

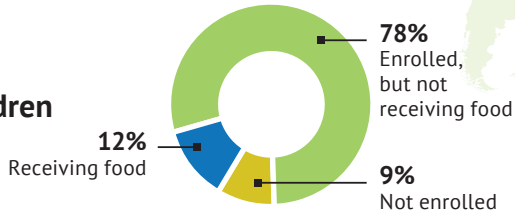


# Hellenic Republic

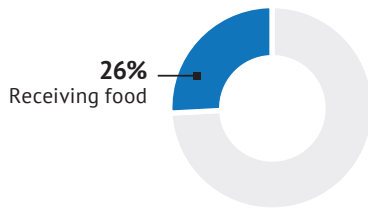


## School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

### All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



### Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	185,647	177,372	2,445
Primary School	600,963	584,032	152,919
Secondary School	660,311	558,877	1,817
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,446,921</b>	<b>1,320,281</b>	<b>157,181</b>



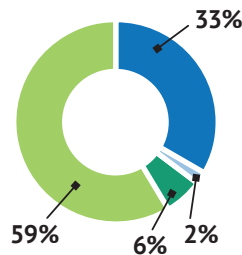
## National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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 3,830,133**

- Government: 1,256,188
- International donors: 64,161
- Private sector: 231,034
- NGOs (domestic): 0
- Other donors: 2,278,750\*

\* 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
- Processed meat (except for turkey ham), brioches, croissants, and pies prepared with puff pastry

- ### Food Sources
- Purchased (domestic)
  - Purchased (foreign)
  - In-kind (domestic)
  - In-kind (foreign)

## Special Notes

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The report should be regarded as a lower-bound estimate of school feeding coverage and budget allocation in Greece, as it includes information on just two programs; however, a third program titled “School Meal Program” is implemented by the Organization of Welfare Benefits and Social Solidarity (OPEKA). This third program is not detailed in this report.

## 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...

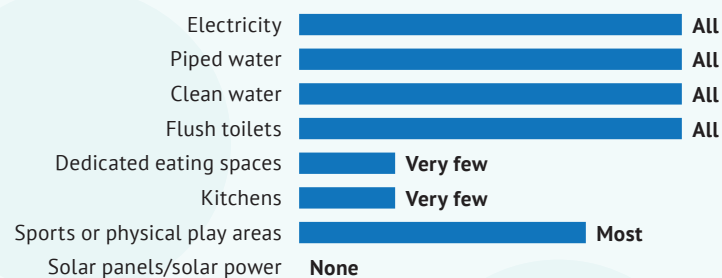
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

### Additional Information

Meals were designed based on strict quality standards and with an emphasis on healthy options. Thus, school meal programs used exclusively virgin olive oil, whole wheat flour (60%), dairy products; many different vegetables and fruits, Greek raw food products, and no preservatives. At least two nutritionists were involved in school meal programs in Greece, funded by the program implementing organization and European Union funds. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, the school meal programs were paired with physical education and food and nutrition education.

## Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...



### 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

The private sector was vital to the programs' operations by engaging in food trading, processing, transport, catering, provision of supplies, and provision of funding and donations.

## 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 reduce excessive meal production, the Food Aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition Program (DIATROFI) maintained constant communication with households to understand which families were in need of food. The Free Distribution of Fruits, Vegetables & Milk in Schools program considered the seasonality and availability of different fruits and vegetables in the design of their school menu. To reduce the distance between producers and schools, the programs promoted local procurement and production, modified their storage facilities, and prioritized shorter supply chains.

## 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, there was a considerable increase in food prices for school feeding operations in Greece, mostly due to an increase in transportation costs. To ensure the continuity and sustained coverage of the Food Aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition Program (DIATROFI), prices were renegotiated with suppliers. The program also sought alternative sources or suppliers, made changes in delivery methods, and saw an increase in funding for the school meal program.

## Successes and Challenges

### Successes

1. Food insecurity has decreased.
2. Children’s eating habits have improved, reducing the number of underweight, overweight, and obese children.
3. Social cohesion, collegiality and solidarity has strengthened within the school community.
4. The educational work of the school, and the degree of cooperation and communication between parents and the school has been enhanced.
5. School dropouts have decreased.

### Challenges

1. Securing adequate funding each school year to provide a healthy meal for as many students as possible is a major challenge. There is a need to continuously improve meal quality to ensure not only that the meals cover approximately 25-30% of students’ energy needs, but also to ensure a variety of choices to satisfy students’ preferences.
2. Working with various suppliers nationwide requires highly coordinated actions and logistics to ensure timely delivery, especially to schools in remote areas, and also requires an ongoing effort to sustain equal standards of quality among them.
3. To ensure that school food meets technical and quality control standards, it is necessary to make frequent visits to periodically sample the food in suppliers’ facilities and monitor the storage of food in school.

# Food Aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition Program (DIATROFI)

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): Prolepsis Institute
- Who managed the program: Other
- Caterers procured the food

## How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	2,445	–	–
Primary School	3,554	–	–
Secondary School	1,817	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Dairy
- Other vegetables
- Poultry and game meat
- Liquid oils
- Fruits
- 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 reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

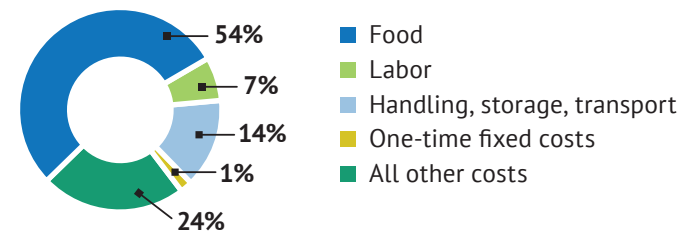
## Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

## Targeting

- The schools were selected according to socio-economic criteria. Almost half (48.6%) of the families in DIATROFI schools faced food insecurity, and schools that implemented the program provided the meals to all students.

## Expenses



## Food Sources

99.5% Purchased (domestic)      0.5% In-kind (domestic)  
0% Purchased (foreign)      0% In-kind (foreign)

## Additional Information

The Food Aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition Program (DIATROFI) had regular feedback mechanisms to ensure that students have a voice in the menu planning process. The program was implemented by Prolepsis Institute, a non-governmental, non-profit organization.

# Free Distribution of Fruits, Vegetables & Milk in Schools

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Rural Development and Food; Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).

## How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	149,365	–	–
Secondary School	0	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149,365</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- Dairy
- Fruits
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Liquid oils
- 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 meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snack

## Frequency and Duration

- Biweekly (twice per month)
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Schools that opted to participate in the program

## Food Sources

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

## Additional Information

The Free Distribution of Fruits, Vegetables & Milk in Schools program prioritized fresh, seasonal, and local fruits and vegetables. Processed fruit was included only in small quantities alongside the fresh fruits and vegetables. Complementary programs and services included food and nutrition, hygiene, and health education; the design, creation, and management of an electronic platform with digital training materials (<https://trefomastesosta.gr/>); training for school teachers in teaching strategies; activities and guidance for students' guardians; and the creation of interactive educational games on the theme of healthy nutrition to be utilized in the classroom.

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