



WORKING PAPER

School Meals Case Study: **Togo**

Prepared by the Research Consortium for School Health and
Nutrition, an initiative of the School Meals Coalition

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Historical Background

The first school feeding initiative in Togo goes back to 1967 with Catholic Relief Services (CRS-Catwell), supported by the U.S. government through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). This initiative was followed by school feeding programmes implemented by the French international NGO Aide & Action, now known as "Action Education," from 1994 to 2002. From 2002 to 2020, the operation of school canteens was conducted through project-based approaches, particularly under the Basic Education Program (EDB), the Integrated Rural Development Project in the Savanes Region (PDRIS), the Community Development Project (PDC), the Community Development and Social Safety Nets Project (PDCplus), and the Social Safety Nets and Basic Services Project (FSB).

Starting in 2020, the Togolese government has committed to expanding school feeding coverage and making school meals not only a crucial social safety net mechanism for reducing vulnerability in rural areas but also a genuine tool for local development. To achieve this, several significant decisions have been made to legalize, institutionalize, and operationalize the establishment of school canteens across the country. Key decisions include the adoption of the school feeding law and implementation of its regulations in June 2020, the revision of the national school feeding policy, and the creation of a program based on local production (ASLP/HGSF). This initiative is supported by operational tools developed with the assistance of Togo's partners, chiefly the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Bank (WB).

Country profile

Population and Economics

Table 1: Indicators of Togolese Demographics and Economy

Total population (2022)	Number of people aged 5 to 19	Number of people employed in the agriculture sector	Gross Domestic Product per capita (2021)
8 095 498	2 751 954	1 974 000	888.18 USD

Education

Basic structure of school education by age group

- Preschool: 3 to 5 years old
- Primary: 6 to 12 years old
- Lower Secondary: 13 to 16 years old
- Upper Secondary: 17 to 19 years old

These age groups are the official ones. However, due to early enrollment in school, these age ranges are not strictly adhered to nowadays.

Organization of Schools for Different Age Groups

In Togo, schools are officially coeducational (boys and girls attend the same institution and are in the same class). There are three main types of schools: community or locally initiated schools, private schools, and public schools. Within private schools, several categories can be

distinguished: secular private schools or faith-based private schools (Islamic, Catholic, Protestant). In each type and category, the age groups defined above are respected.

Description of Primary Education, Secondary Education, and Continuing Education

Primary education is a learning framework designed for children aged 6 to 12 over a period of 6 years (from CP to CM2). It is coeducational, including both girls and boys. Primary education is organized into three sub-cycles: Preparatory Course (CP), Elementary Course (CE), and Middle Course (CM). It culminates in a certification called the Certificate of Completion of Primary Education (CEPD).

Secondary education is divided into two phases:

- **Lower Secondary Education:** Like primary education, it is coeducational and serves both girls and boys aged 13 to 16 over a period of four years, from 6th grade to 9th grade. It leads to a certification called the Certificate of Completion of the First Cycle (BEPC).
- **Upper Secondary Education:** Also coeducational like lower secondary, it is for girls and boys aged 17 to 19 over a period of three years, from 10th grade to 12th grade. It is concluded with a diploma called the Baccalauréat Second Part, following the Baccalauréat First Part at the end of 11th grade.

Continuing education involves capacity-building or refresher training for teachers already in service, either for those who did not undergo formal initial training at teacher education institutions or to introduce new topics, strategies, and teaching methods aimed at enhancing instructional quality.

Number of Children in Each Age Group

Table 2: Number of Children (2022–2023) by Age Group and Type of Education

Level	Boys	Girls	Total	%
Preschool (3 – 5 years old)	119 197	121 227	240 424	8,7
Primary (6 – 12 years old)	848 975	815 497	1 664 472	60,5
Lower Secondary (13 – 16 years old)	335 167	302 840	638 007	23,2
Upper Secondary (17 – 19 years old)	117 161	92 863	210 024	7,6
Total	1 420 500	1 332 427	2 752 927	100,0

Source: Ministry of Education, Directorate of Planning, Statistics, and Monitoring-Evaluation, Education Dashboard of Togo

Table 1: Characteristics of School Canteens

Total number of students	Total number of schools	Average class size	Number of children involved in school meal	Percentage of children eligible for free school meals
2 752 927	8 229	350	218 395	69.19

Source: National Agency for Community Development Support, ProNAS, annual rapport 2022-2023.

