

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National School Meals Programme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education

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

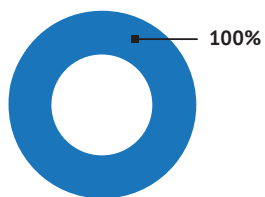
BUDGET

Total: USD 1,480,104

- Government:** USD 1,480,104
- 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

In Antigua and Barbuda, all schools have electricity, piped and clean water, and gender-private flush toilets, while most have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and some have kitchens. School meals are typically prepared off-site in centralized kitchens, which are equipped with closed cooking areas, storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This may result in some misalignment between the numbers of children in the country, enrolled in school, and receiving food.

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: Soy sauce

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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GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture; agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

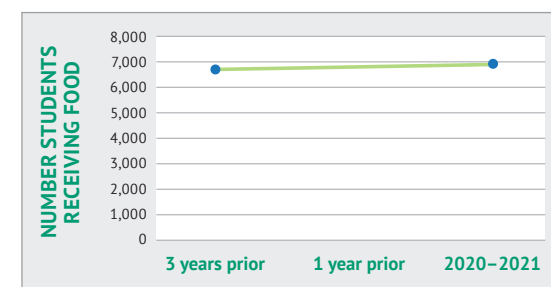
Antigua and Barbuda



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

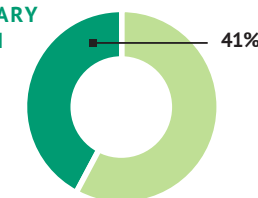
| School level | Total | # Enrolled | # Receiving food |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Pre-school | 2,970 | 2,050 | 90 |
| Primary school | 9,845 | 10,123 | 6,861 |
| Secondary school | 6,890 | 7,856 | 0 |
| Total | 19,705 | 20,029 | 6,951 |



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 16,735

Receiving school food: 6,861



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:

Not applicable

Micronutrients:

Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nutritional requirements for food baskets are in place to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, and food items produced in school gardens are consumed by students. Special training is required for cooks and caterers in nutrition, food safety /hygiene, portion measurements, and menu planning.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

Not specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 32 | Cooks and food preparers |
| 18 | Transporters |
| 118 | Off-site processors |
| | Food packagers and handlers |
| | 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

Farms of all sizes supply products for the National School Meals Programme. While most of the products are imported, vegetables and ground provisions are purchased from local farmers. Some beef, fish, and chicken is from local vendors, but the program also purchases imported chicken and fish. There has been a purposeful focus on creating jobs and/or income-generating opportunities through the Labour Job Program.

CONTACTS: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Agency: National School Meals Programme

Website: facebook.com/antiguansmp

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Antigua and Barbuda include reduced hunger, as participants receive at least one nutritious meal a day. The program also reduces expenses for families, as they no longer have to provide lunch for the children. The National School Meals Programme is funded entirely by the government, and ensuring its sustainability remains a challenge.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were alternately closed and not operating, or operating remotely, for several months of the 2020/2021 school year.

NATIONAL SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal (public primary schools and one public pre-school)

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

| School level | # Students | % Girls | % Boys |
|------------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| Pre-school | 90 | – | – |
| Primary school | 6,861 | – | – |
| Secondary school | 0 | – | – |
| Total | 6,951 | – | – |

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Roots, tubers | Poultry | Fruits |
| Legumes, pulses, nuts | Fish | Oil |
| Eggs | Green, leafy vegetables | Salt |
| Meat | Other vegetables | Sugar |
| * <i>fortified</i> | | |

FOOD SOURCES:

60% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
40% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National School Meals Programme began operating in 2005, and in the 2020/2021 school year, 31 public schools participated. Mechanisms to limit food waste include sealed food storage, fumigation/pest control of the storage area, and use of nearly expired food. There are plans to serve 7,250 children in the upcoming school year.

