



#1 – 06 '24

The School Nutrition Reform Team Digest 2023–2024

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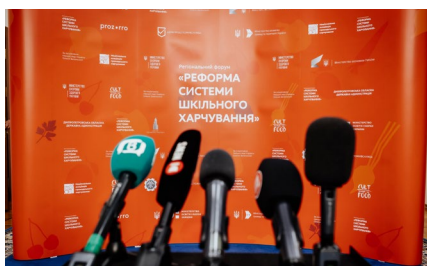


Hello! This digest from the School Nutrition Reform Team includes key events in implementing the school nutrition reform.

Initiated in 2020 by the First Lady, the reform is being implemented by a team of managers and experts, involving many specialists, institutions, and friends of the reform. Here, we present the events, activities, and significant achievements realized by the Reform Team during 2023 and the first four months of 2024. The digest also contains useful links and materials for study.

Thank you for your attention, and we keep you informed of our successes and achievements!

Click here for our resources:



Progress of School Nutrition Reform in 2020-2023

2020

First Lady Olena Zelenska initiated the implementation of the school nutrition reform.



2021

Four regional forums on “School Nutrition Reform” were held.

The main goal was to convey a unified vision of the reform, its key components, and the distribution of tasks and responsibilities.



2022

Full-scale invasion, suspension of the school nutrition reform.



2023

The school nutrition reform resumed, gaining even greater importance. It now serves as a form of protection for Ukrainian children, caring for their present, which has been overshadowed by Russian aggression.



Section I – Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System for 2023–2027



February 2023 – Working Meeting “School Nutrition Reform: Priority Directions for Development in Wartime and Post-War Recovery of Ukraine”

The meeting focused on discussing the outcomes of the strategic session, including the strategy presented for reforming the school nutrition system for 2023–2027 and plans for the near future.

The strategy outlined five main directions for the reform:

- Development of human resources;
- Restoration and modernization of educational institution kitchens;
- Financial support for territorial communities;
- Implementation of new standards and menus;
- Promotion of healthy eating culture during the war.

Participants included the Office of the First Lady, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure of Ukraine, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection, “Prozorro”, UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, Swiss Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Claude Wild, and the Swiss-Ukrainian project Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education (DECIDE).

July 2023 – Formation of the School Nutrition Reform Team with the support of the UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine

The School Nutrition Reform Team was formed with the support of the UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine to develop the Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System until 2027 and approve the operational action plan for its implementation in 2023–2024.

Since then, the Reform Team has been working daily to implement changes in the nutrition system in educational institutions.

Project managers, coordinators, and experts jointly introduce new consumption standards, technological processes, and modern approaches to food procurement, nutrition services, and kitchen equipment, as well as changing behavioral aspects, public perception, and understanding of healthy nutrition and beneficial eating habits.

unicef  for every child



October 27, 2023 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System for 2023–2027

Adopting this document is one of the most important steps in transforming nutrition organization in educational institutions and ensuring children receive quality and nutritious food. In the coming years, it will serve as a roadmap for implementing the reform for all participants—from central executive authorities to local government representatives. Based on this, communities can develop regional strategies to implement changes locally.



November 13, 2023 – Meeting on the Implementation of the School Nutrition Reform Strategy for 2023–2027

The School Nutrition Reform Team presented the reform strategy, developed with the support and assistance of the Swiss-Ukrainian project DECIDE, “Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education,” and its four strategic goals. They also discussed interim results and further steps needed to achieve the Strategy’s goals. The approval of the Strategy as a roadmap for the reform until 2027 is a significant milestone for successfully implementing changes in child nutrition in schools and kindergartens.



“The government has adopted the Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System until 2027. As part of its implementation, the government currently has four strategic goals.

The first is to ensure financial resources. This includes active community participation in financing and state assistance through subsidies. For example, the state budget 2024 provides 1.5 billion UAH for modernizing school canteens. **The second goal** is to restore kitchens using modern technologies and principles of food safety management. **The third strategic goal** is to provide communities and schools with personnel to organize nutrition. Key factors here will be competitive salaries, state orders, advanced training, and digitalization. **The fourth strategic goal** is implementing a quality menu and encouraging children to choose healthy food. In addition to appropriate recommendations, this also involves a strong educational campaign among children and parents about healthy eating,” noted Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.



December 5, 2023 – Strategic Session in Support of School Nutrition Reform (supported by DECIDE)

A strategic session titled “Supporting the School Nutrition Reform: Mapping Needs and Donor Engagement” was held in Kyiv with the support of the Swiss-Ukrainian project DECIDE “Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education.” The meeting aimed to identify key needs for school nutrition reform in 2024, review planned activities, and create a needs and joint action plan.

DECIDE presented an interactive map of educational institutions’ needs based on surveying over 8,000 schools, utilizing the state electronic education management system “AIKOM.” This tool provides verified data from each school and serves as an analytical module for the state of nutrition organization by regions, communities, and individual schools.



February 13, 2024 – Presentation of Achievements and Needs of the School Nutrition Reform at the Kyiv Art Lyceum “ZMINA”

On February 3, the School Nutrition Reform Team, together with the “Cult Food” initiative by chef Yevhen Klopotenko, presented the needs and achievements of the school nutrition reform to representatives of international organizations at the Kyiv Art Lyceum “ZMINA.”



Participants attended a culinary master class by chefs from the “National Association of Public Catering” and discussed the progress and collaboration prospects for 2024.

The organizers ensured an immersive experience for the guests: the event began with a cooking master class

in the school’s kitchen by chefs from the “National Food Service Association” and Yevhen Klopotenko. Participants prepared a lunch of several dishes from the new school menu, tested new equipment that aids chefs in their work, and tasted the food they cooked themselves.

