

## SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National School Feeding Program  
(البرنامج الوطني للتغذية المدرسية)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health

## NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

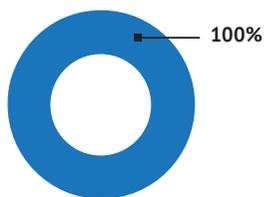
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes  No  No response

### BUDGET

Total: USD 28,000,000\*\*

- Government: USD 28,000,000
- 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

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

\*\*This budget includes USD 17 million from the Ministry of Education and USD 11 million from the Oil-For-Food Program.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Iraq have electricity and piped water, though few have clean water. Most have latrines, while few have flush toilets. No schools have kitchens or dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School snacks and take-home rations are prepared off-site in private facilities.

## SPECIAL NOTES

None

## MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snacks            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take-home rations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                        |
- 
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grains, cereals | <input type="checkbox"/> Green, leafy vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roots, tubers              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legumes, pulses, nuts      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fruits       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy products  | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meat                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry                    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish                       |  |
- 
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fruit juice | <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |

Prohibited food items: None

## FOOD SOURCES

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

## 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

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



The Global Survey of School Meal Programs is the property of GCNF and is protected by copyright. It may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written consent. Contact: info@gcnf.org ©2019. The Global Child Nutrition Foundation. All rights reserved.

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-1096OG002.

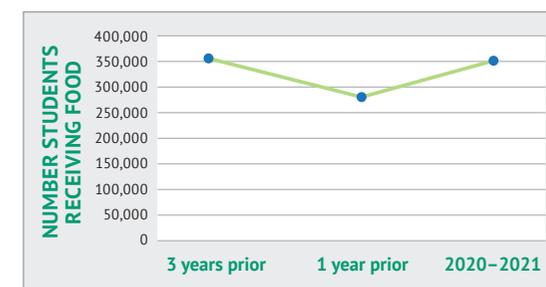
## REPUBLIC OF Iraq



## SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

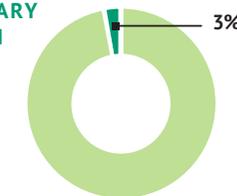
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	250,000	250,000	0
Primary school	6,000,000	6,000,000	350,000
Secondary school	4,750,000	4,750,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,000,000</b>	<b>11,000,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>



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

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 10,750,000

Receiving school food: 350,000



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools  Vocational/trade schools
- Other

## 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

At least four nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Iraq. Approaches to preventing or mitigating overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for school food and food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education in schools.

## STUDIES CONDUCTED

There have been studies on the impact of school feeding programs on children's cognitive, health, and physical outcomes, and a study on teachers' perceptions of the impact on students' educational achievement.

## RESEARCH NEEDED

Field experiments to implement school feeding programs according to the models of countries similar to the reality of Iraq.

## 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

About 40% of the food for this program is purchased from local sources, and the private sector is involved in food trading and catering. However, it is not common for small companies to be successful in securing a contract in the National School Feeding Program. Women lead the monitoring of the school feeding program and are involved in its management.

## CONTACTS: IRAQ

**Agency:** Ministry of Education

**Website:** <http://moedu.gov.iq>

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes related to the National School Feeding Program include a decrease in student dropout, a reduction in hunger, the reintegration and empowerment of girls in society, and a greater awareness of diseases and other health threats, owing to the associated education programs. At the same time, challenges include a worrying lack of funding, which has affected the program's implementation and limited its ability to reach a greater number of students. Iraq also suffers from poor infrastructure (such as kitchens) and limited experience (i.e., human resources) in the field of school feeding. A lack of cooperation from some school administrations raises concerns about mismanagement.

## EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused schools in Iraq to operate remotely for part of the 2020–2021 school year, with some schools subsequently open for in-person learning while others continued to operate remotely. The pandemic caused a temporary disruption in school feeding activities and a decrease in funding, though there was no change in the number of students reached or the modality of school feeding. Iraq was also faced with an economic/financial crisis during this time.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

(البرنامج الوطني للتغذية المدرسية)

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

### OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

### MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks
- Take-home rations

### FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 4 days per week during the school year

### TARGETING:

Targeted towards areas that are poor

### HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	350,000	55%	45%
Secondary school	0	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>45%</b>

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals      Fruits      Water  
 Dairy products      Fruit juice

\* fortified

### FOOD SOURCES:

40% Purchased (domestic)      0% In-kind (domestic)  
 60% Purchased (foreign)      0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Although the National School Feeding Program began in 2004, school feeding first began in Iraq in 1937. The program intends to reach 440,000 children in the 2021–2022 school year. The World Food Program serves as an implementing partner, and the Higher Committee for School Nutrition and its sub-committees in affiliated governorates coordinate school feeding at the national level.

