

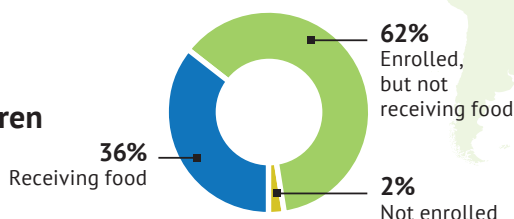


REPUBLIC OF Moldova

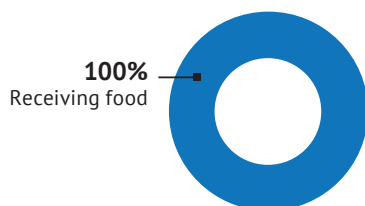


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children

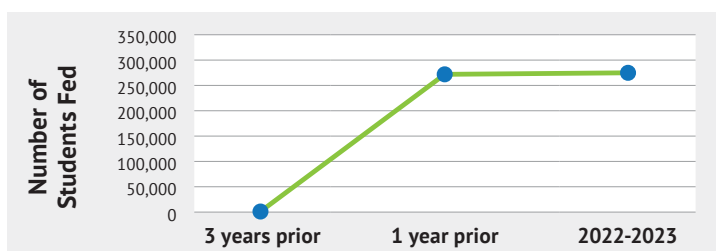


Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	135,726	135,726	135,726
Primary School	136,094	136,094	136,094
Secondary School	237,231	229,602	0*
TOTAL	509,051	501,422	271,820

* Although no students of regular secondary schools received school food, 229,020 students of vocational/trade schools received food. However, this is not considered to be part of the school feeding program.



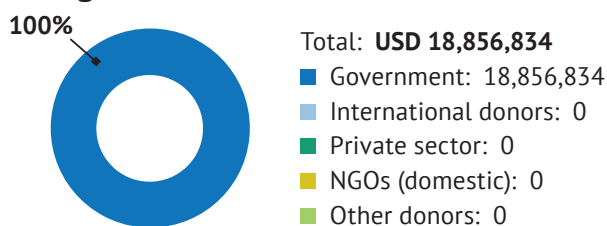
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- ☒ 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



- ☒ 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

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: Some population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics were used to complete this report.

School Foods and Beverages (cont'd)

Prohibited food items

1. Most food products containing at least 15 g sugar per 100 g of product;
2. Most food products containing at least 20 g fat per 100 g of product;
3. Food products containing hydrogenated fats;
4. Food products containing at least 1.5 g salt per 100 g of product;
5. Food products with an energy value of at least 300 kcal per 100 g of product;
6. Food products containing food additives;
7. Energy drinks;
8. Seasonings.

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...

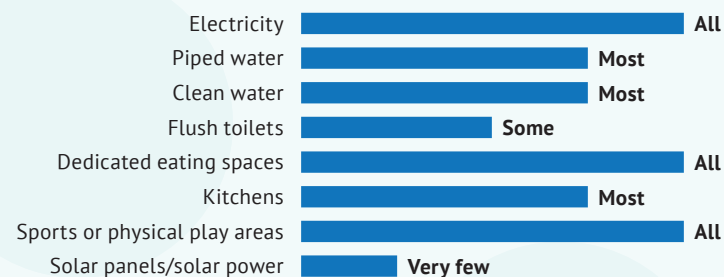
- ☒ **On school grounds**
- ☐ To school age children

Additional Information

Three nutritionists were engaged in the School Food Program in Moldova, and very few foods served in schools were packaged and processed. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, there were food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, as well as limitations on food and/or beverage marketing to children.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **4,000**

- At least 100% paid
- 75-99% women

There was a focus on creating job opportunities for...

- ☐ Women
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Other Groups

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

Additional Information

There were open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures for procurement in the School Food Program; however, small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies generally did not successfully compete for these bids. The private sector was engaged in food trading, processing, transport, and catering. Cooks/caterers received special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, food safety/hygiene, and business/management.

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

None

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

Moldova experienced extreme food price inflation, conflict, and a health epidemic/pandemic during the 2022-2023 school year. Nevertheless, there were no interruptions to school feeding operations, even though emergencies caused a slight increase in program costs.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. Monitoring of processes to support the effective distribution of funds
2. Adapting and improving the relevant legislation

Challenges

1. The tender for purchase of school food is conducted in January-February. However, the cost of products increases with inflation over the course of the year. This introduces pressure for suppliers to find less expensive food substitutes which can negatively impact the quality of school meals.
2. Electricity costs are increasing. At the same time, stoves and ovens are old and consume much electricity, which raises the costs associated with the School Food Program.
3. Some management processes are ineffective due to corruption.

School Food Program

(школьная питания)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): The local specialized body of the education department, along with various catering companies that were awarded government tenders.
- Local governments managed the program (Decentralized decision-making).
- Local government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	135,726	—	—
Primary School	136,094	—	—
Secondary School	0*	—	—
TOTAL	271,820	—	—

* Although no students of regular secondary schools received school food, 229,020 students of vocational/trade schools received food. However, this is not considered to be part of the school feeding program.

Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Refined/milled grains
- ✓ Blended grain-based products
- ✓ Legumes
- ✓ Nuts and seeds
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Dairy
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- ✓ Other vegetables
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- ✓ Liquid oils
- ✓ Semi-solid and solid fats
- ✓ Salt
- ✓ Yogurt drink
- ✓ 100% fruit juice
- ✓ Other fruit drink
- ✓ Tea

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 educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

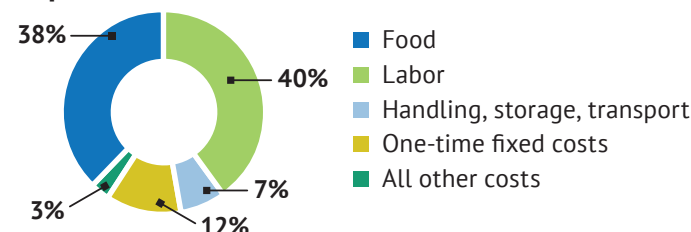
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year (in-school meals) and outside the school year (take-home rations)

Targeting

- Targeting was universal for certain school types and grade levels (e.g., primary classes of ages 6-10 years)

Expenses



Food Sources

90% Purchased (domestic) 8% In-kind (domestic)
1% Purchased (foreign) 1% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

Large-scale school feeding was first introduced in Moldova in 2005, and by 2022, the School Food Program operated in 327 public schools. In the Republic of Moldova, the provision of food in schools is mandatory for preschool and primary education. In middle and high schools, school meals are provided at the discretion of the school administration. Students can choose their meals from among a menu.

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 for more information.

Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, Moldova.

<https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>