

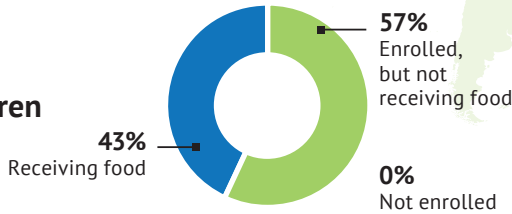


REPUBLIC OF Lithuania

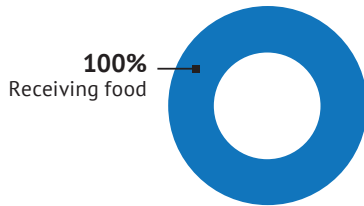


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

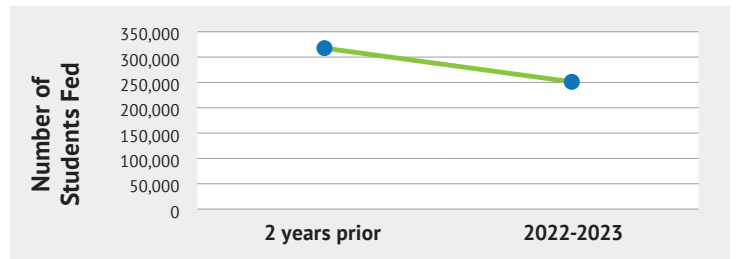
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	135,700	104,553	104,553
Primary School	121,495	121,495	121,495
Secondary School	222,925	222,925	25,700
TOTAL	480,120	448,973	251,748



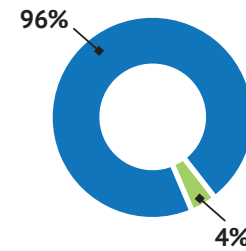
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition**
- Health
- Food safety
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)**
- Climate/environment policy
- Private sector involvement
- Other policy**

The country had ...

- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding
- National system for monitoring school feeding**

Budget



Total: **USD 61,765,941**

- Government: 59,557,035
- International donors: 0
- Private sector: 0
- NGOs (domestic): 0
- Other donors: 2,208,906

* 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

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: None

School Foods and Beverages (cont'd)

Prohibited food items

Chips, sweets, carbonated beverages, energy drinks, preserved meat and fish products (with some exceptions), smoked meat and fish products, and herring caught in the Baltic Sea (among others)

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...

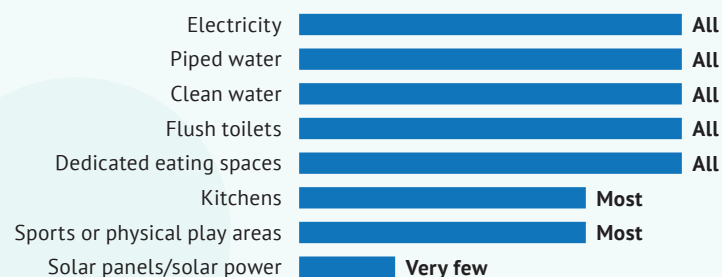
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

Additional Information

Very few packaged/processed foods were served as part of the school meal programs in Lithuania, and no beverages with non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners were made available to students. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, school meal programs included nutritional requirements for food baskets, food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, limitations on food and/or beverage marketing to children, food and nutrition education, 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

The private sector was engaged in food trading, processing, transport, and catering. For the Free Meals for Pupils program, tendering procedures were described as competitive with preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies. At the same time, for the School Programme, tendering procedures were described as competitive, though small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies did not successfully compete. Cooks in the Free Meals for Pupils program were provided with training in nutrition and food safety/hygiene.

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

In the Free Meals for Pupils program, efforts were made to increase local procurement in order to reduce the distance between where the school food is produced and the school. In the organics program, meals had to be at least 50% composed of organic products or made from “national quality” products, and short food supply chains was a criterion for the selection of 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

School meal programs in Lithuania were affected by extreme food price inflation in the 2022-2023 school year. This brought a significant increase in the cost of purchasing food and a slight decrease in accessibility (availability and affordability) of food for the School Programme.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. Between 2019 and 2023, the funding per pupil per day for the Free Meals for Pupils program was increased about 29 percent.
2. Beginning in September 2020, pre-school and grade 1 schoolchildren gained the right to free lunch without regard to their family’s income. Beginning September 2021, this was extended to students in grade 2.
3. Pupils’ social skills have improved, and their healthy lifestyle habits and eating culture have likewise developed.

