

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Hot Meals in Schools
- School Scheme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

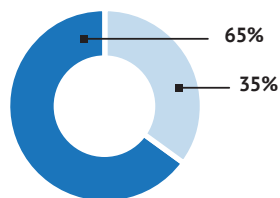
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 61,510,322

- Government: USD 39,818,889
- International donors*: USD 21,691,433**
- 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 includes support from the European Union's school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme.

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Romania have electricity, piped and clean water, and flush toilets. Some schools have kitchens and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School meals and snacks are prepared off-site in private facilities (i.e., by caterers).

SPECIAL NOTES

Population and enrollment 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: Foods with additives above the established limits

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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Romania



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	554,413	525,411	293,270
Primary school	1,029,792	931,419	891,693
Secondary school	1,650,476	1,442,475	720,772
Total	3,234,681	2,899,305	1,905,735

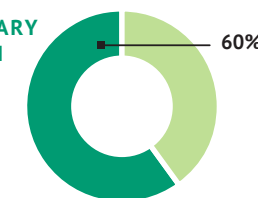
These numbers assume a perfect overlap of students in each program. As this is unlikely to be the case, these numbers are likely an underestimate of the total number of children who benefit from school feeding programs in Romania.



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,680,268

Receiving school food: 1,612,465



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:

Dairy products, fruits

Micronutrients:

Calcium and vitamins A, B6, C, and D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Foods produced in school gardens are distributed to children from low income families. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, and health education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

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

The private sector is engaged in food trading and transport, and competitive procurement procedures are followed to secure contracts in Romania's school feeding programs. Farmers of all sizes provide dairy products and fruits for the School Scheme.

CONTACTS: ROMANIA

Agency: Ministry of Education,
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Website: <https://www.edu.ro/m%C4%83suri-guvernamentale-%C3%AE-sprrijinul-sistemului-de-educa%C8%9Bie>
<https://www.madr.ro/programul-pentru-scoli.html>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Romania include the extension of the pilot Hot Meals in Schools program from 2016 to 2020, scaling up from the initial 50 schools to operated in 150 schools in the 2020–2021 school year. Nevertheless, the Hot Meals in Schools Program is characterized by a lack of adequate space for preparing/serving hot meals and inadequate funding to cover all students. Insufficient human resources lead to some concerns about mismanagement in the school feeding programs.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Romania were open for most of the 2020–2021 school year, though at least some schools were closed and operating remotely for several months. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted school feeding in the Hot Meals in Schools program, and while schools were closed, meals and snacks were prepared and made available to be picked up by students or parents and eaten at home.

HOT MEALS IN SCHOOLS

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Targeted toward isolated geographic areas and disadvantaged children/adolescents

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	Unknown	–	–
Primary school	35,795	–	–
Secondary school	29,548	–	–
Total	65,343	–	–

The numbers of primary and secondary students receiving food are inclusive of pre-school students and vocational school students, respectively.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Meat	Salt
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Dairy products	Fruits	
Eggs	Oil	
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Hot Meals in Schools program began in 2016, initially operating in 50 schools and reaching 14,189 students as of 2017-18. By 2020–2021, the program had expanded to 150 public schools.

SCHOOL SCHEME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Agriculture Payments and Intervention Agency

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal at the lower secondary school level (grades 5 through 8)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	293,270	–	–
Primary school	891,693	–	–
Secondary school	720,772	–	–
Total	1,905,735	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Other vegetables	Dairy milk
Roots, tubers	Fruits*	Yogurt drink
Dairy products*		
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Scheme began operating in Romania in 2017 and operates in both public and private schools.