Representatives from supporting organizations, such as UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, World Food Programme, Swiss-Ukrainian project DECIDE, and The Howard G. Buffett Foundation, shared their achievements and future plans within the reform.



Section II – Cascade Method of Reform Implementation

Summer-Fall 2023 – Three partnership meetings with representatives of 22 Regional State Administrations in Kyiv Region*.



During the first meeting titled “Nutrition Reform: Challenges, Achievements, Perspectives,” local community leaders and heads of educational institutions hosted visits to schools and kindergartens, shared their experiences in changing

the child nutrition system, and visited the construction site of the Factory-Kitchen in Bucha.

During the third partnership meeting in November 2023, the Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System until 2027 and the operational action plan for its implementation in 2023-2024, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on October 27, 2023, were presented.

** Partnership meetings were financially supported by UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine.*

June 2023 - April 2024 – 19 regional forums within the cascade method of school nutrition reform implementation.



Following the meetings in the Kyiv Region, regional forums were organized, each presenting its experience in implementing the reform.

From June 2023 to April 2024, forums were held in Kyiv, Odesa, Ternopil, Poltava, Khmelnytsky, Vinnytsia,

Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv (with local CPHS participation), Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv, Volyn, Sumy, Cherkasy, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, and Rivne regions.

These forums involved **2807** offline participants, **1213** education authorities, **1194** communities, and **100** RDA.

As a result, all 19 regions developed their own Strategies for the Reform until 2027, based on the state Strategy and considering local specificities.



April 2024 – Conclusion of the 19th Regional Forum in Rivne

The final 19th forum in Rivne summarized a significant phase of the School Nutrition Reform Team’s work on the cascade implementation of the reform, where regions learned new standards from each other.

The forum discussed the progress of the school nutrition reform in Ukraine

and presented various aspects of its implementation. Sixteen speakers participated in five discussion panels. First Lady Olena Zelenska attended and delivered a closing speech, emphasizing the need for the reform for the future of Ukrainian children.

April 2024 – Extended Meeting with the Heads of 19 Regional Military Administrations

Following the final forum in Rivne, an extended meeting was held with the heads of 19 regional military administrations, attended by First Lady Olena Zelenska, Minister of Health Viktor Liashko, Deputy Minister of Education and Science Andriy Stashkiv, and School Nutrition Reform Team Leader Orest Stepaniak. Participants discussed the development possibilities and prospects of the reform in the regions. Orest Stepaniak

presented the outcomes and results of the regional forums and outlined future goals and perspectives for regional work.



Section III – International Activities of the Reform Team. Partnerships and Joint Projects

The implementation of the school nutrition reform in Ukraine is supported by international organizations such as UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, WHO, World Food Programme, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, and the Swiss-Ukrainian projects DECIDE – “Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education” and “Act for Health.”

September 2023 – Communication Strategy “Ukrainians Consciously Choose Healthy Nutrition” with the support of UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine

In 2021, as part of the First Lady Olena Zelenska’s initiative, a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation was signed to implement a healthy nutrition communication campaign within the school nutrition reform.

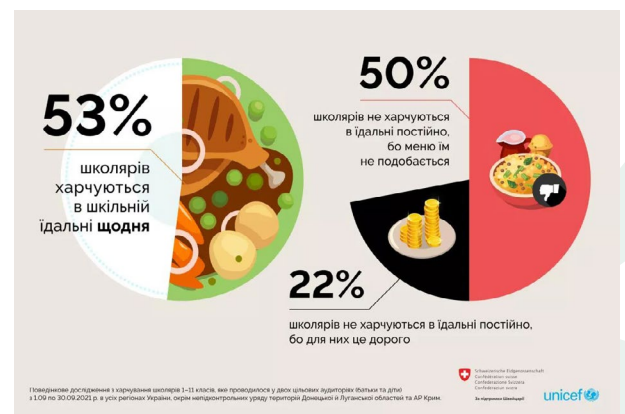
The document was signed by the First Lady of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, and the Embassy of Switzerland.

A behavioral study among children, parents, and educators was conducted, and its results formed the basis of the communication strategy and the “Ukrainians Consciously Choose Healthy Nutrition” campaign. This campaign is implemented by UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine as part of the overall Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System until 2027.

The communication strategy aims to change the dietary behavior of the population and serves as a roadmap

for the reform’s fourth strategic goal, focused on healthy nutrition communication in Ukraine.

UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine advocates for the rights and well-being of every child. In cooperation with partners, UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine operates in 190 countries and territories to turn this mission into practical actions, with special efforts to reach the most vulnerable and socially excluded children, for the benefit of all children, wherever they may be.



2023-2024 – Partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Country Office in Ukraine

Since its inception, the school nutrition reform in Ukraine has been supported by UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine. Throughout 2023 and early 2024, several important initiatives were implemented to promote healthy eating habits among children and their parents/guardians.

Key results:

- Engaged **510,519** unique users to the online platform “Знаймо” – the main communication channel for the school nutrition reform, which informs educators, students, parents, administrators, and business representatives about the most current topics in the organization of nutrition in educational institutions.



- The educational culinary game “Граїмо,” created by the Cult Food initiative by chef Yevhen Klopotenko with the support of UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, and offline activities at UNICEF’s “Spilno” points were conducted. Thanks to these activities, **36,245** children learned about healthy eating in a playful format.

- A communication campaign to promote healthy eating and implement healthy eating habits in digital channels was conducted. Overall, it reached **2,095,557** people, actively engaging **165,504** unique users.

- Over **7,591,000** people saw the nationwide communication campaign “**What Matters is Inside**”, implemented by UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine from December 2023 to March 2024. Additionally, more than **117,967** parents and children participated in the activations.

