**School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)**

**All Primary and Secondary School-age Children**

- **60%** Enrolled, but not receiving food
- **28%** Receiving food
- **12%** Not enrolled

**Only Enrolled Primary Students**

- **95%** Receiving food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>261,014</td>
<td>215,666</td>
<td>194,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>271,324</td>
<td>237,737</td>
<td>226,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>538,501</td>
<td>476,175</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1,070,839</td>
<td>929,578</td>
<td>420,993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**National Laws, Policies, and Standards**

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Health
- Food safety
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)
- Climate/environment policy
- Private sector involvement
- Other policy

The country had ...

- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding
- National system for monitoring school feeding

**Budget**

- **Total:** USD 15,292,432
  - Government: 12,134,471
  - International donors: n/a
  - Private sector: n/a
  - NGOs (domestic): n/a
  - Other donors: 3,157,961*

* Includes funding from the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme

- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

**School Foods and Beverages**

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Blended grain-based products
- Legumes
- Nuts and seeds
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Poultry and game meat
- Red meat
- Processed meat
- Fish and shellfish
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- White roots and tubers
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Cruciferous vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Deep-fried foods
- Sweets
- Liquid oils
- Semi-solid and solid fats
- Salt
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- 100% fruit juice
- Other fruit drink
- Tea
- Other sugar-sweetened beverages

**Prohibited food items**

- None

**Food Sources**

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

**Special Notes:** Population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.
BULGARIA

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...

- Electricity: All
- Piped water: All
- Clean water: All
- Flush toilets: All

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
- School gardens

Complementary Education Programs

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- Environment/climate/sustainability
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education
- Mental health

Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: Unknown
- Percent paid: Unknown
- Percent women: Unknown

There was a focus on creating job opportunities for...
- Women
- Youth
- Other Groups

Environmental Sustainability

Targeted climate-friendly foods
- Yes
- No
- No response

Steps taken to limit food waste
- Sealed food storage
- Fumigation/pest control in storage area
- Use of hermetic bags or larger hermetic storage system
- Routine testing/monitoring of dry food storage
- Use of nearly-expired food
- Use of usable but "imperfect" commodities or produce

Steps taken to limit package waste
- Re-use of bags/containers
- Recycling
- Use of compostable materials
- Use of "bulk serve" containers
- Prohibiting specific types of packaging

Additional Information

On school premises, there were specific marketing limits for drinks and foods high in sugar and savoury snacks high in fat or salt (HFSS foods/drinks), among other products. Several approaches were used to address overweight/obesity, including food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

Educational visits to farms/dairies and tasting/cooking workshops were included in the curriculum to introduce children to agricultural processes for growing and producing agricultural products. Produce from school gardens was consumed by students. A National Plan on Waste Management (2021-2028) was adopted in 2021, inclusive of a food waste prevention program.
Successes and Challenges

Successes
1. School-age children significantly reduced their consumption of "harmful" foods and drinks. The consumption of carbonated drinks, crisps, sugar confections, and other items was strictly limited in schools.
2. Children and students not only recognized different fruits and vegetables, but also liked eating them. This reveals a change in attitudes towards healthy foods.
3. The number of portions distributed to children in schools has increased over the years, reaching up to 94 portions of fruit, vegetables and milk products per year.
4. The Scheme had a strong impact on children whose families could not provide them with the necessary quantities of fruits, vegetables, milk, and milk products.

Challenges
1. For some parents, the school scheme is not an ancillary program, but instead functioned as the main source of fruits, vegetables, milk, and milk products for their children. This misunderstanding strongly affected the image of the scheme, as the program was then wrongly considered as failing to fulfill its obligations. It is important to communicate clearly regarding the objectives of the school scheme.

Emergencies

Experienced disruptions to school feeding due to emergencies
☐ Yes  ☑ No

Strategies to address the impact of emergencies
☐ Seek alternative food sources or suppliers
☐ Changes in numbers of students fed
☐ Negotiate better prices with existing suppliers
☐ Establish alternative supply routes or transportation methods
☐ Source different or alternative food
☐ Release of food reserves
☐ Increase funding or budget allocation for school feeding
☐ Collaborate with local producers or suppliers to reduce dependence on global supply chains
☐ Changes in delivery method
☐ Changes in feeding modality
☐ Changes in feeding frequency
☐ No particular strategy was used

Additional Information
The Scheme in Bulgaria was not affected by any emergencies during the 2022-2023 school year.
Management

- Lead implementer(s): The State Fund Agriculture
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- National government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Level</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>194,614</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>420,993</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foods and Beverages
- Dairy
- White roots and tubers
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink

Elements of Home-Grown School Feeding
- Objective for small-scale farmers to benefit from access to a stable market
- Local food sourcing
- Small-scale farmers involved by selling directly (or through their farmer organization) to the program or the schools
- Additional support provided to small-scale farmers
- Country had a law/policy/standard related to small-scale farmers and school feeding programs
- Preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies in tendering procedures
- Effort is made to reduce food miles

Objectives

- 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 snacks

Frequency and Duration

- Fruits and vegetables were distributed on the day of delivery during the morning/afternoon break between classes, separately from the main meals, in the form of an individual portion per child.
- During the school year

Targeting

- Schools that applied for participation in the Schemes

Expenses

- 92% Purchase and distribution of fruits, vegetables, and milk.
- 8% Educational measures and monitoring and evaluation

Food Sources

- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The “Fruit and Vegetable” and “Milk” Schemes were not viewed as school feeding programs, as such. They aimed to instill lasting habits in children to consume fresh fruits and vegetables and quality dairy products. They had a fairly narrow focus and were implemented separately from national child nutrition programs.