SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
2018–2019 (180 school days)

- Yocha, Nitzanim, and Milat; National and regional lunch program of SES 6 and above

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

Line item in the national budget...

BUDGET

Total: USD 284,496,869

- National government: USD 284,496,869
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Food for school meal programs in Israel is generally prepared on-site (on school grounds), as well as off-site in centralized kitchens and off-site in private facilities (i.e., by caterers). Some food is also purchased in processed form. Schools that participate in Israel’s school feeding programs typically have electricity, refrigeration, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

SR = No Response

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total #</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>939,005</td>
<td>936,214</td>
<td>238,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>844,136</td>
<td>836,774</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,783,141</td>
<td>1,772,988</td>
<td>238,802</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>School gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Physical education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV prevention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.

FOOD SOURCES

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

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakast</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Dinner</th>
<th>Snacks</th>
<th>Take-home rations</th>
<th>Conditional cash transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prohibited food items: Sweets; sweetened beverages and juices; food items rich in saturated fat, salt, and sugar; and most ultra-processed foods

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GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for this survey and a follow-up survey in 2021 is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture; agreement number PX187A-10960002.
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: N/A
Micronutrients added to fortified foods: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 47 nutritionists are engaged in school meal programs in Israel. Some food items are prohibited or restricted for health-related reasons.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

- 162 Cooks and food preparers
- NR Transporters
- NR Off-site processors
- NR Food packagers and handlers
- 48 Monitoring
- NR 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
- 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

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes of school feeding in Israel, the “Nitzanim” law was passed in 2015, making school meals mandatory and increasing the number of children that benefit from school meals. Nationwide, approximately half of the children of lower socioeconomic status receive food through their schools. Over the past several years, there have also been improvements in food safety and in the nutritional quality of the foods provided. In addition, there has been an increase in monitoring and nutritional oversight in Israel’s school lunch programs. Attention is now being given to reducing both food waste and utensil disposal in order to make the school meal programs more sustainable.

Among the challenges associated with school feeding, students have had some difficulty adjusting to a healthier menu with less sodium and fat. It has also been a challenge to engage school staff in the lunch programs and familiarize them with the program objectives. Finally, not all eligible schools enroll in the school lunch programs, limiting the programs’ reach.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

There are multiple studies underway, including an observational study of the amount of food consumed by each child.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Any research that can contribute to better understanding the importance of healthy school meals and how school feeding affects public health.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Private sector companies of all sizes are engaged in school meal programs, specifically with food trading, processing, transport, catering, and the provision of utensils. Monitoring of catering sites is undertaken 2-8 times per month.

CONTACTS: ISRAEL

Agency: Ministry of Education
**YOCHA, NITZANIM, AND MILAT**

*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

**MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:**
- In-school meals served five times per week during the school year

**TARGETING:**
Based on geographic and individual student characteristics

**HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018–2019 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>180,545</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>237,802</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>418,347</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD ITEMS:**
- Grains/cereals
- Legumes and nuts
- Roots and tubers
- Dairy products
  * fortified
- Poultry
- Meat
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt

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

**NOTES:**
This program began in 2005. The number of children reached by this program grew from approximately 290,760 in 2014–2015 to 418,357 in 2018–2019. Students’ families contribute by paying a partial price for school lunches. A marketing campaign, among other tactics, is used to reduce how much food is thrown away. Other types of waste are also reduced by using reusable utensils and serving meals in the form of a buffet.

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**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LUNCH PROGRAM OF SES 6 AND ABOVE**

*Lead implementer(s):* Ministry of Health

**OBJECTIVES:**
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

**MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:**
- In-school meals, with food provided both during and outside of the school year

**TARGETING:**
In-school meals, with food provided both during and outside of the school year

**HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2018–2019 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>99,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational school</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,000</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD ITEMS:**
- Grains/cereals
- Roots and tubers
- Legumes and nuts
  * fortified
- Poultry
- Meat
- Other vegetables
- Fish
- Fruits

**FOOD SOURCES:**
- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

**NOTES:**
This program began in December 2018, and most children reached by this program are in kindergarten. While the national government allocates funding for supervision and oversight, students’ families pay full price for the lunches.