

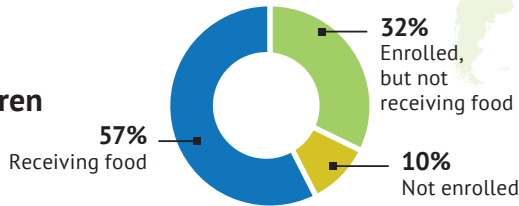


REPUBLIC OF Ecuador

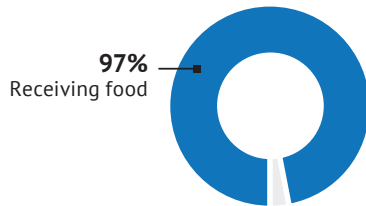


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

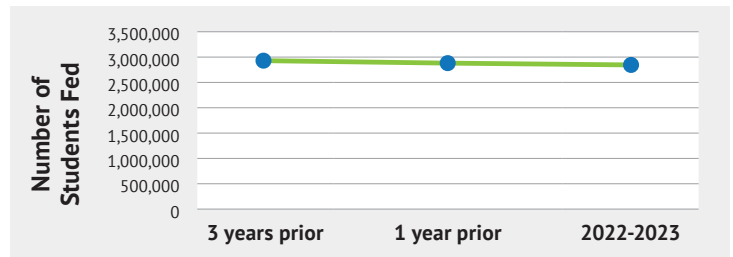
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	1,123,471	603,277	496,333
Primary School	2,200,773	1,794,213	1,745,982
Secondary School	1,816,650	1,801,979	550,984
TOTAL	5,140,894	4,199,469	2,793,299



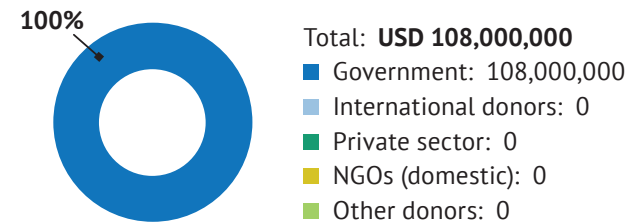
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Health
- Food safety
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)
- Climate/environment policy
- Private sector involvement

The country had ...

- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding
- National system for monitoring school feeding

Budget



- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

School Foods and Beverages

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whole grains | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and shellfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid oils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refined/milled grains | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep orange vegetables and tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-solid and solid fats |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blended grain-based products | <input type="checkbox"/> White roots and tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legumes | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts and seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark green leafy vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cruciferous vegetables | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% fruit juice |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Other fruit drink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry and game meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep-fried foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweets | <input type="checkbox"/> Other sugar-sweetened beverages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Processed meat | | |

Prohibited food items

Foods which were not within the nutritional traffic light system of products as defined in the Food Plan.

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: None

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

Limitations on food and beverage marketing...

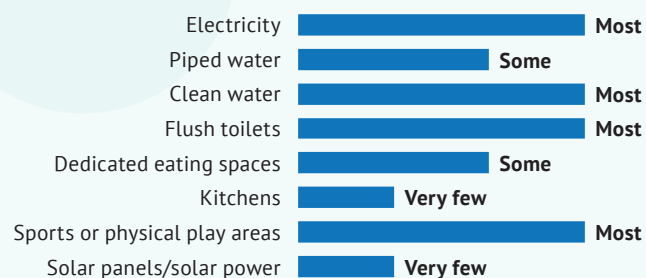
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

Additional Information

During the 2022-2023 school year, the national government employed a nutritionist for the School Food Program. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity included food and nutrition education and physical education.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: 0

- Percent paid: Unknown
- Percent women: Unknown

There was a focus on creating job opportunities for...

