

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Canteens
المقاصف المدرسية

Lead Agency: Emirates Foundation for School Education, 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

Students pay full price for the food sold at school canteens, and the Emirates Foundation ensures that the food is sold at-cost (with no markup). There is no government or private sector funding for the school canteens. However, the government does provide nutritional guidelines and other non-monetary types of support.

Government: USD 0

International donors*: USD 0

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

All schools in the United Arab Emirates have electricity, piped and clean water, flush toilets, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. Food for the school canteens is prepared off-site.

SPECIAL NOTES

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

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: Soft drinks, sweets, chocolates

FOOD SOURCES

No information

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.

The United Arab Emirates



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

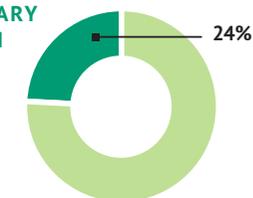
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	207,918	195,870	39,425
Primary school	496,261	462,333	81,731
Secondary school	558,365	675,864	167,639
Total	1,262,544	1,334,067	288,795



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,054,626

Receiving school food: 249,370



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other



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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:

Not applicable

Micronutrients:

Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least five nutritionists are engaged in school feeding in the United Arab Emirates. Various education programs (food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education) are designed to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity. However, most of the food in the school canteens is packaged and processed.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None

RESEARCH NEEDED

None specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

Cooks and food preparers
Transporters
Off-site processors
Food packagers and handlers
Monitoring
Food service management
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 school canteen program is managed by a team of women at the Emirates Foundation for School Education. In addition, sales supervisors for the canteens are hired from families of low/fixed income.

CONTACTS: THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Agency: Ministry of Education

Website: <https://www.moe.gov.ae/En/Pages/Home.aspx>

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the successes of school feeding in the United Arab Emirates, standards and nutritional and safety requirements for foods sold in schools have been harmonized, with health and food control authorities working in coordination with educational institutions. Challenges related to school feeding include certain weakness of the food supply chain and the lack of a central production facility or system for school meals.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic caused some schools in the United Arab Emirates to operate remotely. Because so many students were not in attendance, there was limited school canteen activity in 2020, and the number of students who accessed food through the canteens declined. During this period, students were served balanced meals that contained carbohydrates, vegetables/fruits, dairy, and water.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

المقاصف المدرسية

Lead implementer(s): Emirates Foundation for School Fees, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Community Protection, Educational councils

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 meals
- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 days 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	39,425	51%	49%
Primary school	81,731	52%	48%
Secondary school	167,639	53%	47%
Total	288,795	52%	48%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Poultry	Dairy milk
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Yogurt drink
Dairy products	Fruits	Fruit juice
Meat	Salt	Tea
		Water

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

No information on food sources

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The School Canteens program began in 2013, and as of 2020–2021, it operated in 300 schools. Other programs that support healthy school food include Healthy Cooking (Yalla Bazaar), Arla Food Moover Support, and the Health and Fitness Fun Festival. Together, these projects raise awareness of the importance of healthy food and physical activity.

