

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- Namibia School Feeding Programme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

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

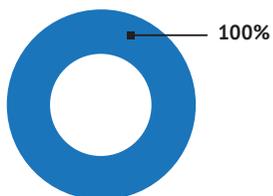
BUDGET

Total: USD 5,357,773

- Government: USD 5,357,773
- 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

Most schools in Namibia have electricity, piped and clean water, and flush toilets, while just some schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. The school kitchens are usually equipped with storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. Partly for this reason, numbers for school-age populations and school enrollment may not perfectly align.

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: None

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 Namibia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

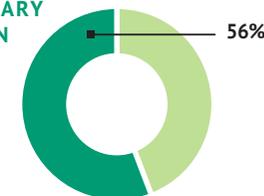
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	131,006	47,692	27,244
Primary school	416,136	532,595	330,115
Secondary school	249,366	221,169	40,741
Total	796,508	801,456	398,100



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 665,502

Receiving school food: 370,856



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:

Maize meal blend (grains/cereals, legumes, oil, salt, sugar)

Micronutrients:

Iron, vitamin A, iodine, zinc, folic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, calcium

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Some of the food items produced in school gardens are consumed by students. Nutritional requirements for school food menus (food baskets) are intended to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

The Namibian School Feeding Programme: Transition Case Study (2012, authored by the Ministry of Education)

The Namibian School Feeding Programme: A Case Study (2012, commissioned by the Ministry of Education with technical and financial assistance provided by the World Food Program, Partnership for Child Development, and New Partnership for Africa's Development)

RESEARCH NEEDED

Research regarding the nutritional value of meals consumed by learners and how the Namibia School Feeding Programme can contribute to efforts to overcome stunting in the country.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

6,956	Cooks and food preparers
14	Transporter companies
	Off-site processors
6	Food packager and handler companies
	Monitoring
	Food service management
	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

Farmers are not directly involved in the Namibia School Feeding Programme. Parents and other community members volunteer for the role of cooking and serving the pupils. The cooks, who are predominantly women, are paid in-kind with a take-home ration. However some schools request that parents periodically contribute some money to remunerate and give recognition to the cooks.

CONTACTS: NAMIBIA

Agency: Education, Arts and Culture, Directorate Programmes and Quality Assurance

Website: www.moe.gov.na

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Namibia include the provision of 1–2 meals for pupils from food insecure homes, the development of a dedicated Namibia School Feeding Policy and Implementation Programme, and close collaboration with the World Food Program to establish school hydroponics gardens and pilot home grown school feeding in the country. Positive impacts for students have been noted in terms of school attendance. Challenges related to school feeding include a lack of infrastructure (i.e., cooking shelters), sustainable fuel for cooking, and storage facilities. The compensation given to cooks/servers is very limited, and there are also gaps in contract management in terms of record keeping of the food stocks and monitoring of food safety and quality.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Namibia remained open for most months of the 2020 school year, though schools closed from March–May. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted a change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). The Office of the Prime Minister (specifically, the Disaster Risk Management Unit) assisted communities in need with food and other items during the pandemic peak times. The COVID-19 crisis, though disruptive, brought some positive changes including improvement in the provision of water and sanitation facilities in schools, a strong handwashing campaign, and the provision of more eating utensils so as to avoid sharing.

NAMIBIA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

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:

- 5 times per week for in-school meals; provision of take-home rations depends on the availability of the maize meal blend.
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Targeted towards public primary schools with needy learners, inclusive of some schools with combined grade levels. Take-home rations are targeted to the most vulnerable learners.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	27,244	50%	50%
Primary school	330,115	48%	52%
Secondary school	40,741	49%	51%
Total	398,100	48%	52%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals* Salt*
 Legumes, pulses, nuts* Sugar*
 * 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:

The Namibia School Feeding Programme operates in public schools and is expected to reach up to 450,000 students in 2021/2022. Take-home rations were made available March–May 2020 and December 2020 in an effort to limit food waste when schools were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other efforts to limit food waste on an ongoing basis include fumigation/pest control in storage areas and the use of nearly-expired foods, while efforts to limit packaging waste include the re-use of bags/containers. In the long term, Namibia aspires to eradicate poverty and therefore anticipates that the total number of school feeding beneficiaries (who are targeted based on need) should eventually decrease.