- An online course “Basics of Healthy Nutrition for Grades 1-4” with 6 lesson plans was developed by UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine and EdEra with financial support from Switzerland. During this time, **4,553** primary school teachers and 70 facilitators from “Spilno” points enhanced their knowledge and skills regarding healthy nutrition for children and youth.

- **774** interactive educational kits were provided to educators for use in lessons with **23,220** students. These kits contain games, informational materials, and motivational messages that help form new healthy eating habits in children and youth.



2023-2024 – Partnership with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and Financial Support Covering 30% of Daily Hot Meal Costs for Students in 13 Regions of Ukraine

In 2022, the Ministry of Education and Science (MON) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation to implement the school nutrition program.

Under this program, WFP funds 30% of the daily hot meal costs for Ukrainian primary school children.

From 2023, the School Nutrition Reform Team actively collaborated with WFP representatives and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. In November, WFP signed agreements with leaders of 13 regions: Kyiv, Lviv, Zakarpattia, Ternopil,

Khmelnytskyi, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Cherkasy, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Poltava. Previously, the program operated in Kyiv region, covering 58 schools for 12,000 children. The agreements expanded the program to 420 schools and 60,000 children nationwide.

In 2024, two more regions, Sumy and Vinnytsia, were added. Additionally, the number of schools in existing program regions increased, with a total of 93,000 children now registered in the WFP program.



“We are pleased to continue supporting the First Lady’s initiative for school nutrition reform and the government’s Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System. Ensuring healthy nutrition for children during and after the war is one of the most important contributions we can make to Ukraine’s future,” emphasized Acting WFP Director in Ukraine Marianne Ward.

March 2024 – Reform Team’s Visit to Switzerland

The purpose of the visit was to study the organization of nutrition in various cantons, funding features, and the operation process of catering companies providing meals for children in educational institutions. The team visited the Lausanne Hotel School, the Embassy of Ukraine in Switzerland, the Department of Education and Culture of the Canton of Bern, and companies Bühler AG, SV Group, and MenuAndMore.



March 2024 – Partnership Meeting with WFP, French Embassy, and Finnish Embassy in Ukraine

In March, the School Nutrition Reform Team and the Ministry of Education and Science representatives met with WFP, the French Embassy in Ukraine, and the Finnish Embassy in Ukraine. The meeting aimed to discuss the implementation of the school nutrition reform in Ukraine and strengthen cooperation within the Global School

Meals Coalition. The achievements of Ukraine in the reform, the needs for the future, and the results of the first coalition summit in Paris, attended by Ukraine in October 2023, were discussed along with future international activities.





March 30, 2024 – Major Partnership Meeting in Bucha with School Nutrition Reform Partners and Supporters

A significant partnership meeting, attended by First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska, Ukrainian ministers, the School Nutrition Reform Team, and international partners, took place at the “Готуємо” Factory-Kitchen in Bucha.



The event was dedicated to discussing the strategic goals of the school nutrition reform, developing proposals for phased steps, solutions, and the vision for reform development, while also demonstrating the achievements made in the implementation process.

The partnership meeting had an introductory-discussion nature and consisted of two parts: an interactive segment, where participants became familiar with the work of the “Factory-Kitchen” and immersed themselves in the technological processes of meal preparation; and an official segment, during which participants took part in a panel discussion with ministers and international reform partners – UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, World Food Programme, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, and the Swiss-Ukrainian DECIDE project “Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education.”





April 17, 2024 – Stakeholder Meeting Initiated by WHO, with Active Participation in Developing the WHO Analytical Report “Expansion of the National School Nutrition Program in Ukraine”

The new WHO analytical report “Expansion of the National School Nutrition Program in Ukraine,” developed in collaboration with the WHO European Region’s Special Initiative on Noncommunicable Diseases and Innovation and the World Food Programme, emphasizes the importance of implementing a universal free meal policy in educational institutions, providing free lunches to all students in a city, region, or country. The report’s findings were presented at a stakeholder meeting in Kyiv, dedicated to promoting school nutrition reform in Ukraine.

According to the study, implementing a comprehensive national school nutrition program will allow Ukraine to:

- Reduce food insecurity and improve family financial resources.
- Create approximately 55,000 new jobs in schools, agriculture, and the food industry.
- Return \$9 for every \$1 spent on the school nutrition program.
- Ensure long-term healthcare savings by reducing rates of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancer nationwide.

For more information, visit:
[WHO Report.](#)



Section IV – Implementation of Infrastructure Projects. Factory-Kitchen:

Summer 2022 - December 18, 2023 – Project of the First Factory-Kitchen “Готуїмо” in Bucha

As part of continuing the school nutrition reform, the first factory-kitchen project in Ukraine was implemented in Bucha to provide quality fresh food to educational institutions in the region. Initiated by First Lady Olena Zelenska, the Reform Team developed the concept of a “factory-kitchen,” which involves using the facilities of a separate enterprise for meal preparation, shock cooling, and delivery to schools. The factory can produce approximately 10,000 portions per day.

This pilot project, which will eventually be expanded to other regions of Ukraine, aims to ensure equal access

to nutritious and healthy meals for children in both small villages and large cities.

The construction of the factory-kitchen in Bucha was funded by American businessman and philanthropist Howard G. Buffett. Currently, the factory-kitchen serves schools and preschool institutions in Bucha and the Bucha community.

Starting September 1, 2024, it plans to extend hot meal services to schools in Borodyanka and Nemishaieve communities, providing healthy hot meals to about 12,000 children.





1

Development of the “factory-kitchen” concept and presentation of the project to Howard G. Buffett.



2

Preparation of project documentation according to the “factory-kitchen” nutrition organization model, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution No. 305 of March 24, 2021.



