

# School Meal Programs in Latin America & the Caribbean

 **\$3.65** Billion Budget

## COVERAGE

**55%** of primary and secondary school age children benefit from school feeding programs, a higher coverage rate than any other region.\*

**63** million children received some food through their schools.






**88%** Primary school age coverage

**24%** Secondary school age coverage

Statistics reported here cover

**23** of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which together hold **80%** of the population of the region.

The highest levels of primary and secondary school age coverage are found in

-  Brazil (92%)
-  Chile (68%)
-  Honduras (65%)
-  Barbados (65%)
-  Ecuador (62%)

## Countries with National Laws, Policies, or Standards Related to School Feeding

National School Feeding Policy  
**74%**

Health  
**35%**

Agriculture  
**30%**

Nutrition  
**65%**

Food Safety  
**57%**

Private Sector  
**22%**

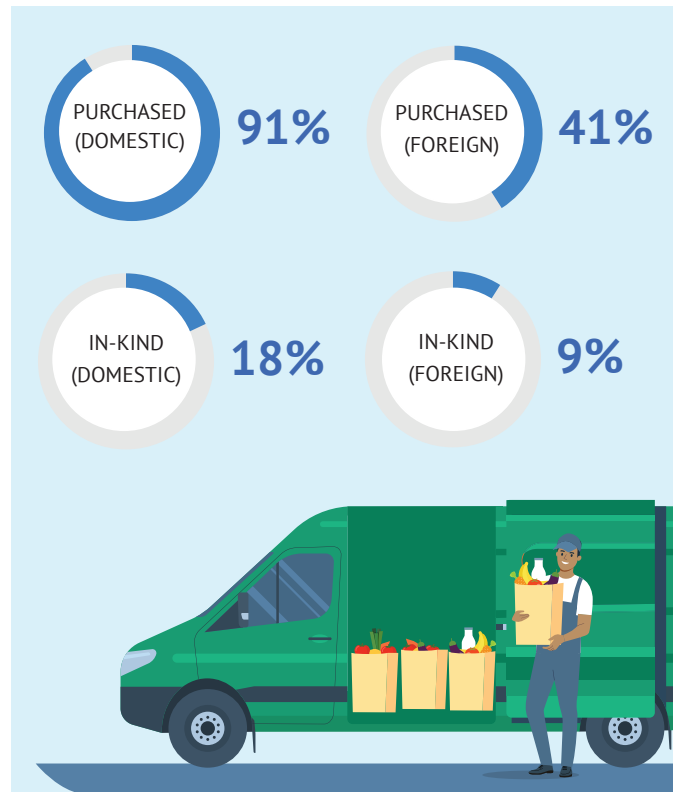


# Dedicated Line Item in National Budgets

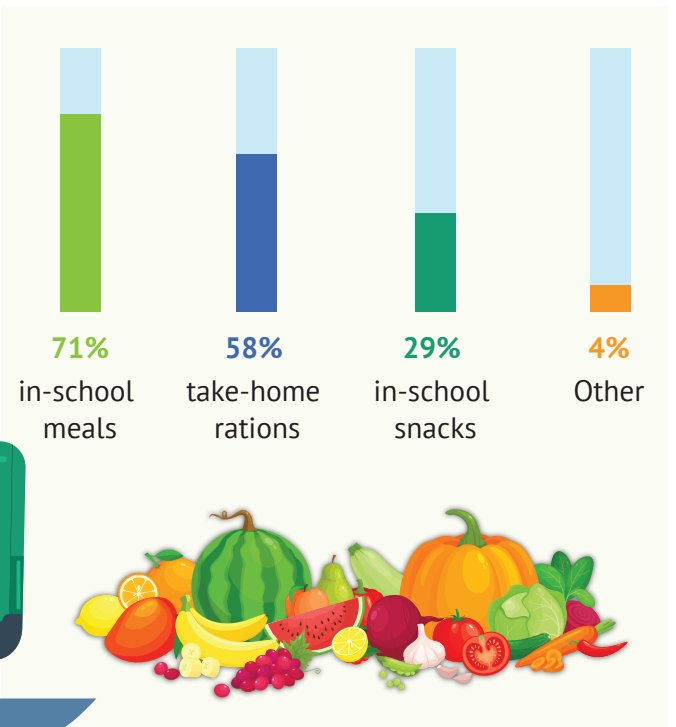
There is often a positive relationship between having a dedicated line item and the coverage of school feeding.



