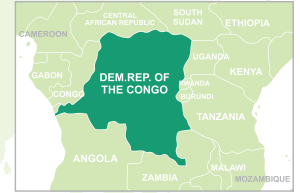


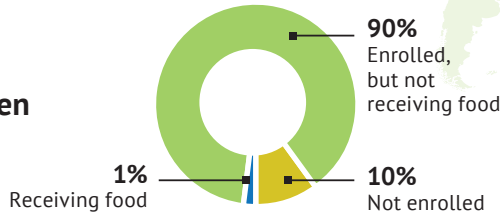


# Democratic Republic of the Congo

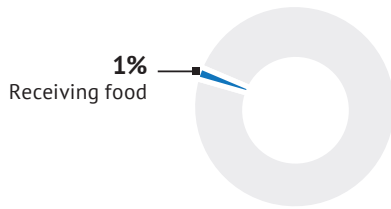


## School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

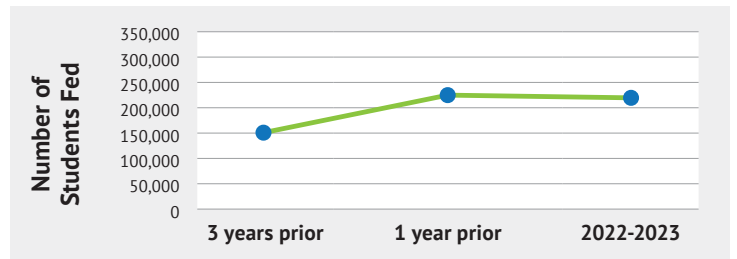
### All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



### Only Enrolled Primary Students



| School Level     | Total             | # Enrolled        | # Receiving Food |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Preschool        | 10,011,640        | 734,314           | 0                |
| Primary School   | 17,049,688        | 20,169,276        | 222,800          |
| Secondary School | 13,416,572        | 7,349,414         | 0                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>40,477,900</b> | <b>28,253,004</b> | <b>222,800</b>   |



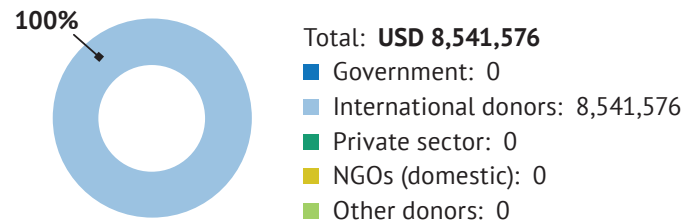
## National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Health
- Food safety
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)
- Climate/environment policy
- Private sector involvement

### The country had ...

- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding**
- National system for monitoring school feeding

## Budget



- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

## School Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains**
- Refined/milled grains
- Blended grain-based products
- Legumes**
- Nuts and seeds
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Poultry and game meat
- Red meat
- Processed meat
- Fish and shellfish
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- White roots and tubers
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables**
- Cruciferous vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Deep-fried foods
- Sweets

- Liquid oils**
- Semi-solid and solid fats
- Salt**
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- 100% fruit juice
- Other fruit drink
- Tea
- Other sugar-sweetened beverages

### Prohibited food items

- None
- ### Food Sources
- Purchased (domestic)**
  - Purchased (foreign)**
  - In-kind (domestic)
  - In-kind (foreign)

Special Notes: None

## Nutrition

### School feeding program(s) include/involve 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

### Limitations on food and beverage marketing...

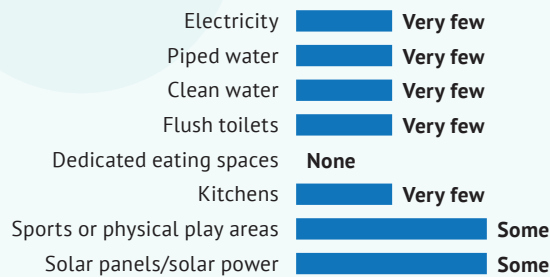
- On school grounds**
- To school age children

### Additional Information

A team of nutritionists from the World Food Program supported the canteen program. Oil and salt were fortified with iodine and vitamins A and B12. Produce from school gardens was partly consumed, partly sold, and used to diversify students' meals and ensure the functioning of canteens. Obesity was not considered to be a problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...



### Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **8,306**

- Percent paid: Unknown
- Percent women: Unknown

### There was a focus on creating job opportunities for...

- Women
- Youth
- Other Groups

### 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**
- School gardens**

### Complementary Education Programs

- Food and nutrition**
- Agriculture**
- Environment/climate/sustainability
- Hygiene**
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education
- Mental health

### Additional Information

Food for the program was purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures with preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies. Small-scale farms received support in the form of agriculture subsidies (including inputs), purchase agreements set prior to harvest (forward contracts), and advice, seeds, or tools to prevent post-harvest losses and promote production of specific crops or foods for the program. During the 2022-2023 school year, approximately 8,306 cooks were involved in preparing children's meals without receiving cash compensation. However, cooks received remuneration which included products from the World Food Program (WFP) food basket (cereals, legumes, oil, and salt).

## Environmental Sustainability

### Targeted climate-friendly foods

- Yes  No

### Steps taken to limit food waste

- Sealed food storage
- Fumigation/pest control in storage area
- Use of hermetic bags or larger hermetic storage system
- Routine testing/monitoring of dry food storage
- Use of nearly-expired food
- Use of usable but “imperfect” commodities or produce
- Campaign to reduce how much food students throw away

### Steps taken to limit package waste

- Re-use of bags/containers
- Recycling
- Use of compostable materials
- Use of “bulk serve” containers
- Prohibiting specific types of packaging

### Additional Information

Fuel efficient (energy efficient) stoves were utilized to reduce the use of firewood/charcoal as fuel.

## Emergencies

### Experienced disruptions to school feeding due to emergencies

- Yes  No

### Strategies to address the impact of emergencies

- Seek alternative food sources or suppliers
- Changes in numbers of students fed
- Negotiate better prices with existing suppliers
- Establish alternative supply routes or transportation methods
- Source different or alternative food
- Release of food reserves
- Increase funding or budget allocation for school feeding
- Collaborate with local producers or suppliers to reduce dependence on global supply chains
- Changes in delivery method
- Changes in feeding modality
- Changes in feeding frequency
- No particular strategy was used

### Additional Information

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Classic and Home-Grown School Canteen Program was affected by natural disaster, supply chain disruption, extreme food price inflation, teachers’ strike, and general insecurity in the eastern part of the country. Some schools were closed for one month or more during the school year, causing school feeding operations to cease temporarily.

## Successes and Challenges

### Successes

1. School feeding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been mainly supported by the WFP since 2001, initially covering 15,000 students in 13 primary schools. Activities have significantly expanded with emphasis on the social safety net and educational aspects of school feeding.
2. School meals promoted education and the food and nutritional security of children during financial and food crises.
3. The enrollment rate of girls increased significantly in schools benefiting from school canteens.
4. There was a reduction in the school abandonment rate.
5. The program increased the income of small-scale producers through the creation of markets.
6. In conflict zones, the WFP provided take-home rations as an alternative to meals on site. This incentivized very vulnerable households to allow their children to continue their studies at school.

### Challenges

1. Limited physical access and security in certain areas in the east of the country.
2. Need for protection of schoolchildren and school infrastructure in certain areas.
3. Policy and strategy still in “gestation.”
4. Need for improvement in leadership and coordination.
5. More funding needed to cover a large number of vulnerable students.

# Classic and Home-Grown School Canteen Program

(Programme des cantines scolaires classique et HGSF)

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): World Food Program
- An international donor agency or other implementing partner managed the program.
- Implementing partner procured the food

## How Many Students Received Food

| School Level     | # of Students  | % Girls    | % Boys     |
|------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Preschool        | 0              | –          | –          |
| Primary School   | 222,800        | 51%        | 49%        |
| Secondary School | 0              | –          | –          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>222,800</b> | <b>51%</b> | <b>49%</b> |

## Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Legumes
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Liquid oils
- Salt

## Elements of Home-Grown School Feeding

- Objective for small-scale farmers to benefit from access to a stable market
- Local food sourcing
- Small-scale farmers involved by selling directly (or through their farmer organization) to the program or the schools
- Additional support provided to small-scale farmers
- Country had a law/policy/standard related to small-scale farmers and school feeding programs
- Preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies in tendering procedures
- Effort is made to reduce food miles

## Objectives

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To address gender-specific challenges
- To reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

## Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week (in-school meals) and once per week (take-home rations)
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Targeting based on level of vulnerability in the provinces and donor requirements. In January 2023, the eastern part of the country faced a high level of insecurity. To support students in the affected region, take-home rations were provided until the end of the school year in June.

## Food Sources

25% Purchased (domestic)      0% In-kind (domestic)  
75% Purchased (foreign)      0% In-kind (foreign)

## Additional Information

Large-scale school feeding started in 2001, and all structures involved in the school feeding program come together within the SABER Interministerial Committee. Students' families contributed to the supply of wood, water, and salt as needed.

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs® collects data from government sources and is funded, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture. Contact [info@gcnf.org](mailto:info@gcnf.org) for more information.

**Citation:** Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, Democratic Republic of the Congo. <https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>