3

Supervision of construction and commissioning works of the project.



4

Setting up the enterprise's operational process.



December 18, 2023 – Opening of the First Factory-Kitchen “Готуїмо” in Bucha

On December 18, the first factory-kitchen in Ukraine, named “Готуїмо,” was inaugurated in Bucha.



The opening ceremony was attended by project initiator Olena Zelenska, benefactor Howard Buffett, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Oleksiy Kuleba, representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure, heads of Kyiv and Kharkiv Regional Military

Administrations, the mayor of Bucha, and representatives of international organizations – UNDP, UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, World Food Programme, and the European Investment Bank. During the visit, guests familiarized themselves with the operation of the new enterprise, interacted with the staff, and participated in meal preparation and tasting.





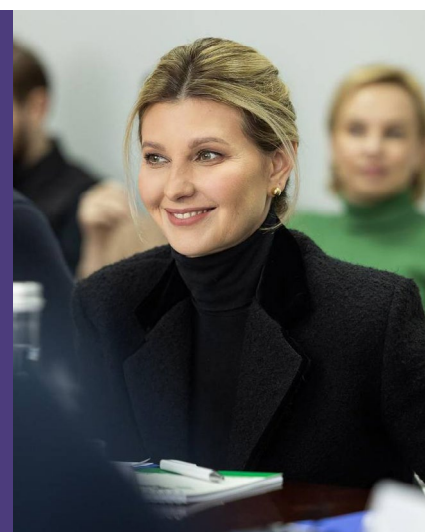
March 7, 2024 – Start of Construction of the Second Factory-Kitchen in Lozova, Kharkiv Region



As part of the school nutrition reform initiated by First Lady Olena Zelenska, The Howard G. Buffett Foundation has agreed to fund the construction of the second factory-kitchen in Ukraine. The project will be implemented in Lozova, Kharkiv Region, throughout 2024. It is expected to provide ready-made lunches to educational institutions in Lozova and Blyzniuky communities, serving nearly 14,000 students.

“

“Another powerful step in the school nutrition reform to provide children with quality and nutritious food, which is especially needed during the stresses of wartime. This is also an important boost for communities, creating jobs and economic revitalization where it is needed. It helps families by providing children with quality meals and teaching them a healthy approach to nutrition. It also offers a hopeful perspective for our entire society: if healthy eating habits are learned from childhood, they will continue into adulthood, impacting millions of lives. Thus, the kitchen will not only produce meals but also bring positive changes,” emphasized the First Lady.



Modernization of School Kitchens:

December 2023 – The first example of an audit of the nutrition organization system in the Chernihiv community, based on which a strategy for modernizing the school nutrition system in the region was created

In collaboration with the Swiss-Ukrainian project DECIDE “Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education” and the NGO “National Association of Public Catering,” audits were conducted in 30 general secondary education institutions and 44 preschool institutions in Chernihiv. The audit results led to the development of a concept for optimizing the nutrition system in Chernihiv’s educational institutions. The scope of work for re-equipping and modernizing the school kitchens was assessed according to three technological models: basic kitchen, support kitchen, and factory-kitchen. Additionally, the first pilot modernization project was developed.



2024 – Modernization of the Kitchen at Chernihiv School No. 13

The Swiss-Ukrainian project DECIDE “Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education” is conducting renovations of the kitchen at School No. 13 in Chernihiv as part of the comprehensive reconstruction of the educational institution.

Professional specialists and architects are involved in the modernization, developing a visual concept for the kitchen and implementing new technological solutions. The project is expected to be completed by September 15.



Culinary hubs:



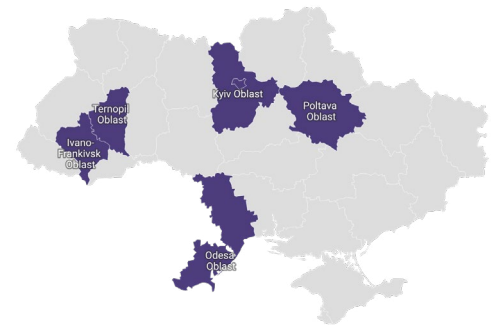
Spring-Summer 2023 – Implementation of the Culinary Hubs Project for Training School Nutrition System Chefs

In March 2023, the project to create training centers for school nutrition system chefs began. With the support of the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), three pilot training and practical centers were established and equipped with modern facilities.

Practical training sessions were held to upgrade the skills of school kitchen staff and companies providing school meals. After completing the training, all participants became “agents

of change”, disseminating their knowledge of nutrition, food safety, and creating technological maps to colleagues in their regions.

As of June 2024, 8 culinary hubs have been established in Ukraine, including:



- 3 – in the Odesa Oblast;
- 2 – in the Kyiv Oblast;
- 1 – in the Ternopil Oblast;
- 1 – in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast;
- 1 – in the Poltava Oblast.



As part of the subsidy, 11 training and practical centers will be created.

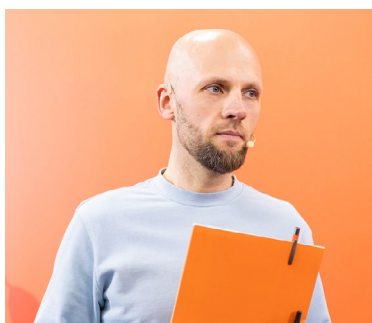
Section V – Ukraine in the School Nutrition Coalition

October 18–19, 2023 – Global School Meals Coalition Summit: Ukraine’s Delegation and Representation



The Ukrainian delegation presented the successes of the school nutrition reform to participants from over 90 countries. Additionally, meetings were held with representatives of international organizations and governments implementing national school nutrition reforms. Following this trip, the School Nutrition Reform Team aims to organize and host the next Coalition summit in Ukraine. We have valuable experiences and developments to share that could benefit other countries.

