



REPUBLIC OF  
**Serbia**



## School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

### All Primary and Secondary School-age Children

The precise number of students who benefit from school feeding is not known at the central government level.

### Only Enrolled Primary Students

The precise number of students who benefit from school feeding is not known at the central government level.

School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	258,917	171,552	Unknown
Primary School	263,103	240,834	Unknown
Secondary School	550,154	505,291	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,072,174</b>	<b>917,677</b>	<b>Unknown</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

Because school feeding in Serbia is entirely the responsibility of local governments, information on the aggregate budget for school feeding is not available at the central level. The national government does not contribute to school feeding programs.

- 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

Not known at the central government level.

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...

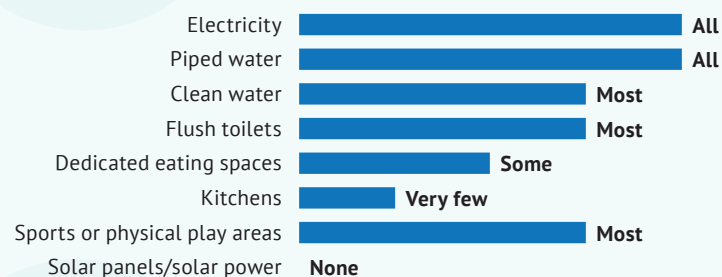
- On school grounds
- To school age children

### Additional Information

The preschool institutions' annual work plan envisaged the development of a child nutrition program in accordance with a national Rulebook which regulated the manner of achievement of child nutrition in preschool institutions. In accordance with regulations, the associate responsible for the promotion, planning, and organization of child nutrition in each preschool institution (nutritionist-dietitian) performed professional tasks related to the implementation of the child nutrition program. However, depending on the size of the institution and the financial and material capacities of the local self-government, not all public preschool institutions were able to employ these professional associates. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, health education, physical education, and food and nutrition education was provided.

## Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...



### Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers:

**Not known at the central government level.**

### 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**

## 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
- 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

Not known at the central government level.

# Emergencies

## Experienced disruptions to school feeding due to emergencies

Yes  No  **No response**

## 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

# School meals in kindergartens and primary schools

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): The 174 local self-government units
- Local governments managed the program (Decentralized decision-making)
- Individual schools procured the food

## How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	Unknown	–	–
Primary School	Unknown	–	–
Secondary School	0	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Refined/milled grains
- ✓ Legumes
- ✓ Nuts and seeds
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Dairy
- ✓ Poultry and game meat
- ✓ Red meat
- ✓ Processed meat
- ✓ Fish and shellfish
- ✓ White roots and tubers
- ✓ Fruits
- ✓ Dark green leafy vegetables
- ✓ Cruciferous vegetables
- ✓ Other vegetables
- ✓ Liquid oils
- ✓ Semi-solid and solid fats
- ✓ Salt
- ✓ Dairy milk
- ✓ Yogurt 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
- In-school snacks

## Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Universal

## Expenses

- Not known at the central government level.

## Food Sources

- Not known at the central government level.

## Additional Information

School feeding was decentralized in Serbia and under the responsibility of the 174 local self-government units. Pre-school (kindergartens) and school kitchens date back to after the Second World war, were maintained in former Yugoslavia, and continued in Serbia. During the 2022-2023 school year, breakfast, lunch, and snacks were served in kindergartens, and lunch and snacks were served in primary schools (for students from first through fourth grades). Children in kindergartens benefited from free meals all year round since kindergartens operate throughout the year, except for public holidays. In primary schools, meals were provided during the working week, and parents (paying either full or partial price) chose whether children ate school meals or brought their own food from home.

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.

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