

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
September 2017 - May 2018 (168 days)

- Sustainable School Feeding Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia

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

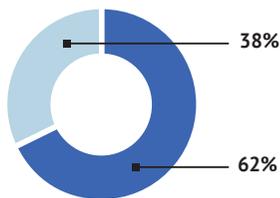
Total:
USD 4,869,587

National government:
USD 1,869,587

International donors*:
USD 3,000,000

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 in Armenia have electricity, latrines and flush toilets. Most have piped and clean water, dedicated eating areas/cafeterias and kitchens. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds) in closed cooking areas that have storage, refrigeration, and charcoal, wood, or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some UNESCO data was used to complete this report.

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: Meat and eggs of aquatic birds, fruits and vegetables prone to spoilage, some canned or improperly processed foods

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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THE REPUBLIC OF Armenia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	153,415	137,306	100,270
Secondary school	283,002	240,291	N/A
Total	436,417	377,597	100,270



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 436,417

Receiving school food:
 100,270



Food was also provided to some students in

- 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**
- To provide a social safety net**

Food items fortified: No

Micronutrients added to fortified foods: No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Approaches used in the program to mitigate obesity included food education and physical education. In addition, although school gardens were not required as a complementary education activity, Armenia reported that some students ate the produce from school gardens. Handwashing with soap and health education were also implemented in the program, though not a requirement.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

- NR 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

The survey highlighted the importance of parents' associations, whose role has greatly expanded and had a very positive impact on the Armenia program in recent years. It also indicated that food for the program was purchased using competitive procedures through which small-scale farmers/farmer organizations/companies were able to successfully compete.

CONTACTS: ARMENIA

Agency: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia

Website: <https://www.gov.am/en/>

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SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Major developments attributed to school feeding—apart from direct impact on the nutritional status of children and major improvements in their cognitive capacity—are: a) community mobilization; b) rehabilitation of school kitchens and cafeterias and other infrastructure improvements; and c) increased demand for local products. Strategic and multi-partner support for capacity development in various domains helped to make all of this possible.

Some 70% of schoolchildren currently receive nutritionally balanced hot meals, which is a serious achievement, and every attempt is being made to increase the number of schools providing hot meals in Armenia, because assessments have indicated that most children attended school without any breakfast/meal.

Certain healthy eating habits are created through school meals. If accompanied by nutrition education initiatives, this can generate lifelong, sustainable effects. In addition, tremendous increases in the role of parents' associations have led to improvements in the motivation and mobilization of school headmasters. This is critical for successful program implementation.

Armenia was happy to report that there was no major setback over the past five years of the program, thanks to the consistent commitment of the major stakeholders (including State and International communities), backed by financial contributions and technical support directed to sustainable nationalization of the school feeding program in the country.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

- 1) Assessing Poverty Alleviation Through Social Protection: School Meals and Family Benefits in a Middle-income Country
- 2) Case study (with IFPRI) re the extent to which poverty reduction or other measures of social welfare respond to the in-kind income transfer of school feeding programs

RESEARCH NEEDED

Two planned studies will look into the school meal program's impact in terms of nutritionally-sensitive programming and policy development needs for the education sector.

Program report: Armenia

All data from the 2017-18 school year

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING

Lead implementer(s):

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals, In-school snacks; 5 times per week for 9 months

TARGETING:

Schools with adequate infrastructure; only pre-primary and primary-age students

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	2,831	45%	55%
Primary school	100,270	47%	53%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	103,101		

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals	Roots, tubers	Salt
Meats	Fish	Sugar
Dairy products	Oil	

FOOD SOURCES:

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

NOTES:

Meals were prepared on site and did not include any packaged, processed food. Handwashing with soap and health education were provided; physical education was required.