The participation of the Ukrainian delegation was supported by UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, WFP, and WHO.



“

“It’s gratifying to realize that the principles on which we have been building our work in Ukraine since 2020 fully align with the global Coalition’s strategy,” noted Orest Stepanjak, Chairman of the Board of the NGO “National Food Service Association.” “We have the opportunity to join an international community of like-minded individuals”.

November 2023 – Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine from November 10, 2023, No. 1179 “On Ukraine’s Accession to the International Coalition ‘School Nutrition: Nutrition, Health, and Education for Every Child’”

The government agreed with the Ministry of Health’s proposal for Ukraine to join the international coalition “School Nutrition: Nutrition, Health, and Education for Every Child.” This international coalition unites over 90 participants. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine also approved the Declaration of Commitment by the Government of Ukraine.



December 2023 – April 2024 – Work on School Meals Case Study: Ukraine and Joining the School Health and Nutrition Research Consortium

The School Nutrition Reform Team, in collaboration with the NGO “National Food Service Association” and supported by UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, worked on the School Meals Case Study: Ukraine. Leading specialists from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community Development, Territories, and Infrastructure, and the State Statistics Service of Ukraine were involved.

In April 2024, the School Meals Case Study: Ukraine was accepted by the School Health and Nutrition Research Consortium and made publicly available. The published document provides a comprehensive analysis of the organization of nutrition in educational institutions across Ukraine.

It includes information on Ukraine’s profile, the design and implementation of the national school nutrition program, including the goals of the reform, nutrition standards, food procurement, legal foundations, implementation costs, funding sources, best practices, experiences gained, and challenges. This gives member countries and stakeholders a clear understanding of the reform process and its prospects.

The document is indexed in the Google Scholar database and assigned a DOI identifier. You can access the findings at this link: [School Meals Case Study: Ukraine](#).

Section VI – Training Courses, Webinars, Manuals

August 2023 – Development of an Online Course on the Prometheus Educational Platform for Advanced Training, Updating HACCP Knowledge

An online course was developed on the Prometheus educational platform.

The training includes two courses:

- 1. Basic:** [“Practical Aspects of Implementing Food Legislation Requirements by Educational Institutions”](#);
- 2. Advanced:** [“Implementing HACCP-Based procedures in School and Kindergarten Kitchens”](#).

The courses are intended for:

- Heads and founders of educational institutions;
- Employees responsible for developing and implementing HACCP-based procedures in school and kindergarten canteens;
- Staff handling, preparing, or serving food in school and kindergarten canteens, and other institutions preparing food for school canteens;
- Parents interested in the school nutrition system

The project was developed with financial support from the European Union.



August 22-23, 2023 - Online Training “Modern Approaches and Challenges in Organizing School Nutrition”

The course aimed to improve the qualifications of school canteen staff and anyone interested in advancing their knowledge in public catering.

ОНЛАЙН-НАВЧАННЯ
«Сучасні підходи та виклики в організації харчування»

Організатор:
 ГО «Національна асоціація громадського харчування»

Орест Степаняк Оксана Новохатя Богдан Венгер Анастасія Шевченко

September-October 2023 – Training “Organization of Quality and Safe Nutrition in Educational Institutions,” advanced training for vocational training masters who will pass on this knowledge to school canteen staff

Such events are part of the so-called “cascade method” of knowledge transfer, where those who train school cooks receive advanced training at existing culinary hubs. These specialists will then become “agents of change” in the school nutrition reform and train their colleagues who provide food for educational institutions. Twelve participants from

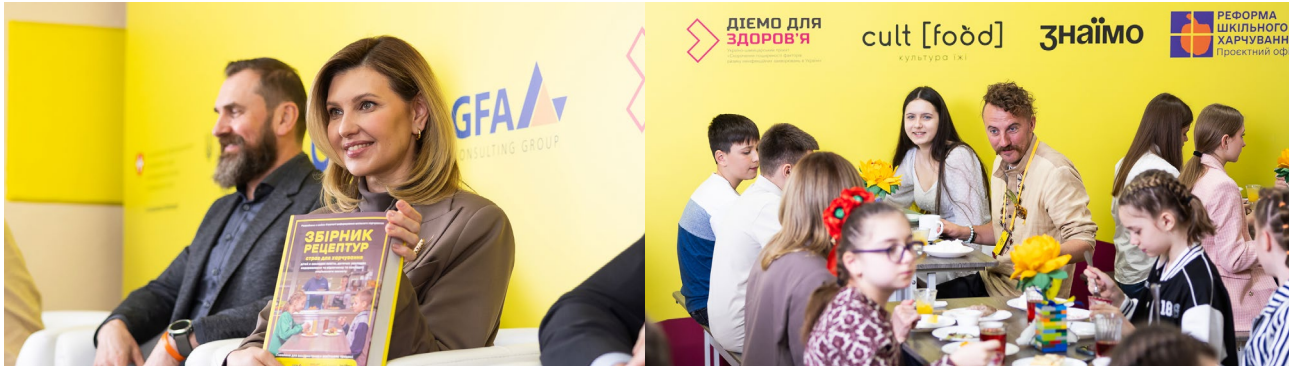
relevant institutions and structures in the region took part in the program: the Department of Education and Science of the Kyiv Regional State Administration, the communal catering enterprise of the Irpin City Council, the Bila Tserkva Higher Vocational School of Construction and Service, the Boryspil Vocational Lyceum, and the Vasylykiv Vocational Lyceum.



