Ireland

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

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

BUDGET
Total: USD 66,677,604
- Government: USD 66,677,604
- International donors*:
  - USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture: Yes
*International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE
All schools in Ireland have electricity, clean and piped water, and flush toilets. Most foods for the School Meals Programme are purchased in processed form and not prepared in a kitchen.

SPECIAL NOTES
Some population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The European Union’s school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme is not included in this report, although it was operational in Ireland during the 2020/2021 school year.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
- Handwashing with soap
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

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

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

COVERAGE:
- PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 920,281
Receiving school food: 216,439
Food was also provided to some students in:
- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

3 years prior 1 year prior 2020–2021
0 50,000 100,000 150,000 200,000 250,000 300,000 350,000 400,000

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

Lead Agency: Department of Social Protection

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

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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

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

In the School Meals Programme, each participating school is provided funding in order to procure a company to supply school meals. Competitive processes are followed to allocate school feeding contracts.

CONTACTS: IRELAND

Agency: Department of Social Protection
Website: https://www.gov.ie/en/service/29a3ff-school-meals-scheme/

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Ireland, a hot school meal pilot program was undertaken in 2019. The objective was to identify whether a hot meal could be provided to schools that lacked any on-site cooking facilities. This pilot program was deemed a success, and the hot meal program has since been scaled up to additional schools. A robust monitoring system ensures that there is no mismanagement or corruption in the School Meals Programme.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Ireland were closed for several months in early 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused the number of students fed through the School Meals Programme to decrease, along with the frequency of school feeding. However, while schools were closed, packages of food were provided to be picked up at school or were delivered to students’ homes to prepare and eat at home.
SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME

Lead implementer(s): Department of Social Protection

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

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

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

TARGETING:
Targeted towards schools in disadvantaged areas that have been identified as needing additional assistance

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>3,048</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>146,796</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>69,643</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>219,487</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
Grains, cereals, Poultry, Dairy milk
Dairy products, Green, leafy vegetables, Water
Meat, Fruits
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
100% Purchased (domestic), 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign), 0% In-kind (foreign)
If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The School Meals Programme began operating in 2000 and was active in 1,353 public schools in the 2020–2021 school year. The objective of the program is to provide regular, nutritious food to children who are unable, due to lack of high quality food, to take full advantage of the education provided to them. The program is an important component of policies to encourage school attendance and educational achievement in Ireland.