

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Programme of Advancement Through Health & Education (PATH) – Nutritional Subsidy and Breakfast Programme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Youth

## 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

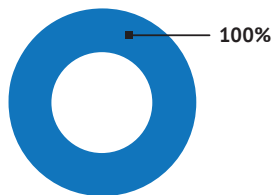
## BUDGET

Total: USD 45,338,116

- Government: USD 45,338,116
- 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 Jamaica have electricity and clean water, and most schools have piped water, flush toilets, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. The school kitchens are typically equipped with closed cooking areas, storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Some population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

## 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:** Beverages containing more than 6 grams sugar per 100 milliliters

## 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-1096OG002.

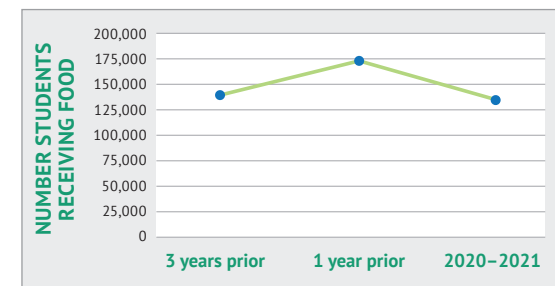
# Jamaica



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

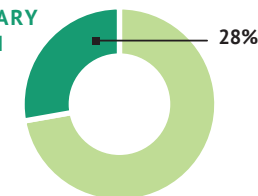
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	101,296	90,401	11,817
Primary school	199,840	220,074	71,816
Secondary school	233,201	193,637	48,030
<b>Total</b>	<b>534,337</b>	<b>504,112</b>	<b>131,663</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 433,041

Receiving school food: ■ 119,846



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:

Green, leafy vegetables

### Micronutrients:

Iron, vitamin B12, thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin B6, calcium

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Food items produced in school gardens are consumed by the students and also sold. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, and physical education.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

## RESEARCH NEEDED

A study of the impact of the PATH school feeding program on learners' academic performance.

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

**1,200** Cooks and food preparers  
Transporters  
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

PATH funds are distributed to schools to buy food, and farmers of all sizes provide vegetables, meat, poultry, and tubers for the school meal program. The private sector is also engaged in food trading, catering, and the supply of utensils. Students' families contribute to the school meal program by paying a partial price for meals.

## CONTACTS: JAMAICA

**Agency:** Ministry of Education and Youth

**Website:** <https://moey.gov.jm/>

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Jamaica include an expansion in the provision of meals from three feeding days to five feeding days per week, an increase in the budgetary allocation per child; and an increase in the number of cooks. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated school closures presented a challenge for the PATH Nutritional Subsidy and Breakfast Programme.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Jamaica were closed but operating remotely for many months of the 2020–2021 school year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a decrease in the number of students fed and the frequency of school feeding. There was a temporary change in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families) and a temporary change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). While schools were closed, students' families were also provided with electronic payments or vouchers to purchase food. The pandemic demonstrated the versatility of the PATH school meal program, which found various mechanisms to reach and support the most vulnerable.

## PROGRAMME OF ADVANCEMENT THROUGH HEALTH & EDUCATION (PATH) NUTRITIONAL SUBSIDY AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMME

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

### 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; 2 times per week for take-home rations
- During the school year

### TARGETING:

Based on both geographic and individual characteristics, as per the Social Safety Net program.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	11,817	–	–
Primary school	71,816	–	–
Secondary school	48,030	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,663</b>	–	–

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Meat	Green, leafy vegetables*
Roots, tubers	Poultry	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:

The Programme of Advancement Through Health & Education (PATH) began in 1939 and aims to support vulnerable students. In 2020–2021, the program operated in 992 public and 27 private schools, inclusive of some boarding schools. Take-home rations are comprised of grains.

