

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:

February – November 2018 (200 school days)

- Free fruit initiative program for Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Free Milk initiative for Year 1 Students
- Save the Children Feeding Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Technology Employment Skills Training (TEST) section

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

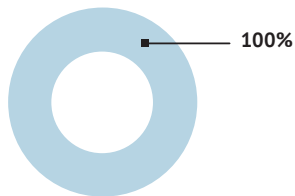
- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... Yes No NR

BUDGET

Total:
USD 2,705,314

- National government: USD 2,705,314
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: NR
- Other donors: NR



*Contributions by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

School snacks are prepared on-site (on school grounds) in all the schools (100%) with the following amenities:

- Open cooking area
- Piped water
- Storage
- Charcoal and wood stove (students were expected to provide fuel)
- Gas stove
- Serving utensils
- Electricity
- Clean Water
- Dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias

All the latrines are gender-private and most of them have facilities of flush toilets.

NR = No Response

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Conditional cash transfer
- Grains/cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes and nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

Prohibited food items: Junk food, fizzy drinks, confectioneries, oily and salty food (for health related or religious reasons) Pork and beef are prohibited in school cafeterias or on or near school grounds due to religious reasons

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

- Nutrition
- Health
- Food and agriculture
- Reproductive health
- Hygiene
- HIV prevention

OTHER

- School gardens
- Physical education

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.

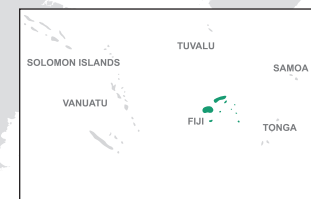
= mandatory



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

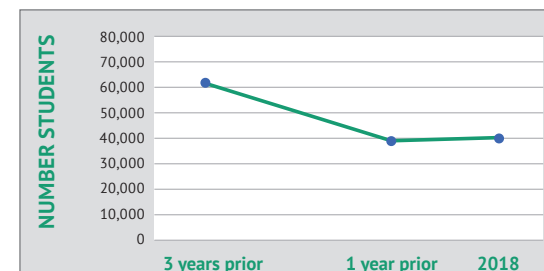
THE REPUBLIC OF Fiji Islands



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2018

School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	110,198	110,127	20,629
Secondary school	112,207	97,254	NA
Total	222,405	20,7381	20,629

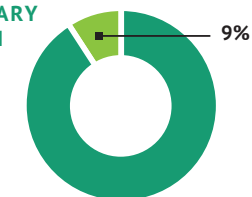


* Student trajectory includes pre-school coverage by ECE program

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 222,405

Receiving school food:
20,629



- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- University/higher education
- Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve 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:

Grains/cereals

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iron, Vitamin A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As an attempt to prevent/mitigate obesity, the school feeding programs provided Nutrition, Food, Health and Physical education. They also had food restrictions on/near school grounds.

45 cooks were involved in the Save the Children Feeding Program.

SPECIAL NOTES

Focal person reports that no specific funding is available to cover emergency programme in the coming years, however, Save the Children Fiji may assist during humanitarian response for affected children in an emergency.

As per desk review, Fiji's Save the Children Feeding Program was started as an emergency response after Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 with funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia, however no feeding program activities reported in the 2018 academic year.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

300+	Cooks and food preparers
NR	Transporters
NR	Off-site processors
NR	Food packagers and handlers
NR	Monitoring
NR	Food service management
NR	Safety and quality inspectors
NR	Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

Yes No NR

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

Yes No NR

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women**
- Youth**
- Other groups**

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

Yes No NR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiji did not report on number of employment generated through school feeding, however report that 75–100% of cooks and caterers were women though not all were paid positions.

CONTACTS: THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI ISLANDS

Agency: Ministry of Education, Heritage, Arts and Technology (Employment Skills Training Section)

Website: <http://www.education.gov.fj> / <http://www.meha.gov.fj>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes:

1. Enabled enrollment of students to normalcy.
2. Nutrition cognitive development of the parents and communities towards the child's health development.
3. Support to the local producers and markets through the purchase of local food items.
4. Showed a positive correlation between an increase in intake of nutritious food and a decrease in absenteeism of children. Increase in children's active participation in the classroom due to improved cognitive ability, contributing to their academic performance.
5. Community involvement also created an opportunity for community cohesion and empowerment to focus their energy and resources on addressing the nutritional needs of their children.

Challenges:

1. Most agencies directly implement short term feeding programmes without the knowledge of the education cluster. This has caused duplication of assistance during the Humanitarian response.
2. No initiatives taken by the school head and teachers and have a proper school garden for the children.
3. Unavailability of gardening tools in the school to carry out a school gardening program.
4. Unavailability of resources. (Location and accessibility of the school hinders/ prevents the implementation of such gardening programs.)
5. The community has very little knowledge on the importance of preparing a well-balanced, nutritious meal for the children, its impact on the children.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

RESEARCH NEEDED

1. Impact of disaster on children and how the school feeding programme meets the needs of children and families to recover from disasters. (This can also be addressed through climate adaptive – school gardening to be implemented in schools).
2. Impact of the Free Milk Initiative program on the health and academic performance for Year 1 students for the past 4 years.
3. Impact of the Free Fruit program on the health and academic performance for ECE students.
4. The correlation between having a school garden and the provision of healthy, nutritious and balanced meals.
5. Proper nutritional needs of the children in Fiji – District/ Provincial wise.

FREE FRUIT INITIATIVE PROGRAM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks

TARGETING:

The ECE program is universal and covers all students registered in ECEs, both stand alone public schools as well as those affiliated with private schools.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	19,449	47.81%	52.19%
Primary school	N/A		
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	19,449	47.81%	52.19%

FOOD ITEMS:

Fruits
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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

NOTES:

Schools budget an estimated 10% of funds for ECE Free Fruit Initiative Program and is implemented in partnership with the Health Team. The program covers all students in ECE including in private schools. For ECCE - ECCE FEG allocation for Health and Nutrition is 10%. This is the only source that teachers can provide fruits. If grant is late then children provide their own fruits. Schools manage this program in their own planning.



FREE MILK INITIATIVE

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks

TARGETING:

The program covers all students in year 1, i.e. primary grade

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	N/A		
Primary school	20,629	47.69%	52.31%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	20,629	47.69%	52.31%

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals* Dairy products
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

Yes - Purchased (domestic) **Yes - In-kind (domestic)**
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

- The Free Milk Initiative program for Year 1 students started in 2016.
- Milk was given to the students either when they arrived in the morning or during recess break.
- 736 schools were involved in the program

SAVE THE CHILDREN FEEDING PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts and Save the Children Fiji

OBJECTIVES:

NR

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

TARGETING:

Geographic to cover schools adversely affected by natural disasters

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	N/A		
Primary school	0	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	0	–	–

FOOD ITEMS:

NR

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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



NOTES:

Save the Children Feeding Program was a humanitarian response programme to the 2016 Tropical Cyclone Winston. Although the programme is currently not being implemented, Save the Children Fiji may assist during emergency humanitarian responses for affected children.

In 2016, schools which had been adversely affected by natural disasters were identified and selected by the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts. The list was then submitted to Save the Children. A total of 16 schools were involved in the feeding programme out of which 5 were boarding schools and 11 were day schools.

As a mechanism to limit food waste, left-over food were packed and distributed to students to take home. The preparation and cooking of food were all part of the community contribution towards the programme. The teachers, Parents Teachers Association and the Women's group took turns in preparing meals for their children.