February 2024 – Webinar “How to Become a Food Supplier for the Factory-Kitchen in Bucha: Transparency of Procurement within the School Nutrition Reform”

In February 2024, the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education and Science, Prozorro, and the state enterprise “Professional Procurement” held a webinar for food producers and suppliers. The event aimed to build partnerships with food producers and suppliers through a highly transparent procurement mechanism, minimize corruption risks, and elevate food procurement for educational institutions to a new level.



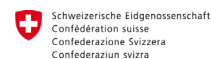


April 18, 2024 – Presentation of Yevhen Klopotenko's Manual "Collection of Recipes"

In support of the School Nutrition Reform Strategy, initiated by First Lady Olena Zelenska, chef Yevhen Klopotenko developed and presented an updated collection of recommended recipes for children's nutrition in educational institutions. The manual consists of over 600 dishes, aiming to further diversify the meals for students in educational institutions, children's health and recreation facilities, and social protection institutions in Ukraine.

The development and publication of the manual were made possible by the support of the Ukrainian-Swiss project "Act for Health" with financial backing from the Embassy of Switzerland in Ukraine.

You can familiarize yourself with the collection of recommended recipes at the following link: [Link](#)



April 22, 2024 – Online Seminar "Organization of School Nutrition in European Countries"

The online seminar "Organization of School Nutrition in European Countries," prepared by the School Nutrition Reform Team and invited lecturers, focused on the organization of nutrition in schools and kindergartens in Finland, Spain, and Switzerland.

The event featured reports on various approaches to child nutrition organization in developed European countries. It also covered the progress of the school nutrition reform in Ukraine, including its current state, achievements, and prospects.



April 26, 2024 – Training Forum on Developing Project Documentation for New Construction, Reconstruction, and Major Repairs of Kitchens in Educational Institutions

The School Nutrition Reform Team, in collaboration with partners – the Ministry of Community Development, Territories, and Infrastructure of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine, and the NGO “National Food Service Association” – held a training forum for designers, architects, and project organizations. Over 600 participants joined the online

broadcast, and more than 60 specialists from different regions of Ukraine attended the forum in person.

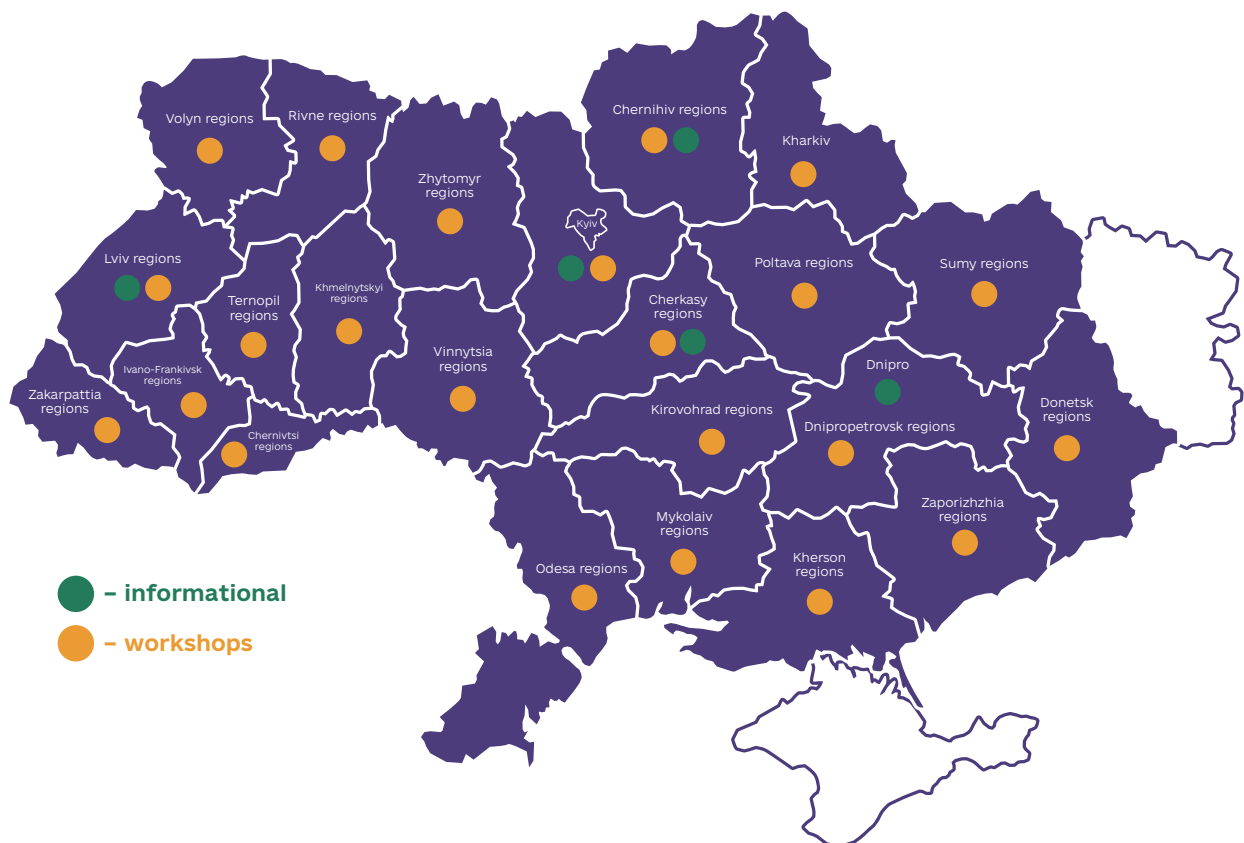
During the event, the School Nutrition Reform Team presented the reform strategy and operational action plan, sharing their work on modernizing kitchens using three technological nutrition models.



