

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Goodies for the Eye (*Oog voor Lekkers*)
- European School Milk, Fruit and Vegetable Program (RW) / School Fruit, Vegetable and Milk Program (RBC) (*Programme européen lait, fruits et légume à l'école (RW) / Programme fruits, légumes et lait à l'école (RBC)*)

Lead Agency: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Welfare, Public Health and Family (VLG); Public Service of the Walloon Region (RW); Public Service of the Brussels-Capital Region (RBC)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

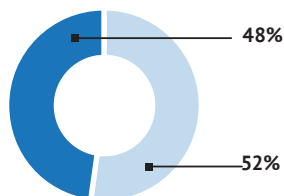
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes
- No
- No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 322,715

- Government: USD 154,592
- International donors*: USD 168,123**
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Yes No No response

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

** This includes support from the European Union's school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most or all schools in Belgium have electricity, piped and clean water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens.

SPECIAL NOTES

This report for Belgium is inclusive of the Flemish Region (Flanders), the Walloon Region, and the Brussels Capital Region.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Processed fruits/vegetables (with added sugars, sweeteners, salt, fats or flavor enhancers), flavored milk (with added sugars, sweeteners, fruits, nuts, cocoa, salt, fats or artificial flavor enhancers), alcohol, energy drinks.

FOOD SOURCES

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- 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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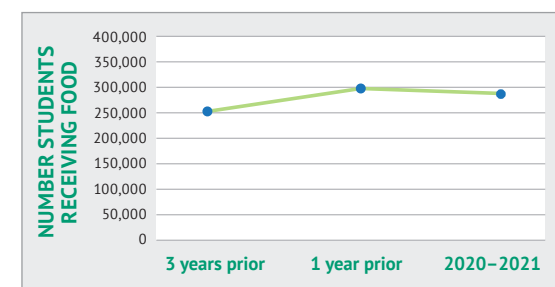
KINGDOM OF Belgium



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

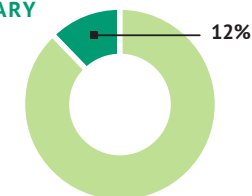
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	421,044	421,044	89,775
Primary school	835,910	835,910	187,407
Secondary school	855,177	855,177	9,969
Total	2,112,131	2,112,131	287,151



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,691,087

Receiving school food: 197,376



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

Nutritionists in two partner organizations are involved in school feeding, including the Nutrition Information Center and the Flemish Institute for Healthy Living. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, various education programs are incorporated into the school curriculum, including food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

RESEARCH NEEDED

European legislation stipulates that an impact evaluation of Goodies for the Eye (*Oog voor Lekkers*) is to be carried out in the final year of the program (2023). The research/evaluation is currently underway, though results are not yet available for dissemination.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

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

*If blank, no response was provided.

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

Parents and grandparents participate in the Goodies for the Eye (*Oog voor Lekkers*) program by slicing/preparing the fruits and vegetables, particularly for the younger children. Farmers are also involved by selling fruits and vegetables directly (or through farmers' organizations) to participating schools. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for managing the program.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes associated with school feeding in Belgium include an increase in the number of children enrolled in both school feeding programs. Belgium has also established educational measures related to diets in the school curriculum. One of the main challenges associated with school feeding is to convince schools to participate and convey that the administrative burden in doing so is minimal.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic presented a major setback to the pre-pandemic upward trend in the number of participating schools. Some schools operated remotely in the 2020–2021 school year, and new restrictions made it difficult for schools to organize their snack distribution. For example, schools could no longer allow parents or grandparents on the school premises to assist with the preparation and distribution of fruits and vegetables. To adhere to social distancing measures, pupils attended school on alternating days. However, although each student received snacks less frequently, school feeding operations were maintained throughout the crisis, without interruption.

CONTACTS: BELGIUM

Agency: Regional Public Service of Brussels (RBC), Flemish Department of Education and Training, Public Service of the Walloon Region (RW)

Website:

<https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/gezond-op-school>;
<https://www.oogvoorlekkers.be/>; <https://fruit-ecole.brussels/>;
<https://www.wallonie.be/fr/demarches/participer-au-programme-europeen-lait-fruits-et-legumes-lecole#endetail>

GOODIES FOR THE EYE

OOG VOOR LEKKERS

Lead implementer(s): Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- The program subsidizes one portion of fruits/vegetables per week and three portions of milk per week. Schools can choose to distribute snacks more frequently.
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Secondary schools with extra needs students and primary schools with more than 15% of students receiving a student allowance are eligible to receive subsidies through the program for 20–30 weeks per year. Other schools can also participate and are eligible to receive subsidies for 10 weeks.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	70,015	–	–
Primary school	149,238	–	–
Secondary school	9,292	–	–
Total	228,545	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Other vegetables Fruits Dairy milk

* *fortified*

FOOD SOURCES:

50% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
50% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The government offers subsidies for schools to join the program, specifically covering the costs of one serving of fruits/vegetables and three servings of milk per week. However, participation is not mandatory, and schools decide how many times per week to offer snacks. Only special needs secondary schools are eligible to receive subsidies for in-school snacks through the Goodies for the Eye (Oog voor Lekkers) program. Many schools are working on healthy drinks and snacks without the intervention of subsidies.



EUROPEAN SCHOOL MILK, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM (RW) / SCHOOL FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND MILK PROGRAM (RBC)

PROGRAMME EUROPÉEN LAIT, FRUITS ET LÉGUME À L'ÉCOLE (RW) / PROGRAMME FRUITS, LÉGUMES ET LAIT À L'ÉCOLE (RBC)

Lead implementer(s): Public Service of the Walloon Region

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snack

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Varies (at least one serving of fruits and vegetables and one serving of milk provided per week)
- During the school year

TARGETING:

All students in participating schools/classes, with participation being at the discretion of the schools

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	19,760	–	–
Primary school	38,169	–	–
Secondary school	677	–	–
Total	58,606	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Other vegetables Fruits Dairy milk

* *fortified*

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

At the discretion of the schools, student activities related to this program may include food preparation or farm visits. In the School Fruit, Vegetable and Milk Program (RBC), the schools themselves select the producers from whom they will receive food items.