegetables, roots/tubers, dairy products, eggs, meat, and poultry for the school lunches. The farmers receive subsidies and agricultural extension related to the School Meals Program. Cooks in the program are predominantly women and are paid in cash, and parents are encouraged to provide feedback regarding menu planning and portion sizes in their children's schools.

CONTACTS: SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
Agency: School Meals and the Ministry of Education
Website: www.education.gov.kn

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Saint Kitts and Nevis include the expansion of the School Meals Program, higher nutritional quality of school lunches, and the provision of training related to food safety and hygiene. The program has also benefitted from national dietary guidelines and input provided by a nutritionist. Challenges related to school feeding include the absence of an effective monitoring and evaluating system (with data collection, storage, and retrieval) to bring about improvements in the School Meals Program. Other challenges relate to infrastructure: The reliance on one centralized kitchen means long times spent in transport that can have a negative impact on food safety and food quality. There is also a need for a physical structure to facilitate the packing and offloading of food and containers. There are some concerns related to mismanagement of the food stocks, and students are sometimes denied second servings.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Saint Kitts and Nevis were closed but operating remotely for several months in the 2020–2021 school year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in funding for school meals and in the number of students fed. There was also a temporary change in the venue (location) of distributing/receiving food, with children served at school in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time). The COVID-19 crisis also brought some positive developments, such as a greater appreciation for the School Meals Program and greater emphasis placed on food handling and food safety.

RESEARCH NEEDED

A longitudinal study of the impact of school meals on students’ academic achievement, promotion, and graduation rates, with attention to disparate impacts across genders.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported
SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM
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
• 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:
Students self-select into the School Meals Program, with stigma discouraging many students in higher grades from participating.

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>3,056</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,406</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar
- Fruit juice
- Water

FOOD SOURCES:
- 90% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 10% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The School Meals Program began in 1982. The Saint Kitts and Nevis Food and Nutrition Coordinating and Advisory Committee (FNCAC) oversees school feeding activities in the country and is comprised of members from the School Meals Establishment, the Central School Farm, the Department of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Health.