

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Providing Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need
- Lunch for Pupils Attending All-Day Optional Primary Schools

### Lead Agency:

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY)

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

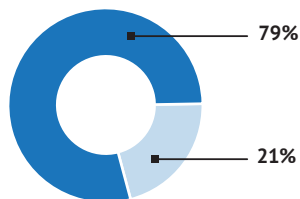
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

## BUDGET

Total: USD 2,249,078

- Government: USD 1,783,196
- International donors\*: USD 465,882
- 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.*

## INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Cyprus have electricity, piped and clean water, flush toilets, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, while very few have full kitchens. School kitchens are typically equipped with refrigeration and electric stoves.

## SPECIAL NOTES

None

## 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:** The foods offered are from an approved item list for school canteens.

## 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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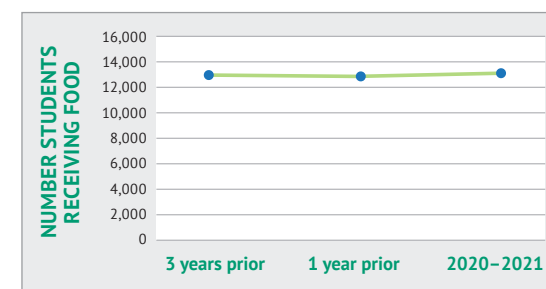
Cyprus



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

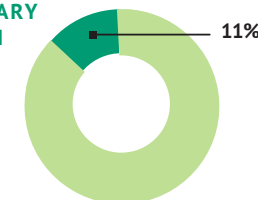
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	18,800	12,146	1,034
Primary school	58,800	51,541	6,086
Secondary school	55,100	44,576	6,143
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,700</b>	<b>108,263</b>	<b>13,263</b>



### COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 113,900

Receiving school food: 12,229



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other: Special education schools

## 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

At least 10 nutritionists are engaged with school feeding programs in Cyprus.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

None specified

## RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

## AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Jobs created by school feeding programs\*

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

*\*If blank, no response was provided.*

*\*\*Cooks and caterers assume various responsibilities associated with transportation, packaging, monitoring, and managing.*

### 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

While breakfasts are provided for free, students' families pay the full or partial price for school lunches, with lower-income students receiving a meals allowance. The private sector is engaged in food trading, processing, transport, and catering for the school meal programs. Members of Parents' Associations participate by helping to select the program beneficiaries.

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Cyprus, the breakfast program was expanded after the financial crisis to provide free meals to students from lower-income families. The budget is supported by private sponsors, which enables the programs to meet the needs of all low-income students. The breakfast menu has also expanded beyond sandwiches over time, with students being offered the choice of another snack (such as olive or cheese pie) twice a week. While almost all school feeding targets are considered to have been achieved in Cyprus, the programs did not fully achieve their targets with respect to the level of food basket diversity.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

For most of the 2020/21 school year, some schools in Cyprus were open while some were operating remotely. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of students fed increased, even as the budget for school feeding decreased. When breakfasts were not being served in schools, students' families were provided with monetary support in the form of electronic payments/vouchers to purchase food. In addition, meals have been served at school in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time).

## CONTACTS: CYPRUS

**Agency:** Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth

**Website:** [www.moec.gov.cy](http://www.moec.gov.cy)

**Email:** [registry@moec.gov.cy](mailto:registry@moec.gov.cy)

## PROVIDING FREE BREAKFAST TO PUPILS IN NEED

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY)

### OBJECTIVES:

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

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Targeted toward children from disadvantaged families who are in danger of malnutrition. The following groups are prioritized: 1. Families that receive the Guaranteed Minimum Income, 2. Households with unemployed parents, 3. Orphans, 4. Single-parent families, 5. Families with more than four children, and 6. Families with otherwise inadequate income.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	907	–	–
Primary school	5,976	–	–
Secondary school	5,721*	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,604</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

\*The numbers for secondary school students are inclusive of 1,042 students of vocational/trade schools.

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals                      Dairy products                      Meat  
\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The 'Providing Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need' program began in 2013. Students are provided with a sandwich (e.g., bread, ham, and cheese) every day, and are offered an additional snack twice per week. Food waste is limited by preparing breakfasts in the morning, according to the students' presence at school.



## LUNCH FOR PUPILS ATTENDING ALL-DAY OPTIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**Lead implementer(s):** Department of Primary Education / Office of All-Day Schools

### OBJECTIVES:

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

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Targeted based on individual student characteristics (family income)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	1,365	46%	54%
Primary school	5,430	49%	51%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,941*</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>

\*The number of students fed is inclusive of 146 students of special education schools.

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Roots, tubers                      Poultry                      Oil  
Legumes, pulses, nuts                      Fish                      Salt  
Dairy products                      Green, leafy vegetables                      Water  
Eggs                      Other vegetables  
Meat                      Fruits  
\* 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 'Lunch for Pupils Attending All-Day Optional Primary Schools' program began in 1999. Most students' families pay for their meals, which are provided by parents' associations. However, the program provides a meals allowance of approximately 330 € per year to children who are entitled to the minimum guaranteed income or are of low socioeconomic status. Just over 1,000 students received an allowance in 2020/21.