

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- School Food Program (*Programa de Alimentación Escolar - PAE*)

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

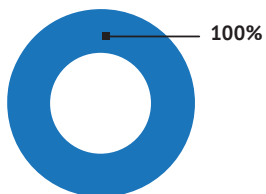
BUDGET

Total: USD 100,000,000

- Government: USD 100,000,000
- 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 Ecuador have electricity, most have flush toilets, and some have clean and piped water. Very few schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias or kitchens. The school feeding program serves pre-packaged foods without additional preparation.

SPECIAL NOTES

None

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

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

Prohibited food items: Only food items that appear in the product datasheet are allowed, under parameters approved by the National Health Authority in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handwashing with soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing testing/treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Height measurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental cleaning/testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weight measurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Menstrual hygiene |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Testing for anemia | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deworming treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Water purification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye testing/eyeglasses | |

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

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



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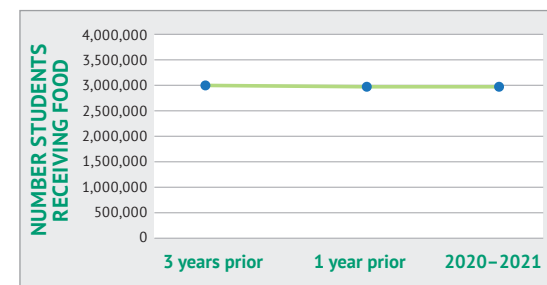
REPUBLIC OF Ecuador



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021

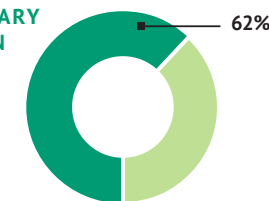
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	997,920	552,234	476,516
Primary school	2,019,229	1,881,048	1,582,714
Secondary school	1,988,317	1,881,495	882,722
Total	5,005,466	4,314,777	2,941,952



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 4,007,546

Receiving school food: 2,465,436



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:

Milk

Micronutrients:

Iron, vitamin A, zinc, folic acid, calcium, vitamin D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least three nutritionists work with the school snack program in Ecuador. The School Food Program participated in the formulation of the national public nutrition policy and the School Feeding Law, as well as regulations to create conditions for school feeding with nutrition-related objectives.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

- Impact evaluation of school feeding on school enrollment, conducted by the Research Directorate of the Ministry of Education
- Closing the Nutrient Gap, authored by the World Food Program

RESEARCH NEEDED

Monitoring and evaluation, as would be conducted by the World Food Program

CONTACTS: ECUADOR

Agency: Ministry of Education

Website: <https://educacion.gob.ec>

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

0	Cooks and food preparers
	Transporters
	Off-site processors
	Food packagers and handlers
140	Monitoring
10	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

Farms of all sizes provide the grains, fruits, and dairy products for the School Food Program, and private companies provide food trading, processing, and transport services for the program. At least 30% of the food must be purchased from the Popular and Solidarity Economy (i.e., from poor and vulnerable sectors of the population) and from micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. Since 2016, 75% of School Feeding Managers have been women.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Ecuador include evidence of the viability and efficiency of in-school snacks, the promulgation of the Organic Law of School Feeding, the dissemination of key messages on Educa TV, and the training of teachers on the MeCapacito Platform of the Ministry of Education. The disruption of in-school education with the COVID-19 pandemic necessarily affected the School Food Program.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools operated remotely throughout the 2020–2021 school year, and the budget for school feeding initially decreased because of the COVID-19 pandemic before it was later increased in 2021. The crisis prompted a temporary shift away from in-school snacks in favor of take-home rations. During the pandemic, progress was made in applying the Organic Law of School Feeding through pilot projects executed by United Nations Agencies (FAO, WFP) to determine the viability of implementing decentralized territorial modalities. In 2020 and 2021, Ecuador was also affected by conflict, an economic/financial crisis, and by the elimination of fuel subsidies, though these did not disrupt school feeding activities.

SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM PROGRAMA DE ALIMENTACIÓN ESCOLAR - PAE

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

At the Unified General Baccalaureate level, school snacks are only provided in Millennium Educational Units.

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

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	476,516	49%	51%
Primary school	1,582,714	49%	51%
Secondary school	882,722	49%	51%
Total	2,941,952	49%	51%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Salt	Dairy milk*
Oil	Sugar	Fruit juice
* 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 Food Program operates in 12,798 public schools where students receive regular milk, flavored milk, cereals, fruit nectar, granola, cookies, and cereal bars. Students receive a beverage and a solid food four days per week, with only a beverage on the fifth day. Foods with a “red light” classification – high in sodium, sugar, or trans fats – are not served in the School Food Program. From 2017 to 2020, foods such as powdered milk, quinoa, and rice were purchased from the National Storage Unit - Public Company (UNA-EP).

