SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020–2021
- School Meals Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

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

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- Food and nutrition
- Health
- Agriculture
- Reproductive health
- School gardens
- HIV prevention
- Hygiene
- Physical education

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM (S)
School year: 2020–2021
- School Meals Program

Lead Agency:
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

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

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY
- Breakfast
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other
- Lunch
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Fruits
- Other vegetables
- Other
- Dinner
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Oil
- Other
- Other

Grains, cereals
Roots, tubers
Dairy products
Eggs
Meat
Poultry
Fish

Dairy milk
Tea
Yogurt drink
Water
Fruit juice

Prohibited food items: Soft drinks, sweets, fast food

BUDGET
Total: Unknown*
- Government: 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

INFRASTRUCTURE
All schools in Iceland have electricity, clean and piped water, flush toilets, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. The kitchens are equipped with refrigeration and electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES
None

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.

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GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture; agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

*Local authorities decide on the amount of money allocated for school feeding, and the total (aggregate) amount is not tracked by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.
**International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 69,057

Receiving school food:
- Yes
- No
- No response

Food was also provided to some students in...
- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>18,876</td>
<td>18,876</td>
<td>18,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>46,688</td>
<td>46,688</td>
<td>46,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>22,369</td>
<td>22,369</td>
<td>18,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>87,933</td>
<td>87,933</td>
<td>83,845</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) is a non-profit, non-political organization based in Switzerland. The Global Survey of School Meal Programs aims to provide reliable data on school meals and feeding programs globally. The survey is conducted biennially and offers insights into the policies, practices, and impacts of school meal programs across different countries. This document reflects the findings of the survey in Iceland for the period 2020–2021, highlighting the various aspects of the school meal program, including meal contents, program infrastructure, and complementary activities. The survey also provides information on the number of students receiving food and their educational programs, giving a comprehensive view of the school meal landscape in Iceland.
NUTRITION
School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:
- Fortified foods
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified: Not applicable
Micronutrients: Not applicable

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

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
- 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

Open-bid (competitive tendering) procurement processes are used in the School Meals Program, and small companies/small-scale farmers are able to compete successfully. In some schools, private companies are responsible for planning, preparing, and serving school meals, while other schools undertake these tasks on their own.

CONTACTS: ICELAND
Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
Website: https://www.stjornarradid.is/raduneyti/menta-og-meningarmalaraduneytid/

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Iceland, the Public Health Institute of Iceland has periodically conducted surveys on what children are offered in schools and has concluded that the food variety has improved over time. In addition, school staff and other employees understand and apply instructions from the Public Health Institute in terms of healthy and nutritious food. Overall, there is effective cooperation between the Public Health Institute of Iceland and the municipalities. Among the challenges that remain, there is a need for greater collaboration with the private sector, and there is a need to make suitable recipes that meet the nutritional guidelines available for the school canteen personnel. School canteen facilities have improved considerably, though conditions are still inadequate in some schools.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In July–August 2020, Iceland joined the national free school meal voucher scheme. So far, over £183 million worth of vouchers have been converted into supermarket gift cards to give parents more options when shopping for their families. Moreover, Iceland established a Covid Summer Food Fund to ensure that children eligible for free school meals would continue to have access to food during the summer holidays. Schools remained open for in-person learning in the 2020–2021 school year. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were served meals at school in a very different way than before (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time). Since March 2021, a volcanic eruption in the Geldingadalir valley has also affected Iceland.
SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

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

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet educational goals
• To meet nutritional and/or health goals
• To prevent or mitigate obesity

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
• In-school meals

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
• Five times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Universal

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>18,876</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>46,688</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>83,845</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grains, cereals</td>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roots, tubers</td>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legumes, pulses, nuts</td>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>Salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>Green, leafy vegetables</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>Other vegetables</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The School Meals Program began in 1995, and school authorities are responsible for running the school canteens together with the municipalities. The cost of school meals is covered partly by the students’ families and partly by the municipalities (i.e., students’ families pay a partial price for school lunches).