

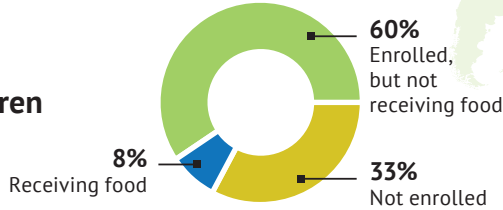


REPUBLIC OF Uganda

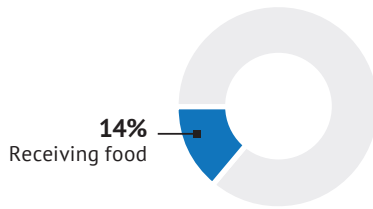


School Meal Coverage (2022)

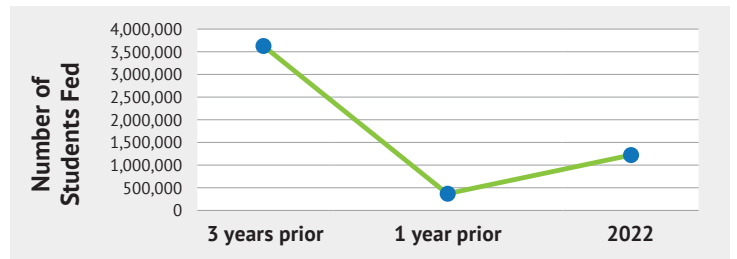
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	4,515,627	608,975	1,906
Primary School	9,409,201	8,840,589	1,193,966
Secondary School	6,649,090	1,975,553	20,828
TOTAL	20,573,918	11,425,117	1,216,700



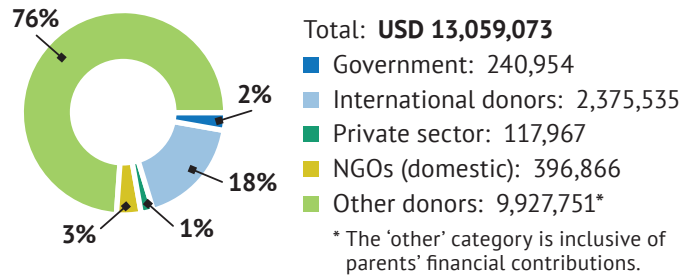
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- National school feeding policy (A National School Feeding Policy is in draft form.)
- Nutrition**
- Health**
- Food safety**
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)**
- Climate/environment policy**
- Private sector involvement**
- Other policy**

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
Pork is prohibited in Islamic schools.

- 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...

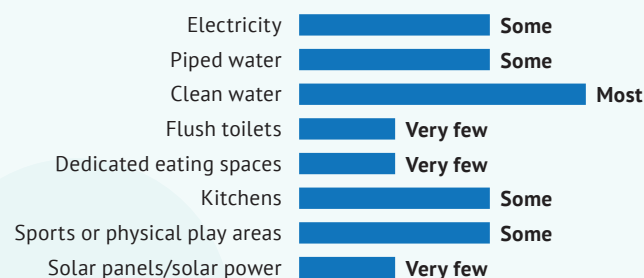
- On school grounds
- To school age children

Additional Information

In 2022, the Karamoja Program employed 10 nutritionists, funded by the national government and UNICEF, and served fortified cooking oil and salt with iodine and vitamin A, along with biofortified beans and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. The Cotton On Foundation Program fortified maize flour with vitamin A and calcium and served biofortified maize, though no nutritionists were involved. The SNV Program employed 8 nutritionists, paid by the local government and SNV. The Kakira Program provided the students with nutritional supplements or micronutrient powders containing vitamin A and zinc in the food. The Gulu Program fortified cooking oil and salt with iodine and vitamin A, and served biofortified cowpea and Irish potato, involving 2 nutritionists employed by the local government. Efforts to mitigate overweight/ obesity included nutritional requirements for food baskets (Karamoja, SNV, Kakira, and Gulu programs), food and nutrition education (Karamoja, SNV, and Gulu programs), health education (Cotton On Foundation program), and physical education (Karamoja and Gulu programs).

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **11,044**

- At least 75-99% paid
- 50-75% 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

The Karamoja and SNV Programs prioritized small-scale farmers in tendering procedures and provided them with agricultural subsidies and advice and/or tools to prevent post-harvest losses. The Karamoja Program also offered advice, seeds and/or tools to promote production of specific crops and school feeding-specific training, while the SNV Program additionally provided farmers with mobile or electronic payments and forward contracts. The Cotton On Foundation Program included both small and medium/large-scale farmers, offering advice, seeds and tools to promote production of specific crops. Students' families in the Karamoja and Kakira Programs contributed by paying partially for the food, while the SNV Program required full payment. Families also provided in-kind contributions to the Karamoja and the Gulu programs and supplies to the Cotton On Foundation Program. Programs generally involved the private sector in food trading, processing, and/or transport, and in providing supplies.

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

In 2022, all programs implemented measures to reduce firewood and charcoal use by adopting energy-efficient stoves. The Karamoja, Cotton On Foundation, and Kakira Programs efforts to reduce food waste also included preparing quantities of food based on daily attendance, while the Gulu Program emphasized proper food handling techniques and regular inspection. All programs integrated school gardening, with produce consumed by students and used for various purposes, including educational activities and parent meetings.

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 school year, several programs faced emergencies but managed to maintain operations without interruptions. The Karamoja Program experienced an economic crisis, leading to a 20% reduction in food availability. To address this, schools were encouraged to establish vegetable gardens and purchase from local farmers to reduce costs. The Cotton On Foundation Program faced extreme food price inflation and dealt with the higher food prices by promoting school gardens to increase school food production. The SNV Program faced a health epidemic, supply chain issues, and inflation, but continued its services. The Gulu Program encountered a slow-onset emergency that slightly reduced food accessibility, leading to increased school gardening. Only the Kakira Program reported no emergencies during the year.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. The National School Feeding Policy is currently under development;
2. In November 2023, Uganda joined the Global School Meals Coalition, appointing both political and technical leaders with responsibilities for school meals;
3. The government is finalizing the National School Feeding Menu to set meal standards and provide guidance on the procurement, preparation, serving, and consumption of safe, high-quality food in schools.

Challenges

1. Limited availability of comprehensive nationwide data on school feeding;
2. The multisectoral committee has faced challenges in effectiveness;
3. School feeding and nutrition have not yet been fully integrated into the Ministry’s organizational structure.

Karamoja School Feeding Programme

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Karamoja School Feeding Programme Management Unit (PMU)
- The program was managed with both centralized and decentralized decision-making (Semi-decentralized).
- Implementing partner procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	233,969	46%	54%
Secondary School	20,632	56%	44%
TOTAL	254,601	47%	53%

Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Refined/milled grains
- ✓ Legumes
- ✓ Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- ✓ 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

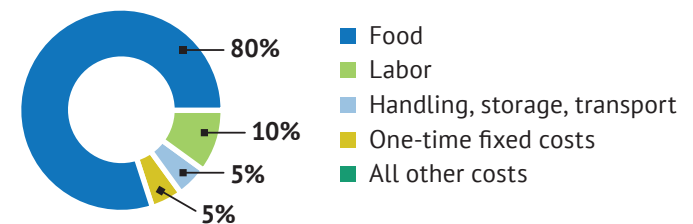
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week (in-school meals) and at the end of each school term (take-home rations)
- During the school year (in-school meals) and outside the school year (take-home rations)

Targeting

- Targeted towards chronically food insecure regions with a high incidence of hunger and malnutrition. Take-home rations were provided to girls with attendance of 80% and above during the term.

Expenses



Food Sources

100% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The program started in 1983, and the National Technical Working Group on School Feeding and Nutrition serves as its intersectoral coordination body. The program mobilizes the communities to produce quality food to supply the program, such as iron-rich beans and orange-fleshed sweet potato, particularly Women Farmer Groups. A National School Feeding Policy and a National School Feeding Menu are under development.

School Feeding Programme in Cotton On Foundation Uganda (COFU)-Supported Schools

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Cotton On Foundation
- 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	723	49%	51%
Primary School	6,146	53%	47%
Secondary School	229	66%	34%
TOTAL	7,098	53%	47%

Foods and Beverages

- Refined/milled grains
- Legumes
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- 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 meet nutritional and/or health goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- All learners in pre-primary, primary, and secondary levels in schools supported by the Cotton On Foundation.

