

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National Integrated School Feeding Program (*Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire Intégré – PNASI*)
- School Feeding Program funded by the World Food Program (WFP)
- USDA-Funded Feeding Program implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Small-Scale School Feeding Program funded and implemented by Benin Childhood Education and Health for All (*Bénin Enfance Education et Santé pour Tous – BEST*)
- Small-Scale School Feeding Program funded and implemented by Médecins du Monde

Lead Agency: Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMPE)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

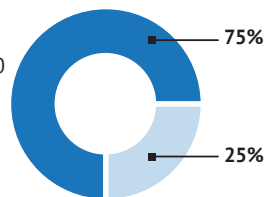
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes
- No
- No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 29,653,330

- Government: USD 22,127,750
- International donors*: USD 7,525,580
- 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

Some schools in Benin have electricity, clean water, latrines, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, though very few have piped water and kitchens. School kitchens are typically equipped with either open or closed cooking area, storage facilities, serving utensils, and charcoal or wood stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This report includes detailed information for five programs, which together provided food for 47% of the 1,780,449 children enrolled in pre-school and primary school in Benin.

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: Canned food and seasoning cubes

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

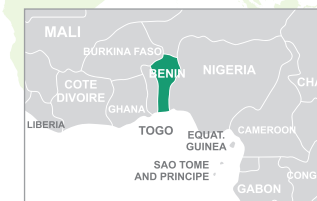
The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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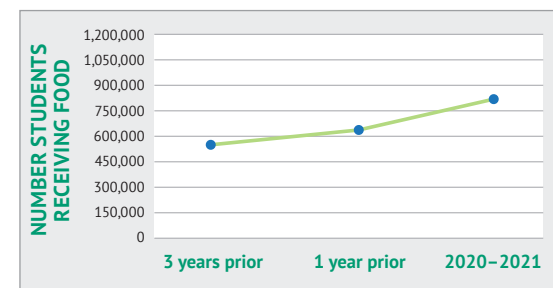
REPUBLIC OF Benin



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

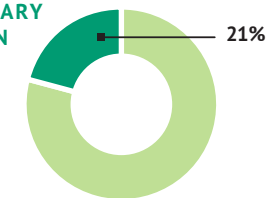
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	705,218	154,162	11,366
Primary school	2,043,937	1,626,287	824,087
Secondary school	1,866,128	886,445	0
Total	4,615,283	2,666,894	835,453



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 3,910,065

Receiving school food: 824,087



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:

Grains/cereals, oil, salt

Micronutrients:

Iodine, vitamins A and D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Twelve nutritionists are engaged in the five school feeding programs in Benin. Health education, physical education, and food and nutrition education are utilized to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity. Cooks/caterers also receive special training in menu planning, portions/measurements, nutrition, and safety and hygiene. Some of the products produced in school gardens are consumed by students, while the rest is sold.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Cost-Benefit Analysis of School Feeding in Benin with Mastercard (2018); diagnosis of school feeding in Benin with the SABER tool (2014 and 2017); diagnosis of constraints and recommendations for the operation of the Government's school feeding project (2017).

RESEARCH NEEDED

Impact evaluation of school canteens in Benin; capitalization of lessons learned from school canteens in Benin with an emphasis on their sustainability; an assessment of the feasibility of school feeding based on local products in Benin (i.e., direct purchase from small farmers).

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

9,770**	Cooks and food preparers
53	Transporters
	Off-site processors
635	Food packagers and handlers
59	Monitoring
	Food service management
20	Safety and quality inspectors
95	Other

*If blank, no response was provided.

** These 9,770 cooks are not generally paid on a regular basis, but they occasionally receive a lump sum of money to incentivize them and recognize their work.

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

The private sector is engaged in food transport and in the provision of supplies (utensils) for school feeding programs in Benin. The community is also engaged in supplying condiments to prepare the dry rations made available to the schools. Parents contribute to the program through lump-sum contributions either in-kind or as non-compulsory cash donations. School canteens provide income-generating activities for women's groups and for young people who are mostly involved in logistics, transport, school gardens, and school field activities. Most school feeding programs in Benin give preferential treatment to women when hiring cooks and service providers and encourage them to assume leadership positions in canteen management committees.

