Saint Lucia

School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

58% Enrolled, but not receiving food
30% Receiving food
12% Not enrolled

Only Enrolled Primary Students

54% Receiving food

School Level | Total | # Enrolled | # Receiving Food
---|---|---|---
Preschool | 4,215 | 2,235 | 0
Primary School | 14,844 | 13,588 | 7,358
Secondary School | 12,340 | 10,217 | 799
Total | 31,399 | 26,040 | 8,157

The number of secondary students fed is inclusive of some vocational/trade school students.

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 510,140

- Government: 510,140
- 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: Foods which contain monosodium glutamate (MSG) and products with high salt or sugar content

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: Some population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used 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

Additional Information

At least 7 nutritionists, employed by the national government, were involved in the St. Lucia School Feeding Program during the 2022-2023 school year. This led to a high degree of variety in the school meal menu. Products from school gardens were partly consumed by students and partly sold. Nevertheless, most foods served in the school feeding program were in packaged/processed form, and beverages with non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners were available to students at school (though not provided through the school meal program). Overweight/obesity is considered a problem in St. Lucia, and efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity included the provision of health education and physical education.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flush toilets</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated eating spaces</td>
<td>Some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchens</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports or physical play areas</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar panels/solar power</td>
<td>Very few</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: 120
- Percent paid: 100%
- 100% 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

Cooks in the St. Lucia School Feeding Programme received training in menu planning and food safety/hygiene. All cooks were paid in cash. Both small and medium/large-scale farmers were directly involved in this program, providing roots/tubers, legumes/pulses/nuts, eggs, green leafy vegetables, and other vegetables. These farmers received support in the form of purchase agreements set prior to harvest (forward contracts).
In the 2022-2023 school year, St. Lucia experienced both supply chain disruptions and extreme food price inflation. Overall, these emergencies resulted in an increase in the number of students needing and accessing the school feeding program. In response to higher food prices, the St. Lucia School Feeding Programme replaced some imported staple foods with alternative products that were domestically produced. A shift toward domestically produced products had the effect of improving the nutritional quality of school meals.

To minimize food waste, food items were weighed and portions were kept small, with an option for students to return for additional servings if they were still hungry. Food that was uneaten/unusable was composted on school grounds.

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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

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St. Lucia School Feeding Programme

Management
- Lead implementer(s): 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>7,358</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>799</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,157</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of secondary students fed is inclusive of 665 students in secondary school and 134 students in vocational/trade school.

Foods and Beverages
- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Legumes
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Poultry and game meat
- Red meat
- Processed meat
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- White roots and tubers
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Cruciferous vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Deep-fried foods
- Liquid oils
- Semi-solid and solid fats
- Salt
- Other fruit drink
- Other sugar-sweetened beverages

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 provide a social safety net
- To reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- 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
- Targeted towards children in households that were facing financial difficulties, with families registering for the program voluntarily.

Expenses

Food Sources
- 98% Purchased (domestic)
- 2% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information
Large-scale school feeding was first introduced in St. Lucia in 1983. In 2022-23, the St. Lucia School Feeding Programme operated in about 95 schools.