

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

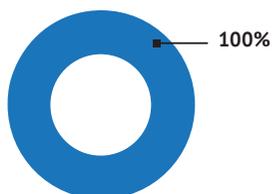
Line item in the national budget...

- 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
- 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.



The Global Survey of School Meal Programs is the property of GCNF and is protected by copyright. It may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent. Contact: info@gcnf.org ©2019. The Global Child Nutrition Foundation. All rights reserved.

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-1096OG002.

FEDERATION OF Saint Kitts and Nevis



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020-2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	1,660	1,275	0
Primary school	4,459	3,153	3,056
Secondary school	3,975	2,777	350
Total	10,094	7,205	3,406

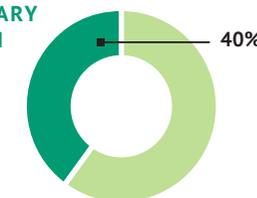
The number of secondary students fed includes 94 students of vocational/trade schools.



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

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

At least one nutritionist is engaged in school feeding in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Some food items, such as mayonnaise and pork, are prohibited in the School Meals Program for health reasons, and the Government is now working on policies to ensure a measure of control over what vendors sell on or near school grounds. Some of the products from school gardens are used in the School Meals Program. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for school lunches, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

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.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

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

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

SUCCESSSES 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.

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?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	3,056	49%	51%
Secondary school	350	41%	59%
Total	3,406	48%	52%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

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

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

90% Purchased (domestic) **10% In-kind (domestic)**
 0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

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.

