KINGDOM OF Sweden

School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

<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>508,842</td>
<td>508,842</td>
<td>508,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>1,252,209</td>
<td>1,252,209</td>
<td>1,252,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>371,453</td>
<td>371,453</td>
<td>371,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,132,504</td>
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</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

The country had ...
- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding
- National system for monitoring school feeding

Budget
- Total: USD 1,003,956,967
  - Government: 996,014,777
  - International donors: n/a
  - Private sector: n/a
  - NGOs (domestic): n/a
  - Other donors: 7,942,190*

  * 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: 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

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

**Share of Schools with ...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flush toilets</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated eating spaces</td>
<td>Most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchens</td>
<td>Most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports or physical play areas</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar panels/solar power</td>
<td>Some</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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:
- While the number of cooks in school kitchens is not known, there are 25,000 employees in public kitchens of all types.

**Additional Information**

While it is up to every municipality in Sweden to manage the school meals (with trained nutritionists in position to plan and prepare school meals), nearly all of the 290 municipalities have competence in nutrition and/or meal management. In Sweden, food advertising aimed at children below twelve years of age has been prohibited since 1991. However, since the law only prohibits advertising on radio and television, only a fraction of all marketing that could potentially reach children is covered. Moreover, marketing to adolescents is not entirely restricted under this law.

Private sector companies were involved in the program’s food trading, food processing, transport, catering, and provision of supplies (e.g., utensils, equipment). Nearly all cooks received special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, food safety/hygiene, and business/management.

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

- Women
- Youth
- Other Groups
Successes and Challenges

**Successes**

1. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in greater preparedness to ensure the continuity of school meals in the event of a crisis.
2. There is a widespread effort to ensure that school meals are sustainable, and accordingly, school meals contribute to the municipalities' sustainability goals.
3. Food waste from school meals has decreased, and more schools regularly measure food waste. Awareness has increased that food waste at schools is often due to an unsatisfactory mealtime environment and that changes in the food environment are needed to ensure that more nutritious school food is eaten and, hence, less is thrown away.

**Challenges**

1. Increased food costs and overall inflation resulted in many municipalities struggling with their school meal program budget.
2. Budget constraints risk the discontinuation of initiatives such as the provision of free breakfast or ongoing work linked to the quality and sustainability of school meals.
3. In such a situation, eligibility may also be limited.
Swedish School Meals

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Municipalities are responsible for both the management and finance of school meals, while the Swedish Food Agency is responsible for national guidelines for meals in schools and preschools.
- Local governments managed the program (Decentralized decision-making).
- Local 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>508,842</td>
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Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Blended grain-based products
- Legumes
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- Other vegetables
- Deep-fried foods
- Sweets
- Liquid oils
- Semi-solid and solid fats
- Salt
- Dairy milk

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 prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks

Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Expenses

- As each municipality has its own budget, the distribution of costs is difficult to estimate, but very roughly it is estimated that costs are equally distributed between personnel, premises and equipment, and food purchases.

Food Sources

- Yes - Purchased (domestic)
- Yes - Purchased (foreign)
- No - In-kind (domestic)
- No - In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

Government grants for school meals ceased in the 1960s. Since then, it is the municipalities that are responsible for both the management and finance of school meals, in accordance with national Swedish school law stipulating that school lunch should be nutritious and free of charge for all students (funded by local taxation). In 2011, a National Competence Center was established at the Swedish Food Agency on behalf of the government. The competence center works for the continued development of public meals with the aim of promoting sustainable and healthy food consumption in the public sector.
School Milk Scheme

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Swedish Board of Agriculture
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- Local government procured the food

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<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>401,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>1,037,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>242,000</td>
<td></td>
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Foods and Beverages

- Dairy
- Dairy milk

Elements of Home-Grown School Feeding

- Objective for small-scale farmers to benefit from access to a stable market
- Local food sourcing
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- Effort is made to reduce food miles

Objectives

- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

Municipalities voluntarily seek support for milk that is provided in schools.

Expenses

- As each municipality has its own budget, the distribution of costs is difficult to estimate, but very roughly it is estimated that costs are equally distributed between personnel, premises and equipment, and food purchases.

Food Sources

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

Additional Information

Sweden’s school milk scheme began in 1977, and the program provides municipalities with financial assistance to provide milk in schools. Today, it is part of the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme. (Sweden only uses the EU scheme for school milk promotion.)