**Global Child Nutrition Foundation | Global Survey of School Meal Programs**

**REPUBLIC OF Ecuador**

**School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)**

- **All Primary and Secondary School-age Children**
  - 32% Enrolled, but not receiving food
  - 57% Receiving food
  - 10% Not enrolled

- **Only Enrolled Primary Students**
  - 97% Receiving food

**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

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

**Budget**
- Total: **USD 108,000,000**
  - Government: 108,000,000
  - International donors: 0
  - Private sector: 0
  - NGOs (domestic): 0
  - Other donors: 0

**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
ECUADOR

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>Very few</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Piped water</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flush toilets</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dedicated eating spaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchens</td>
<td>Very few</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports or physical play areas</td>
<td>Most</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar panels/solar power</td>
<td>Very few</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

### Employment

- Total number of cooks/caterers: 0
  - Percent paid: Unknown
  - Percent women: Unknown

### 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Level</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>496,333</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>1,745,982</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>550,984</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,793,299</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foods and Beverages
- Blended grain-based products
- Dairy milk
- 100% fruit juice
- Dairy

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 91%
- Labor 9%
- Handling, storage, transport 1%
- One-time fixed costs
- All other costs

Food Sources
- 100% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 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.