April 2024 – Series of Meetings to Discuss the Allocation of Subsidies for the Repair and Construction of Shelters and the Modernization of Kitchens in Educational Institutions

Throughout April, the School Nutrition Reform Team participated in working with communities to explain the new rules for distributing subsidies for the repair and construction of shelters and the modernization of dining halls and kitchens in educational institutions. During informational meetings organized by the Ministry of Education and Science in collaboration with the School

Nutrition Reform Team, discussions were held on the allocation of subsidies, prioritizing zoning regions by safety risk level, and prioritizing communities and projects eligible for funding. The Reform Team managers introduced participants to three models of organizing kitchen spaces and explained modern regulatory requirements for designing premises.



Informational meetings took place in Cherkasy, Dnipro, Lviv, Kyiv, and Chernihiv.

Workshops were also held covering Cherkasy, Poltava, Kirovohrad, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Volyn, Rivne, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Zakarpattia, Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy regions, and the city of Kyiv.

Section VII – Financial Support for the School Nutrition Reform

2020 – 2024 – Partnership with the UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine and Financial and Technical Support for the Activities of the School Nutrition Reform Team

The UNICEF Country Office in Ukraine has supported the reform from the beginning and has provided financial and technical support to the project office since its creation.

2020 – 2024 – Partnership with the Swiss-Ukrainian Project DECIDE “Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education”



The Swiss-Ukrainian DECIDE project supports educational reforms and decentralization processes to develop an effective education management system in Ukraine. The main goal of the project is to help residents of territorial communities engage in democratic governance and access quality education. DECIDE is implemented by the NGO DOCCU in partnership with the Zurich University of Teacher Education (PHZH) with support from Switzerland, represented by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The partnership with DECIDE in implementing the school nutrition reform began in 2020. **During this time, the following have been provided:**

1. Consultation Campaign for Territorial Communities

- Organized 8 webinars on nutrition organization in educational institutions, procurement, and HACCP system implementation for over

5,000 education management staff from 1,210 territorial communities.

- Created two guides for education management staff on procurement and HACCP system implementation in cooperation with Prozorro and the State Food Safety and Consumer Protection Service.

- Conducted training for community heads, local council deputies, and heads of education departments as part of advanced training courses.

2. Support for the Information Portal “Знаймо”

Developed over 100 materials, created a series of video instructions, and videos on best practices.

3. Analytical Support for Planning the Reform

- Conducted a National Behavioral Study on the organizational aspects of reform implementation.

- Created a dashboard of territorial community needs.
- Provided expert and organizational support for developing the Strategy for Reforming the School Nutrition System until 2027.

4. Promotion of Healthy Eating within the DECIDE Summer Clubs “We Are Home – in Ukraine” Initiative: In 2023, this initiative covered about 17,000 children from 18 regions of Ukraine.

Ongoing projects include:

- Advanced training for up to 800 heads of education management bodies, community heads, and local council deputies on programs approved by the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service. One of the topics of these programs

is the effective organization of safe and healthy nutrition in educational institutions.

- Development of a course for heads of educational institutions on nutrition organization.
- Renovation of the kitchen at School No. 13 in Chernihiv as part of a comprehensive reconstruction of the educational institution.
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.
- Implementation of the DECIDE Summer Clubs “We Are Home – in Ukraine” initiative in 25 communities to provide active and meaningful leisure for school-aged children, including promoting healthy eating among children.



August 2023 – European Union Financial Support Program for Ukraine – Ukraine Facility

The Ukraine Facility is an instrument that provides Ukraine with financial and technical assistance from the EU totaling €50 billion from 2024 to 2027. Of this, €38.27 billion will go to budget support, €6.97 billion to the

investment fund, and €4.76 billion to technical and administrative support. The reform of school nutrition is included in the financial support program for Ukraine.



November 2023 – Allocated funds from the state budget amounting to 1.5 billion UAH for the implementation of projects in 2024 for the purchase of equipment, creation, and modernization of dining halls (kitchens) in general secondary education institutions

The Law of Ukraine “On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2024” defines expenditures of the State Budget of Ukraine for 2024, namely “Subvention from the state budget to local budgets for the purchase of equipment, creation, and modernization (reconstruction and major repairs) of dining halls (kitchens) in general secondary education institutions” in the amount of **1,500,000** UAH.

At the same time, regional military administrations (RMAs) and local self-government bodies (LSGs), in accordance with the instruction of the Office of the President of Ukraine dated 15.08.2023 No. 41-01/1339, received recommendations to develop and adopt regional and local programs for implementing the school nutrition reform. The programs developed by RMAs and LSGs should provide for the allocation of financial

resources for the implementation of initiatives for the construction, restoration, or modernization of dining halls and kitchens in educational institutions.

The selection of projects for the construction, restoration, and modernization of kitchens in educational institutions is carried out using the programmatic tools of the state digital ecosystem for accountable recovery management, DREAM. Based on the prioritization results, which are carried out using the tools of the DREAM ecosystem, lists of projects to be implemented in the process of school nutrition reform are formed. In addition to the subvention for the purchase of equipment in the amount of **1,500,000** UAH, **500** million UAH was separately allocated for training and practical centers, and **92.7** million UAH was allocated for culinary hubs.

