

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Meals Program/Meals at School and at Home (*Posiłek w szkole i w domu*)
- School Scheme (*Program dla szkół*)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Science;
National Support Center for Agriculture

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

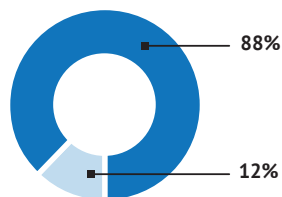
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 252,059,586*

- Government: USD 222,092,366
- International donors: USD 29,967,220**
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



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

* The government contributes to the program at different levels according to the social and economic situation of children's families. Some meals are fully subsidized, some are partially subsidized, and some are not subsidized at all.
** 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

All schools in Poland have electricity, piped and clean water, and flush toilets, and most have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. The school kitchens are equipped with storage facilities, refrigeration, and gas or electric stoves.

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: "Junk food" is prohibited, and sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) are restricted on school premises.

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
Poland



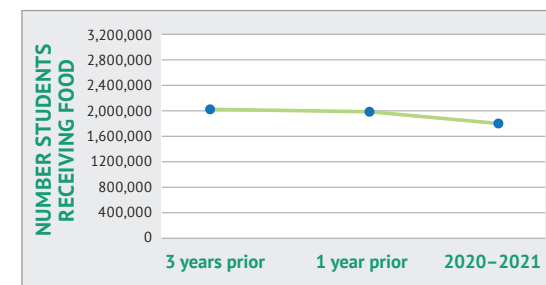
SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	*	*	*
Primary school	2,382,508	2,234,242	1,725,000**
Secondary school	2,117,347	1,300,000	101,050
Total	5,992,441	4,927,142	1,826,050

* Unknown

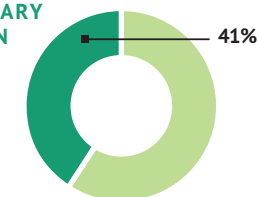
** Numbers are estimates



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 4,499,855

Receiving school food:
■ 1,826,050



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

Foods produced in school gardens are consumed by the students. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for school meals/snacks, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

A report by the Supreme Audit Office (NIK) documented that student's parents were more likely to purchase lunches in school when the meals were prepared in the school kitchens, compared to having meals delivered by a caterer or prepared in a kitchen run by a franchise holder. Notably, the prices were far lower when the meals were prepared in school kitchens. Other studies on the topic of school feeding in Poland have found that a school's size and location are key factors that determine the overall healthiness of the school environment. Small schools tend to have poorer infrastructure and conditions that are less conducive to healthy eating and physical activity. Relatively healthier schools also tend to have written policies designed to increase consumption of healthy foods and limit consumption of unhealthy foods.

RESEARCH NEEDED

None 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 There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Funds for the school feeding programs are given to local governments (such as districts) to buy food. Open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures are then followed to procure food and services, and small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies are able to successfully compete. The private sector provides food trading, processing, transport, and catering services for the school feeding programs.

CONTACTS: POLAND

Agency: Ministry of Education and Science; National Support Centre for Agriculture; Department of Nutritional Education; Ministry of Family and Social Policy

Website: <https://www.pzh.gov.pl/>; www.kowr.gov.pl/; <https://men.gov.pl/>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Poland, there has been an increase in awareness regarding how to avoid food waste at school and in children's homes. Priority has also been given to the fight against obesity, which is a problem among school children and adolescents in the country. Specifically, more attention has been given to nutritious foods, nutrition education, and physical activity. Among the challenges related to school feeding, school meals prepared by a franchise holder or a catering company are, on average, significantly more expensive than meals prepared in the school's own canteen (kitchen). The price for lunch paid by parents includes only the cost of foodstuffs. However, the remaining costs associated with the provision of catering services (e.g., cost of preparation and delivery of meals, provision of disposable utensils, collection of leftovers from uneaten lunches) or the work of the staff in school kitchens should be financed from the municipal budget.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

At least some schools in Poland were closed but operating remotely for several months in the 2020–2021 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted school feeding operations, but did not otherwise affect the number of students fed or the manner in which they received food. While schools were closed, a private charity provided food packages to the most vulnerable families for whom school meals are often the only hot meal eaten by the children.

SPECIAL NOTES

The Long-Term Government Program "Meal at School and at Home" was established in 2018 for the period 2019–2023. In addition to providing financial support in the organization of canteens and eating places in schools, the program provides financial support to municipalities by providing assistance in the form of a meal, a cash benefit with targeted allowance for the purchase of a meal or food, and an in-kind benefit in the form of food products. The program consists of 3 modules: 1. Module for children and youth, 2. Module for adults, 3. Module for organization of canteens and eating places at schools. The Ministry of Family and Social Policy is responsible for the implementation of modules 1 and 2, while the Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for module 3.

SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM/MEALS AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME

POSIŁEK W SZKOLE I W DOMU

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Science; Regional Governments

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Based on the social and economic situation of children's families.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	*	–	–
Primary school	1,014,924	–	–
Secondary school	101,050	–	–
Total	1,115,974**	–	–

* Unknown ** Number is estimate.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Poultry	Salt
Roots, tubers	Fish	Sugar
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Dairy milk
Dairy products	Other vegetables	Yogurt drink
Eggs	Fruits	Fruit juice
Meat	Oil	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:

The School Meals Program operates in both public and private schools, inclusive of boarding (residential) schools. To reduce food waste, educators from food banks have conducted meetings with students, and over 200 teachers founded school clubs focused on waste reduction. On average, 259,578 students per day benefit from subsidized meals, with 163,975 receiving full subsidies and 95,603 receiving partial subsidies.



SCHOOL SCHEME PROGRAM DLA SZKÓŁ

Lead implementer(s): National Support Center for Agriculture (KOWR)

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 snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 3 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Targeted towards children in schools that have applied for participation in the program.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	1,725,000	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	1,725,000	–	–

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 "School Fruit" program has been in operation since 2009, while the "Cup of Milk" program has been implemented since 2004. Students' families do not pay for the snacks.