Food Security, Nutrition and Health

- Food Security

Achieving food and nutrition security is a major challenge in Togo, especially in rural areas. Food security is linked to structural factors such as widespread poverty, low agricultural productivity, population growth, climate change, land and environmental degradation, and gender inequalities in terms of accessibility and control over resources. Difficulties in accessing quality food are exacerbated by the lack of reliable information on agricultural markets and cyclical climate shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding emergency measures have further complicated the situation for vulnerable populations.

Data on the nutritional status of the Togolese population is scarce. The only available data focus on the most vulnerable age group of children; from 0 to 5 years old. These data mainly come from the SMART 2014 surveys, MICS¹, and SMART 2022² surveys.

According to the MICS6 survey in Togo, the global acute malnutrition rate is 5.7%, with a severe acute malnutrition prevalence of 1.1%. Nearly a quarter of Togolese children (23.8%) suffer from chronic malnutrition, and 16.2% are underweight (MICS6, 2017). The nutritional status of children under 5 years old is detailed in Annex 1.

Thinness in children from 5 to 19 years (%): Not available

Overweight in children from 5 to 19 years (%): Not available

Obesity in children from 5 to 19 years (%): Not available

In adolescents aged 15 to 19, the prevalence of severe emaciation is 2.9% in the Maritime region and zero in the Kara and Savanes regions. Moderate emaciation ranges from 2.2% in the Savanes region to 2.9% in the Maritime region.

Design and implementation of the school meal programmes

Description

In accordance with the law's directive, the national school feeding program (PRONAS) is managed by the National Agency for Community Development Support (ANADEB), which mobilizes all technical and financial partners, Civil society organizations (CSO), private companies, and other stakeholders for effective implementation. During the 2022–2023 school year, the program reached 1,284 schools, representing a national coverage rate of 15% of public primary schools and 17% of students in basic education (primary and preschool).

It is important to note that ANADEB collaborates on the school feeding program with eight sectoral ministries: the Ministry of Community Development, the Ministry of Basic Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Social Action, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Local Government.

¹ National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED), 2018. MICS6 TOGO, 2017, Final Report. Lomé, Togo

² Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Access/Nutrition Division. 2022. Report on Nutritional Surveys Based on the SMART Methodology in Togo.

The implementation of school canteens in prioritized schools adheres to a decentralized feeding model. ANADEB supports this model by providing resources that are distributed weekly by the Committees for the Management of Public Primary Schools (COGEP). This system allows selected local canteen mama managers³ to purchase locally produced food from small-scale producers and ensure that primary and preschool students receive a hot meal each day at lunch.

The monitoring and evaluation of the program and the capitalization of its achievements are carried out by ANADEB, through its regional offices and field agents.

By 2025, the school feeding program aims to:

- Reach 300,000 beneficiary students
- Enter into contracts with 2,124 organizations of small producers and processors
- Purchase more than 30,000 tons of food directly from these small producers and processors organized into cooperatives.

Objectives

The general objective of the ProNAS is to contribute to the improvement of school performance at the basic education level and to local development. Specifically, it aims to:

- Improve access to education, retention, and learning for children, particularly girls, through food, nutritional, and health security;
- Develop partnerships for the financing of school feeding;
- Promote local production by including local products in the food basket of school canteens;
- Strengthen institutional coordination for school feeding.

It should be noted that the World Bank supported the financing of school feeding in Togo until 2020, with 1.5 billion FCFA each year from 2008 to 2020. With the cessation of financial support from the World Bank, the annual budget allocated by the government is limited to one billion FCFA.

To ensure the sustainability of the program, the country has turned to developing income-generating activities in schools with canteens. With the support of the World Food Program, school gardens supported by solar water pumping and irrigation kits, livestock units, and processing units have been installed. These activities enable schools to generate additional income to meet the needs of the canteens.

Regarding the consideration of nutritional aspects, quality and hygiene standards, legal texts (decrees and orders) as well as operational documents (recipe guide, targeting and implementation guide) have been adopted by the government to frame school feeding practices. Health monitoring of the canteen mama managers with health booklets and the annual deworming of students are essential components to ensure the health of the beneficiary students of the program.

