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BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT  
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UNITING AND REBUILDING

# SCHOOL FEEDING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*History and perspectives*

Brasília | Brazil

November 13th and 14th, 2023



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







# SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

## OBJECTIVES:

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

## MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

## FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

## TARGETING:

Students self-select into the School Meals Program, with stigma discouraging many students in higher grades from participating.

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

| School level     | # Students   | % Girls    | % Boys     |
|------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Pre-school       | 0            | —          | —          |
| Primary school   | 3,056        | 49%        | 51%        |
| Secondary school | 350          | 41%        | 59%        |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>3,406</b> | <b>48%</b> | <b>52%</b> |

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals  
Roots, tubers  
Legumes, pulses, nuts  
Dairy products  
Eggs  
Meat

\* fortified

Poultry  
Fish  
Green, leafy vegetables  
Other vegetables  
Fruits  
Oil

Salt  
Sugar  
Fruit juice  
Water



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# Brief scenario of School Feeding in St. Kitts and Nevis

- In St Kitts, there is a universally-free school lunch programme, funded by the Government's Ministry of Education and centrally operated by the School Meals Center (SMC).
- In Nevis, the Government's Ministry of Education partially funds the school meal programme, parents pay XCD\$25 (USD\$9) per child weekly, to enter the school meal programme.
- In both countries, imported food is utilized in the school meals programs (SMP) and sugar drinks are offered on some days; fruits and vegetables are offered once available.





# CHALLENGES

- Challenges related to school feeding include the absence of an effective monitoring and evaluating system (with data collection, storage, and retrieval) to bring about improvements in the School Meals Program.
- Other challenges relate to infrastructure: The reliance on one centralized kitchen means long times spent in transport that can have a negative impact on food safety and food quality.
- There is also a need for a physical structure to facilitate the packing and offloading of food and containers. There are some concerns related to mismanagement of the food stocks, and students are sometimes denied second servings.
- No existing School Nutrition Policy or Standards
- Centralize system costly to government
- No Nutritionist on staff





# SUCCESSSES

- Recent successes related to school feeding in Saint Kitts and Nevis include the expansion of the School Meals Program, higher nutritional quality of school lunches, and the provision of training related to food safety and hygiene. The program has also benefitted from national dietary guidelines and input provided by a nutritionist.
- Farmers were involved with the school feeding program
- Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved
- There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income generating opportunities for Women and Youths (jobs created by school feeding programs\* 60 Cooks and food preparers, 9 Transporters Off-site processors, 9 Food packagers and handlers and 6 Monitoring Food service management Safety and quality inspectors)
- There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program