School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children

- 22% Enrolled, but not receiving food
- 75% Receiving food
- 3% Not enrolled

Only Enrolled Primary Students

- 85% Receiving food

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

- Total: USD 1,146,000
  - Government: 1,146,000
  - International donors: 0
  - Private sector: 0
  - NGOs (domestic): 0
  - Other donors: 0

- 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

- Unhealthy snacks and drinks such as chocolate, chips, sodas, etc.

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: Some population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics were referenced to complete this report.
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

---

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

**Share of Schools with ...**

- Electricity: All
- Piped water: All
- Clean water: All
- Flush toilets: All
- Dedicated eating spaces: All
- Kitchens: All
- Sports or physical play areas: All
- Solar panels/solar power: Very few

**Employment**

Total number of cooks/caterers: **30**

- At least 75-99% paid
- 75-99% women

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**

Two nutritionists, employed by the governments of Palau, Taiwan, and Japan, were involved with the Ministry of Education Food Service Program. Cereals, bread, salt, and milk were fortified, and very few foods served in schools were packaged and processed. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, there were food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, along with the provision of several types of education, including food and nutrition, health, and physical education.

---

**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

---

**Employment**

Total number of cooks/caterers: **30**

- At least 75-99% paid
- 75-99% women

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**

Both small and medium/large-scale farmers were directly engaged in the program, providing products such as roots/tubers, fish, fruits, green leafy vegetables, and other vegetables. Cooks were paid by the national government and received special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene.
Successes and Challenges

**Successes**

1. Increased funding has revolutionized the school feeding program, resulting in healthier meals, upgraded kitchen facilities, and enhanced culinary skills among cooks.
2. Nutritionists’ input ensured menus met nutritional standards, promoting students’ well-being and academic performance.

**Challenges**

1. Challenges to the food service program included limited food supplies from vendors and inconsistent access to local produce from farmers and fishermen. These obstacles disrupted meal planning and compromised the program’s goal of offering nutritious options. Efforts to address these issues involved strengthening partnerships with vendors and local producers to ensure reliable access to fresh ingredients for student meals.
2. To some extent, inadequate inventory management and supervision have rendered the program vulnerable to setbacks.
Ministry of Education Food Service Program

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Palau Ministry of Education
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- National government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Level</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>1,653</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,216</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Legumes
- Nuts and seeds
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Poultry and game meat
- Red meat
- Fish and shellfish
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- White roots and tubers
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Cruciferous vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Liquid oils
- Salt
- Dairy milk
- Other fruit drink

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 reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week for in-school meals; Quarterly for take-home rations
- During the school year

Targeting

- Universal targeting for in-school meals; Take-home rations were sent to three small schools that did not have cafeterias due to their distance from the main city.

Expenses

- 50% Food
- 30% Labor
- 10% Handling, storage, transport
- 10% One-time fixed costs
- 10% All other costs

Food Sources

- 25% Purchased (domestic)
- 10% In-kind (domestic)
- 55% Purchased (foreign)
- 10% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The Ministry of Education Food Service Program began during Palau’s Trust Territory years in 1947. Students’ preferences were integrated into the program through surveys that influenced the design of school meal menus.

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 for more information.

Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, Palau. https://gcnf.org/country-reports/