Challenges

1. Food waste: Healthy eating habits at school are just beginning to form, and most children are not yet used to healthy food. Often, food that is unfamiliar to students gets thrown away.

Free Meals for Pupils

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Social Security and Labour; Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; Ministry of Health; and Municipality Administrations
- 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	29,950	–	–
Primary School	69,050	–	–
Secondary School	25,700	–	–
TOTAL	124,700	–	–

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
- ✓ Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- ✓ White roots and tubers
- ✓ Fruits
- ✓ Dark green leafy vegetables
- ✓ Cruciferous vegetables
- ✓ Other vegetables
- ✓ Liquid oils
- ✓ Semi-solid and solid fats
- ✓ Dairy milk
- ✓ Yogurt drink
- ✓ 100% fruit juice
- ✓ 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
- Take-home rations

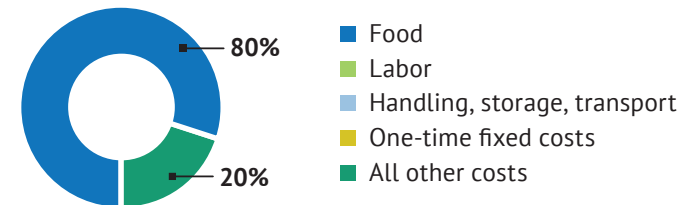
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week (in-school meals); 3 times per year (take-home rations)
- Throughout the year (in-school meals); during times of learning at home (take-home rations)

Targeting

- Grade levels (with free lunches provided to pre-primary through grade 2 students); individual characteristics (with free lunches also offered to students of all grades depending on their family's living conditions)

Expenses



Food Sources

- 60% Purchased (domestic)
- 40% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

The Free Meals for Pupils program began in 2007. Pupils in Lithuania are entitled to free lunch if the monthly income per family member is below a certain threshold, and all pupils in pre-primary school and grades 1 and 2 have the right to free lunch. Breakfast may also be granted in exceptional cases. In addition to in-school meals, free meals are provided to pupils from low-income families during summer holidays at camps that are organized at schools.

School programme

(A program to promote the consumption of fruit and vegetables and milk and milk products in children educational establishments)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Agency of Agriculture under Ministry of Agriculture
- 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	119,370	–	–
Primary School	115,255	–	–
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	234,625	–	–

Foods and Beverages

- Dairy
- Fruits
- Other vegetables
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- 100% fruit juice

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 meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snacks

Frequency and Duration

- Up to 3 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Grade levels (pre-schools and primary schools)

Food Sources

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

Additional Information

The School Milk Scheme was launched in 2004, and the School Fruit Scheme was launched in 2009. The two programs were merged in 2017 and are being implemented together as the “School Programme”. In 2022-2023, the program served apples, pears, carrots, fruit and vegetable juices, dairy milk, yogurt, and cheese (fresh or matured).

Support for the promotion of organic products and products produced under the national agri-food quality scheme in preschool establishments

Management

- Lead implementer(s): National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture
- 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	10,500	–	–
Primary School	0	–	–
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	10,500	–	–

Foods and Beverages

No information

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
- To meet agricultural goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

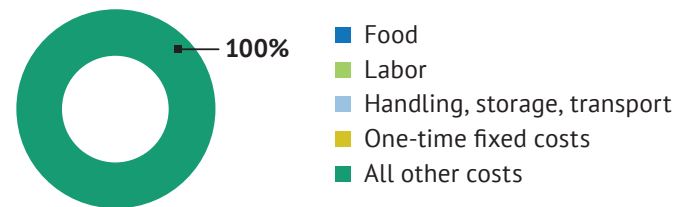
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Participation was open to any education establishments that submitted applications.

Expenses



Additional Information

This program began in 2019, and as of 2022, the program operated in 63 schools. Both small and medium/large-scale farmers supplied a wide range of products for this program.

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