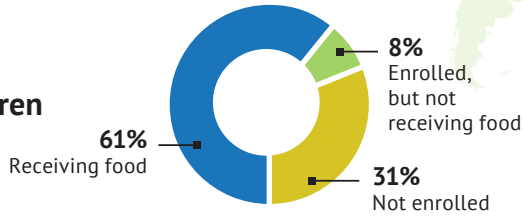


# Romania

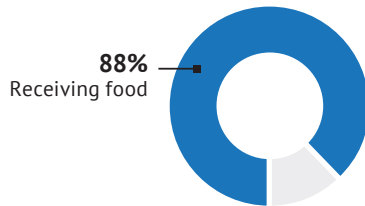


## School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

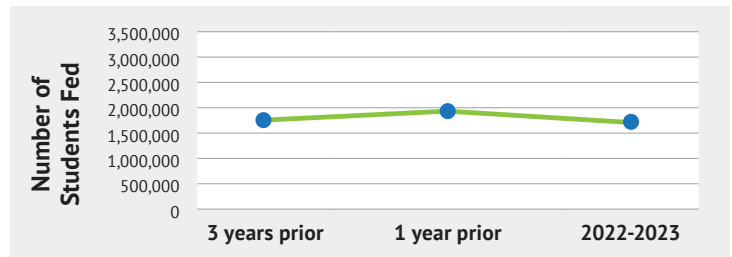
### All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



### Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	619,510	521,826	260,097
Primary School	1,241,123	868,689	762,426
Secondary School	1,091,179	727,857	650,038
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,951,812</b>	<b>2,118,372</b>	<b>1,672,561</b>



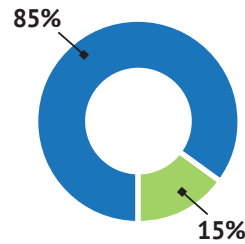
## National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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: **USD 118,438,708**

- Government: 100,300,553
- International donors: 0
- Private sector: 0
- NGOs (domestic): 0
- Other donors: 18,138,155

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

- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

## School Foods and Beverages

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

### Prohibited food items

Foods with additives above the established limits.

### Food Sources

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

**Special Notes:** Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete 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

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

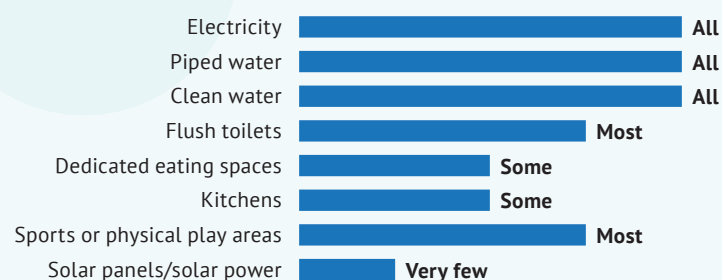
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

### Additional Information

During the 2022-2023 school year, three unpaid nutritionists were involved with the Hot Meals In School program. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity included food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, nutritional requirements for school food, food and nutrition education, and health education. Very few foods were packaged or processed, and no beverages with non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners were available. Produce from school gardens was given to students of modest financial means.

## Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...



### 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

- 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 to purchase food in both programs, and small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies successfully competed in Romania's School Program. These farmers received support in the form of school feeding-specific training. The private sector was engaged in food trading, processing, transport, and catering.

## 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

In an effort to reduce the distance between where school food was produced and the schools, measures were identified to encourage the participation of local producers in tenders.

## 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 Hot Meals in Schools program was affected by supply chain issues during the 2022-2023 school year, although schools and school feeding remained open and operational. Romania's School Program was not affected by any emergencies.

## Successes and Challenges

### Successes

1. Stimulated student's participation in the instructional-educational process.
2. Reduced school absenteeism.
3. Ensured non-discriminatory access to a quality instructional-educational process for all students.

### Challenges

1. The procedures for purchasing hot meal services were not carried out in a timely manner.
2. Insufficient spaces in educational institutions.
3. Insufficient personnel for the reception and distribution of food products.

# Hot meals in schools (Ministry of Education)

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education
- 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	26,129	–	–
Primary School	69,695	–	–
Secondary School	61,200	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>157,024</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- Legumes
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Red meat
- Fruits
- Other vegetables
- Semi-solid and solid fats
- 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 meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks

## Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Geographic (isolated or hard-to-reach geographical environments, disadvantaged social environments, poor economic environments)

## Food Sources

50% Purchased (domestic)

0% In-kind (domestic)

50% Purchased (foreign)

0% In-kind (foreign)

## Additional Information

The Hot Meals in Schools program began operating in 2016 and has expanded to reach 450 public schools during the 2022-2023 school year.

# Romania's School Program

(Programul pentru școli al României)

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): The Agriculture Payments and Intervention Agency

## How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	233,968	–	–
Primary School	692,731	–	–
Secondary School	588,838	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,515,537</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Dairy
- White roots and tubers
- Fruits
- 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 meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To address gender-specific challenges
- To reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snacks

## Frequency and Duration

- Fruit and vegetables were distributed twice per week and milk three times per week (two portions of drinking milk and one portion of dairy per week)
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Universal

## Food Sources

50% Purchased (domestic)

0% In-kind (domestic)

50% Purchased (foreign)

0% In-kind (foreign)

## Additional Information

During the 2022-2023 school year, there was a high degree of participation of the county councils, estimated at over 90% participation in various forms. Educational materials presented information about healthy eating habits, agriculture, supply chains and local products, organic production, sustainable production, and combating food waste.

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, Romania.

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