

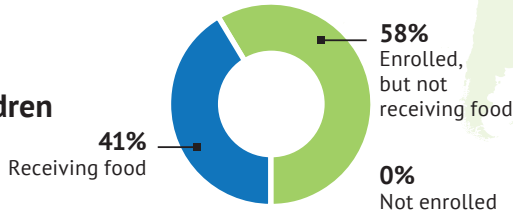


REPUBLIC OF  
**Poland**

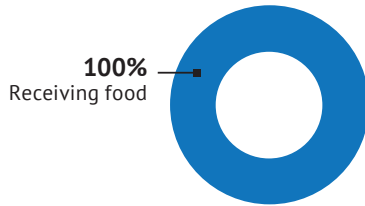


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	1,559,715	1,424,536	55,208
Primary School	1,531,124	1,499,410	1,772,000
Secondary School	3,111,318	3,217,187	124,683
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,202,157</b>	<b>6,141,133</b>	<b>1,951,891</b>



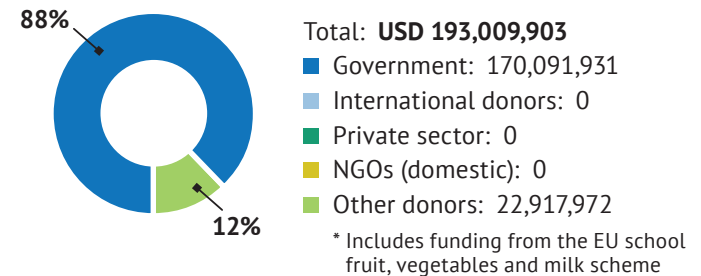
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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



- 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

“Junk food” is prohibited, and the availability of sugar-sweetened beverages is restricted on school premises.

Food Sources

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

**Special Notes:** Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The numbers of school meal beneficiaries by school level were estimated by distributing the total number of beneficiaries across school levels according to the distribution of the student population.

## 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 Meal at School and at Home program in Poland employed nutritionists funded by national, regional, and local governments. Initiatives to combat overweight and obesity included setting nutritional standards for food baskets, restricting food and beverage near or in schools, restrictions on marketing to children, promoting physical education, and providing food and nutrition and health education. The EU School Scheme also hired nutritionists, funded by both the European Union (EU) and national budgets, and this program's efforts to mitigate overweight and obesity focused on food and beverage restrictions near or in schools and health 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

In the Meal at School and at Home program, small-scale farmers successfully participated in competitive tendering processes, and students' families contributed partially to the program costs. The private sector was involved in food trading, transport, and catering. In contrast, the EU School Scheme did not use competitive tendering and did not require contributions from students' families. The private sector's involvement in this scheme extended to food trading, processing, transport, and catering, and students' preferences were considered when creating the list of products delivered to schools.

## 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 Meal at School and at Home program, school food was prepared on-site and in private facilities. To prevent food waste, educators from Food Banks conducted student awareness sessions on the ecological, social, and economic impacts of food waste. Students also learned about using seasonal produce, processing and preservation methods, and the planetary health diet, and they completed worksheets on these topics. School garden produce was consumed by students. In the EU School Scheme, popular varieties of fruits and vegetables grown in Poland were served to minimize transport distance. School garden produce in this program was both consumed and used for educational purposes.

## 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

While the Meal at School and at Home program was unaffected by emergencies during the 2022-2023 school year, the EU-Scheme was impacted by conflict. Although the menu did not undergo major adjustments, the quantity of food distributed increased to include Ukrainian refugee children, and this expansion of the scheme was funded with additional allocations from the EU budget.

## Successes and Challenges

### Successes

1. Increased awareness of how to avoid food waste at school and within households
2. Addressed obesity among school children and adolescents by focusing on nutritious food, nutrition education, and physical activity
3. Familiarized children with food production by organizing school gardens.

### Challenges

1. Catered meals often cost more and were less appealing and of lower quality than those prepared in school canteens
2. Food waste in school canteens was significant, with students' reluctance to eat dishes like salads and fish contributing to the problem.

# Meal at School and at Home

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy (modules 1 and 2 of the program); Ministry of National Education (module 3 of the program); and Regional Governments
- 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	55,208	–	–
Primary School	58,110	–	–
Secondary School	124,682	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238,000</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## 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
- ✓ Deep-fried foods
- ✓ Liquid oils
- ✓ Semi-solid and solid fats
- ✓ Salt
- ✓ 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 provide a social safety net
- 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

- Individual characteristics (family income), and school type (public schools)

## Food Sources

N/A - Purchased (domestic)

N/A - In-kind (domestic)

N/A - Purchased (foreign)

N/A - In-kind (foreign)

## Additional Information

Launched in 2019, the Meal at School and at Home is composed of three modules: Module 1 for children and adolescents and focuses on providing meals in school canteens for children and adolescents from lower-income families; Module 2 is for adults; and Module 3 focuses on providing financial support for the physical organization of canteens and dedicated eating spaces in schools. Module 3, focusing on canteen infrastructure, falls under the Ministry of Education, while Modules 1 and 2 are managed by the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Policy. The program links food banks with the school feeding initiative through Eko-mission, an ecological education project for primary school students and kindergartens. Eko-mission aims to enhance ecological awareness, teach waste reduction, and promote a sustainable, healthy lifestyle.

# EU School Scheme

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): National Support Centre for Agriculture
- 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	0	–	–
Primary School	1,772,000	–	–
Secondary School	0	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,772,000</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Foods and Beverages

- Dairy
- Deep orange vegetables and tubers
- 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

- 2 times per week
- During the school year

## Targeting

- Grade levels (primary schools: grades 1 through 5)

## Food Sources

Yes - Purchased (domestic)

No - In-kind (domestic)

Yes - Purchased (foreign)

No - In-kind (foreign)

## Additional Information

The program began in 2017. Students' families were encouraged to voluntarily engage in educational activities to promote healthy eating.

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, Poland.

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