

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National School Feeding Program  
(Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire)

Lead Agency: Ministry of National Education

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

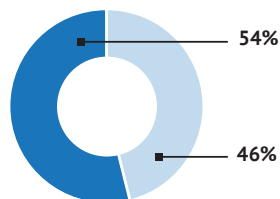
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

## BUDGET

Total: USD 9,868,740

- Government: USD 5,368,740
- International donors\*: USD 4,500,000
- 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 Mauritania have electricity, clean water, and flush toilets. Very few have piped water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, or kitchens. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds), in kitchens typically equipped with either open or closed cooking areas, on-site and piped water, serving utensils, and either gas stoves or charcoal or wood stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists Counterpart International as receiving support from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program in 2019 for school feeding activities in Mauritania. Population and 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: Foods forbidden by the Muslim religion

## 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.

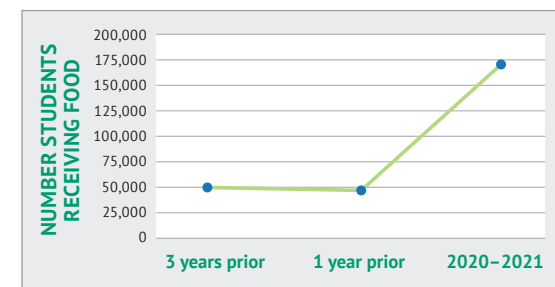
# ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF Mauritania



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

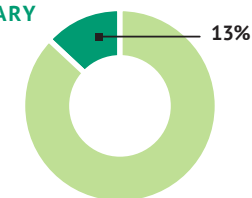
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	391,323	36,182	0
Primary school	693,675	677,458	172,905
Secondary school	676,504	259,873	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,761,502</b>	<b>973,513</b>	<b>172,905</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,370,179

Receiving school food: 172,905



- 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, iron

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include health education, physical education, and food and nutrition education. Cooks/caterers receive special training in nutrition, and produce from school gardens is consumed by students.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

None specified

## RESEARCH NEEDED

Research related to the use of local foodstuffs in school meal programs.

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

2,104	Cooks and food preparers
17	Transporters
	Off-site processors
12	Food packagers and handlers
2	Monitoring
2	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

Food for the program is purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures in which small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies successfully compete. Students' families contribute to the program through payment for stoves and by providing coal for preparing the meals.

## CONTACTS: MAURITANIA

**Agency:** Ministry of National Education and the Reform of the Education System

**Website:** <https://www.education.gov.mr>

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Mauritania include the government's strong support for the solar power program (which operates in the interior regions (wilayas) of the country), as well as the creation of a budget line in the country's budget. Nevertheless, challenges remain. For example, within a targeted wilaya, food is not offered to all schools due to limited food resources. The poverty of students' parents and their low level of education do not allow them to pay for the proper functioning of the canteen. In addition, school gardens in most school canteens have water constraints. There are also some concerns related to corruption/mismanagement, especially among the school canteen managers who have not yet been through proper training.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Mauritania were open throughout the November 2020 to October 2021 school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program temporarily ceased feeding operations and temporarily changed the source of funding, but also increased the amount of funding and the number of students fed. Meals were still prepared at school but were served in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time). The insertion of a dedicated budget line for school feeding in Mauritania's national budget was a positive development that proved helpful during the pandemic. While funding for the program was secure, additional funding for school meals would better support getting food to children in times of emergency.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM PROGRAMME NATIONAL D'ALIMENTATION SCOLAIRE

### Lead implementer(s):

Ministry of National Education and the Reform of the Education System  
(*Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Reforme du Système Éducatif*)

### 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

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Geographic targeting based on indicators of community vulnerability

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	172,905	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>172,905</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Fruits	Dairy milk
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Oil*	Water
Dairy products	Salt*	
Other vegetables	Sugar	

\* *fortified*

### FOOD SOURCES:

- Purchased (domestic)
  In-kind (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
  In-kind (foreign)

*If blank, no response was provided.*

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National School Feeding Program began operating in 2020 and covered 1,052 public schools in the 2020–2021 school year. To limit packaging waste, bags/containers are re-used. There are plans to serve 184,905 students in the upcoming school year.

