

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Home Grown School Feeding Program  
(Programme de cantine scolaire endogène – HGSF)
- Emergency School Feeding Program  
(Programme de cantine scolaire d'urgence – ESF)

**Lead Agency:** The School Canteen Management Unit at the Ministry of National Education

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

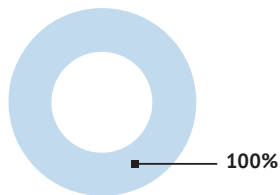
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

## BUDGET

Total: USD 1,754,512

- Government: USD 0
- International donors\*: USD 1,754,512
- 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

Most schools in the Central African Republic have kitchens, some have clean water, latrines, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and very few have electricity or piped water. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds) or off-site in centralized (not private) kitchens.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This may account for some misalignment between population and school enrollment numbers.

## MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: None

## 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-10960G002.

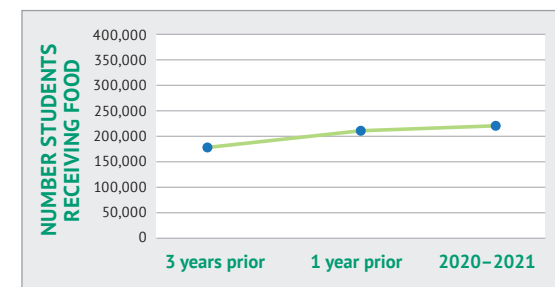
# Central African Republic



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

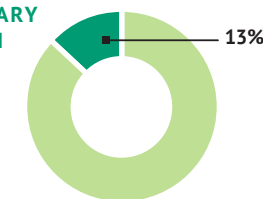
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	428,144	27,302	0
Primary school	823,789	1,028,839	215,411
Secondary school	860,739	132,720	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,112,672</b>	<b>1,188,861</b>	<b>215,411</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,684,528

Receiving school food:  215,411



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

### Micronutrients:

Vitamin A

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nutritionists from the World Food Program are engaged in school feeding in the Central African Republic, and food items produced in school gardens are consumed by the students. Obesity is not considered a problem in this country.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

## RESEARCH NEEDED

None reported

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

<b>750</b>	Cooks and food preparers
<b>140</b>	Transporters
	Off-site processors
<b>200</b>	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

For the Home Grown School Feeding Program, over 70% of commodities (cereals and pulses) are procured locally through the local purchasing program, with farmers providing the grains/cereals, legumes, and oil. Students' families contribute fuel and food supplements (such as vegetables) and ensure the security of food storage. The community is also engaged in the school canteen program by setting up fields and gardens on behalf of the school and donating 10–20% of production to the school. As part of the program, the local community either identifies permanent volunteers to cook or to organizes volunteers in rotation to ensure the preparation of meals. Some cooks are remunerated in kind (for example, the community plows their fields), and some receive a small financial contribution either from the community or from partner NGOs.

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in the Central African Republic include fostering the return of children to school after recurrent crises, the stabilization of school attendance, and the link between canteens, education, and agricultural development. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the objective was to increase the number of beneficiaries and prepare for a transition from emergency canteens to home grown (and nationally owned) canteens. However, in 2020–2021, the level of funding for school feeding was 50% lower than expected, which prompted the World Food Program to reduce rations.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a sharp decrease in funding for school feeding in the Central African Republic, as well as a decrease in the number of students fed, the frequency of feeding, and the size of rations. It also prompted a temporary change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations), with ingredients in the Emergency School Feeding Program being provided to students or their parents to pick up at school to prepare and eat at home. Passage of a national school feeding policy, along with establishment of a school canteen department, would better facilitate getting food to school children in the event of a pandemic or other emergency. Armed conflicts in the Central African Republic also have a negative impact on the functioning of canteens, with the presence of armed groups causing insecurity and disrupting the supply of food to schools.

## CONTACTS: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Agency:** World Food Program

**Website:** [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

## HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

### PROGRAMME DE CANTINE SCOLAIRE ENDOGÈNE – HGSP

**Lead implementer(s):** World Food Program

#### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

#### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

#### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year

#### TARGETING:

Geographic targeting based on levels of food insecurity and school enrollment, as well as school eligibility.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	145,537	48%	52%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,537</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>52%</b>

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Oil	
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Salt	* fortified

#### FOOD SOURCES:

20% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
40% Purchased (foreign)	40% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

School feeding in the Central African Republic began in 2018. The students receive take-home rations during times of insecurity and, in some cases, during a local surge in COVID-19 cases. The Home Grown School Feeding Program operates in public schools, community schools, and village schools.



## EMERGENCY SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

### PROGRAMME DE CANTINE SCOLAIRE D'URGENCE – ESF

**Lead implementer(s):** The World Food Program, partner NGOs, and the School Canteen Management Unit at the Ministry of National Education

#### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net

#### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

#### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week throughout the year

#### TARGETING:

Geographic targeting based on levels of food insecurity and school enrollment, as well as school eligibility.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	69,874	48%	52%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,874</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>52%</b>

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Oil	
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Salt	* fortified

#### FOOD SOURCES:

0% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	100% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Funding for activities is provided by the World Food Program, while implementation is carried out by partner NGOs, and the Ministry of Education is involved in monitoring and coordination. Among the program's objectives is an explicit commitment to promoting the return of children to school.