- Women**
- Youth
- Other Groups

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
- School gardens

Complementary Education Programs

- Food and nutrition**
- Agriculture
- Environment/climate/sustainability
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education
- Mental health

Additional Information

The administrative team of school meals in the Ministry of Education was led by a woman and composed of 67% women. Both small and medium/large-scale farmers supplied dairy products for the program. Private companies were engaged in food catering, processing, transport, and provision of technical expertise/assistance. Civil society participated in the preparation of the Food-Based Dietary Guidelines, which served as the policy reference for Nutritional Food Education according to the Organic Law of School Feeding.

Environmental Sustainability

Targeted climate-friendly foods

- Yes No

Steps taken to limit food waste

- Sealed food storage
- Fumigation/pest control in storage area
- Use of hermetic bags or larger hermetic storage system
- Routine testing/monitoring of dry food storage
- Use of nearly-expired food
- Use of usable but “imperfect” commodities or produce
- Campaign to reduce how much food students throw away

Steps taken to limit package waste

- Re-use of bags/containers
- Recycling
- Use of compostable materials
- Use of “bulk serve” containers
- Prohibiting specific types of packaging

Additional Information

There was a Ministerial Agreement on the non-use of single-use plastics.

Emergencies

Experienced disruptions to school feeding due to emergencies

- Yes No

Strategies to address the impact of emergencies

- Seek alternative food sources or suppliers
- Changes in numbers of students fed
- Negotiate better prices with existing suppliers
- Establish alternative supply routes or transportation methods
- Source different or alternative food
- Release of food reserves
- Increase funding or budget allocation for school feeding
- Collaborate with local producers or suppliers to reduce dependence on global supply chains
- Changes in delivery method
- Changes in feeding modality
- Changes in feeding frequency
- No particular strategy was used

Additional Information

The School Food Program had a plan in place to mitigate the impact of emergencies, but the program was not affected by any emergencies in the 2022-2023 school year.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. There was a national school feeding policy through the promulgation of the Organic Law on School Feeding and its General Regulations.
2. There were budget allocations from the national financial authority.
3. The objectives of the School Food Program were achieved in terms of national coverage and targeting of beneficiaries.

Challenges

Progressively implementing the territorial school feeding modality was challenging.

School Food Program

(Programa de Alimentación Escolar - PAE)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Inter-American Development Bank (as a supporting entity in the elaboration and financing of the program)
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- National government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	496,333	50%	50%
Primary School	1,745,982	50%	50%
Secondary School	550,984	50%	50%
TOTAL	2,793,299	50%	50%

Foods and Beverages

- ✓ Blended grain-based products
- ✓ Dairy
- ✓ Dairy milk
- ✓ 100% fruit juice

Elements of Home-Grown School Feeding

- Objective for small-scale farmers to benefit from access to a stable market
- ✓ Local food sourcing
- ✓ Small-scale farmers involved by selling directly (or through their farmer organization) to the program or the schools
- ✓ Additional support provided to small-scale farmers
- Country had a law/policy/standard related to small-scale farmers and school feeding programs
- Preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies in tendering procedures
- Effort is made to reduce food miles

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school snacks

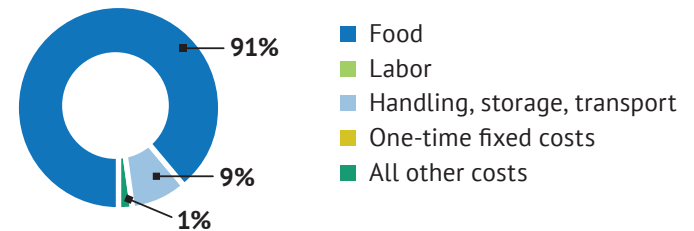
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Universal (All educational sublevels from the first year of Basic General Education; at the Unified General Baccalaureate level, school snacks were provided in Millennium Educational Units.)

Expenses



Food Sources

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

Additional Information

In 1999, management of the School Food Program transitioned from the World Food Program to the national government. During the 2022-2023 school year, School Meals Committees were formed through which students' families contributed to oversight of the program. Based on satisfaction surveys, there have been improvements in the taste and texture of school food.

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs® collects data from government sources and is funded, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture. Contact info@gcnf.org for more information.

Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, Ecuador. <https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>