



World Vision



**SCHOOL  
MEALS**

Haiti  
Case Study

# A DAILY MEAL. A STRONGER CHANCE TO LEARN.

School meals supporting children's education, nutrition and well-being in La Gonâve, Haiti

NUTRITION • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

## Context

Institution Mixte Jean Marie Civile serves children in Ti Palmiste, in the commune of Pointe-à-Raquette on the island of La Gonâve.

Families face the combined effects of geographic isolation, difficult access to markets, limited economic opportunities and constrained local agricultural production. Together, these pressures make it harder for households to secure regular, diverse diets.

Children bear a disproportionate share of these pressures. When food is scarce, inadequate nutrition can undermine health, school attendance and the ability to participate fully in learning.

In this setting, access to food during the school day is both an immediate protective measure and an investment in children's longer-term development.

## When the Cost of a Meal Becomes a Barrier to Learning

For families already managing limited resources, the cost of feeding school-aged children can place further strain on household budgets.

For schools, the same pressures may be reflected in lower attendance and less consistent classroom participation.

Addressing this challenge requires solutions that support both children and their families. Adequate nutrition helps children learn, while practical assistance eases household burdens and strengthens school attendance.

## Helping Children Learn on a Full Stomach

With support from the **World Food Programme**, the school received rice, ground maize, peas, oil, salt and sorghum. These commodities were used to prepare daily hot meals for students during 103 cooking days in the 2025–2026 school year.





39,800+  
hot meals  
served



419 children  
impacted  
54% are girls



USD 531  
(HTG 70,000)  
mobilised by parents

The school canteen served more than 39,800 hot meals, averaging nearly 387 meals on each day of operation. The response also included deworming and Vitamin A supplementation, bringing together food, health and education support around children's needs.

### A child-centred approach

The programme responded to the needs of the whole child. A hot meal addressed hunger in the school day. Complementary health interventions supported nutrition and well-being.

The school setting created a practical platform for reaching children consistently and helping them stay connected to learning.

### A Meal That Keeps Children Coming to School

School administrators, teachers and community members reported that the canteen made the school more attractive to families and encouraged children to attend more regularly.

Teachers also observed stronger student presence and more consistent participation in classroom activities on days when meals were served.

Parents described the meals as an important source of economic relief. By covering part of a child's food needs during the school day, the canteen helped reduce pressure on households facing financial hardship.

The programme shows how school feeding can be a powerful catalyst for change. By addressing nutrition, health and education needs together, it supported children's development today while helping build stronger opportunities for their future.

**The investment delivers a double dividend which is easing household pressures today while strengthening children's learning and future opportunities.**



## Community Ownership

The canteen was sustained not only through food assistance, but also through local commitment. Parents mobilised HTG 70,000 in cash contributions to support operations.

Four cooks prepared meals, while more than 30 teachers and members of the education staff helped supervise and support school activities. This participation matters.

It shows that families and school staff did not view the canteen simply as an external service. Their financial and operational contributions helped make it a shared community asset, strengthening collective responsibility for children's education and well-being.

## The Ripple Effects of a School Meal

- **For children** - A reliable meal supports nutrition, school attendance and more consistent participation in learning.
- **For families** - School meals ease part of the cost of feeding children and provide a practical safety net in a food-insecure context.
- **For schools** - The canteen strengthens the school's capacity to offer a more supportive environment for children.

- **For communities** - Shared contributions build ownership, reinforce social cohesion and centre children's welfare as a collective priority.

## Lessons for Programming

Four cooks prepared meals, while more than 30 teachers and members of the education staff helped supervise and support school activities. This participation matters.

- Integrated support can address multiple barriers at once. Combining meals with basic health interventions responds to children's nutrition, health and education needs together.
- Community contribution strengthens sustainability and dignity. Parents and school staff brought resources, labour and oversight to the programme.
- Schools are effective platforms for child well-being. Regular contact with children creates opportunities to connect food, health and learning support.
- Outcome monitoring should match the programme's ambition. Future reporting could strengthen evidence by tracking attendance, retention, classroom participation and nutrition indicators over time.





## Looking Ahead

At Institution Mixte Jean Marie Civile, apart from a daily plate of food, school meals have helped create the conditions children need to attend school, participate in class, and pursue their education with greater consistency. At the same time, the programme eased pressure on families and mobilised meaningful community support. The experience in Ti Palmiste demonstrates the wider value of school feeding in fragile and food-insecure settings.

When nutrition, health, education and community ownership come together, a school canteen can become a protective investment in children's well-being and in the resilience of the community around them.

## RELATED RESOURCES



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Capacity Statement



Protecting Children &  
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Food Assistance  
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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Djuny Duvernoit**

Grants and Special Projects Manager,  
World Vision Haiti  
Email: [djuny\\_duvernoit@wvi.org](mailto:djuny_duvernoit@wvi.org)

**Dr. Tendai Chigavazira**

Programme Officer, School Meals,  
Disaster Management,  
World Vision International  
Email: [tendai\\_chigavazira@wvi.org](mailto:tendai_chigavazira@wvi.org)

