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# SCHOOL FEEDING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*History and perspectives*

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Co-operative Republic of Guyana



**RAES**

Red de Alimentación Escolar Sostenible  
Rede de Alimentação Escolar Sustentável  
Sustainable School Feeding Network







## PERSPECTIVE AND DEMAND FOR SCHOOL FEEDING IN GUYANA-A VIEW FROM A GOVERNMENT MANAGER

•Guyana has a long history ( over 40 years) of school feeding programmes starting with milk and biscuits with assistance from (WFP) and over the years juice and biscuits, hot meals and the latest contractor based breakfast programme were added to address the nutritional intake of school children to improve their attentiveness during classes. As part of its efforts to ensure all school age children in Guyana have sufficient nourishment, in order to promote learning and ease the financial burden on parents the Guyana Government will continue to expand and roll out the National School Feeding Programme across the country. In 2023 the government of Guyana allocated \$2.1 billion(Guy) on school feeding which will benefit over 90,000 school children.

- 1. Community Based Hot Meal Programme 2006: Targets 40 nursery and 187 primary schools in the hinterland. These 227 schools cater for 2,679 nursery children and 27, 012 primary pupils bringing it to a total of 29, 691 currently on the Hot Meal Programme
- 2. Juice and Biscuits Programme 2010: Aproximatley 48,000 meals are served daily at nursery schools and grades 1 and 2 in primary schools.
- 3. Breakfast Programme 2016: served approximately 14,000 meals daily at 250 schools





## Solutions/Strategy/Innovation

Community Based Hot Meal Programme/Contract Based Programmes/Fortified Juice and Biscuits

Nutrition during the school years is crucial for the physical, mental and psychosocial development of children.

**Demands and Benefits:** Thus, the demand and benefits of school feeding on Guyanese children can not be overemphasized which would include alleviating hunger, reducing micronutrient deficiency and anemia, preventing overweight and obesity, improving school enrolment and attendance, increasing cognitive and academic performance and contributing to equity in access to education.

**Increased Coverage:** Due to the aforementioned, Guyana has improved the coverage of school feeding programmes using the three modalities outlined above which is reaching over 90,000 school children with plans to increase this amount. This will significantly reduced the financial burden on parents to supply their children with money to buy snacks/lunch.

**Enhanced Scalability:** Contractor Based programmes can easily scale up to meet the increased demands for school feeding which is important in areas where there are sudden influxes of students, especially migrants and where there are seasonal variations in enrolment.





# PROGRESS MADE TO DATE

Due to strong demand for school feeding the following progresses have been made/ongoing in Guyana:

1. Stronge political leadership: There is currently stronge leadership and support from our political leaders and local ownership to the success of the school feeding programme in Guyana, thus far; our school feeding is based mostly on local production and is promoted by both central and local government actors such as parents associations and school management committees which help to implement the programme in our schools.
2. Promoting local farming and agriculture: our school feeding programme are deeply rooted to the local economy and agricultural context. It promotes local agricultral and livestock production, providing schools with fresh, locally grown food. Local farming are guarantee a sufficient and stable supply in terms of quality, quantity and price and pay a fair income to local farmers. Most school feeding materials are currently bought from local farmers/suppliers.
3. Expansion of School Feeding Programme: due to the high demand of the school feeding programme 5 nursery, 42 primary and 8 hinterland secondary schools will join the programme from January 2024. This is 6,923 additional school children joining the programme employing the three modalities to delivere nutritious meals to our children;
4. Formally integrating the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme: two sensitisation sessions were held with farmers and school administrators at the viilages of Wauna and Nappi
5. Draft School Feeding Policy to be finalised by end of 2023





