

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Standards and Recipes for School Meals
(Aplikácia princípov k Materiálno-spotrebným normám a receptúram pre školské stravovanie)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic

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

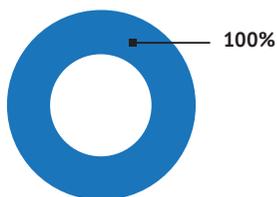
BUDGET

Total: USD 5,358,022

- Government: USD 5,358,022
- 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.



INFRASTRUCTURE

In the Slovak Republic, schools that participate in the school meal program have closed cooking areas, piped water, storage, electricity, refrigeration, gas and electric stoves, and serving utensils. School meals/snacks are prepared in a number of locations, including on school grounds, in off-site centralized kitchens, and in off-site private kitchens. All schools in the country have electricity, clean water, and flush toilets, while most schools have piped water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. All toilets are gender-private.

SPECIAL NOTES

The European Union's school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme is not included in this report, although it was operational in Slovakia during the 2020/2021 school year.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Caffeine, fried nursery meals, high-sugar beverages, and high-salt and high-fat foods

FOOD SOURCES

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

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

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



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Slovak Republic



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

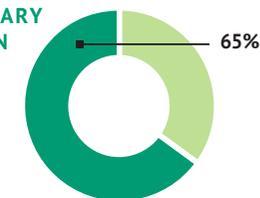
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	175,877	166,561	161,930
Primary school	514,088	461,060	355,263
Secondary school	209,211	197,156	114,300
Total	899,176	824,777	631,493



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 723,299

Receiving school food: 469,563



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 10 nutritionists, paid by the national government, were involved with this school feeding program in the 2020/21 school year. Several approaches were employed to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, including nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, health education, physical education, and food and nutrition education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

No major studies have been conducted.

RESEARCH NEEDED

The Slovak Republic takes into account the recommendations of the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations. Additional recommendations and related information will be highly appreciated.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Both small-scale and medium/large-scale farmers were involved with this program and were provided with training related to the school feeding program. The private sector was also involved with food trading, transport, and the provision of supplies (utensils). In addition, approximately 10,000 cooks/caterers were involved with this school feeding program; most or all were women, paid in cash by the national government, and special training (on nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, food safety/hygiene, and business/management) was provided.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

10,000	Cooks and food preparers
	Transporters
	Off-site processors
	Food packagers and handlers
36	Monitoring
	Food service management
36	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.

CONTACTS: SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Agency: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic; Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic

Website: <https://www.minedu.sk/>
<https://www.uvzsr.sk/>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

In the past five years, positive developments related to school feeding in the Slovak Republic include the acceptance of World Health Organization recommendations, as well as the reformulation of the sugar, salt, and fat content in school meals. However, the majority of lunches still have high levels of proteins and salts that exceed the recommended nutritional guidelines.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused school feeding operations in the Slovak Republic to temporarily cease. The crisis also led to a change in the venue of distributing/receiving food, as well as a change in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations which were made available to be picked up by students or parents and eaten at home). The pandemic led to a reduction in both the number of students fed and the frequency of school feeding. However, there were no other major changes to school feeding operations in the Slovak Republic, as the provision of school meals is guaranteed by law. In addition, a positive development stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic is that socially marginalized groups have been supported to a greater extent than before.

STANDARDS AND RECIPES FOR SCHOOL MEALS

APLIKÁCIA PRINCÍPOV K MATERIÁLNO-SPOTREBNÝM NORMÁM A RECEPTÚRAM PRE ŠKOLSKÉ STRAVOVANIE

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic

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
- In-school snacks
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal (Some students, such as those with health challenges, choose to bring food from home and therefore are not served school meals.)

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	161,930	–	–
Primary school	355,263	–	–
Secondary school	114,300	–	–
Total	631,493	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Fish	Dairy milk
Roots, tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Yogurt drink
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Fruit juice
Dairy products	Fruits	Tea
Eggs	Oil	Water
Meat	Salt	
Poultry	Sugar	

* fortified



FOOD SOURCES:

80% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
20% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In the 2020/21 school year, 50% of the total cost of school feeding (from all sources) was used for the cost of food itself, while 25% was used for handling, storage, and transportation, and the remaining 25% was used for one-time fixed costs (e.g., kitchen construction and readying). While funding for this program was part of the national budget, students' families contributed by paying the partial price for school meals.