The school feeding program in Togo is based on the experience of 'Home-Grown School Feeding' (HGSF). It should be noted that the country has been in an experimental phase for two years with this approach in 50 schools, with the support of WFP. Food is purchased directly from cooperatives of small producers located near the schools. During the 2022–2023 school year, 18,000 tons of food were purchased, mainly rice, maize, beans, and gari.

³ Canteen mama managers: Identified female cooks within the beneficiary community. They undergo a series of medical evaluations to ensure they are fit to handle food and are then trained in the preparation of local dishes for school canteens.

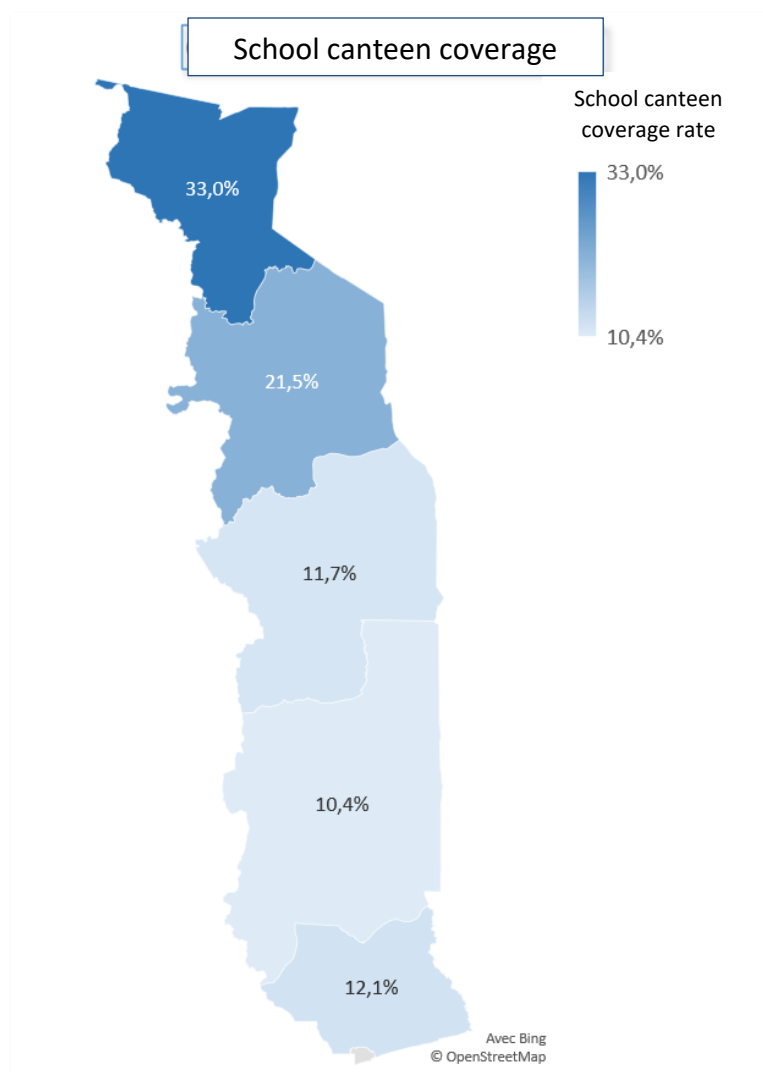
However, the lack of storage facilities poses a challenge to the effective implementation of this approach.

Coverage

In Togo, 218,395 students have benefited from school meals, including 183,766 primary school students and 34,629 preschool students, with a coverage rate of 17% of all students. It should be noted that, although they are legally entitled to benefit from school canteens, lower secondary school students are not yet included in the program. Efforts are currently more focused on primary and preschool students.

Geographically, ProNAS reaches all five economic regions of the country. A total of 96 out of 117 municipalities and all 39 prefectures are beneficiaries. In all these localities, the implementation of school feeding follows national guidelines that establish a process of gradual empowerment of municipalities in the program's execution. Any actor other than the government must obtain approval from ANADEB before intervening in school feeding in Togo. If discrepancies are observed in the implementation, the entity will have its approval revoked, and activities will cease immediately.

