SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
School year: 2020–2021
- Hot Meals in Schools
- School Scheme

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

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 61,510,322
- Government: USD 39,818,889
- International donors*: USD 21,691,433**
- 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 includes support from the European Union’s school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme.

INFRASTRUCTURE
All schools in Romania have electricity, piped and clean water, and flush toilets. Some schools have kitchens and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. School meals and snacks are prepared off-site in private facilities (i.e., by caterers).

SPECIAL NOTES
Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

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: Foods with additives above the established limits

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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CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total # Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>554,413</td>
<td>525,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1,029,792</td>
<td>931,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>1,650,476</td>
<td>1,442,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,234,681</td>
<td>2,899,305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These numbers assume a perfect overlap of students in each program. As this is unlikely to be the case, these numbers are likely an underestimate of the total number of children who benefit from school feeding programs in Romania.

NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 years prior</th>
<th>1 year prior</th>
<th>2020–2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,250,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3,000,000</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN
Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,680,268
Receiving school food: 1,612,465
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:

- Dairy products, fruits

Micronutrients:

- Calcium and vitamins A, B6, C, and D

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Foods produced in school gardens are distributed to children from low income families. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, and health education.

**STUDIES CONDUCTED**

None reported

**RESEARCH NEEDED**

None specified

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**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 □ No response
- Youth □ No □ 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**

The private sector is engaged in food trading and transport, and competitive procurement procedures are followed to secure contracts in Romania's school feeding programs. Farmers of all sizes provide dairy products and fruits for the School Scheme.

**CONTACTS: ROMANIA**

Agency: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Website: [https://www.edu.ro/m%C4%83uri-guvernamentale-%C3%AEn-sprijinul-sistemului-de-educa%C8%9Bie](https://www.edu.ro/m%C4%83uri-guvernamentale-%C3%AEn-sprijinul-sistemului-de-educa%C8%9Bie)


**SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES**

Recent successes related to school feeding in Romania include the extension of the pilot Hot Meals in Schools program from 2016 to 2020, scaling up from the initial 50 schools to operated in 150 schools in the 2020–2021 school year. Nevertheless, the Hot Meals in Schools Program is characterized by a lack of adequate space for preparing/serving hot meals and inadequate funding to cover all students. Insufficient human resources lead to some concerns about mismanagement in the school feeding programs.

**EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Schools in Romania were open for most of the 2020–2021 school year, though at least some schools were closed and operating remotely for several months. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted school feeding in the Hot Meals in Schools program, and while schools were closed, meals and snacks were prepared and made available to be picked up by students or parents and eaten at home.
HOT MEALS IN SCHOOLS

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

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:
- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Targeted toward isolated geographic areas and disadvantaged children/adolescents

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>Unknown</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>35,795</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>29,548</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>65,343</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers of primary and secondary students receiving food are inclusive of pre-school students and vocational school students, respectively.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

- Fortified

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The Hot Meals in Schools program began in 2016, initially operating in 50 schools and reaching 14,189 students as of 2017-18. By 2020–2021, the program had expanded to 150 public schools.

SCHOOL SCHEME

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Agriculture Payments and Intervention Agency

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

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Universal at the lower secondary school level (grades 5 through 8)

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>293,270</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>891,693</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>720,772</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,905,735</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

- Dairy products*
- Fruits*
- Grains, cereals
- Dairy milk
- Meat
- Other vegetables
- Roots, tubers
- Yogurt drink
- Salt
- Sugar
- Oil
- "Fortified

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The School Scheme began operating in Romania in 2017 and operates in both public and private schools.