

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National School Feeding Programme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Technical & Vocational Training

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

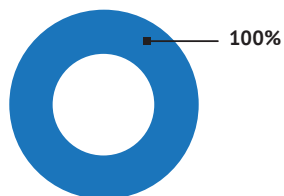
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

## BUDGET

Total: USD 5,256,619

- Government: USD 5,256,619
- 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 The Bahamas have electricity, piped and clean water, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. Some schools have kitchens, which are used for curriculum-based instruction. However, meals for the National School Feeding Programme are prepared by caterers in private facilities (not in school kitchens).

## SPECIAL NOTES

Population 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: Fried foods and sugar-sweetened beverages

## FOOD SOURCES

No information provided

## 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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COMMONWEALTH OF

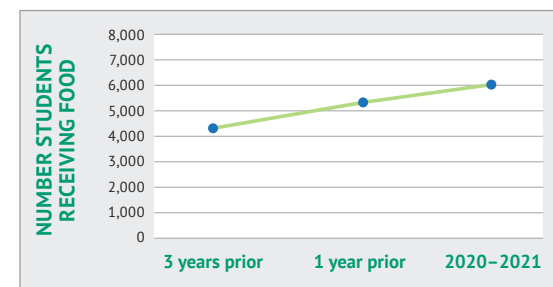
# The Bahamas



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

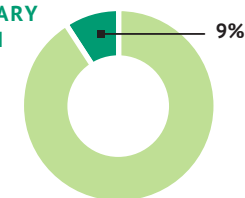
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	10,130	3,734	90
Primary school	31,600	28,493	3,785
Secondary school	31,910	26,907	2,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,270</b>	<b>59,134</b>	<b>6,000</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 63,510

Receiving school food: ■ 5,910



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:

Not applicable

### Micronutrients:

Not applicable

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least three nutritionists are involved in the National School Feeding Programme. To prevent or mitigate obesity, there are nutritional requirements for school meals and snacks, as well as food restrictions on or near school grounds. In addition, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education are incorporated into the school curriculum.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

## RESEARCH NEEDED

Research on the impact of the National School Feeding Programme on student behavior, attendance, health, and overall success.

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

- 165**
- 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

Small-scale farmers sell food items directly (or through farmers' organizations) to the school feeding program. Farm-fresh items include poultry, eggs, green, leafy vegetables, legumes, and roots/tubers.

## CONTACTS: THE BAHAMAS

**Agency:** Ministry of Education Technical & Vocational Training  
**Website:** [www.ministryofeducationbahamas.com](http://www.ministryofeducationbahamas.com)

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in The Bahamas have included extensive professional development programs for food handlers/caterers and the introduction of standardized requirements for nutrition and portion sizes. Recent challenges have included a lack of human resources/personnel and difficulties associated with the continuous monitoring and evaluation of food handlers/caterers by the central office.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the 2020–2021 school year, some schools in The Bahamas were open, while other schools operated remotely. The number of students reached and the budget for school feeding increased in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was also a temporary shift in beneficiaries (e.g., switching from targeting students to targeting families), with students' families provided with cash/monetary support or vouchers to purchase food. Feeding operations were thereby maintained without interruption. In the course of responding to the COVID-19 crisis, the school feeding program digitized the application process for school feeding and developed an up-to-date database of parents and students.



## NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Education, Technical & Vocational Training

### 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
- In-school snacks

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Not specified

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	90	67%	33%
Primary school	3,785	60%	40%
Secondary school	2,125	79%	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>33%</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Meat	Fruits
Roots, tubers	Poultry	Dairy milk
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Fish	Fruit juice
Dairy products	Green, leafy vegetables	Water
Eggs	Other vegetables	

\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

No information provided

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The National School Feeding Programme began in 1987. A committee to oversee school feeding in the country is jointly comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Education, Technical & Vocational Training and the Department of Social Services. Key decision makers in the school feeding program also include the Departments of Agriculture and Health.