

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:

September 2018 – June 2019

(174 days for Primary; 160 days for Secondary Education)

Program 1: Providing Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need

Program 2: Lunch for All-Day Optional Primary Schools

Lead Agency:

- The Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth
- Department of Primary Education, Office of All-Day Schools

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

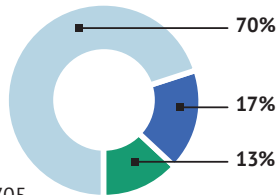
Total: USD 2,649,921

National government:
USD 1,852,610

International donors*:
USD 455,606

Private sector: N/A

Other donors: USD 341,705



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

INFRASTRUCTURE

The school meals/snacks were prepared on school grounds or off-site in private facilities. About 20% of schools had on-site kitchens with piped water, electricity, refrigeration, and electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

The name of the Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC) was recently changed to Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth. School feeding covers vocational schools in Cyprus. About 13% of the overall budget comes from local sponsors.

NR = No Response

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
- ☒ Fish
- ☒ Green, leafy vegetables
- ☒ Other vegetables
- ☒ Fruits
- ☒ Oil
- ☒ Salt
- ☐ Sugar

Prohibited food items: Any foods not on the approved list for school canteens per national law.

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.

☒ = mandatory



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REPUBLIC OF Cyprus



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2018-19

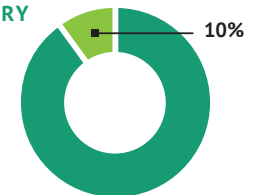
School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	66,000	59,000	7,642
Secondary school	55,000	46,000	4,800
Total	121,000	105,000	12,442



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 121,000

Receiving school food: 12,442



- ☒ Pre-schools
- ☒ Vocational/trade schools
- ☐ University/higher education
- ☐ Other

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:

N/A

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It was reported that nutritionists participate in the competent scientific committee for specifying the items that can be offered for breakfast to program beneficiaries (from the approved list for school canteens). Also, approximately \$455,606 of additional funding came from The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, for the Free Breakfast school feeding program.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

195	Cooks and food preparers
NR	Transporters
NR	Off-site processors
NR	Food packagers and handlers
NR	Monitoring
NR	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 ☐ 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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It was reported that the Parents' Association was involved in both feeding programs, specifically in choosing beneficiaries for the Free Breakfast program. Approximately 500 school canteen staff were involved in that program.

Additionally, in the Lunch feeding program, at least 75% of cooks/caterers were women and all cooks/caterers were paid in cash.

CONTACTS: CYPRUS

Agency: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth

Website: www.moec.gov.cy

Email: registry@moec.gov.cy

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Positive Developments:

1. Although the Free Breakfast program started in 2013, after the financial crisis in Cyprus, in order to offer free breakfast to pupils from families in need due to economic criteria, it was expanded to families who meet social criteria as well. The intention of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth is that all pupils in need will have fresh and quality breakfast at school.
2. The program budget was supported by private sponsors in order to cover the required cost for all needy pupils.
3. Although at the beginning of the program a sandwich was offered every day, the program was changed to give pupils the choice of another snack (i.e. olive pie, cheese pie or other snack from the approved list of items for school canteens) twice a week, so as to have variety.

Strengths:

1. Ensures that pupils from disadvantaged families – as a consequence of the recent financial crisis in Cyprus – are offered a nutritious breakfast so as to minimize the possibility of detrimental consequences from possible malnutrition which can affect the pupils' school performance and their overall physical and mental health.
2. The key to the successful implementation of the program is the cooperation and contribution of all parties (MOEC, School Administration and Staff, School Boards, Parents' Association, Canteen staff).
3. The free breakfast is offered with great discretion and respect to pupils' dignity.

Challenges:

1. Difficulty by the School Committees to determine which pupils are in real need.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

RESEARCH NEEDED

NR

PROVIDING FREE BREAKFAST TO PUPILS IN NEED

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth

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 Snacks (Breakfast)

TARGETING:

Individual student characteristics, specifically children from disadvantaged families who are in danger of malnutrition.

Financial and Social criteria used:

1. Families that receive the Guaranteed Minimum Income
2. Unemployed households
3. Single-parent families
4. Multi-child families
5. Families with an especially inadequate income due to other reasons
6. Children who are orphaned

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	1,000	—	—
Primary school	6,800	—	—
Secondary school	4,800	—	—
Vocational/Trade school	1,100	—	—
Total	13,700	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals Dairy products

FOOD SOURCES:

100% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The school snacks (sandwich or snack) are prepared in the school canteens in 90% of the schools. If there are no canteens in the schools, the sandwiches/snacks are provided through licensed suppliers (e.g. bakeries). The program did not use any packaged or processed foods. To limit food waste, breakfasts are made in the mornings according to the number of pupils present in school that day.

LUNCH FOR ALL-DAY OPTIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Lead implementer(s): Department of Primary Education, Office of All-Day Schools

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals (Lunch)

TARGETING:

Individual Student Characteristics (Family income)

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	175	51%	49%
Primary school	842	50%	50%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	1,017	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Legumes and nuts	Poultry	Green, leafy vegetables
Roots and tubers	Meat	Other vegetables
Dairy products	Fish	Fruits
Eggs	Oil	Salt

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

100% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

About 20% of the schools had on-site kitchens with provisions such as piped water, electric stove, refrigeration, closed cooking areas, serving utensils and electricity. 195 cooks/caterers were involved in the program and a special training on food safety/hygiene was required for them.

The students were provided with food, health and physical education to prevent or mitigate obesity/overweight. Apart from this, the program was nationally required to provide students with nutrition, hygiene, food and agriculture, and reproductive health education. Handwashing with soap was a complementary program provided to recipients.