In accordance with the law on school feeding, ANADEB has been designated by decree as the public agency responsible for overseeing and implementing ProNAS. Togo has opted for a decentralized model for implementing school feeding. Each beneficiary school opens an account managed by the Primary School Management Committee (COGEP) to receive state subsidy funds related to the program (115 FCFA per meal per day for each student). The funds are sent to the schools to supplement community contributions, which are 10 FCFA per student per meal. The canteen mama(s) receive the resources from COGEP and make the necessary purchases to provide meals for the students. Four community-level management committees are established and trained to run the school canteen activities in each beneficiary village. These include the School Canteen Management Committee (COGECS), the Hygiene and Health Safety Team (EHSS), the Canteen Mothers Team, and the COGEP.



Source: National Agency for Community Development Support (ANADEB), ProNAS, (annual report 2022-2023).

Targeting

The law on school feeding specifies that the expansion of school canteens is done progressively, starting from vulnerable areas to eventually cover all basic education schools in Togo. According to the country's poverty map, the targeting and implementation guide specifies that vulnerable areas are primarily localities located in rural zones where schools are:

- Difficult to access;
- Located in disaster-affected areas, areas with child trafficking, or near borders;
- Have a high dropout rate;
- Have a low attendance rate;
- Have a high gender disparity;

Meal type

ProNAS in Togo has opted for hot meals cooked at school to better manage hygiene conditions. Meals are served starting at 11:30 a.m. for preschool students and at noon for primary school students. The menus are designed based on the eating habits of the students to ensure a balanced meal. Generally, the menus vary daily and include the following options:

- Rice with sauce + fish/meat
- Corn dough + sauce + meat/fish
- Beans + gari + fried food
- Rice mixed with beans (Ayimolou) + fried food + fish.

Nutritional norms

The meals' composition follows the standards outlined in the recipe guide adopted nationally through an inter-ministerial decree (Interministerial Decree No. 004/MDBJEJ/MEPSTA/MSHPAUS approving the recipe guide for school feeding).

With support from German Corporation for International Cooperation and the NGO KINOME, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and moringa are introduced into the meals to enhance their nutritional value, although this initiative is currently implemented on a small scale. Each beneficiary community designs the menus served to the children based on local eating habits and with the support of ANADEB agents and the Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health, which trains the canteen mama managers at the beginning of each school year.

Food procurement

The law on school feeding⁴ and its implementing decree⁵ specify the procurement method for school canteens. According to the law, at least 60% of the budget allocated to school feeding must be spent on purchasing food directly from small local producers and processors. The implementing decree of the law outlines the conditions for purchasing and storing goods. To simplify the logistics, the program recommends purchasing from small producers located in the immediate area of the beneficiary schools. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for supporting these small producers to obtain organic products of good nutritional quality. The absence of storage facilities in schools with canteens and the insufficient availability of quality and quantity of foodstuffs from small producers are the current issues with this approach. For other canteens, purchases are made on a more weekly basis by the canteen mama managers.

To ensure the availability of fresh vegetables and animal proteins in the canteens, a community gardening initiative was launched in 10 schools within the beneficiary communities of the program starting in the 2020-2021 school year. Beginning in 2022-2023, a more structured pilot project involving vegetable gardens and poultry farms is underway in 50 canteens with financial support from WFP. These gardens and poultry farms are established and managed by the communities themselves, with technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Regional Excellence Center for Avian Sciences (CERSA) at the University of Lomé in Togo.

In addition to these initiatives directly supported by ANADEB, since 2019, the NGO Catholic Relief Services, through the project Health, Transformation, and Learning for Academic Success (STARS) funded by the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, has been assisting the Togolese government in its school feeding policy. Most of the food for the canteens in this project consists of products imported from the United States, including rice, green peas, lentils, bulgur, and fortified oil. Only the vegetables for the sauce are provided by the communities and thus acquired locally. Thanks to the accreditation principle outlined in the school feeding law, in the second phase

⁴ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/tog197390.pdf>

⁵ <https://anadeb.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Decret-alimentation-scolaire.pdf>

of the STARS project, named 'Bia Laafia,' which has a duration of 5 years and is funded under the same program, more than 2 billion FCFA will be allocated for the purchase of local products.

Legal framework and public policy evolution

Following the SABER analysis in 2016, Togo resolved to strengthen its legal and policy framework for school feeding. By 2020, the law on school feeding was adopted. From this law, an implementing decree, several orders, and various operational documents have been developed.

