

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Sustainable School Feeding Program (Կայուն դպրոցական սնունդ)

Lead Agency: The School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency of the National Center for Education Development and Innovation

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: Unknown

- Government: USD 2,632,672*
- International donors**: Unknown
- Private sector: 0
- Other donors: 0

* During the COVID-19 pandemic, school feeding in 4–6 out of 10 regions was funded by the World Food Program. These budget numbers reflect only the Government's school feeding activities in Aragatsotn, Ararat, Shirak, Syunik, Vayots Dzor, and Tavush regions.

** International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Armenia have electricity and piped clean water, and most have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. The school kitchens tend to have refrigeration and gas or electric stoves. However, hot meals were not served in schools in the 2020–2021 school year. Rather, dry food rations consisting of processed or unprocessed foods were twice delivered to students' homes.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. Information on the school feeding budget and sources of food reflect only the Government activities, though the World Food Program also participated in school feeding in the 2020–2021 school year.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast | <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take-home rations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
-
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grains, cereals | <input type="checkbox"/> Green, leafy vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roots, tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legumes, pulses, nuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sugar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | |
-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit juice | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Prohibited food items: Foods considered to be unhealthy

FOOD SOURCES

- Purchased (domestic)
- In-kind (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (foreign)

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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REPUBLIC OF

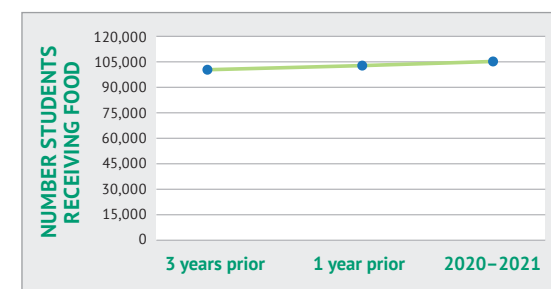
Armenia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

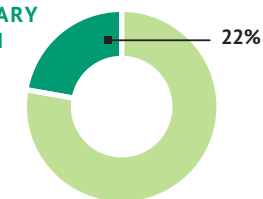
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	128,745	59,933	3,200
Primary school	169,786	154,905	102,430
Secondary school	294,730	257,153	0
Total	593,261	471,991	105,630



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 464,516

Receiving school food: 102,430



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:

- Fortified foods
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved**
- Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition**
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified:

Not applicable

Micronutrients:

Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Two nutritionists are on the staff of the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, there are nutritional requirements for school food baskets, food restrictions in schools, food and nutrition education, and health education programs.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- 0 Cooks and food preparers**
- Transporters
- Off-site processors
- Food packagers and handlers
- Monitoring
- Food service management
- Safety and quality inspectors
- Other

**If blank, no response was provided.*

*** While cooks are employed in the Sustainable School Feeding Program under normal circumstances, the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that cooks were not employed in the 2020-2021 school year. Typically, the program creates jobs and/or generates income for cooks, kitchen workers, and food suppliers.*

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes No No response

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

- Yes No No response

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women** **Other groups**
 Youth No response

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes No No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes No There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the regions where school feeding is funded by the Government of Armenia, funds are distributed to schools to purchase food. This process is organized according to the national procurement regulations, which allows for local suppliers to participate in the bidding process. The program provides building materials for the canteens and kitchens, and school principals then solicit help from businesses, the regional administration, NGOs, foundations, and the local community (including parents) to construct and furnish the canteens and kitchens.

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

In 2016, the Government of Armenia established the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation, which aimed to facilitate the nationalization of school feeding in the country and, thus, the development of the Sustainable School Feeding Program. Each year, one region has been handed over to the state government. Throughout this process, the program budget has been maintained and the salaries of kitchen workers have been regulated. Research is now being undertaken to understand how Yerevan may be included in the program, as well. The COVID-19 pandemic necessarily disrupted the provision of hot meals, though the distribution of food was maintained. For the program's sustainability, it is important that the salaries of cooks/chefs are fixed and included in the program budget.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decrease in funding for school feeding in Armenia, a temporary change in feeding modality, and a reduction in the variety of foods provided. During the 2020-2021 school year, meals were no longer prepared at school, but some ingredients were delivered to students' homes to prepare and eat at home. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the World Food Program extended its financial support in the Gegharkunik region for one year. As a result, the Government of Armenia was able to redirect money to the renovation of canteens in 23 schools of the Gegharkunik region.

CONTACTS: ARMENIA

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SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

Կայուն դպրոցական սնունդ

Lead implementer(s): The Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture is responsible for implementation, while territorial and regional administrative bodies have local control over the schools.

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Biannually during the school year
(take-home rations provided in November 2020 and April 2021)

TARGETING:

Geographic targeting of regions, excluding the capital city of Yerevan

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	3,200	47%	53%
Primary school	102,430	47%	53%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	105,630	47%	53%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals Oil Sugar
 Legumes, pulses, nuts Salt
 * fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

- Purchased (domestic) In-kind (domestic)
 Purchased (foreign) In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Sustainable School Feeding Program is implemented in conjunction with the World Food Program, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, school feeding in six out of 10 regions was funded by the World Food Program. When joining the program, schools initially acquire serving utensils with the help of the community, parents, and local government. However, there is now a need to replace and/or supplement the serving utensils, and the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency is raising funds for this purpose.

