

# School Meals in Island States - Examples, Opportunities, and Advocacy



Australian Centre  
for Pacific Islands  
Research





# Welcome and Acknowledgements

# Workshop objectives

Participants will leave the session with:

- An enhanced understanding of the context of providing school meals in island states
- Examples of activities and pathways to support increasing awareness of the benefits of school meals programs in island states
- Examples of activities and pathways for advocacy of school meals programs in island states



# Ice breaker

If someone visited you in your home country, what is the one meal you would recommend they try, and why?





**Pacific School  
Food Network**

The vision of the Pacific School Food Network (PSFN) is to **improve the health of Pacific Island children, their families, and their communities through healthier school food environments.**

Through a regional coordinated and multisectoral approach, the PSFN focuses on promoting policy, good practice, and action to foster healthier school food environments.



# Pacific School Food Network

## The Pacific School Food Network aims to:

- provide opportunities for collaboration and networking for those interested in school food activities
- provide opportunities for capacity building for those interested in school food activities
- provide a forum for technical input into school food provision and nutrition education activities
- provide a forum for policy guidance and leadership for healthier school food environments
- provide an avenue for sharing information and resources, including aligning to/supporting regional events (e.g., Pacific Week of Agriculture, regional health/education forums)
- promote research and greater evidence to inform school food policies and activities
- provide a focal point for collaboration with similar global initiatives including the School Meals Coalition
- explore resource mobilisation for research to inform school food activities and implementation to improve Pacific school food environments
- host an inventory/database of pacific school food activities on the PSFN website



# The Pacific Islands context

- Nutrition transition
- Food environments and the proliferation of ultra-processed foods
- Diet-related non-communicable disease
- Lack of current, representative data on dietary behaviours, especially in children and adolescents
- Schools and churches have an important role in Pacific society, influencing societal behaviours and attitudes
- Climate change and food system challenges
- Agricultural sector changing
- At times, limited agricultural production



The invasion of food culture  
in the Pacific Islands  
from outside  
and the revival of new  
traditional healthy food through  
school lunches

Jun Kobayashi





1914



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obesity\\_in\\_the\\_Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obesity_in_the_Pacific)



By Onna Village



北中城村HP

<https://ryukyushimpo.jp/>

# Ranking of Life expectancy in Okinawa among 47 prefectures in Japan



資料)平成27年都道府県別生命表

[https://www.ncvc.go.jp/pr/release/20210329\\_press/](https://www.ncvc.go.jp/pr/release/20210329_press/)

## 平均寿命の推移 (沖縄県・全国)







<https://tabizine.jp/2014/05/09/9561/>



<https://guam-bu.com/resipi-spam-omusubi/>





By Tokashiki Village



Is it a return to tradition or a new approach to health?





# Sharing examples

- [Farm to School Ambaelulu \(Vanuatu\)](#)

# School feeding

## SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS



The provision of school meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and/or snacks) to students at school, or as take-home rations. They can vary from national programs to individual school initiatives.

## 22 SFPs identified

16 are known to be current. This included 17 day schools and 5 boarding schools

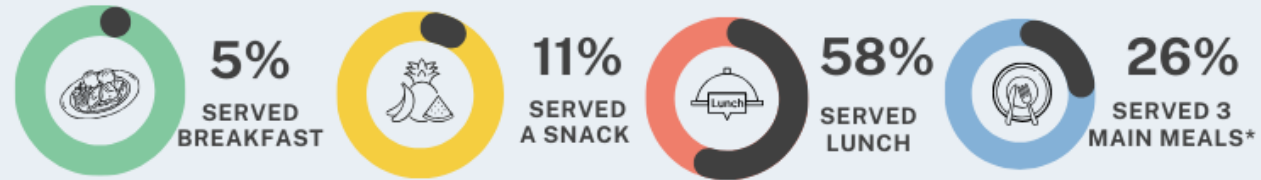
### CURRENT SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED



 Federated States of Micronesia	2	 Kiribati	1	 Palau	1
 Fiji	2	 Marshall Islands	1	 Solomon Islands	1
 French Polynesia	1	 Nauru	1	 Timor Leste	1
 Guam	1	 New Caledonia	2	 Vanuatu	2

\*Federated States of Micronesia (Pohnpei), French Polynesia, Guam Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Palau and Timor Leste all have national SFPs

## TYPE OF MEALS PROVIDED



\*3 main meals was provided at boarding schools only, not day schools



### INTEGRATION OF LOCAL FOODS

- 8 SFPs had a requirement to include local foods
- This varied from each school and was context dependent
- Including a range of 1 local food included at each main meal, up to 75% of foods sourced locally

### SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY

- 6 SFPs had a policy or law guiding the inclusion of local foods
- The scale of the policy varied, from regional to national



## SCHOOL FOOD PROVISION LESSONS LEARNED

### CHALLENGES

Common challenges to include local food in school food provision activities included:



- Environmental conditions



- Reliability of local food supply



- Funding and finance
- Governance and policy



- Food culture, perceptions and preferences
- Staff capacity and leadership for programs
- Food processing and storage/power facilities

### OPPORTUNITIES

Despite the challenges there are clear opportunities to move forward. These included:



- Share learnings from neighboring countries



- Utilise different gardening technologies



- Broaden local purchasing options
- Collaborate with traditional leaders, farmers and schools



- Supporting policy
- Diversify funding
- Upskill staff

# Table discussions

*What strategies have you used to raise awareness of the benefits of school meals programs and/or advocate for these in your country?*

Please designate one person from your table to record your key points.

We will help you add this to the PADLET.



<https://usc.padlet.org/sarahburkhart1/GCNF>

# Summary



# Thank you

Dr Sarah Burkhart, [sburkhar@usc.edu.au](mailto:sburkhar@usc.edu.au)

Dr Danny Hunter, [d.hunter@cgiar.org](mailto:d.hunter@cgiar.org)

A/Prof Pragya Singh, [pragya.singh@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:pragya.singh@fnu.ac.fj)

## Pacific School Food Network

[www.pacificschoolfoodnetwork.org](http://www.pacificschoolfoodnetwork.org)



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