

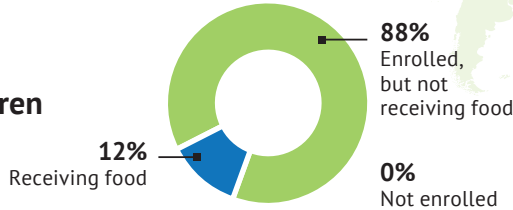


REPUBLIC OF Cyprus

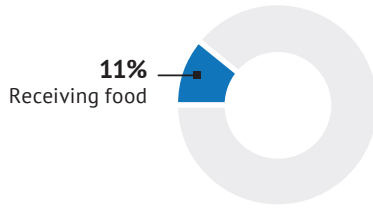


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

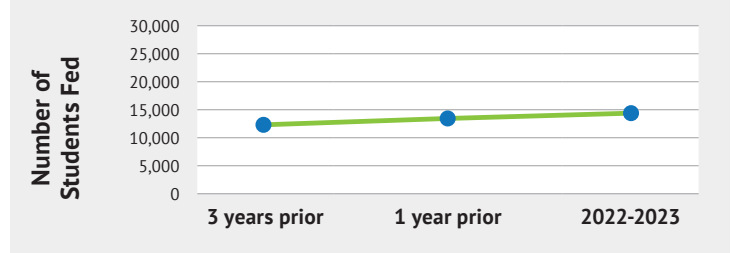
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	28,288	18,858	1,149
Primary School	59,099	58,282	6,447
Secondary School	55,970	59,159	6,906
TOTAL	143,357	136,299	14,502



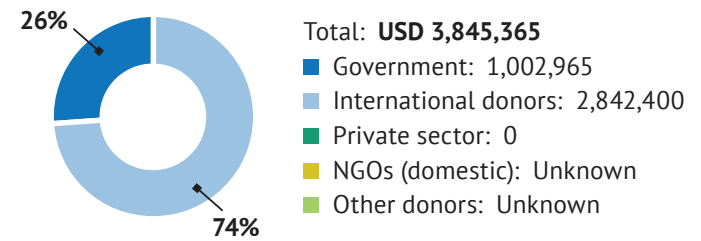
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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



- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

School Foods and Beverages

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

Prohibited food items

Only products approved by the scientific committee of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and listed in the school canteen price lists were allowed.

Food Sources

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

Special Notes

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. For two months during the 2022-2023 school year, the EU School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk scheme was active in public primary schools in Cyprus, although information on this program is not included in this

report. Additionally, the Lunch for Pupils Attending All-Day Optional Primary Schools program received an unknown amount of funding from the parents' association of each school and from a non-governmental organization (Sophia for Children - <https://sophiaforchildren.com/>).

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...

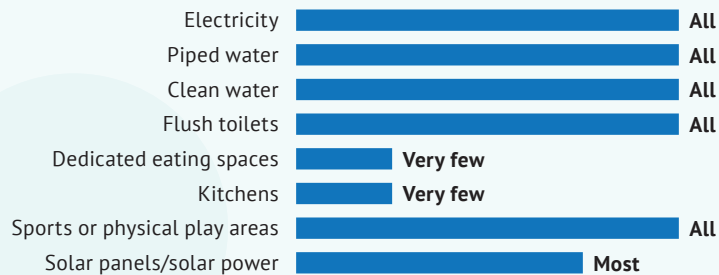
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

Additional Information

The Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need program served students a sandwich for breakfast. The Lunch in All-Day Primary Schools program employed several approaches to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, including food/ beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, and food and nutrition, health, and physical education.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **Unknown**

- 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

In the Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need program, community and civil society engaged through the participation of each school's parent association president and the local school board president as members of the program's committee. In the Lunch in All-Day Primary Schools program, small-scale farmers were successful in competitive tendering, and student families paid full price for the school meals. Additionally, student preferences were taken into consideration in this program.

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

To minimize food waste, the Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need program prepared food every morning, according to the number of students present at school. Moreover, those who were wasting food were given a warning against doing so. In an effort to reduce the distance between where food was produced and the school, canteen managers also served as program suppliers.

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 Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need program was affected by extreme food price inflation; this did not lead to school closures or interruptions in feeding operations. However, costs rose significantly, increasing the budget. To mitigate the emergency's impact, the program negotiated better prices with suppliers and reduced school canteen rentals. The Lunch in All-Day Primary Schools program reported no emergencies.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. There were sizable awareness campaigns to ensure all students in need knew about the program;
2. Breakfast portions were increased for kindergarten and elementary students to compensate for potential lack of lunch;
3. Feedback gathered from school visits is analyzed annually to improve program effectiveness and efficiency;
4. Teachers actively participated in the program without additional payment.

Challenges

1. Rising breakfast costs have precluded the inclusion of a beverage (such as milk).

Providing Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (M.O.E.S.Y.)
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- Individual schools procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	1,149	–	–
Primary School	6,447	–	–
Secondary School	6,906	–	–
TOTAL	14,502	–	–

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Dairy
- Processed meat

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

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snacks

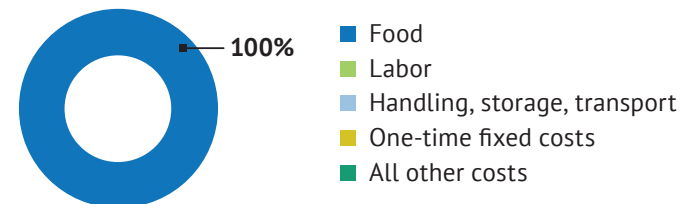
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Individual student characteristics (e.g., family income) and school type

Expenses



Food Sources

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

Additional Information

The Free Breakfast to Pupils in Need program started operating in 2013. Children were targeted to receive breakfast based on various financial and social criteria, including:

1. Minimum Guaranteed Income Recipient;
2. Unemployed parent/guardian;
3. Orphaned children;
4. Single-parent families;
5. Large families (more than three children);
6. Insufficient income of parents/guardians for other reasons.

Lunch for Pupils Attending All-Day Optional Primary Schools

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Department of Primary Education
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- Caterers procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	Unknown	–	–
Primary School	1,767*	–	–
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	1,767	45%	55%

* 1,767 children in both pre-primary and primary schools received food through this program. The breakdown by school level was not available.

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Blended grain-based products
- Legumes
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Poultry and game meat
- Red meat
- Fish and shellfish
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Cruciferous vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Liquid oils
- Semi-solid and solid fats
- Salt

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

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

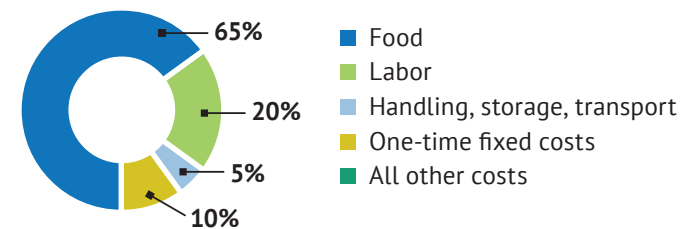
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Individual student characteristics (e.g., family income)

Expenses



Food Sources

100% Purchased (domestic)

0% Purchased (foreign)

0% In-kind (domestic)

0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The program started operating in 1999. The meals were paid by parents/guardians and were provided by parents' associations. The Optional-All day schools program provided a meal allowance (in the amount of 321 euros per school year) to children who were entitled to the minimum guaranteed income or were otherwise of low socioeconomic status.

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, Cyprus.

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