

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Feeding Program
(برنامج التغذية المدرسية)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

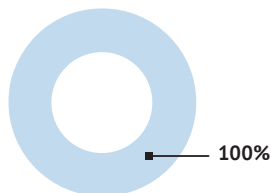
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 31,229,328

- Government: USD 0
- International donors*: USD 31,229,328
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0



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

*International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most schools in Syria have electricity and piped and clean water, and schools do not have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias or kitchens.

SPECIAL NOTES

Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. This may result in some misalignment between the population numbers and numbers of enrolled students.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other
- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar
- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: "Junk food" such as chips, candy, soft drinks, and other foods that do not have any health benefits.

FOOD SOURCES

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

Syrian Arab Republic

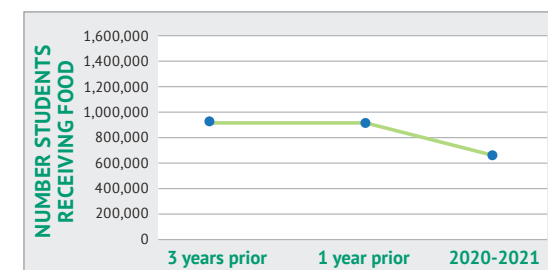


SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	1,034,156	114,279	Unknown
Primary school	2,113,711	3,040,890	651,728
Secondary school	1,951,826	348,276	Unknown
Total	5,099,693	3,503,445	651,728

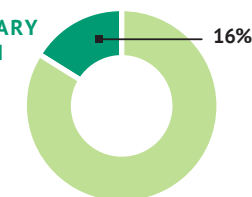
The School Feeding Program mostly targets primary school students (grades 1–6), though food is sometimes also distributed to pre-school students and middle school students (grades 7–9) as part of humanitarian efforts.



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 4,065,537

Receiving school food: 651,728



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other



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GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture; agreement number FX18TA-1096OG002.

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/cereals (fortified date maamoul)

Micronutrients:

Iron, zinc, folic acid, calcium, and vitamins A, B6, B12, C, and D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education. However, obesity is not generally considered to be a problem in Syria.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

A study to assess the nutritional status of school children in Syria will be carried out in 2022.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

104	Cooks and food preparers
30	Transporters
17	Off-site processors
	Food packagers and handlers
17	Monitoring
	Food service management
4	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 provides food processing, transport, and catering services for the School Feeding Program, and open-bid procedures are followed to secure contracts. However, small companies generally do not successfully compete for these contracts. The program creates employment for women in the ready-made meals kitchen and a factory that produces the date pastries (maamoul).

CONTACTS: SYRIA

Agency: Ministry of Education

Website: <http://moed.gov.sy/>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Syria include greater awareness of the importance of school feeding and higher rates of school attendance. Challenges include a rising level of need that exceeds the level of funding available. In 2020–2021, funding for school feeding was not considered to be adequate; in turn, the number of school children targeted was reduced by 30%.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in Syria were closed and not operating for several months in the 2020–2021 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted school feeding in the country and resulted in a decrease in the amount of funding for school feeding and a decrease in the number of students fed. It also prompted a temporary shift in the feeding modality, with food items made available for students or their parents to pick up at school and eat at home. While schools were closed, some families were provided with electronic payments or vouchers with which to purchase food. In 2020–2021, Syria was also under economic sanctions and experienced an economic/financial crisis.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

برنامج التغذية المدرسية

Lead implementer(s): The World Food Program in cooperation with the Ministry of Education

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 snacks
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week for in-school snacks; monthly for take-home rations
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic targeting based on the severity of nutritional and educational need; take-home rations are also targeted based on individual characteristics.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	Unknown	–	–
Primary school	651,728	48%	52%
Secondary school	Unknown	–	–
Total	651,728	48%	52%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals* Fruits
* *fortified*

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Feeding Program began in 2014 and provides school children with fortified date maamoul. While the number of children reached in 2020–2021 was lower than normal, the program expects to reach about 795,000 school children in 2021–2022.

