SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)
Most recently completed school year: September 2017 – May 2018 (190 total days)
- WFP School Meal Distribution; Food Coupons

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS
☐ National school feeding policy
☐ Nutrition
☐ Food safety
☐ Agriculture
☐ Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ NR

BUDGET
Total: USD 90,125,157
- National government: None
- International donors*: USD 90,125,157
- Private sector: N/A
- Other donors: N/A

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

INFRASTRUCTURE
All schools have electricity, clean water, latrines, piped water, and flush toilets. Very few schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. None of the schools have kitchens.

SPECIAL NOTES
100% of the reported school feeding activities in Syria are funded through the UN World Food Program (WFP). WFP provided data for this report.
NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve 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:
Other

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
Iron, Vitamin A, Lodine, Zinc, and Folic Acid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity the school feeding program offered nutritional education, food education, health education, and physical education. The program also had nutritional requirements for the food basket, and had food restrictions on or near school grounds. Additionally, special training or certification programs in nutrition and food safety/hygiene was required for cooks/caterers.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

- 80 Cooks and food preparers
- 4 Transporters
- NR Off-site processors
- NR Food packagers and handlers
- 4 Monitoring
- 3 Food service management
- NR Safety and quality inspectors
- NR Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes
- No
- NR

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

- Yes (National-scale companies in food processing and transport)
- No
- NR

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women
- Youth
- Other groups

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

- Yes
- No
- NR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

75–100% of cooks are women. All of them were paid in cash. The program has a purposeful focus on creating jobs or income-generating opportunities for women.

CONTACTS: SYRIA

Agency: Ministry of Education
Website: http://moed.gov.sy/site

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Syria has been affected by prolonged conflict and an economic/financial crisis. Many schools were destroyed and large segments of the population displaced.

Three positive developments related to school feeding in the country in the past five years are the high levels of school enrollment, the national economy support, and a low dropout rate. Strengths of the program in Syria include its wide geographical coverage, support for needy areas, and local production.

Storage and transportation were cited as key challenges to the program, but no corruption or mismanagement was reported.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

RESEARCH NEEDED

The educational, social, and economic impact of school feeding programs on students
WFP SCHOOL MEAL DISTRIBUTION

**Lead implementer(s):** Ministry of Education

**OBJECTIVES:**
- To meet educational goals

**MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:**
- In-School Snacks

**TARGETING:**
Geographic, Individual student characteristics

**HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 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>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>967,841</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>967,841</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD ITEMS:**
- Grains/cereals
  * fortified

**FOOD SOURCES:**
- Yes - In-kind (domestic)
- Yes - In-kind (foreign) (WFP)

**NOTES:**
None of the participating schools have kitchens. Over several years, WFP built the capacity of local food manufacturers to produce fortified date pastries for the program. Prepared meals and food vouchers were introduced in 2017; the school meals are prepared in off-site centralized kitchens, managed by WFP and their implementing partners.