Table 4: Legal texts and documents that frame school feeding in Togo

Texts and documents	Year of Approval
Law No. 2020-007 on School Feeding	June 2020
Law No. 2021-032 on the Finance Law, Fiscal Year 2022 (provides for tax exemption on corporate donations in favor of school canteens)	December 2021
Decree No. 2021-061/PR on the modalities for implementing the national school feeding policy and coordinating its program	May 2021
Interministerial Order No. 002/MDBJEJ/MATDDT/MEPSTA/MSHPAUS on the modalities for granting approval for the implementation of school canteens	June 2022
Interministerial Order No. 003/MDBJEJ/MATDDT/MEPSTA on the organization and functioning of School Canteen Management Committees (COGECS)	June 2022
Interministerial Order No. 004/MDBJEJ/MEPSTA/MSHPAUS approving the school feeding recipes guide	June 2022
Interministerial Order No. 005/MDBJEJ/MEPSTA/MSHPAUS on the composition, responsibilities, and operational modalities of the hygiene and health safety team for school canteens	June 2022
Decision No. 001/2023/ANADEB/DG establishing the interministerial committee to support the implementation of the school feeding program	January 2023
National School Feeding Policy	August 2023
National School Feeding Program	August 2023
Recipes guide	August 2023
Guide to Targeting and Implementing School Canteens	August 2023

Costs of implementation

The average cost of a meal in 2023 is 141 FCFA. This cost consists of 10 FCFA contributed by the community and 131 FCFA allocated by the State. Out of the 141 FCFA, 125 are allocated to purchasing food for meal preparation, and 16 FCFA per meal are dedicated to activities related to meal provision. These activities include management, training of stakeholders, on-site monitoring, supervision, meetings and workshops, deworming, construction of improved cooking stoves⁶, vegetable gardens, and other supplementary actions related to school feeding. The table below provides details regarding the cost of the meal.

⁶ Improved cooking stoves are clay constructions that use a reduced amount of firewood to cook large quantities of meals.

Table 2: distribution of the cost of a meal (school year 2022 – 2023)

Number of children	218 395
Average cost of a meal (FCFA)	141
Cost of raw material (FCFA)	125
Labour costs (%)	ND ⁷
Family participation (FCFA)	10
City Budget per Child and per Meal (FCFA)	0
Government Budget per Child and per Meal (FCFA)	131
Number of Teaching Days in one Academic Year	180
Number of School Meal Days in one Academic Year	170

It should be noted that, following the widespread increase in food prices, a study was commissioned in 2022 to reassess the unit cost of meals served in beneficiary schools. This study showed that the unit cost of meals served under the program would be 186 FCFA.

Financing

In accordance with the guidelines of the school feeding law, the financial resources allocated to school feeding come primarily from the State. Additional resources may come from beneficiary communities, local authorities, the private sector, and civil society.

Thus, each year, the State allocates an amount of one billion FCFA to the ProNAS. In 2023, contributions in kind and in cash from beneficiary communities totaled 244,091,747 FCFA. The private sector and civil society are solicited each year to support the program through various donations. Since the withdrawal of World Bank funding, the WFP remains one of the government's key partners in school feeding. It supports the implementation of the HGSE model and facilitates Togo's participation in international meetings. It is also worth noting that the WFP funded the updating of the school feeding policy, the development of its program, and the management tools.

The NGO Catholic Relief Services, with the support of the American government through USAID, operates school canteens in 204 schools, benefiting 52,474 students in 2023. The funding received from the State remains relatively constant and struggles to meet the objectives set by the country in terms of the number of beneficiaries to be reached by 2025. Given all other factors being equal, more than 5 billion FCFA will be needed to feed the 300,000 beneficiaries targeted by the government in 2025. In other words, the government will need to make an additional effort of approximately 4 billion FCFA.

Monitoring and evaluation

The implementation of ProNAS is monitored by ANADEB with support from the Ministry of Basic Education, local authorities, and beneficiary communities. Data on meal provision is collected daily and sent to ANADEB's general directorate for capitalization. In accordance with the guidelines of the school feeding law, at the beginning of each school year, the program's achievements are presented at the Council of Ministers. Since the start of the 2023–2024 school year, a digital data collection platform (E-GC) is being piloted. The WFP is also preparing to support the government with the SCHOOL CONNECT tool.

