



World Food Programme

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LIVES

School Meals Programme in Madagascar

In 2024, **WFP and the Ministry of National Education** rolled out the **school meals programme to 385,000 children in 1,245 public primary schools in 9 regions across 22 districts**, in the Grand Sud, Sud-Est and in the Highlands. Of the total, **653 schools** were supported as part of the home-grown school feeding programme.



2024 Key figures in Madagascar



385,000
children
received hot
meals



1,245
public primary schools
were supported in
9 regions across 22
districts



Country context

In Madagascar, though primary school enrolment is high (near 96%), only about half of all school children complete primary school on time. Among pupils aged 3-15, school attendance rates are higher in urban areas (61.2% attending) than in rural areas (40.9% attending).¹

About 9 out of 10 children from the wealthiest population complete primary school, compared to only 2 out of 10 from the poorest population.²

The prevalence of child labor contributes to lowering education participation and outcomes, especially among boys. About one third of children aged 5-11 work, especially in rural areas, where 62.3 percent of children work.¹

In WFP-supported schools, primary school attendance rates have increased from 76% (2022) to 82% (2024).

¹ World Bank, Madagascar Poverty and Equity Assessment, Feb. 2024

² UNICEF, Rapport MICS EAGLE Madagascar, Jan. 2022

Education

School meals serve as an incentive for families to enroll children in school, improving access to education and reducing drop-out rates. By improving children's health and focus at school through daily nutritious meals, the programme broadens their educational opportunities.

Nutrition

School meals are fortified with essential micronutrients that support children's cognitive and physical development. The integration of fresh and locally-produced foods ensures a diverse and nutritious diet.

Nutrition education activities are also implemented at school. A catalogue of nutritious recipes using local ingredients was co-developed with the Ministry of National Education and the National Nutrition Office. In addition, posters, games and contests taught school children about food groups and balanced diets.

Social Safety Nets

The school meals programme involves entire communities through local management committees (LMCs), while creating market opportunities for local farmers, who supply school canteens with their produce. In Madagascar, the school year overlaps with the cyclones and lean season. Regular provision of school meals during this period serves as a social safety net for children. The programme also contributes to national health outcomes by including school children in deworming campaigns.

Capacity Strengthening

Cascade trainings on school canteen management have been delivered to public institutions including the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the National and Regional Nutrition Offices, and local canteen committees (FEFFI). These trainings support the sustainable transfer of knowledge to institutional trainers and contribute to long-term programme ownership.





Modalities of the School Meals Programme

1. **In kind delivery** for distribution of hot meals on site with rice, enriched vegetable oil, beans.
2. **Cash transfers** to schools to support the purchase of nutritious fresh foods such as eggs, vegetables and fruits.



Home-grown school feeding (HGSF)

In **653 schools**, through the **Home-Grown School Feeding model**, food is sourced directly from smallholder farmers, **linking school feeding to agriculture**. This approach promotes **sustainable food systems at the nexus of human capital development**, local agriculture and rural transformation.

In 2024, 5,432 MT of commodities were procured from smallholder farmers organizations to supply school canteens.

The African Union and the Southern African Development Community both prioritize the scaling-up of Home-Grown School Feeding in the region.

Benefits of the Home-Grown School Feeding Approach



Providing school children with safe, diversified and nutritious meals sourced from local production,



Enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by stimulating local agriculture and creating stable market opportunities,



Driving rural transformation and supporting the transition towards sustainable, nationally owned school feeding programmes.



Partnership with the government of Madagascar

WFP Madagascar has provided technical and financial support to the government's Home-Grown School Feeding programme at the national and regional levels since 2017. Under the Mionjo project (2022-2024), WFP has collaborated closely with the Ministry of National Education to expand home-grown school feeding (HGSF) coverage to 191 schools (Mionjo). **Under the FSRP project (2023-2026), WFP aims to expand HGSF to 800 schools covering more than 240,000 school children.**

WFP has also **supported the Ministry of National Education in developing the National Strategy for School Feeding and Nutrition**, which serves as a key pillar of the sustainability strategy for the national school feeding programme.

Through the resource framework jointly developed with other UN agencies, WFP ensures alignment with the National Strategy for School Feeding and Nutrition (2020-2024).



WFP's prospect for School Meals Programme

- Scaling up HGSF to 800 schools by 2026
- Piloting the School Connect tool to digitize and standardize school meals programme reporting. The pilot focuses on 50 school across 5 school districts.
- Supporting 15,000 smallholder farmers with agricultural inputs and trainings by 2026

The common objective of the Government of Madagascar and WFP is to **scale-up the Home-Grown School Feeding model through capacity building, financial support, and increased number of schools covered by the HGSF model at the regional level**. WFP will support the Ministry of National Education to implement the strategy, strengthen cross-sectoral government collaboration (particularly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock), and promote the strategy and its objectives among government and community stakeholders.

Thank you to our donors for their continued support



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