



STATE OF  
**Kuwait**



### School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	114,472	59,838	Unknown
Primary School	335,796	265,113	Unknown
Secondary School	394,765	Unknown	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>845,033</b>	Unknown	Unknown

### 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

**The country had ...**

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

### Budget

Total: **Unknown**

- Government: 64,939
- International donors: Unknown
- Private sector: 0
- NGOs (domestic): 0
- Other donors: 0

At least 20,000 Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD) was allocated by the General Authority for Food and Nutrition during the 2022-2023 school year, though the total budget for school meal programs in Kuwait is unknown.

- 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**

Sugary drinks, candy, fried foods, ultra-processed foods, foods or beverages containing additives

**Food Sources**

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

Special Notes: None

## 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**

### Limitations on food and beverage marketing...







- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

### Additional Information

During the 2022-2023 school year, the national government employed eight nutritionists for the program. Some food and/or beverage items were fortified with iron and vitamins C and D, and beans were biofortified with iron. Obesity was considered a problem in Kuwait, and approaches to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity included the restriction of certain foods and/or beverages on school grounds; limitations on marketing to children; nutritional requirements for the snacks; and the provision of health education, food and nutrition education, and physical education. The program used some packaged or processed foods, but no beverages with non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners were available to students.

## Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...

Electricity		All
Piped water		All
Clean water		All
Flush toilets		All
Dedicated eating spaces		All
Sports or physical play areas		All

### 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

### Complementary Activities

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Handwashing with soap</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing testing/treatment                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Height measurement</b>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Dental cleaning/testing</b> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Weight measurement</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Menstrual hygiene                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Testing for anemia</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deworming treatment                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Water purification                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Eye testing/eyeglasses</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> School gardens                            |

### Complementary Education Programs

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Food and nutrition</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Health</b>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive health                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment/climate/sustainability   | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV prevention                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Physical education</b> |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health                        |

### Additional Information

Students and women were employed through the civil service portal and private companies. There was government financial support for students amounting to 200 dinars per month, and students (aged 13-17 years old) were appointed to associations during the summer vacation.

## Environmental Sustainability

### Targeted climate-friendly foods

Yes  No

### 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
- Campaign to reduce how much food students throw away**

### 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

To further reduce food waste, the program cooperated with the Kuwait Food Bank, while unusable food was composted on school grounds. The program used environmentally friendly packaging (bags), and to reduce the distance between where school food was produced and the schools, efforts were made to increase local procurement and modify menus.

## 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 Ministry of Education monitored the price of school food to ensure that it did not exceed the student’s fees, which varied according to school level.

## Successes and Challenges

### Successes

A World Health Organization standards document and Kuwaiti food systems guide / Regulations for Kuwaiti school canteens was circulated in all Kuwaiti schools in public and private education and included in the Kuwait Plan strategy for the year 2022-2023.

### Challenges

None reported.

# Program for developing school canteens and nutrition-friendly schools

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): General Authority for Food and Nutrition; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; Financing authorized by the Supreme Council for Planning
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- National government procured the food

## How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	Unknown	–	–
Primary School	Unknown	–	–
Secondary School	Unknown	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Legumes
- Nuts and seeds
- Dairy
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- Fruits
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- 100% fruit juice

## 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 meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snacks

## Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Targeted grade levels from the first year of primary school to grade 12 of secondary school.

## Food Sources

95% Purchased (domestic)

0% In-kind (domestic)

5% Purchased (foreign)

0% In-kind (foreign)

## Additional Information

During the 2022-2023 school year, the program for developing school canteens and nutrition-friendly schools operated in around 956 public schools. Kuwait celebrates food safety annually in June, and this is incorporated into canteen programs and all food and nutrition programs in an effort to link food safety to human health.

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs® collects data from government sources and is funded, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture. Contact [info@gcnf.org](mailto:info@gcnf.org) for more information.

**Citation:** Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, Kuwait. <https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>