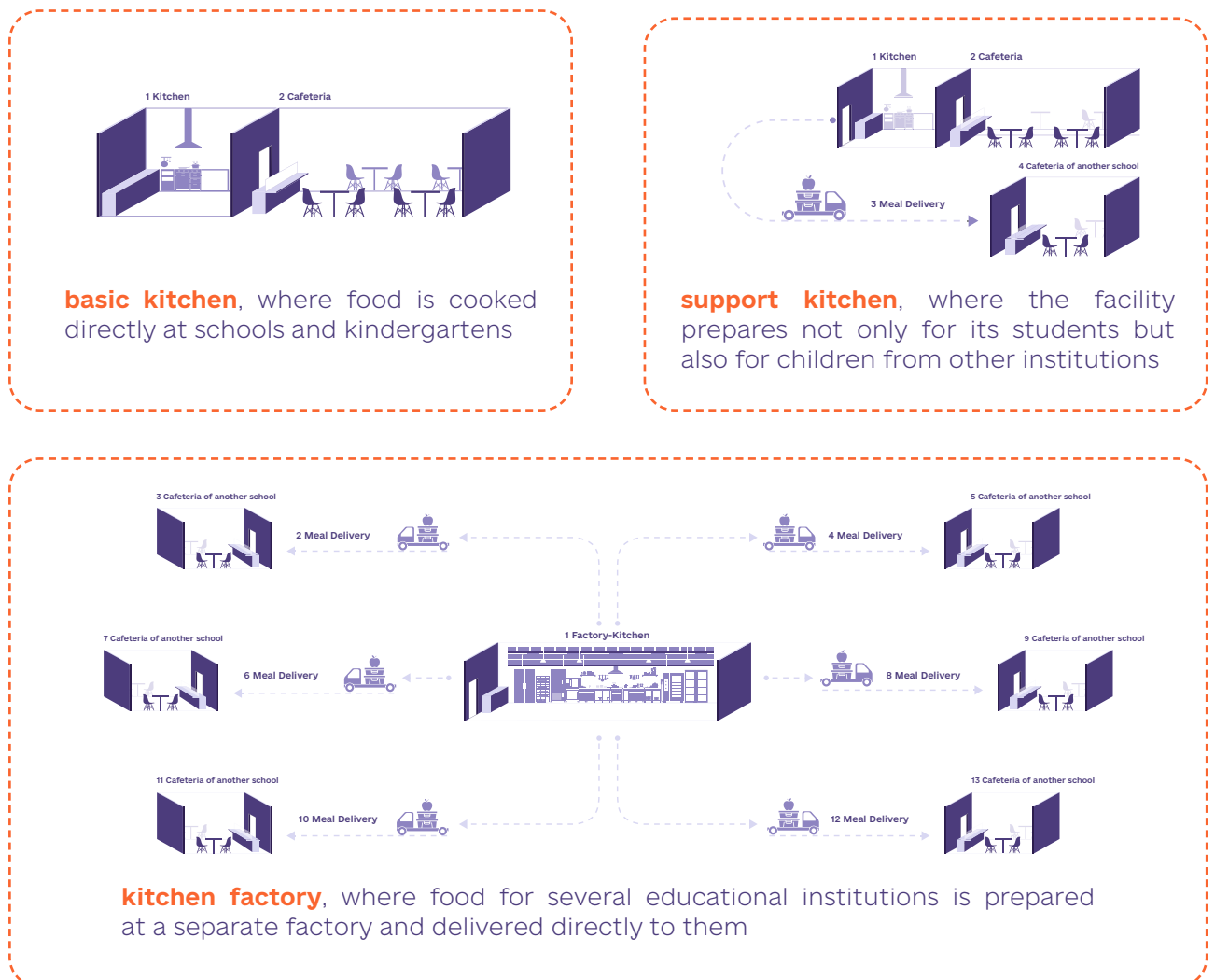
2023-2024 – Partnership with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and Financial Support Covering 30% of Hot Meals Costs for Grades 1-4 Students in 14 Regions of Ukraine

In 2022, the Ministry of Education and Science (MON) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation to implement the school nutrition program. According to the program’s conditions, WFP funds 30% of the daily hot meal costs for Ukrainian children attending primary school.

Section VIII – Documents Approved within the Reform

2023 – Three Technological Models of Nutrition Organization Approved: Basic Kitchen, Support Kitchen, Factory-Kitchen

The school nutrition reform includes the introduction of three technological models of nutrition organization. Within the framework of the reform, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, together with the NGO “National Association of Public Catering,” developed a draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Procedure for Organizing Nutrition in Educational Institutions and Children’s Health and Recreation Facilities” (Resolution of the CMU dated March 24, 2021, No. 305), which provides for the introduction of three technological models of nutrition organization (factory-kitchen, support kitchen, basic kitchen).





March 2024 – CODICE 4:2024

Approved «Guidelines for Designing Premises for Kitchens in Preschool and General Secondary Education Institutions, Children’s Health and Recreation Facilities According to Nutrition Organization Models» according to the Order of the National Standardization Body DP «UkrNNDNC» dated 25.03.2024 No. 98

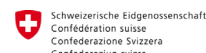
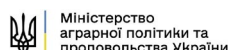
This code:

- Applies to the design of kitchen premises in educational institutions;
- Used during new construction, reconstruction, and major repairs of kitchen premises in educational institutions;
- Establishes general approaches to designing premises for organizing nutrition;
- Provides a comprehensive approach to updating kitchen infrastructure and enhancing production processes by adopting new nutrition organization standards.

March 2024 – Professional Standard “Cook of Educational Institution” Included in the Qualifications Register

The professional standard defines professional qualifications, documents confirming professional qualifications, requirements for work experience, professional skills, and professional qualification upgrades. It clearly outlines the job functions of those providing meals to children in schools and kindergartens, including competencies, knowledge, skills, and aspects of responsibility while performing their duties.





Thank you for your attention to our work!

Your support for the school nutrition reform is invaluable, as it helps us build a happy future for Ukrainian children!

Reforming Together!



#1 – 06 '24

The School Nutrition Reform Team Digest 2023–2024

Click here for our resources:

