

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Home Grown School Feeding Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education - School Agriculture & Food Management Unit (SAFMMU)

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

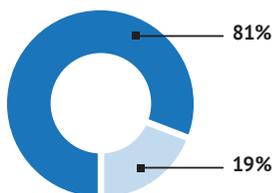
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

## BUDGET

Total: USD 2,885,293

- Government: USD 2,331,798
- International donors\*: USD 553,495
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture  Yes  No  No response

\*International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Very few schools in The Gambia have electricity or flush toilets. Some schools have piped water, most have clean water, and all have latrines and school kitchens. The kitchens are generally equipped with storage facilities and charcoal or wood stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

None

## MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Pork

## FOOD SOURCES

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

## 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

## COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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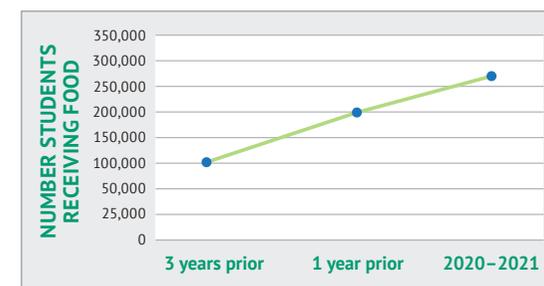
# REPUBLIC OF The Gambia



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

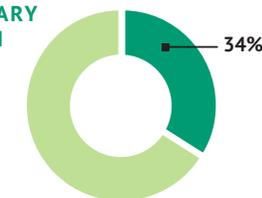
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	220,666	188,312	44,410
Primary school	360,153	214,152	182,862
Secondary school	284,102	212,134	33,959
<b>Total</b>	<b>864,921</b>	<b>614,598</b>	<b>261,231</b>



### COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 644,255

Receiving school food: 216,821



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

## NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved 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

### Food items fortified/biofortified:

Oil, salt, sweet potato

### Micronutrients:

Iron, zinc, vitamin A, iodine

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least seven nutritionists are engaged in school feeding, and vitamin A sweet potato (orange flesh sweet potato–OFSP) is included on the school meal menu. Various education programs are aimed at preventing or mitigating overweight/obesity.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

Studies have found positive impacts of school feeding on school attendance, completion, and performance.

## RESEARCH NEEDED

SABER (Systems Approach for Better Education Results) report

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

2,874	Cooks and food preparers
1	Transporters
0	Off-site processors
0	Food packagers and handlers
12	Monitoring
0	Food service management
7	Safety and quality inspectors
	Other

*\*If blank, no response was provided.*

### Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes  No  No response

### Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

- Yes  No  No response

### There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women  Other groups  
 Youth  No response

### There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes  No  No response

### Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes  No  There are no food banks in this country.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Small-scale farmers provide vegetables, oil, grains/cereals, roots/tubers, and legumes for the school feeding program. The private sector is also engaged in catering, and communities are engaged in managing the school feeding activities. The cooks/caterers are paid in cash and in kind.

## CONTACTS: THE GAMBIA

**Agency:** Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education, School Agriculture and Food Management Unit  
**Website:** [www.edugambia.gm](http://www.edugambia.gm)

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes related to school feeding in The Gambia include improved attendance and retention in both lower basic and upper basic schools, the attainment of gender parity in basic schools, and the safety net offered to beneficiaries. A code of conduct for all partaking in school feeding has helped ensure that the program is not affected by corruption/mismanagement. However, there remains a need for greater community participation and intersectoral coordination in school feeding activities.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused some schools in The Gambia to operate remotely as movement in the country came to a halt (apart from essential activities). The school feeding program was therefore able to reach fewer students, and there was a temporary shift from in-school meals to meals and/or ingredients made available for pick up. Students' families were also provided with monetary support or vouchers to purchase food.

## HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education - School Agriculture & Food Management Unit (SAFMU)

### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Five times per week for meals; take-home rations distributed during emergencies
- During the school year

### TARGETING:

Targeting based on indicators of vulnerability

### HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	44,410	54%	46%
Primary school	182,862	51%	49%
Secondary school	33,959	61%	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>261,231</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fish	Salt*
Roots, tubers*	Green, leafy vegetables	Water
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Oil*	

\* *fortified*

### FOOD SOURCES:

**85% Purchased (domestic)**    0% In-kind (domestic)  
 0% Purchased (foreign)    **15% In-kind (foreign)**

*If blank, no response was provided.*

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The national government manages this program with support from the World Food Program (WFP). In 2016/17, WFP handed over management of two regions to the national government as part of the gradual transition to government ownership.

