School year: 2020–2021

- Healthy Diet for Preschool Children (Smjernice / propisi za zdravu ishranu djecu predšolskog uzrasta)

Lead Agency: Ministries/Departments of Education in 10 cantons in the Federation of BiH, in Republika Srpska, and in the Brcko District 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

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools have electricity, clean and piped water, and gender-private flush toilets. Some schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The decentralized nature of this school feeding program means that not all information is available at the federal level.

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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

None provided

STUDIES CONDUCTED

No major studies have been conducted.

RESEARCH NEEDED

A study of the current nutritional status and eating habits of pre-school and school-age children would be helpful.

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

None provided

CONTACTS: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Agency: Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Website: http://www.mcp.gov.ba/?lang=en
Email: kabinet.ministra@mcp.gov.ba

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the successes of the Healthy Diet for Preschool Children program in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the nutrition guidelines have effectively demonstrated the importance of a healthy diet for preschool children. This program provides some children with the only food they may eat on a regular basis.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily interrupted school feeding operations, decreased the frequency of school feeding, and resulted in meals being served at school in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time). Some charities/NGOs were involved in helping to reach school children with food during this time. There were no other major changes or disruptions to the program’s operations.

Without the observance of measures to protect public health during the pandemic, the program would undoubtedly have been suspended. However the government made these measures mandatory so that children could continue benefiting from the program. Moreover, the government has made and will continue to make observance of COVID-19-related rules and restrictions mandatory. A positive development stemming from the pandemic is that children have been taught how to adhere to public health guidelines and to care for their school mates from a very young age.
HEALTHY DIET FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN
(SMJERNICE / PROPISI ZA ZDRAVU ISHRANU DJECE PREDSKOLSKOG UZRASTA)

Lead implementer(s): Ministries/Departments of Education in 10 cantons in the Federation of BiH, in Republika Srpska, and in the Brcko District Government

OBJECTIVES:
• 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:
All enrolled pre-school students

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 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>27,698</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>27,698</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar
- Water

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
- Purchased (domestic)
- In-kind (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the cost of school feeding for preschool students is fully included in the school fees parents pay on a monthly basis. While the government does not contribute any funds to this program, it has administrative and coordination responsibilities to ensure that the program is implemented smoothly throughout the whole country. In this decentralized program, the 12 districts (cantons in the Federation of BiH, in Republika Srpska, and in the Brcko District Government) have full responsibility over their respective school related activities. As a result, patterns of food sourcing and costs vary from one district to another.