

## MEXICO - CARICOM - FAO INITIATIVE “COOPERATION FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CARIBBEAN” RESILIENT CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE

### SUB- PROJECT 2: RESILIENT SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS – SURINAME

#### KEY FACTS

##### Project Timeline

March 2021 - March 2023

##### Participating Countries

Bahamas, Belize, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago

##### Financed by

- Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE)
- Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID)

##### In-country Partners

- Ministry of Education, Science and Culture; Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry & Fisheries; Ministry of Social Affairs & Public Housing; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Regional Development & Sport

##### Technical Partners

- Mexico's System for the Integral Development of the Family (SNDIF)
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- Caribbean Agro-Economic Society (CAAES)

##### Direct Beneficiaries

- Staff from the ministries and from schools targeted by the project
- Schools and surrounding communities
- Boys and girls from the schools and communities

#### BACKGROUND

The financial and economic crisis of the recent years has posed enormous challenges for food security and nutrition among the most vulnerable groups and children in Suriname. While up-to-date hunger and malnutrition data for school-age children in Suriname are not easily available, the data from the 2016 Global School-based Student Health Survey highlight that there is a growing problem. According to the 2016 survey, 6.5% of schoolchildren between 13 to 15 years old were underweight. At the same time, almost 30% of schoolchildren from 13 to 15 years old were overweight.

Food insecurity among low-income and disadvantage families has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic and it is critical that it is addressed. The most recent FAO's State of Food Insecurity 2022 suggests 35.9% of the Surinamese population suffers from moderate or severe food insecurity. Also, the country has the highest level of prevalence of obesity in the adult population in the CARICOM, after Bahamas and Dominica.



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## OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacities of the institutions and stakeholders of the participating countries to implement resilient and sustainable National School Feeding Programs. For Suriname this includes:

- i. training of trainers for government extension workers in the establishment and maintenance of school gardens,
- ii. practical training on garden care and maintenance for students and teachers,
- iii. upgrading access to drinking water in schools,
- iv. the development of nutrition guidelines and menus for school meals and,
- v. support in the development of policy instruments for school feeding.

The intended outcome is that Suriname will adopt and implement a national normative-political framework for school feeding that facilitates access to healthy diets produced locally, benefiting especially the most vulnerable populations, including children and men and women family farmers.

## TARGETED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



### For further information:

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## SOME KEY TARGETS

- A National School Feeding Policy that adopts nutrition and encourages local agricultural production
- An adequately staffed coordination structure for the implementation of the national school feeding program of the Government of Suriname
- School gardens established and maintained in at least 6 schools as a pedagogical tool for food and nutrition education
- Nutrition Guidelines promoting healthy and safe school meals
- Access to drinking water improved in at least 2% of the elementary schools
- At least 600 children in Suriname served by the nutrition education program



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