

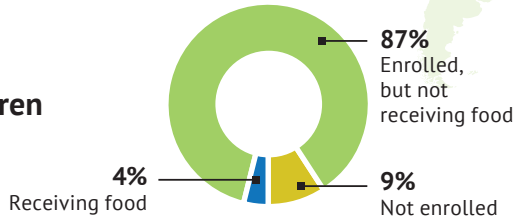


REPUBLIC OF Uzbekistan

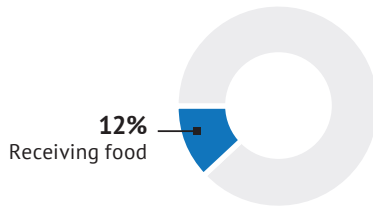


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	2,900,309	1,321,358	0
Primary School	2,616,004	2,464,118	289,219
Secondary School	4,530,374	4,022,812	0
TOTAL	10,046,687	7,808,288	289,219



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 17,936,060**

- Government: Unknown
- International donors: Unknown
- Private sector: 0
- NGOs (domestic): 0
- Other donors: 0

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

"Fast food" products and sweet carbonated drinks

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists Mercy Corps as receiving support, beginning in 2019, from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program for school feeding activities in Uzbekistan.

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...

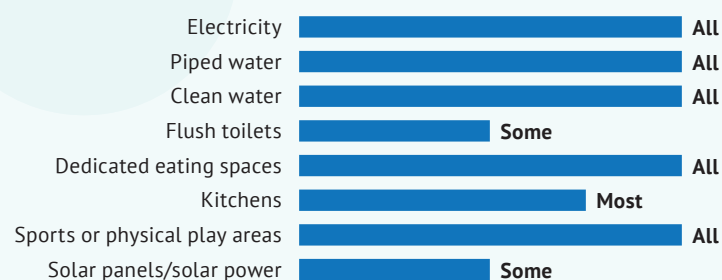
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

Additional Information

Nutrition specialists from the Ministry of Health, Republican Sanitary and Epidemiological Station were involved with school feeding in Uzbekistan. Beverages with non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners were not made available to students, and the amount of salt served in school meals was restricted. The program did not use any packaged or processed foods. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, there were food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds, and several types of education were provided: health education, 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
- 50-75% 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

Food for the program was purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures in which small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies successfully competed. The private sector engaged in catering for the program. Cooks/caterers were paid in-kind and received special training in nutrition, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene. There was a purposeful focus on creating jobs or income-generating opportunities in the form of drivers, security personnel, loaders, cooks, nutritionists, nutrition technologists, and allergists.

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

No particular efforts were made to target “climate-friendly” foods or to reduce the distance between schools and the location where food was produced.

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 feeding in Uzbekistan was not affected by any emergencies during the 2022-2023 school year.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. School attendance increased;
2. Greater involvement in learning subjects;
3. The number of students with excellent academic performance has increased.

Challenges

None noted.

Providing meals to primary school students in the Aral Sea region

(Обеспечение питанием учащихся начальных школ региона Приаралья)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Preschool and School Education; Yukori council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan; and the government of the Khorezm region
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- Regional government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	289,219	45%	55%
Secondary School	0	–	–
TOTAL	289,219	45%	55%

Foods and Beverages

- Blended grain-based products
- Fruits
- Other fruit drink
- 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 snacks

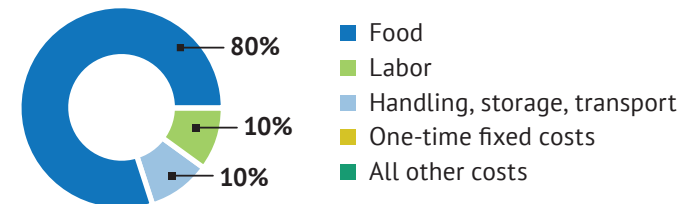
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Targeted grade levels 1-4 in two regions of the Aral Sea region (Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm region)

Expenses



Food Sources

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

Additional Information

The provision of free school meals began for students in grades 1-4 from 2022 in two regions of the Aral Sea region (Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm region), reaching 1,260 public schools during the 2022-2023 school year.

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, Uzbekistan.

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