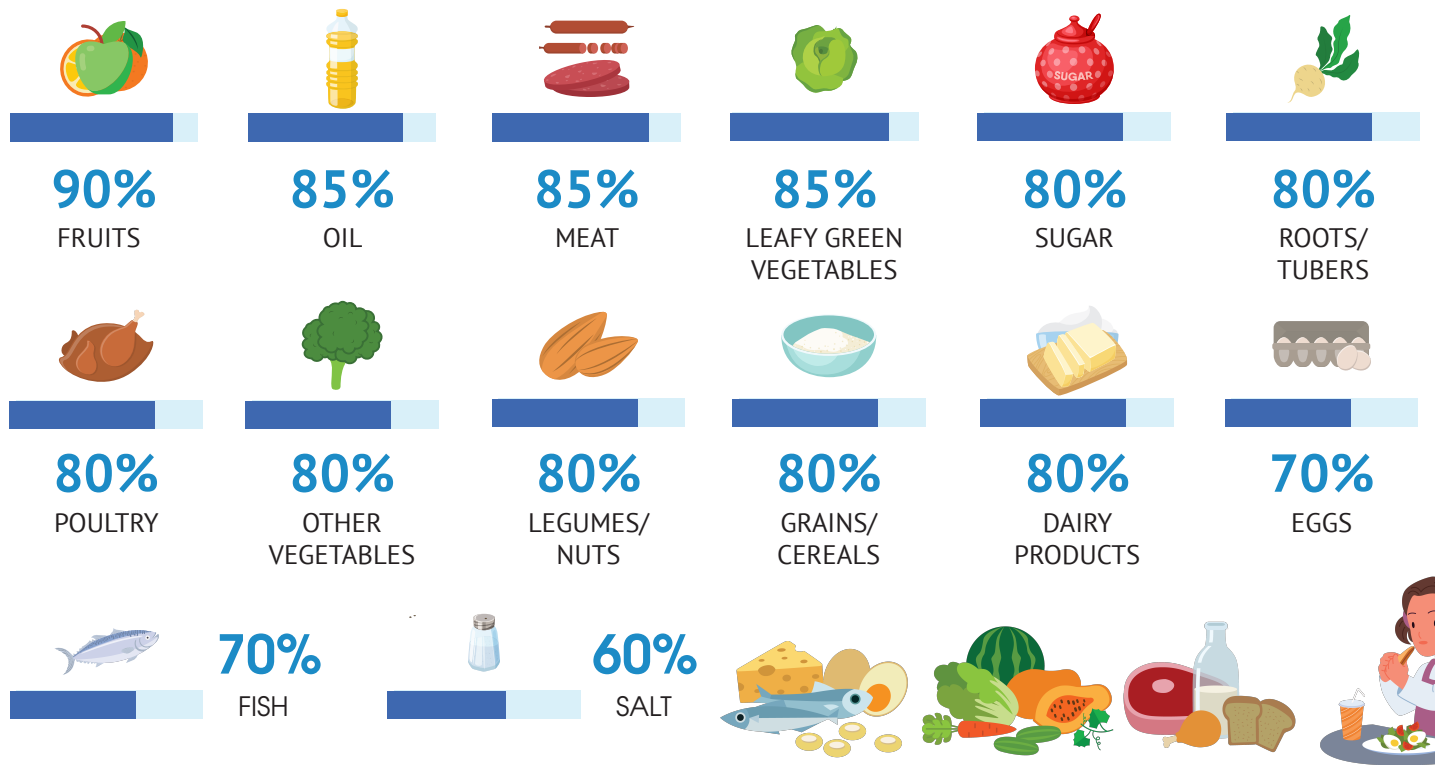
## FOOD SOURCES (% of programs)



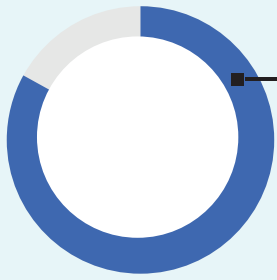
## METHODS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION (% of programs)



## FOOD BASKET (% of programs)

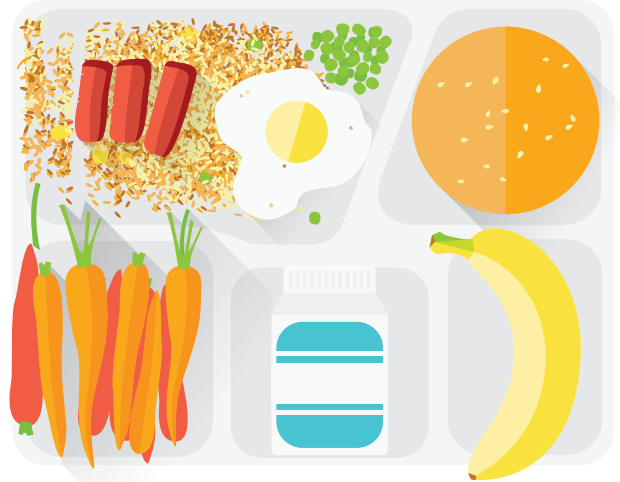


## INVOLVEMENT OF FARMS



**83%**

of programs engage farmers in school feeding programs, higher than in any other region\* of the world.



## EXAMPLES:

### In **Brazil**

100% of food is procured domestically, with a minimum of 30% purchased from small-scale family farmers.

### In **Guatemala**

family farmers are prioritized in food procurement.

### In **Saint Kitts and Nevis**

members from the School Meals Establishment, the Central School Farm, the Department of Agricultural, and the Ministry of Health oversee school feeding activities.

### In **Ecuador**

at least 30% of school food must be purchased from vulnerable sectors of the population, and from micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

### In **Chile**

some school food must be purchased from peasant family farmers or other local producers, with the value ranging from 3.5%–5.25% across different territories.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



The analysis is based on the [Global Survey of School Meal Programs](https://survey.gcnf.org/2021-global-survey) © database. See [School Meal Programs Around the World: Results from the 2021 Global Survey of School Meal Programs](https://survey.gcnf.org/2021-global-survey) © [survey.gcnf.org/2021-global-survey](https://survey.gcnf.org/2021-global-survey) for regional comparisons.

\*Comparative regions are Sub-Saharan Africa; South Asia, East Asia, & Pacific; Middle East & North Africa; Europe, Central Asia & North America.

Suggested Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2022. School Meal Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Accessed at <https://survey.gcnf.org/resources/>

For more information, visit <https://survey.gcnf.org> or contact [info@gcnf.org](mailto:info@gcnf.org).