

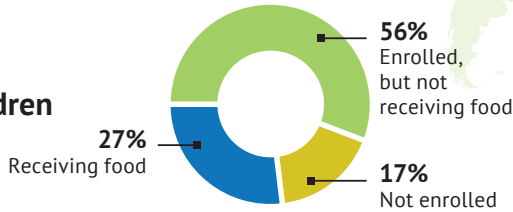


EASTERN REPUBLIC OF  
**Uruguay**

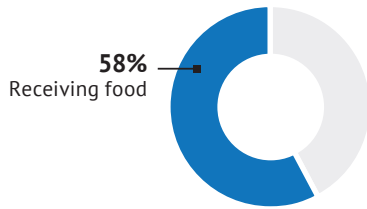


School Meal Coverage (2022)

All Primary and Secondary School-age Children

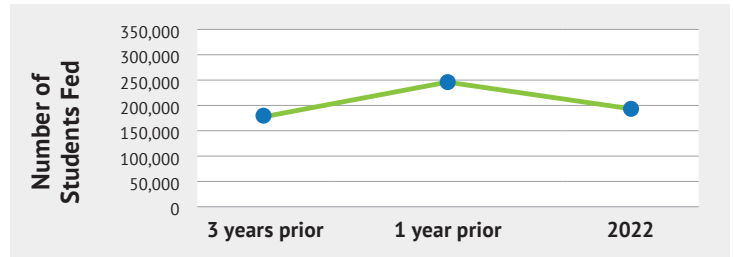


Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	135,942	73,204	41,298
Primary School	276,274	243,817	142,142
Secondary School	286,239	221,130	8,643*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>698,455</b>	<b>538,151</b>	<b>192,083</b>

\* The numbers fed are inclusive of some students in vocational/trade schools.



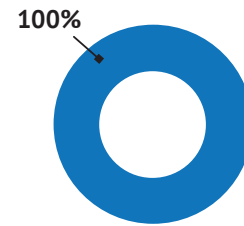
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- 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



Total: **USD 109,942,739**

- Government: 109,942,739
- International donors: 0
- Private sector: 0
- NGOs (domestic): 0
- Other donors: 0

- Line item in the national budget for 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

Prohibited food items

Foods and beverages high in sugar, sodium, and/or fat.

Food Sources

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

**Special Notes:** Population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

## 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...

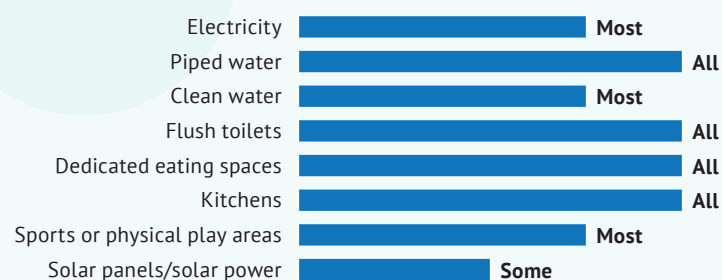
- On school grounds**
- To school age children

## Additional Information

In the 2022 school year, 33 nutritionists, employed by the national government, were engaged with the program. Strategies to mitigate obesity included establishing nutritional requirements for food baskets; food/beverage restrictions on or near school grounds; and providing food, nutrition, health, and physical education.

## Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

### Share of Schools with ...



### Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **Unknown**

- 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

Farmers and the private sector were not engaged with the School Feeding Program.

## 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

Typical school kitchens included an open cooking area, secured storage, and serving utensils. Additional efforts to prevent food waste included adjusting the amount of food to the number of students present at school daily. Research is currently in progress on the topic of sustainable food.

## 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

In the 2022 school year, the program was affected a health epidemic and teacher’s strike. Due to these emergencies, some schools were closed, but school feeding operations were sustained. Other efforts to address the impacts of the emergencies included cash vouchers and provision of meal boxes.

## Successes and Challenges

### Successes

1. Developed school lunch and cup-of-milk recipe books;
2. Established training for nutrition advisors;
3. Underwent a restructuring of the program.

### Challenges

1. Providing food during the Covid-19 pandemic;
2. Achieving greater coverage.

# School Feeding Program

(Programa de Alimentación Escolar)

## Management

- Lead implementer(s): General Directorate of Early and Primary Education (*Dirección General de Educación Inicial y Primaria - DGEIP*)
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- Individual schools procured the food

## How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	41,298	—	—
Primary School	142,142	—	—
Secondary School	8,643*	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192,084</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

\* The numbers fed are inclusive of some students in vocational/trade schools.

## Foods and Beverages

- Refined/milled grains
- 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
- Liquid oils
- Semi-solid and solid fats
- Salt
- Dairy milk

## 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

## Objectives

- To meet educational goals
- To reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

## Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

## Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- Throughout the year

## Targeting

- School type and grade level (from kindergarten to 9th grade)

## Expenses



## Food Sources

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

## Additional Information

The program began operating in 1920. Uruguay has national fortification policies in which some food items are mandated to be fortified with iron, iodine, folic acid, and/or fluoride.

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](mailto:info@gcnf.org) for more information.

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