⁷ ND: not determined. FCFA: Franc of the African Financial Community (1 Dollar = 621 FCFA in November 2024).

The program is highly valued by the beneficiary communities (students, parents, small producers, and teachers). Civil society and partners show great interest in the program, and rightly so, as they continuously provide diverse support to ensure its success.

Since the end of the PDCplus project, the program has not undergone any impact assessments. Given the new directions that Togo has taken in school feeding since 2020, it is necessary to evaluate the impact of these new orientations.

Lessons learned and best practices

ProNAS lacks comprehensive studies to assess the impact of school feeding implementation in recent years. Nevertheless, the following effects have been observed and described in some previous studies:

- Admissions: The number is 237 in schools with canteens compared to 186 in schools without canteens in the Savanes region.
- Promotion Rate⁸: It is 71% in schools with canteens compared to 58% in schools without canteens in the Savanes region.
- Dropout Rate: The average is 11.16% in schools with canteens versus 19.77% in schools without canteens in the Savanes region.
- Students' Nutritional Intake: Nutritional analysis of meals provided by school canteens shows that the meals cover at least 2/3 of the daily caloric and protein needs of the beneficiary students (Agbo *et al.*, 2010).

Table 3: Effects of School Canteens on Students' Nutritional Intake

Types of meals	Calories (Kcal)	Protein (g)
Meal made of cowpeas	1951.4	80.7
Meal made of corn, sorghum or rice paste	1295.1	48.1
Meal made of a mix of rice-cowpeas	1011.5	63.6
Nutritional Intake from the School Lunch: 60 to 75% of daily caloric and protein needs (WFP and World Bank, 2009)	1,200 to 1,500	24 to 30

- The Local Economy: Hundreds of tons of food are purchased each year from small producers. Parents no longer have to worry about their children's lunch. The reduction in lunch expenses could allow parents to use these additional savings to meet basic needs (health, education, income-generating activities).

⁸The promoted/promotable ratios (pro/pro rate) determine the maximum number of grade advancements that can be granted each year

Table 4: quantity of supplies used during the 2021-2022 school year

REGIONS	Basic supplies in ton / year		
	Corn	Rice	Bean
Savanes	158	132	114
Kara	186	167	87
Centrale	181	541	361
Plateaux	247	262	211
Maritime	155	96	91
TOTAL	927	1 198	864

From the lessons learned, the authors note that:

- Involving beneficiary communities at the heart of implementation fosters greater ownership and engagement in school feeding programmes;
- Opting for a short supply chain—by sourcing food from small producers located as close to the schools as possible—helps reduce logistical costs in the implementation of school feeding programmes;
- Due to the increasing individualism in our communities, communal fields and other initiatives requiring regular and voluntary community labor to support school canteens struggle to succeed;
- Establishing income-generating activities around schools with canteens helps ensure the sustainability of school feeding programmes;
- Strong synergy among stakeholders ensures the success of school feeding programmes;
- A clear institutional framework with precise legal texts helps attract partners to the program;
- Establishing an autonomous public agency improves the management of national school feeding programmes;
- Granting accreditations for school canteen projects at the national level helps regulate and oversee school feeding initiatives in the country;
- Lack of clarity regarding funding sources for school feeding programmes hinders the expansion of the program.

Challenges and recommendations

- Increase the program's budget allocation;
- Install potable water facilities in schools benefiting from the canteen program;
- Set up storage facilities in schools benefiting from the program to enable the expansion of the HGSP model;
- Conduct an impact study of the program (impact on the local economy, academic performance, and students' health);
- Extend the installation of improved cooking stoves in all beneficiary schools;
- Expand the implementation of income-generating activities in all beneficiary schools;
- Facilitate women's empowerment through the program;
- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in program implementation;
- Enhance the capabilities of small producers and processors in organic food production and better preservation techniques;

- Establish an effective community management system for program-related initiatives (such as gardens, livestock units, tricycles, mills, etc.).