Expenses



Food Sources

100% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The program started in 2014. Women were encouraged to become members of the School Procurement Committee and School Food Management Committees. Communities were encouraged to grow foods to be purchased by the program and received education on nutrition and food safety. The school menu was selected with participation of learners' representatives.

SNV Parent-led School Feeding Milk Programme

Management

- Lead implementer(s): District, Municipal, and City/Local Governments with support from the Ministry of Education and Sports and SNV
- The program was managed with both centralized and decentralized decision-making (Semi-decentralized).
- Individual schools procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	922,779	52%	48%
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	922,779	52%	48%

Foods and Beverages

- Refined/milled grains
- Dairy milk
- Dairy

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 meet agricultural goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

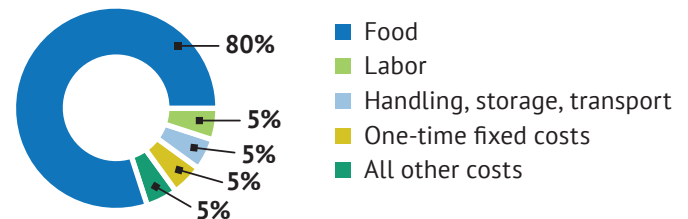
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- The program targeted primary school students (P1 - P7 grades) of the 'cattle corridor' of southwest Uganda.

Expenses



Food Sources

- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

Launched in 2016, the program primarily supports schools established by faith-based organizations. In the 2022 school year, it trained women's groups in yogurt production, enabling them to supply schools and generate income. As parents were responsible for funding the food, the program also focused on mobilizing, educating, and training them to effectively manage and sustain the initiative.

Kakira Sugar Ltd Corporate Social Responsibility Meals Programme

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Kakira Sugar Limited
- An international donor agency or other implementing partner managed the program.
- Kakira Sugar Limited procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	711	47%	53%
Primary School	2,737	50%	50%
Secondary School	619	47%	53%
TOTAL	4,067	49%	51%

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Legumes
- Eggs
- Red meat
- 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 meet nutritional and/or health goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

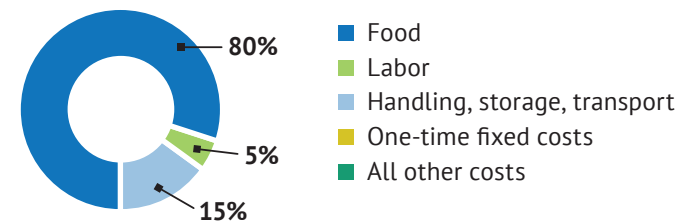
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Schools in the sugar estate, along with nearby communities

Expenses



Food Sources

100% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

Launched in 2011, the program included the additional objective of reducing sugar cane consumption among the population.

Gulu Parents-Led School Feeding Programme

Management

- Lead implementer(s): School Management Committees in collaboration with the PTA under the guidance and supervision of the Department of Education, Gulu District
- Local governments managed the program (Decentralized decision-making).
- Individual schools procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	472	52%	48%
Primary School	28,335	51%	49%
Secondary School	577	52%	48%
TOTAL	29,384	51%	49%

Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Refined/milled 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 reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

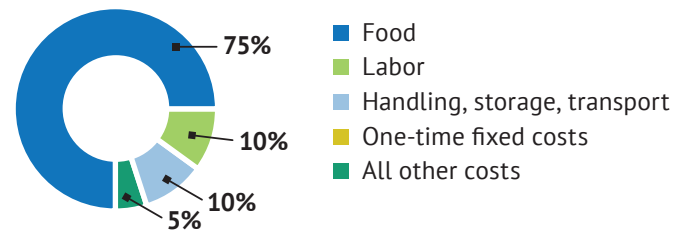
Frequency and Duration

- 7 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Targeted schools were within the geographical coverage of the Gulu District Local Government.

Expenses



Food Sources

- 5% Purchased (domestic)
- 95% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The program was launched in 2015, and the community was engaged in establishing and managing various aspects of the program, including school operations, gardening, fuel wood, and monitoring and supervision, while also ensuring safety and security. The program encouraged women to assume leadership roles in the School Management Committee, PTA, and the School Feeding Program Subcommittee. The media played a key role in disseminating information and promoting the program.

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, Uganda. <https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>