

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Nutrition Programme, Trinidad
- School Feeding Programme, Tobago

Lead Agency: National Schools Dietary Services Limited (NSDSL) for Trinidad

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

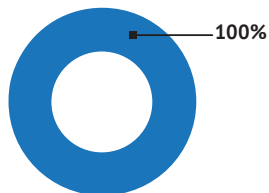
BUDGET

Total: USD 2,198,620

- Government: USD 2,198,620
- 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 Trinidad have electricity, piped and clean water, and flush toilets. School meals are prepared off-site in private facilities that are typically equipped with storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

All information in this report reflects school feeding activities in Trinidad only, as information for Tobago is not available. Thus, the budget, numbers of student receiving food, and other details reflect only the School Nutrition Programme in Trinidad.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other: Market hampers of local produce

- 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: Sugar-sweetened beverages

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

Trinidad and Tobago



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

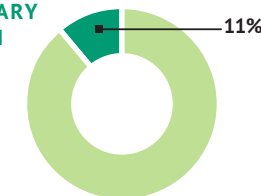
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	38,931	23,285	0
Primary school	129,969	119,872	22,800
Secondary school	93,226	77,132	2,724
Total	262,126	220,287	25,524



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 223,195

Receiving school food: ■ 25,524



- 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, dairy products, salt

Micronutrients:

Iron, vitamin A, iodine, folic acid, thiamine, niacin, vitamin D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least four nutritionists are involved in school feeding in Trinidad. Very few packaged, processed foods are included in the school meals, and sugar-sweetened beverages are prohibited on school grounds for health-related reasons. In addition, food and nutrition education is offered in schools to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

- Meal Consumption Patterns Among Recipient of the School Nutrition Programme in Trinidad and Tobago
- Sustainability of a Curriculum-Based Intervention on Dietary Behaviours and Physical Activity Among Primary School Children in Trinidad and Tobago (published in the West Indian Medical Journal)

RESEARCH NEEDED

A longitudinal impact evaluation of school meal provision on students' well-being.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

375	Cooks and food preparers
140	Transporters
	Off-site processors
375	Food packagers and handlers
	Monitoring
78	Food service management
	Safety and quality inspectors
41	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 No response

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures are followed to secure contracts for the School Nutrition Programme, and small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies are able to successfully compete. Farmers provide vegetables, poultry, legumes, and roots/tubers for the school meals, and the private sector is engaged in food trading, processing, transport, and catering, as well as the provision of supplies (utensils). Parents/guardians are engaged in school feeding by attending nutrition education presentations or workshops.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Trinidad include the resilience of the School Nutrition Programme in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meal service continued even as meal production was significantly scaled down. Other successes include strengthened linkages between caterers and farmers, with a focus on agrifood processing, and improved nutrition education in schools with stronger linkages with the Curriculum Division in the Ministry of Education and the Health Education Division in the Ministry of Health. Recent challenges related to school feeding in Trinidad include the low meal production figures in 2020–2021, attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, an economic downturn temporarily affected the Government's ability to pay caterers on time, though all debts have now been cleared.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In the 2020–2021 school year, some schools in Trinidad were open while some schools operated remotely, and all pre-schools were closed. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted school feeding operations and resulted in a decrease in funding for the School Nutrition Programme and a decrease in the number of students fed and the frequency of food distribution. There was a temporary shift from targeting students to targeting their families, and a temporary change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations delivered to students' homes). On a positive note, the level of food basket diversity in the School Nutrition Programme increased during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, when meals were not being served in schools, students' families were provided with electronic vouchers/payments to purchase food.

CONTACTS: TRINIDAD

Agency: National Schools Dietary Services Limited

Email: schoolnutrition1979@gmail.com

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME, TRINIDAD

Lead implementer(s): National Schools Dietary Services Limited

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
- Other: Market hampers of local produce

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Based on students' socio-economic status

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	22,800	51%	49%
Secondary school	2,724	51%	49%
Total	25,524	51%	49%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Meat	Fruits
Roots, tubers	Poultry	Oil
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Fish	Salt*
Dairy products*	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Eggs	Other vegetables	Fruit juice

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

50% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
50% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Nutrition Programme operates in 583 public schools. While the program reached 25,524 students in 2020–2021, it hopes to reach 79,083 students in 2021–2022. However, this goal is contingent on the course of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