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes related to school feeding in Benin include the agreement signed with WFP in 2017 for the National Integrated School Feeding Program; the 2018 round table to mobilize resources for school canteens; and the extension of the program to cover up to 75% of pre-school and primary school children from 2022 onwards. However, there are challenges related to storing and securing food, shortages of staff, losses along the supply chain, difficult access to schools at certain times (when roads are in poor condition or there is flooding, etc.), water shortages for school canteens, and the inadequate commitment of certain communities.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of students receiving food, as well as the frequency of school feeding, decreased. There was also a temporary change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). The COVID-19 pandemic revealed a need to assess new needs and strengthen assistance, for example, by ensuring sufficient hand washing facilities as well as creating regional food reserves to facilitate distribution in schools. Canteen managers have intensified the focus on hand washing and hygiene measures in the preparation and distribution of meals.

CONTACTS: BENIN

Agency: Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMP)
General email address: memp.info@gouv.bj

NATIONAL INTEGRATED SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

PROGRAMME NATIONAL D'ALIMENTATION SCOLAIRE INTÉGRÉ – PNASI

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education (MEMP)

OBJECTIVES:

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

Geographic (Within all 77 communes of Benin, the program is targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity.)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	11,366	45%	55%
Primary school	668,884	45%	55%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	680,250	45%	55%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fruits	Water
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Oil*	
Green, leafy vegetables	Salt*	* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

75% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
10% Purchased (foreign)	15% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National Integrated School Feeding Program began operating in 2017, and in the 2020/2021 school year, the program reached 3,997 public schools. The program is nationally managed and operates in the 77 municipalities of the country, with a gradual increase in the number of schools covered. Food is generally procured from domestic sources, with some donated via bilateral aid. To limit food waste, cooks are trained to monitor the daily rations to be served to schoolchildren, and there is fumigation/pest control within sealed food storage facilities. There are plans to serve over 800,000 students in the upcoming school year.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP)

Lead implementer(s): World Food Program

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic (Poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity are targeted.)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	105,644	45%	55%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	105,644	45%	55%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

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

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Feeding Program funded by the World Food Program began operating in 2014 and reached 618 public schools during the 2020/2021 school year. In Benin, WFP engagement in the field of school feeding started in 1975. Even earlier, WFP used to support communities with food assistance in cases of natural disasters and catastrophes. The school feeding program has regional level representatives which ensures the relay of decisions and grassroots actions for the implementation of the program in beneficiary schools. National NGOs work on sensitization and community awareness of the program, which is a vector for grassroots development. Cooks are trained to limit food waste, and there is fumigation/pest control within sealed food storage facilities.



USDA-FUNDED FEEDING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)

Lead implementer(s): Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

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 quarterly for take-home rations
- During the school year

TARGETING:

In-school meals are geographically targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity. Take-home rations are targeted based on individual student characteristics (class attendance rate of at least 95% for one term).

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	47,165	48%	52%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	47,165	48%	52%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Other vegetables	Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Oil*	Water
		* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The USDA-Funded Feeding Program implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) began operating in 2014 and reached 144 public schools in the 2020/2021 school year. This program has sub-offices at the regional level which ensures the relay of decisions and actions for the implementation of the program in beneficiary schools. Community involvement is essential for the mobilization of resources to carry out the activities of the project and ensure program sustainability. Food is procured from international sources through the USDA lifelink procedures.



SMALL-SCALE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FUNDED AND IMPLEMENTED BY BENIN CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND HEALTH FOR ALL BÉNIN ENFANCE EDUCATION ET SANTÉ POUR TOUS – BEST

Lead implementer(s): BEST (International NGO)

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic (Targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	293	48%	52%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	293	48%	52%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Other vegetables	Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Oil*	Water
		* 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:

This program began operating in 2019, covering one public school in the 2020/2021 school year. This program also has sub-offices at the regional level which ensures the relay of decisions and actions for the implementation of the program in beneficiary schools. Food is procured locally by the International NGO BEST through restricted consultation procedures. To limit food waste, fumigation/pest control is utilized within sealed food storage facilities.

SMALL-SCALE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FUNDED AND IMPLEMENTED BY MÉDECINS DU MONDE

Lead implementer(s): Médecins du Monde (International NGO)

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic (Targeted towards poor rural areas with low school enrollment and achievement rates, low standard of living of the population, and high levels of food insecurity)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	2,101	50%	50%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	2,101	50%	50%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Other vegetables	Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Oil*	Water
		* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

100% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)
<i>If blank, no response was provided.</i>	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This program began operating in 2020 and operated in two public schools during the 2020/2021 school year. Food is procured locally by the NGO Médecins du Monde through restricted consultation procedures. To limit food waste, fumigation/pest control is utilized within sealed food storage facilities.

