

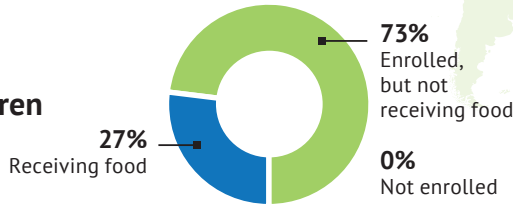


# Ireland

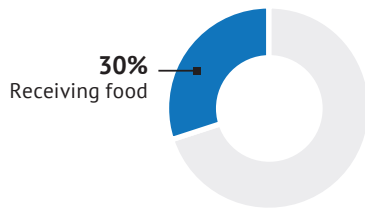


## School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

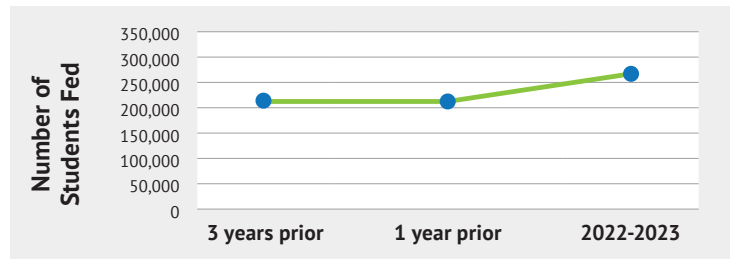
### All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



### Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	333,093	139,899	3,427
Primary School	558,143	558,143	167,354
Secondary School	406,392	406,392	90,224
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,297,628</b>	<b>1,104,434</b>	<b>261,005</b>



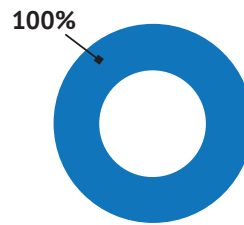
## National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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 112,681,138**
- Government: 112,681,138
  - International donors: 0
  - Private sector: 0
  - NGOs (domestic): 0
  - Other donors: 0

- Line item in the national budget for school feeding**

## School Foods and Beverages

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

### Prohibited food items

Unhealthy food items

### 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

At least two nutritionists, employed by the national government, were involved in the school meal program during the 2022-2023 school year. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity included setting nutritional requirements for food baskets.

## Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...

Electricity		All
Piped water		All
Clean water		All
Flush toilets		All

### 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

Neither farmers nor the private sector were directly engaged in the program, and student families were not required to contribute. Students participated in the preparation, serving, and/or cleanup activities associated with school meals.

## 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

None.

## 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 School Meals Programme was not affected by any emergencies during the 2022-2023 school year.

## Successes and Challenges

### Successes

The hot school meals program, introduced as a pilot in 2019 in primary schools, has expanded from 37 schools to over 2,000 schools and now serves 316,000 children.

### Challenges

None reported.

# School Meals Programme

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): Department of Social Protection
- 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	3,427	—	—
Primary School	167,354	—	—
Secondary School	90,224	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>261,005</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Whole grains
- ✓ Refined/milled grains
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks

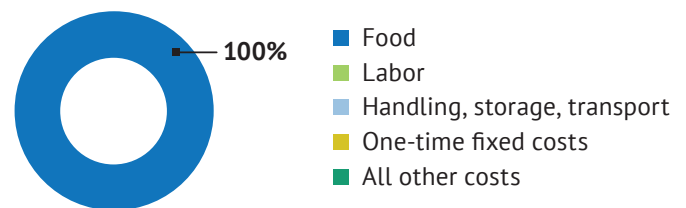
## Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Schools in disadvantaged areas and in need of assistance

## Expenses



## Food Sources

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

## Additional Information

This School Meals Programme started in 2000 with the objective of providing regular, nutritious food to children who have limited access to quality meals, thereby ensuring they can fully benefit from their education. It is a crucial component of policies aimed at encouraging school attendance and improving educational achievement.

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, Ireland.

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