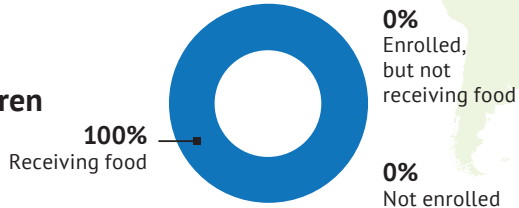


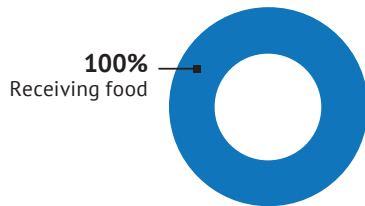


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

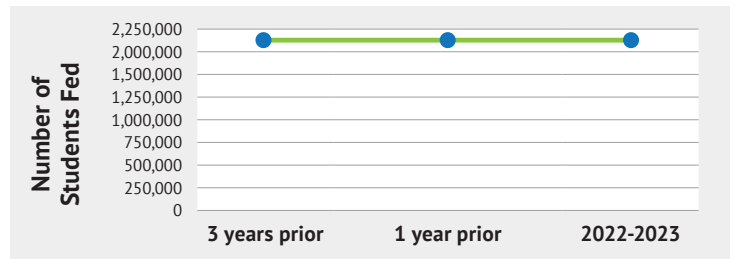
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	508,842	508,842	508,842
Primary School	1,252,209	1,252,209	1,252,209
Secondary School	371,453	371,453	371,453
TOTAL	2,132,504	2,132,504	2,132,504



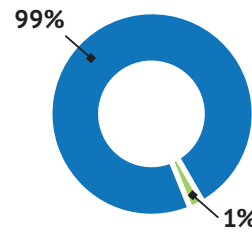
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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...

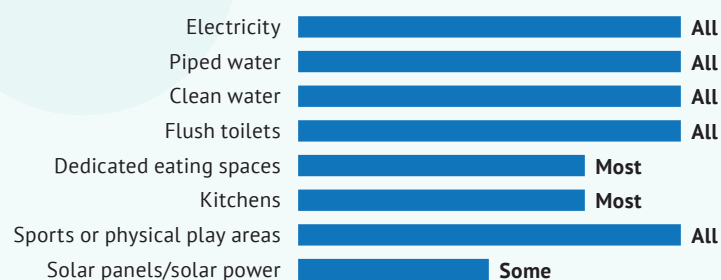
- On school grounds
- To school age children**

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.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



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.

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

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.

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

National guidelines for school meals provide substantial support for municipalities and school kitchens toward provision of “eco-smart” meals that contribute to environmentally sustainable development in accordance with national environmental objectives (for example, reducing the negative impact of school meals on the climate and biodiversity). To help reduce food waste in schools and other public entities, the Swedish Food Agency created a handbook on the topic. This handbook contains practical suggestions to reduce waste in the kitchen, during meal service, and when food is scraped off the plate. Every two years, municipalities report data on food waste measurements in schools and preschools to the National Food Agency.

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

During the 2022-2023 school year, school meals in Sweden were affected by the rising cost of food worldwide. Nevertheless, there were no interruptions to school feeding operations, as many of the 290 municipalities in Sweden adjusted their menus in response to changing prices. One positive outcome of dealing with various financial challenges is that institutional learning may lead to better crisis management in the future.

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

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	508,842	–	–
Primary School	1,252,209	–	–
Secondary School	371,453	–	–
TOTAL	2,132,504	–	–

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

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)

No - In-kind (domestic)

Yes - Purchased (foreign)

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

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	401,000	–	–
Primary School	1,037,000	–	–
Secondary School	242,000	–	–
TOTAL	1,680,000	–	–

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
- 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

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.)

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, Sweden.

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