

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National School Feeding Program
(البرنامج الوطني للتغذية المدرسية)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

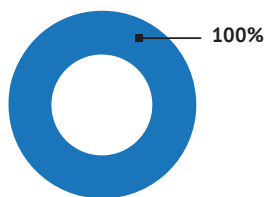
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 28,000,000**

- Government: USD 28,000,000
- International donors*: USD 0
- 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 budget includes USD 17 million from the Ministry of Education and USD 11 million from the Oil-For-Food Program.

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Iraq have electricity and piped water, though few have clean water. Most have latrines, while few have flush toilets. No schools have kitchens or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School snacks and take-home rations are prepared off-site in private facilities.

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: None

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

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



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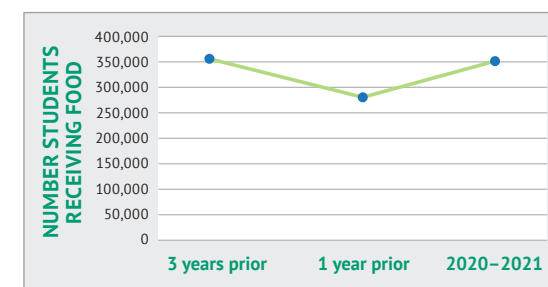
REPUBLIC OF Iraq



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

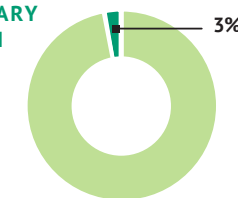
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	250,000	250,000	0
Primary school	6,000,000	6,000,000	350,000
Secondary school	4,750,000	4,750,000	0
Total	11,000,000	11,000,000	350,000



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 10,750,000

Receiving school food: 350,000



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

At least four nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Iraq. Approaches to preventing or mitigating overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for school food and food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education in schools.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

There have been studies on the impact of school feeding programs on children's cognitive, health, and physical outcomes, and a study on teachers' perceptions of the impact on students' educational achievement.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Field experiments to implement school feeding programs according to the models of countries similar to the reality of Iraq.

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 There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About 40% of the food for this program is purchased from local sources, and the private sector is involved in food trading and catering. However, it is not common for small companies to be successful in securing a contract in the National School Feeding Program. Women lead the monitoring of the school feeding program and are involved in its management.

CONTACTS: IRAQ

Agency: Ministry of Education

Website: <http://moedu.gov.iq>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes related to the National School Feeding Program include a decrease in student dropout, a reduction in hunger, the reintegration and empowerment of girls in society, and a greater awareness of diseases and other health threats, owing to the associated education programs. At the same time, challenges include a worrying lack of funding, which has affected the program's implementation and limited its ability to reach a greater number of students. Iraq also suffers from poor infrastructure (such as kitchens) and limited experience (i.e., human resources) in the field of school feeding. A lack of cooperation from some school administrations raises concerns about mismanagement.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused schools in Iraq to operate remotely for part of the 2020–2021 school year, with some schools subsequently open for in-person learning while others continued to operate remotely. The pandemic caused a temporary disruption in school feeding activities and a decrease in funding, though there was no change in the number of students reached or the modality of school feeding. Iraq was also faced with an economic/financial crisis during this time.

NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

(البرنامج الوطني للتغذية المدرسية)

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- 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
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 4 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Targeted towards areas that are poor

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	350,000	55%	45%
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	350,000	5%	45%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals Fruits Water
 Dairy products Fruit juice

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

40% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
 60% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Although the National School Feeding Program began in 2004, school feeding first began in Iraq in 1937. The program intends to reach 440,000 children in the 2021–2022 school year. The World Food Program serves as an implementing partner, and the Higher Committee for School Nutrition and its sub-committees in affiliated governorates coordinate school feeding at the national level.

