

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program (All Pikin for Learn)
- Hot Meal for Lunch (World Food Program)
- School Feeding and Nutrition Project (Caritas Bo)
- School Feeding Program (Joint Aid Management – JAM)
- School Feeding Program (Plan International)

Lead Agency: National School Feeding Secretariat

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

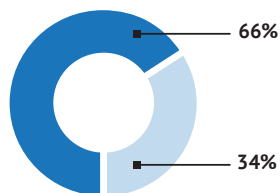
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes
- No
- No response

### BUDGET

Total: USD 18,469,142

- Government: USD 12,228,358
- International donors\*: USD 6,240,784
- 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

Very few schools in Sierra Leone have electricity, piped water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, or kitchens. Some have clean water, and most have latrines. Schools that participate in the school feeding programs tend to have kitchens with an open cooking area, serving utensils, and charcoal or wood stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The report includes detailed information for three programs, which together provided food for 82% of the 485,674 children reached by large-scale school feeding programs in Sierra Leone.

## 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: Non-nutritious foods, such as “Maggi” seasoning

## 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

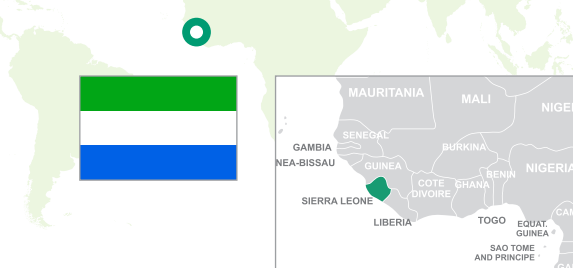
The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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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.

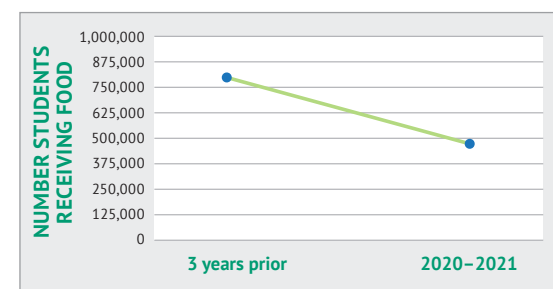
# REPUBLIC OF Sierra Leone



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

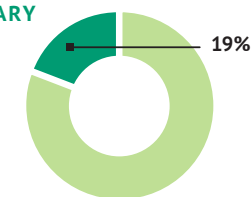
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	663,023	138,170	0
Primary school	1,245,193	1,759,773	485,674
Secondary school	1,264,270	492,140	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,172,486</b>	<b>2,390,083</b>	<b>485,674</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,509,463

Receiving school food: 485,674



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:

Oil, salt, dairy products, grains/cereals, legumes

### Micronutrients:

Iron, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin D, iodine, calcium

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least seven nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Sierra Leone. Some of the products produced in school gardens are consumed by students, while the rest is sold.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

A project evaluation report for the School Feeding and Nutrition Project (Caritas Bo)

## RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

<b>3,228</b>	Cooks and food preparers
<b>4</b>	Transporters
	Off-site processors
	Food packagers and handlers
<b>1</b>	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

The private sector is engaged in food trading, transport, catering, and the provision of supplies (utensils) for school feeding programs in Sierra Leone. The community is also engaged in preparing and distributing the food. Some programs give preferential treatment to women when hiring service providers.

## CONTACTS: SIERRA LEONE

**Agency:** Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE)

**Website:** [www.mbsse.gov.sl](http://www.mbsse.gov.sl)

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes related to school feeding in Sierra Leone include declines in the rate of children's illness and mortality, reduced expenditures needed for children's health, and increased enrollment, attendance, and academic achievement in project communities. However, there is a need for additional resources to support home grown school feeding and policy reforms to promote agriculture and school feeding at the national level. The government also needs to strengthen the National School Feeding Secretariat to be more autonomous and capable of leadership on school feeding.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions introduced (such as market lockdowns), take-home rations were provided to households in at least some project communities to alleviate food shortages. This elicited greater community interest in, and support for, the school feeding programs.

## MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

### ALL PIKIN FOR LEARN

**Lead implementer(s):** National School Feeding Secretariat

#### OBJECTIVES:

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

#### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

#### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year
- Annual take-home rations

#### TARGETING:

Targeting is conducted with the support of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	52,287	49%	51%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,287</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Fish	Oil
Dairy products	Green, leafy vegetables	Salt*
Meat	Other vegetables	Water

\* fortified

#### FOOD SOURCES:

0% Purchased (domestic)	<b>1% In-kind (domestic)</b>
<b>99% Purchased (foreign)</b>	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Food is generally procured by implementing partners from international sources, with some donated by students' families. This program makes provisions for quarterly stakeholders meetings, which serve as an opportunity for parents, teachers, and School Management Committees to discuss the school feeding program.

## HOT MEAL FOR LUNCH WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE)

#### 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 days per week during the school year

#### TARGETING:

Targeted towards areas that are considered vulnerable (with all schools within the selected chiefdoms receiving school meals)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	327,301	50%	50%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>327,301</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

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

\* fortified

#### FOOD SOURCES:

0% Purchased (domestic)	<b>50% In-kind (domestic)</b>
<b>50% Purchased (foreign)</b>	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Students provide fuel for the stoves used to prepare school lunches, and cooks in this program are remunerated with a daily food ration.



## SCHOOL FEEDING AND NUTRITION PROJECT CARITAS BO

**Lead implementer(s):** National School Feeding Secretariat

### OBJECTIVES:

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

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 3 times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Targeted towards areas that are considered vulnerable

### HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 202–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	17,054	47%	53%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,054</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>53%</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Dairy products*	Salt*
Legumes, pulses, nuts*	Oil*	

\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

20% Purchased (domestic)	5% In-kind (domestic)
30% Purchased (foreign)	45% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Small-scale farmers are engaged by providing grains/cereals, legumes, and oil for this program. Micronutrient supplements or powders are added to the food served to children. An increase in school enrollment meant that funds were not adequate in the 2020-2021 school year to achieve the program targets.

