**SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)**

School year: 2020
- School Food Reinforcement (Refuerzo Alimentario Escolar)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Social Development

**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 423,624,960
- Government*: USD 423,624,960
- 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

*The government budget is inclusive of contributions from both the federal and provincial governments.
**International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

All schools in Argentina have flush toilets, and most have electricity, potable and piped water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. Schools that participate in the school meal program generally have electricity, storage, and gas stoves.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

The semi-decentralized nature of Argentina’s school meal program means that some information (e.g., employment numbers) is not available at the federal level.

**SCHOOLS MEAL PROGRAMS**

**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.

**MEALS/SNACKS/ MODALITY**

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

**FOOD SOURCES**

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

**Prohibited food items:** Prepared/processed foods are not purchased with federal funding.

**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

**CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>660,000</td>
<td>312,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>4,300,000</td>
<td>4,128,000</td>
<td>2,098,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>2,738,539</td>
<td>2,355,144</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,238,539</td>
<td>7,143,144</td>
<td>2,810,772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NUMBER STUDENTS RECEIVING FOOD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>3 years prior</th>
<th>1 year prior</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,200,000</td>
<td>2,800,000</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 7,038,539
Receiving school food: 2,498,464

Food was also provided to some students in...
- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

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GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity. Funding for the 2019 and 2021 surveys is provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture, agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.
School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:

- 4 Fortified foods
- 4 Bio-fortified foods
- 4 Micronutrient supplements
- 4 Nutritionists involved
- 4 Objective to meet nutritional goals
- 4 Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified:
- Dairy products

Micronutrients:
- Iron, zinc, folic acid, vitamin B12, thiamine

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):... 4 Yes 4 No 4 No response

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved:... 4 Yes 4 No 4 No response

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for:... 4 Women 4 Other groups 4 No response

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s):... 4 Yes 4 No 4 No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?... 4 Yes 4 No 4 There are no food banks in this country

Cooks and caterers are hired or recruited at the subnational level, and the cooks are either paid or work on a volunteer basis. Community engagement takes the form of infrastructure maintenance, volunteer labor in food preparation and handling, and participation in meal delivery. Because food banks tend to donate processed foods, which are discouraged in schools, food banks do not play a role in school feeding in Argentina.
SCHOOL FOOD REINFORCEMENT
REFUERZO ALIMENTARIO ESCOLAR

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Social Development

OBJECTIVES:
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
- Five times per week (meals) or twice per month (take-home rations)
- During the school year

TARGETING:
Based on indicators of social vulnerability

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>312,308</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>2,810,772</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products* (fortified)
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Salt
- Sugar
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Yogurt Drink
- Tea
- Fruits
- Oil
- Dairy Milk

FOOD SOURCES:

- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
This program began in 1938 and has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Development since 2004. At the provincial level, the Ministries of Education are also involved. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the share of funds provided by the federal government increased from 15% to 28%, with the remainder covered by provincial governments. Efforts are made to limit food waste (for example, by applying compost to school gardens) and packaging waste (for example, by recycling and using compostable materials).