

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Meals in Preschools and Primary Education

Lead Agency: The unit of local self-government

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

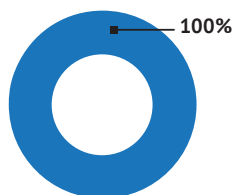
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD Unknown*

- Government: USD Unknown*
- 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

*Because school feeding in Serbia is entirely the responsibility of local governments, information on the aggregate budget for school feeding is not available at the central level. The national government does not contribute to school feeding programs.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Serbia have electricity and piped water, most have clean water, and some have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens.

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

No information on specific food items.

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

No information on specific beverage items.

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: None.

FOOD SOURCES

No information.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

No information.

- 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

No information.

- 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

• Serbia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	162,345	102,843	—
Primary school	533,590	515,572	—
Secondary school	265,136	250,124	0
Total	961,071	868,539	—

NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD

3 years prior	Unknown
1 year prior	Unknown
2020–2021	Unknown

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 798,726

Receiving school food: Unknown*

*The precise number of students who benefit from school feeding is not known at the central government level.

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

Nutritionists are involved with school feeding in Serbia and are paid by local governments.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

A pilot scheme called “Strength2Food” was held in Serbia. Researchers produced procurement criteria to improve food quality, helped teachers to raise awareness of nutrition among children and parents, and worked with cooks to improve the nutrition of school meals.

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

The decentralized nature of school feeding in Serbia means that information on links between school feeding and the economy are not known at the central government level.

CONTACTS: SERBIA

Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development

Website: <https://www.mpn.gov.rs/>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

None specified

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted schooling in Serbia. All preschools were closed from March–May 2020, and from October–December 2020, some schools were open while others were operating remotely. The pandemic reduced student attendance at school and therefore reduced the number of students who benefited from school feeding. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, meals/snacks have been served in schools in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time).

SCHOOL MEALS IN PRESCHOOLS AND PRIMARY EDUCATION

Lead implementer(s): The unit of local self-government

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 meals
- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Local policies related to targeting are not known at the central government level.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	Unknown	–	–
Primary school	Unknown	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	Unknown	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Foods are selected by local units of self-government, and the menus are not known at the central government level.

FOOD SOURCES:

No information provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The nutrition of children in preschool institutions and in elementary schools is regulated by by-laws, as well as the Rulebook on detailed conditions for organizing, achieving, and monitoring the nutrition of students in elementary school, "Official Gazette of RS" 68/18, and the Rulebook on detailed nutrition conditions in preschool institutions, "Official Gazette of RS", number 39, 25th of May 2018.

