School Meal Programs in the Caribbean

$79.1 million budget

- 12 of 16 Caribbean countries, which together hold 44% of the Caribbean region's population.
- 1.16 million children receiving food
- 99.5% of the aggregate budget is provided by Caribbean governments.
- 36.4% of enrolled primary school students receive school food.
- 26.8% of primary and secondary school-aged children receive food.

1. During the COVID-19 pandemic, school feeding operations were maintained without interruption in The Bahamas when students’ families were provided with cash/monetary support or vouchers to purchase food.

2. Farmers supply roots/tubers, fruits, green leafy vegetables, and other vegetables to the Grenada School Feeding program.

3. Of primary and secondary school-age children in Barbados receive school meals, the highest of all 12 countries.

4. Of primary school students in Saint Kitts & Nevis received school food.

5. Of school food in Saint Lucia is acquired via domestic purchasing.

6. In Trinidad & Tobago, very few packaged, processed foods are included in school meals, and sugar-sweetened beverages are prohibited on school grounds for health-related reasons.

7. In Jamaica, students’ families contribute to school meals in the Program of Advancement Through Health & Education (PATH) – Nutritional Subsidy and Breakfast Program by paying a partial price for meals.

8. Recent successes in Haiti related to school feeding include the creation of jobs, reduction of malnutrition, and contribution to local development.

9. Saint Vincent & the Grenadines has a universal school meal program and pilots different menus that include fish and local fruits and vegetables at least once per week.

10. Of the school feeding program in Antigua & Barbuda is government funded.

11. 100% (n=12) of responding countries in the Caribbean have school feeding as a line item in their national budget.

12. Across the 13 programs operating in these 12 countries, an average of 9.6 food categories are served. That’s higher than 8.3 in Latin America and 6.9 across all programs worldwide!

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