

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Homegrown School Meals

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, School Feeding Unit

## 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

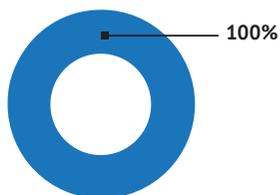
## BUDGET

Total: USD 17,325,983

- Government: USD 17,325,983
- International donors\*: USD 0
- 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

All schools in Kenya have kitchens, most have electricity and clean water, and some have piped water and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. The school kitchens are equipped with storage facilities and charcoal or wood stoves. Most schools have latrines while few have flush toilets.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists the World Food Program as receiving support from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program since 2016 for school feeding activities in Kenya.

## 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: Processed foods, foods prepared elsewhere without oversight of school authorities

## 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

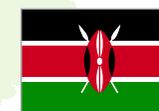
The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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# REPUBLIC OF Kenya



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

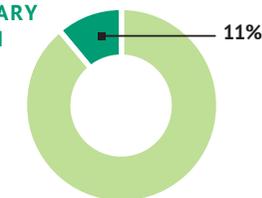
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	4,206,591	3,199,841	0
Primary school	8,318,181	8,290,450	1,800,000
Secondary school	7,686,730	Unknown	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,211,502</b>	<b>11,490,291</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 16,004,911

Receiving school food: 1,800,000



- 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

### Micronutrients:

Iron, iodine, zinc, calcium, vitamin A, vitamin B12

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Foods produced in school gardens are consumed by the students. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, there are nutritional requirements for food baskets and several program (food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education) are offered in schools.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

Studies of school feeding in Kenya have found that school feeding enhances rates of school enrollment, retention, and completion. Furthermore, it spurs economic development in rural areas and provides social and economic support to those employed in the program as cooks or officers in charge.

## RESEARCH NEEDED

Research on the impact of the school feeding program on students' academic performance.

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

3,000	Cooks and food preparers
1,000	Transporters
5,000	Off-site processors
10,000	Food packagers and handlers
500	Monitoring
3,000	Food service management
300	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 grains/cereals to the Homegrown School Meals program, and the private sector provides food trading and transport services. Resource distribution is completely centralized, such that the government provides the food directly to the schools. The cooks, who are predominantly women, receive some payment from local communities, and parents and other community members also provide firewood, water, and labor for food handling. Women and youths are given priority during the tendering process to secure contracts for the provision of foods and services.

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Kenya, the Homegrown School Meals program enhances the rates of enrollment, retention, and school completion. It also spurs local development. The greatest challenge facing the program has been inadequate resources. In 2020–2021, the funding was not adequate to achieve program targets, resulting in a reduction in the number of feeding days as the rate of school enrollment increased. Among the implications of this shortfall, the lack of resources to train food handlers (cooks, officers in charge of school meals, etc.) results in mismanagement of the program in some areas.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In the first half of the 2020–2021 school year, schools in Kenya were either closed but operating remotely or partly closed (operating remotely) and partly open for in-person learning. All schools were open from January 2021 onwards. The COVID-19 crisis caused the number of students fed through the Homegrown School Meals program to increase, though the frequency of school feeding and size of rations decreased. There was a temporary change in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families) and a temporary change in feeding modality. Specifically, while schools were closed, meals were no longer prepared at school, but some ingredients were provided to students or their parents to pick up at school to prepare and eat at home. One positive outcome of this crisis is that corn soya blend was introduced to the school feeding menu for pupils in grades 1, 2, and 3 to improve children's health.

## CONTACTS: KENYA

**Agency:** Ministry of Education, School Feeding Unit  
**Website:** [www.education.go.ke](http://www.education.go.ke)

## HOMEGROWN SCHOOL MEALS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL FEEDING UNIT

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Education, School Feeding Unit

### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- 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 for in-school meals and once per week for take-home rations
- Throughout the year

### TARGETING:

Geographic targeting toward areas of high food insecurity (i.e., arid areas)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	1,800,000	54%	46%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals      Oil\*      Water  
Legumes, pulses, nuts      Salt\*

\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In 2018, the World Food Program handed over the school feeding program to the Kenya Government. To date, the Government provides resources for purchasing food commodities while the World Food Program provides technical assistance to the School Feeding Unit within the Ministry of Education. Beginning in 2020–2021, the Government purchases rice from the Kenya National Trading Cooperation, which stores and sells rice on behalf of farmers. In 2020–2021, students in grades 4 and 8 reported to school in October 2020 and received in-school meals, while other students received take-home rations.

