

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















### **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?







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.





#### The Pacific School Food Network aims to:

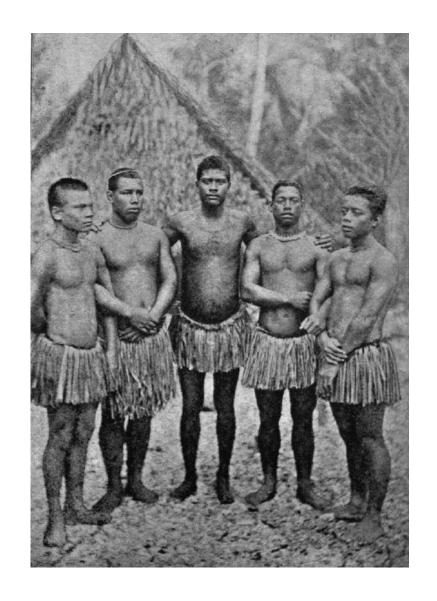
- provide opportunities for collaboration and networking for those interested in school food activities
- provide opportunities for capacity building for those interested in school food activities
- provide a forum for technical input into school food provision and nutrition education activities
- provide 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









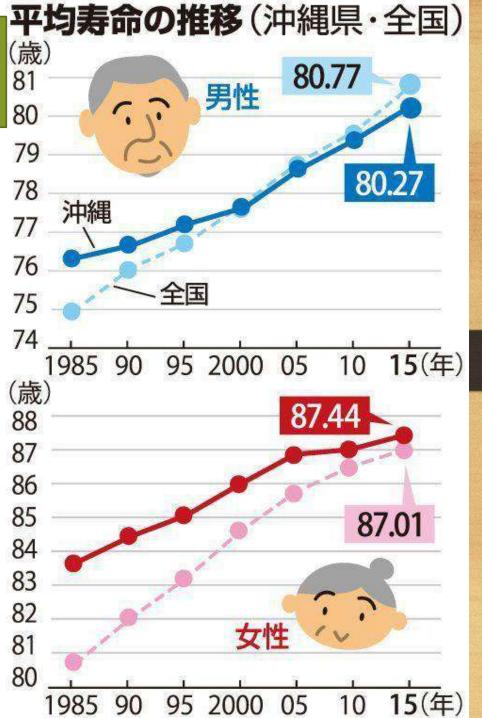
By Onna Village



https://ryukyushimpo.jp/

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









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**

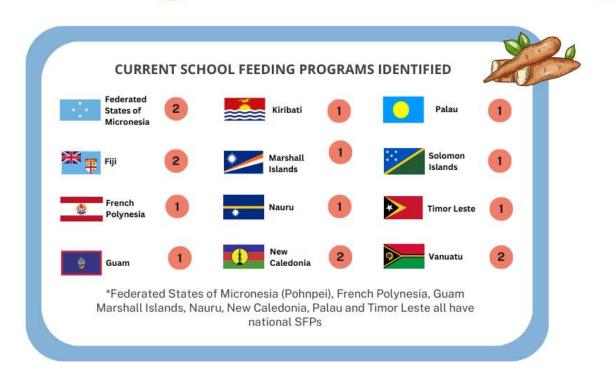


The provision of school meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and/or snacks) to students at school, or as take-home rations. They can vary from national programs to individual school initiatives.



#### 22 SFPs identified

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















#### 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.





### **Summary**





# Thank you

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#### **Pacific School Food Network**

www.pacificschoolfoodnetwork.org

