

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Meal and Snack (Правилник за стандардите за исхраната и за оброците во основно училиште)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

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

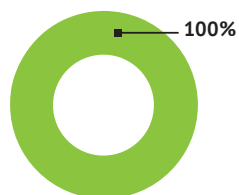
Total: Unknown*

- Government: USD 0
- International donors**: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: Unknown

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

*Schools provide the hot meal service, and students' parents pay for the food in the School Meal and Snack program. The meal is free for students from socially vulnerable categories, though the amount of monetary support provided for such students is not known. The national government does not contribute financially to the program.

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



INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in North Macedonia have electricity and clean water, most have piped water and flush toilets, and some have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. School meals and snacks are prepared on-site (on school grounds) and off-site in private facilities (by caterers). School kitchens tend to be equipped with refrigeration and storage facilities.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of 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: Fatty foods, simple sugars, soda, candy, and foods with preservatives or a high concentration of high fructose corn syrup.

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

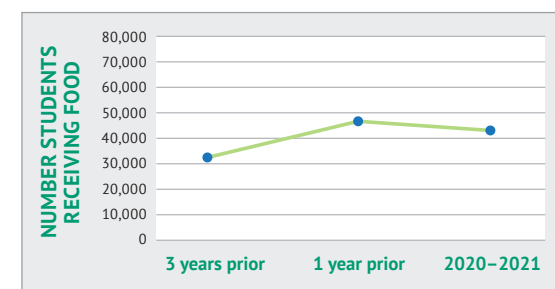
North Macedonia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

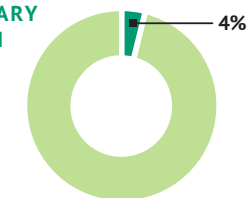
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	67,967	29,010	29,010
Primary school	115,998	106,908	13,223
Secondary school	181,899	155,815	0
Total	365,864	291,733	42,233



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 297,897

Receiving school food: 13,223



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

School gardens are still implemented at a pilot level in North Macedonia, and the foods produced in school gardens are consumed by students. The school menu is selected by the parents and the school, in accordance with nutrition standards that have been prepared by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Health (Institute of Public Health).

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

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

Students' families pay the full price of school meals if they choose to participate in the school feeding program. The private sector provides food processing and catering services for the program, with private caterers engaged by the schools through a public procurement process. Competitive tendering procedures are followed to secure contracts, and small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies are able to successfully compete.

CONTACTS: NORTH MACEDONIA

Agency: Ministry of Education and Science

Website: <https://www.mon.gov.mk/>

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes of school feeding in North Macedonia, this country has been the first in the region to establish a national protocol for edible gardens in schools. North Macedonia is now ready to scale up its pilot gardens developed in the capital city, Skopje, with ten more gardens planned in other cities throughout the country. There are no concerns related to corruption/mismanagement in the school feeding program.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the school meal program in North Macedonia to temporarily suspend feeding operations. Throughout the 2020–2021 school year, some schools were open for in-person learning while other schools operated remotely. During the pandemic, meals were served at school in a very different way than before. Specifically, hot meals were served in the classrooms in a sealed plastic container together with single use utensils.

SCHOOL MEAL AND SNACK

ПРАВИЛНИК ЗА СТАНДАРДИТЕ ЗА ИСХРАНАТА И ЗА ОБРОЦИТЕ ВО ОСНОВНО УЧИЛИШТЕ

Lead implementer(s): The Institute of Public Health at the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and, for preschool education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- 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:

- Five times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

The students' parents decide whether their children participate in the school feeding program.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	29,010	–	–
Primary school	13,223	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	42,233	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fish	Dairy milk
Eggs	Green, leafy vegetables	Yogurt drink
Meat	Other vegetables	Fruit juice
Poultry	Fruits	Tea
		Water

* 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:

Management of the School Meal and Snack program is highly decentralized, following the decentralization process that began in 2005. As such, some information on school feeding operations is not available at the central government level.

