

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Scheme for the Provision of Fruit, Vegetables, Milk, and Milk Products In Kindergartens, Schools, and Special Educational Support Centers

Lead Agency: The State Fund Agriculture

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

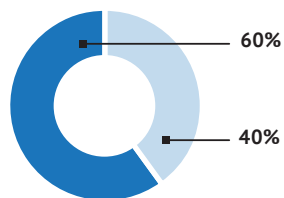
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 10,951,243

- Government: USD 6,574,986
- International donors*: USD 4,376,257
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



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

* This includes support from the European Union's school fruit, vegetables, and milk scheme. International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Bulgaria have electricity, clean and piped water, flush toilets, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. Vegetables for school snacks are prepared on-site (on school grounds), while fruits are distributed in unprocessed form, and milk is distributed in both processed and unprocessed form. Kitchens are typically equipped with refrigeration, storage facilities, and gas and electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

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: No information

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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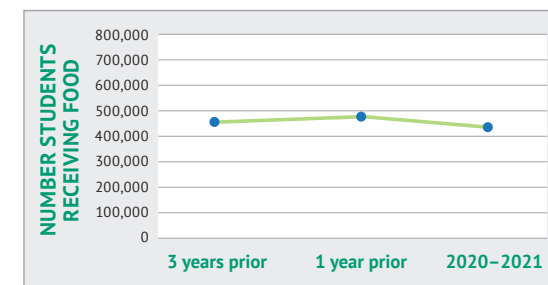
REPUBLIC OF Bulgaria



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

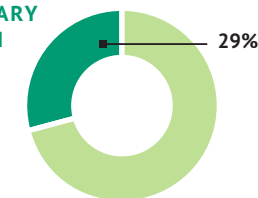
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	258,487	218,767	194,444
Primary school	291,419	256,857	238,305
Secondary school	537,164	480,957	0
Total	1,087,070	956,581	432,749



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 828,583

Receiving school food: 238,305



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

To limit food waste, a waste prevention program was adopted in 2021 and complements mechanisms such as using “imperfect” produce and a marketing campaign to reduce how much food students throw away. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

“Policy Driven Improvement of the School Food Environment for Bulgarian First-Graders in the Period 2008–2016,” authored by Vesselka Duleva, Ekaterina Chikova-Ischener, Lalka Rangelova, and Plamen Dimitrov (June 2020)

RESEARCH NEEDED

Not specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

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.*

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 No response

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Food for the school snack scheme is purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures involving small-scale farmers, and both small and medium/large-scale farmers provided food.

CONTACTS: BULGARIA

Agency: The State Fund Agriculture is responsible for the School Scheme

Website: www.dfz.bg

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the successes related to school feeding in Bulgaria, legislative and policy measures initiated in 2008–2016 led to significant improvements in the profile of foods and drinks available in schools. Schools have also become more involved in providing nutrition education and promoting healthy lifestyles among children and their families. The Ordinance No. 6 on the healthy nutrition of children specifies requirements for food offered to children ages 3 to 4 and 5 to 7 years old. The updated product list is intended to foster healthy eating habits.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were closed with no food distribution for two months during the 2020–2021 school year. In the other months, there was a temporary change in the feeding modality, such as switching from in-school meals/snacks to take-home rations. Children from families living in poverty, and children whose parents have been unemployed long-term and/or are economically inactive were most severely affected by the school closures.

SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF FRUIT, VEGETABLES, MILK, AND MILK PRODUCTS IN KINDERGARTENS, SCHOOLS, AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTERS

Lead implementer(s): The State Fund Agriculture

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 2 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Schools apply to participate in the Scheme.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	194,444	–	–
Primary school	238,305	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	432,749	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Dairy products	Other vegetables	Dairy milk
Green, leafy vegetables	Fruits	Yogurt drink
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

100% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Scheme for the provision of fruit, vegetables, milk, and milk products in kindergartens, schools, and special educational support centers aims to instill lasting habits in children to consume locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables and quality dairy products. In the 2020–2021 school year, 3,277 public and private schools participated in the Scheme, and there are plans to serve nearly 500,000 students in 2021–2022.

