

UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM



Institute for Social Sciences in Agriculture

Centre for Gender and Nutrition (430b)

Prof. Dr. Anne Camilla Bellows

**Assessing the Actual and Potential Impact of the Ghana School
Feeding Programme (GSFP): A Case Study of the Offinso
Municipal of the Ashanti Region**

Submitted by:

Akwasi Owusu-Kyem

This Thesis is Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for the Award of the
Master of Science Degree in

Agricultural Economics

Hohenheim, **November 2009**

This Thesis was financially supported by the Eiselen Foundation, Ulm

Abstract

Though modest gains have been made over the years, Ghana still faces high rates of maternal and child undernutrition including moderate to severe micronutrient deficiencies which thus poses a great challenge to the health and education of school-age children as the future human capital of the nation. The Government of Ghana in an attempt to curb this menace introduced the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) in the year 2005 to provide public primary and kindergarten schoolchildren in the poorest areas of the country with one nutritious meal per school day. This study therefore sought to investigate the actual and potential effect of the school meals on the education and nutritional status of schoolchildren participating in the programme in the Offinso Municipal of the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Data for this study were collected by use of a semi-structured questionnaire to derive information from households, schools, schoolchildren, cooks, and the programme implementation committee members. The propensity score matching method was used in evaluating the programme's effect. The key findings from this study show that the School Feeding Programme (SFP) made modest gains on school enrolment, academic performance and nutritional status of the schoolchildren; however the effect on school attendance was counter-intuitive. Findings further reveal that schools in the programme lack the essential infrastructure, facilities and equipments for the smooth running of the programme. The GSFP have a lot of potential to enhance the education and health of the school children, nonetheless success can be achieved if the programme is adequately resourced to ensure the provision of needed facilities and that appropriate policy measures are put in place to strengthen implementation at the school level as well as to ensure an effective monitoring and evaluation of the programme activities at all stages.