

Ukraine



Ukraine joined the Coalition in November 2023 and officially declared the [commitment](#) announced by the Prime Minister in the following areas: institutional framework, program development and scaling, and obtaining and using data and evidence.

Achievements

Despite the challenges caused by the full-scale war, Ukraine prioritized the development of the school nutrition system and continued to actively participate in the work of the Coalition.

Through the initiative of the President and supported by the government, a program of free meals was implemented for all pupils in grades 1-4 in October 2024, and 1.5 million primary school pupils are currently receiving meals. Government funding was USD 48.5 million (UAH 2 billion) in 2024 and USD 67.7 million (UAH 2.8 billion) for the January-May period in 2025.

To improve the quality of nutrition in school meals, 6,474 cooks underwent advanced training in 2023 and 2024, and 23 “culinary hubs” are being formed. In addition, a communication campaign on healthy eating was initiated under the initiative of the First Lady Olena Zelenska in 2021.

These developments are part of the School Nutrition Reform Strategy for 2023-2027, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, that established priorities and guidance for communities. Its implementation is coordinated by the School Nutrition Reform Team, that combines efforts of central executive bodies, communities, regional state administrations and international partners. The Strategy’s objectives include:

- Increasing the financial and institutional capacity of communities.
- Modernizing the infrastructure of food blocks.
- Increasing human resource capacity.
- Fostering a culture of healthy eating.

The government participated in a Research Consortium case study and organized the first European Regional School Meals Summit in Kyiv in November 2024, which brought together over 500 participants including representatives from over 20 countries, civil society organizations, and local governments. Ukraine also presented at the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit.

Next steps

Ukraine welcomes support to be able to expand the number of students who receive school meals; modernize infrastructure; further develop human resources potential; foster a culture of healthy eating at all levels; and support operational activities of the School Nutrition Reform Team.

Highlights

- Despite the challenges caused by the full-scale war, prioritized school meals and active engagement with the Coalition.
- Organized the first European Regional School Meals Summit of the School Meals Coalition in Kyiv in November 2024.
- Through an initiative of the President, free meals introduced for all students in grades 1-4 in October 2024. 1.5 million primary school students currently receiving meals.
- School Nutrition Reform Strategy for 2023-2027 is strengthening local capacity, infrastructure, and human resources and promoting healthy eating.