

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- Free Meals for Pupils
- School Scheme (Vaisiupieno Programa)
- Eco-kindergarten (Ecodarželiai)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social Security and Labour

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition**
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture**
- Private sector involvement

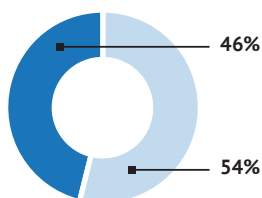
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 4,412,629*

- Government:**
USD 2,031,286
- International donors**:**
USD 2,381,343
- Private sector:** USD 0
- Other donors:** USD 0



Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Yes No No response

* Some funding is also provided by the private sector, though the precise amount is not known.

** This includes support from the European Union's school fruit, vegetables, and milk scheme. International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Lithuania have electricity, clean and piped water, and flush toilets, and most schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. School kitchens are generally equipped with refrigeration, storage facilities, and gas or electric stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breakfast | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snacks |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lunch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take-home rations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dinner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |
-
- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grains, cereals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green, leafy vegetables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roots, tubers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legumes, pulses, nuts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fruits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sugar |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish | |
-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fruit juice | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Prohibited food items: Sweets (candy, chocolate, and other confectionery products), potato chips, fat-cooked or roasted products, carbonated drinks, energy drinks, coffee, bouillon concentrates, smoked fish, canned meat and fish products, offal, and genetically modified foods

FOOD SOURCES

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

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition**
- Agriculture**
- School gardens**
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education**

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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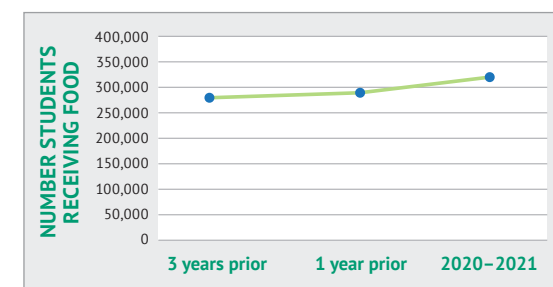
REPUBLIC OF Lithuania



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

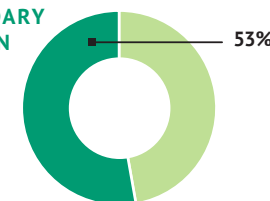
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	105,346	138,732	138,732
Primary school	126,602	150,011	150,011
Secondary school	210,340	204,180	28,344
Total	442,288	425,865	317,087



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 336,942

Receiving school food: 178,355



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools**
- Vocational/trade schools**
- Other**

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved 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

Food items fortified/biofortified:

Grains (bread), salt

Micronutrients:

Iodine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least 60 nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in Lithuania. Nutritional requirements for the school meal/snack menu are intended to prevent or mitigate overweight and obesity.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

2,374	Cooks and food preparers
100	Transporters
	Off-site processors
	Food packagers and handlers
	Monitoring
60	Food service management
60	Safety and quality inspectors
	Other

**If blank, no response was provided.*

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes No No response

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

- Yes No No response

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- Women Other groups
 Youth No response

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...

- Yes No No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes No There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The private sector is engaged in food trading, processing, transport, and catering for the school feeding programs in Lithuania. Farmers also provide some of the food items for the Eco-kindergarten (Ecodarželiai) program.

CONTACTS: LITHUANIA

Agency: Ministry of Health

Website: <https://sam.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/visuomenes-sveikatos-prieziura/mityba-ir-fizinis-aktyvumas-2>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Lithuania, there was a 25% increase in the amount of funding per pupil per day, beginning in January 2019. Beginning September 2020, children in pre-primary school and in grade 1 have the right to free lunch without regard to their family income, and beginning September 2021, this right was extended to children in grade 2. However, the need to reduce food waste remains a challenge, and mechanisms are not currently in place to limit food waste.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused some schools in Lithuania to operate remotely for part of the 2020-2021 school year. This prompted a temporary change in the feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations) and venue (making meals available for pickup or delivering meals to students' homes). The entire school community was involved in preparing and delivering food baskets to students' families, and this ensured that school feeding activities were maintained throughout the pandemic. One positive outcome of this crisis has been that parents increasingly value and appreciate free meals at school.

FREE MEALS FOR PUPILS

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Health Ministry,
Ministry of Social Security and Labour

OBJECTIVES:

- 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
- Other

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year
(Frequency of take-home rations varying by school)

TARGETING:

Pupils in pre-primary school and in grade 1 receive free lunch (extended to grade 2 in September 2021). In addition, other pupils are eligible for free lunches depending on their family income. Breakfast is offered only in exceptional cases to children of low income, and free meals are provided at summer camps organized in schools for pupils from low-income families.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	27,671	–	–
Primary school	40,011	–	–
Secondary school	28,344*	–	–
Total	96,026	–	–

*The number of secondary school students is inclusive of 625 students of vocational/trade schools.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Poultry	Dairy milk
Roots, tubers	Fish	Fruit juice
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Tea
Dairy products	Other vegetables	Water
Eggs	Fruits	
Meat	Oil	* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This program operates in both public schools (state and municipal schools) and private schools, and it aims to reach 30% more children (125,000 pupils) in the 2021–2022 school year. Students' families do not contribute, as the meals in this program are free.



SCHOOL SCHEME (VAISIUPIENO PROGRAMA)

Lead implementer(s): Public Institution Rural Business and Markets
Development Agency

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- Objective to meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Two to three times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	110,000	–	–
Primary school	110,000	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	220,000	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Roots, tubers	Fruits	Dairy milk
Dairy products	Fruit juice	
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The school milk program began in 2004, and this was expanded to fruits/vegetables in 2009. This program aims to promote the consumption of fruits/vegetables and milk and milk products. Approximately 65% of funding for this program is provided by the European Union, and funding decreased in 2020–2021 because of the COVID-19 crisis.



ECO-KINDERGARTEN (ECODARŽELIAI)

Lead implementer(s): National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture

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 days per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Kindergartens participated in this program on a voluntary basis.

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	1,061	–	–
Primary school	0	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	1,061	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Poultry	Sugar
Roots, tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Dairy milk
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Yogurt drink
Dairy products	Fruits	Fruit juice
Eggs	Oil	Tea
Meat	Salt*	Water

* *fortified*

FOOD SOURCES:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This program operated in 10 schools in 2020–2021, and 45 schools have applied for the following year. It intends to reach 7,200 children in 2021–2022. The program aims to promote organic products and products produced under the national agri-food quality scheme in pre-school establishments.