SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year: August 2017 - July 2018 (185 - 195 school days)

- Food Service for the Full-time Schools Program (Programa Escuelas de Tiempo Completo, or PETC)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Public Education (Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP), Unidad Dirección General de Desarrollo de la Gestión Educativa)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... Yes No NR

BUDGET

Total: USD 98,237,019.93

- National government: USD 98,237,019.93
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

*Contributions by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Some schools have electricity, piped and clean water, and latrines or toilets, but few schools have cafeterias and kitchens. Some kitchens are enclosed; stoves may be wood, charcoal, gas, or electric.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Conditional cash transfer

- Grains/cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes and nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

Prohibited food items: Food and drinks that are a source of simple sugars, refined flours, fats or sodium, or do not meet established nutritional criteria.

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Handwashing with soap
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Height measurement
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Weight measurement
- Menstrual hygiene
- Deworming treatment
- Drinking water
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

- Nutrition
- Health
- Food and agriculture
- Reproductive health
- Hygiene
- HIV prevention

OTHER

- School gardens
- Physical education

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

COVERAGE:


SPECIAL NOTES:

The PETC Program in Mexico only targets full-time schools. There are 2,710,025 primary and secondary students enrolled in the full-time schools, 1,344,912 (49.6% of the enrolled students) received school food in the 2017/18 school year. Food was also provided to some students in pre-schools, vocational/trade schools, University/higher education, Other.
NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve 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:
Grains/cereals, dairy

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:
Iron, Vitamin A, Calcium

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs
13,838

Cooks and food preparers

NR

Transporters

NR

Off-site processors

NR

Food packagers and handlers

NR

Monitoring

32

Food service management

NR

Safety and quality inspectors

NR

Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

☐ Women

☐ Youth

☐ Other groups

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Three positive developments related to the school meal program in Mexico over the past five years are: a) an increase in the population served, b) linking food with education to create healthy habits for students and families, and c) it has boosted the local economy.

Strengths of the program are that it benefits students in communities with high rates of poverty and marginalization and encourages them to stay in the school system; it encourages active participation by the school community; it has a high acceptance rate; and it teaches healthy eating habits. In addition, the program has received positive recognition from international institutions.

Budget cuts have slowed progress in adding more schools to the program, and the school environment has not allowed positive progress in creating a food culture for prevention of obesity and reduction in rates of malnutrition.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

A 2018 UNICEF study reported that 65.8% of students indicated that the first food they consume in a day is provided by the program and that parents are happy with and value the program. Full-Time Schools Program Food Service Assessment, SEP, National Institute of Public Health, UNICEF, 2018: https://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/Fichas_SA_PETC.pdf

RESEARCH NEEDED

Impact assessments (academic achievement linked to school meal service; student measurements and academic achievement); qualitative studies related to perceptions of the program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There are 33 nutritionists involved in the program, one in each state, and one at the national level. Cooks are trained in nutrition. Nutritional monitoring, de-worming, and clean water are required complementary activities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Schools that wish to participate in the program must send a “School Commitment Letter”; mothers, parents, or guardians are asked to voluntarily support the program locally on a daily basis. The PETC program provides financial support to School Food Coordinators, but the Coordinators do not formally work for the program. Most cooks are paid and receive training in nutrition, portion control, menu planning, and food safety. Most (75-100%) of the cooks are women.

CONTACTS: MEXICO

Agency: Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP)
Website: https://www.gob.mx/sep
Email: N/A
FOOD SERVICE FOR THE FULL-TIME SCHOOLS PROGRAM (PROGRAMA ESCUELAS DE TIEMPO COMPLETO, OR PETC)

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Public Education (Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP), Unidad Dirección General de Desarrollo de la Gestión Educativa)

OBJECTIVES:
• To meet educational goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
• In-school meals
• Conditional cash transfer

TARGETING:
Geographic and individual characteristics

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 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>134,093</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1,190,887</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>154,025</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Special Education</td>
<td>11,333</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,490,358</strong></td>
<td><strong>49%</strong></td>
<td><strong>51%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD ITEMS:
Grains/cereals*  Poultry  Eggs
Legumes and nuts  Meat  Roots/tubers
Dairy products*  Green, leafy vegetables  Fruits
Fish  Other vegetables  Oil
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:
100% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:
The program targets full-time schools in areas of need (based on rates of poverty and marginalization), and local governments manage the program. There were 13,708 participating schools in the 2017-18 school year. Food was provided 5 days a week for 10 months and 36% of the food purchased for the program was procured from local sources.