Related resources and data sources

- AGBO et al., Evaluation of the School Meal Provision Operation in Vulnerable Areas of Togo (Quantitative Analysis), 2010
- Sadjia LAMBONI, Study on the Costs of School Canteen Meals by Region and According to Periods of Agricultural Abundance or Scarcity in Togo, 2022
- ANADEB, Annual Report on the Implementation of the National School Feeding Program, 2023
- Law No. 2020-007 on School Feeding, 2020
- National Directory of School Statistics 2022 – 2023
- SOFI, 2022 Edition
- Ministry of Health of Togo/Nutrition Service, Nutritional Survey Using the SMART Methodology, 2014
- National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED), MICS6 TOGO, 2017, Final Report, 2018. Lomé, Togo
- Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Access to Care/Nutrition Division, Report on Nutritional Surveys Based on the SMART Methodology in Togo, 2022

Links to the documents available online

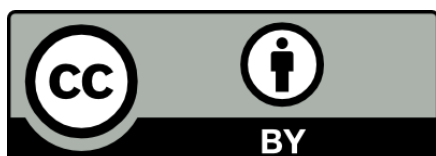
- Loi n° 2020-007 du 26 juin 2020 relative à l'alimentation scolaire: <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/tog197390.pdf>
- Décret n° 2021-061/PR portant modalités de mise en œuvre de la politique nationale de l'alimentation scolaire et la coordination de son programme: <https://anadeb.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Dcret-alimentation-scolaire.pdf>
- L'état de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/424bab97-d467-4655-b23f-7f549dd627f9/content>

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Annex

Nutritional Status of Children Under 5 Years Old

Stunting, characterized by a height that is too short for age, is an indicator of chronic malnutrition. It is slightly higher among male children than female children (26.2% versus 21.3%). Stunting affects more children in rural areas than those in urban areas (29.7% versus 14.2%) (MICS6, 2017). Data from the 2022 SMART survey show that the situation has not changed since 2017, with stunting rates among children aged 0 to 5 ranging from 27.2% in Kara to 29.4% in the Maritime region (SMART 2022).

- Micronutrient deficiency in children

In Togo, several strategies are implemented to reduce micronutrient deficiencies. These strategies include vitamin A supplementation, promotion of iodized salt, fortification of oils and flours with vitamins A and iron, and biofortification. The Demographic and Health Survey conducted in Togo during 2013-2014 showed that 57.3% of children had consumed iron-rich foods the day before the survey, and 68.6% had consumed vitamin A-rich foods. According to data from the EDST 2013-2014, 70% of children aged 6-59 months suffer from some form of anemia. Mild anemia is observed in 25% of children, moderate anemia in 42%, and severe anemia in 2%. Male children are slightly more affected by anemia than female children (71% versus 69%), and children in rural areas are more affected by anemia (73%) compared to those in urban areas (64%). Iron supplementation has been provided to 25.6% of children, while vitamin A supplementation has been administered to 81.7% of children. Additionally, 82.4% of children live in households consuming iodized salt.

- Underweight or thinness

Thinness is assessed through the evaluation of the weight-for-age index (W/A in Z-score) of the child. For this form of malnutrition, the Savanes and Maritime regions are in a state of alert with respective prevalences of 21.0% and 20.9%. The Kara region is reported to be in a precarious situation with a prevalence of 18.2%. This malnutrition affects boys more than girls in the Kara (21.8% in boys and 14.4% in girls) and Savanes regions (21.9% in boys and 20.0% in girls), but the reverse is true in the Maritime region (20.5% in boys and 21.2% in girls). In terms of age, children aged 24 to 59 months are more affected (28.9% in Kara, 31.8% in Savanes, and 34.4% in Maritime). The prevalences of underweight are higher in children aged 0 to 23 months (22.5%) compared to those aged 24 to 59 months (14.8%) in the Kara region. Conversely, the opposite is observed in the Savanes (19.8% in 0 to 23 months and 21.9% in 24 to 59 months) and Maritime regions (20.3% in 0 to 23 months and 21.3% in 24 to 59 months).

- Overweight/obesity in children

The prevalence of overweight/obesity among children aged 0 to 5 years is very low. The Kara region reports a prevalence of 1.3% for overweight and 0.5% for obesity; in the Savanes region, the prevalence of overweight is 0.1% and that of obesity is also 0.1%. The Maritime region reports prevalences of 1.0% for overweight and 0.2% for obesity. According to these analyses, the highest proportion of overweight is found in the Kara region (1.3%), followed by the Maritime region (1.0%), and lastly the Savanes region (0.1%) (SMART 2022).