**SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)**

Most recently completed school year:
*September 2017 – May 2018 (190 total days)*

- WFP School Meal Distribution; Food Coupons

**Lead Agency:** Ministry of Education

**NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS**

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

Line item in the national budget... [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] NR

**BUDGET**

Total: USD 90,125,157

- National government: None
- International donors*: USD 90,125,157
- Private sector: N/A
- Other donors: N/A

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

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

All schools have electricity, clean water, latrines, piped water, and flush toilets. Very few schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. None of the schools have kitchens.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

100% of the reported school feeding activities in Syria are funded through the UN World Food Program (WFP). WFP provided data for this report.

**MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY**

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Conditional cash transfer

- Grains/cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes and nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Other: Ma’amool dates pastry

Prohibited food items: Prohibited food items: candy, soft drinks

**FOOD SOURCES**

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

**COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES**

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

**COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**EDUCATION**

- Nutrition
- Health
- Food and agriculture
- Reproductive health
- Hygiene
- HIV prevention

**OTHER**

- School gardens
- Physical education

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.

**COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,278,443

Receiving school food: 967,841

Food was also provided to some students in pre-schools, vocational/trade schools, university/higher education, or other.

GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity incorporated in 2006. Funding for this survey and a follow-up survey in 2021 is being provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture under agreement number FX18TA-109600002.
**NUTRITION**

School feeding program(s) include/involve 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:**
Other

**Micronutrients added to fortified foods:**
Iron, Vitamin A, Lodine, Zinc, and Folic Acid

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity the school feeding program offered nutritional education, food education, health education, and physical education. The program also had nutritional requirements for the food basket, and had food restrictions on or near school grounds. Additionally, special training or certification programs in nutrition and food safety/hygiene was required for cooks/caterers.

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**AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

**Jobs created by school feeding programs**

- **80** Cooks and food preparers
- **4** Transporters
- **NR** Off-site processors
- **NR** Food packagers and handlers
- **4** Monitoring
- **3** Food service management
- **NR** Safety and quality inspectors
- **NR** Other

**Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...**

- Yes
- No
- NR

**Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...**

- Yes (National-scale companies in food processing and transport)
- No
- NR

**There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...**

- Women
- Youth
- Other groups

**There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)**

- Yes
- No
- NR

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

75–100% of cooks are women. All of them were paid in cash. The program has a purposeful focus on creating jobs or income-generating opportunities for women.

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**CONTACTS: SYRIA**

Agency: Ministry of Education
Website: http://moed.gov.sy/site

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**SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES**

Syria has been affected by prolonged conflict and an economic/financial crisis. Many schools were destroyed and large segments of the population displaced.

Three positive developments related to school feeding in the country in the past five years are the high levels of school enrollment, the national economy support, and a low dropout rate. Strengths of the program in Syria include its wide geographical coverage, support for needy areas, and local production.

Storage and transportation were cited as key challenges to the program, but no corruption or mismanagement was reported.

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**STUDIES CONDUCTED**

None

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**RESEARCH NEEDED**

The educational, social, and economic impact of school feeding programs on students.
SCHOOL MEAL

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
- In-School Snacks

TARGETING:
Geographic, Individual student characteristics

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>107,576</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>967,841</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>233,231</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,308,648</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:
- Grains/cereals
  * fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
0 - Purchased (domestic)
  Yes - In-kind (domestic)
0 - Purchased (foreign)
  Yes - In-kind (foreign) (WFP)

NOTES:
None of the participating schools have kitchens. Over several years, WFP built the capacity of local food manufacturers to produce fortified date pastries for the program. Prepared meals and food vouchers were introduced in 2017; the school meals are prepared in off-site centralized kitchens, managed by WFP and their implementing partners.