

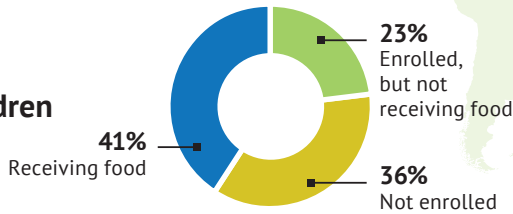


REPUBLIC OF Honduras

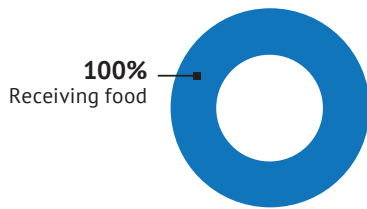


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

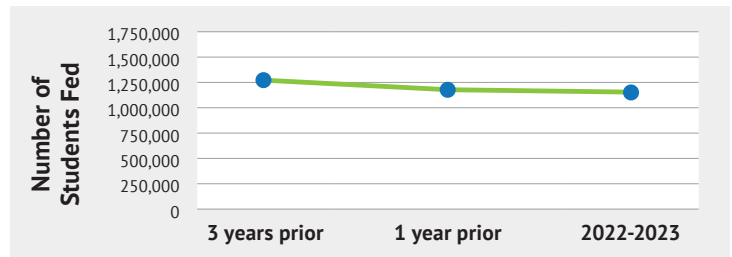
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	584,556	160,342	179,046
Primary School	1,742,251	1,032,883	1,039,026
Secondary School	777,114	573,892	0
TOTAL	3,103,921	1,767,117	1,218,072



National Laws, Policies, and Standards

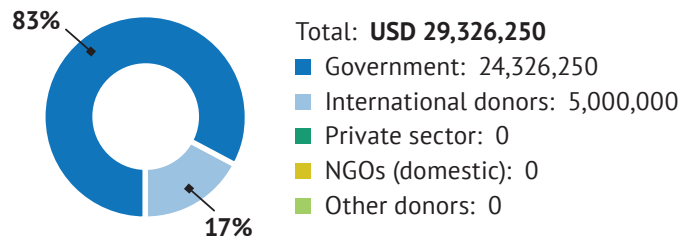
- National school feeding policy
* A national school feeding policy is currently in the draft stage.

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

The country had ...

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

Budget



An estimated 7% of resources for school feeding in Honduras come in the form of in-kind donations by international organizations. The total monetary value of international assistance was estimated with reference to the multi-year McGovern-Dole Food for Education award given to Catholic Relief Services for school feeding and related education activities in Honduras in 2020-2021.

- 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

None

Food Sources

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

Special Notes: Some enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. Population numbers were drawn from the most recent census of Honduras, with projections for the year 2022.

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...

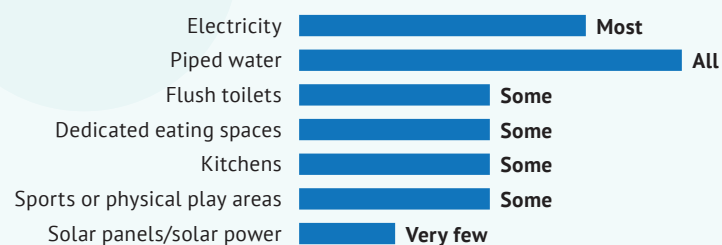
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

Additional Information

Oil, wheat flour, and maize flour are fortified with iron, thiamine, riboflavin, selenium, and other vitamins. In addition, a pilot program with biofortified beans is currently underway. The program is supported by five nutritionists, building on an agreement with the academy whereby nutritionists in social work provide their services to the program. Recently, a height-and-weight census was carried out in Honduras for first grade children; it was the first time such a census had been conducted since 2001.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

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

- Percent paid: 0
- 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

Each school has its own school meals committee, and all committee members are volunteers. It is usually mothers who prepare and take the food to school. Students themselves also assist with food preparation, serving, and/or cleanup.

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

Additional strategies to limit food waste included reducing the batch size of food for each school, which reduced the likelihood of expiration and food wastage. Additionally, procurement of locally produced food reduced the distance between where the food was produced and the schools. Finally, students provided input regarding what foods they enjoy, thereby reducing the amount that is rejected.

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

No emergencies were reported for the 2022-2023 school year.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. Diversification of the school menu through the inclusion of fish.
2. Inclusion of communities and producers in local purchases.
3. In 2023, the Agri-Food Policy, the School Food Policy (in draft), and the Regulations of the School Food Law (final draft) were drawn up.
4. Proposal to implement the program with fresh rations in 9 departments.

Challenges

1. The coffers of Honduras were in the red when the new government took office. As there was no established allocation in the budget for school meals, adjustments had to be made for the program as part of the general budget of the Republic.
2. The budget for the school feeding program is not yet law, but is rather left as a legislative decree.
3. The current funds are not sufficient for the inclusion of fresh rations in the school meals.
4. A larger budget is required to achieve universality of the program.
5. There is a need to capitate local actors to facilitate the management and purchase of fresh rations.

National School Feeding Program

(Programa Nacional de Alimentación Escolar)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): The School Feeding Department, which is part of the Secretary of Social Development and is currently under the Solidarity Action Program (PROASOL)
- 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	179,046	50%	50%
Primary School	1,039,026	50%	50%
Secondary School	0	—	—
TOTAL	1,218,072	50%	50%

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Refined/milled grains
- Legumes
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Poultry and game meat
- Fish and shellfish
- Dark green leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Liquid oils

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 address gender-specific challenges
- To reduce hunger
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals

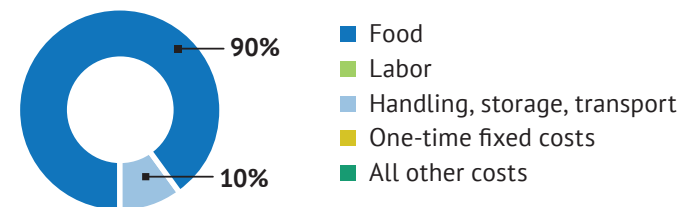
Frequency and Duration

- 5 times per week
- During the school year

Targeting

- Targeting according to grade level and school type (preschool and basic (1-9) grades in public schools). The goal is to achieve universality.

Expenses



Food Sources

93% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 7% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

School feeding began in Honduras in 1998 with a snack program for the rural sector. In 2004, the program was extended to the national level, and this was transformed into a national school feeding program in 2016.

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, Honduras.

<https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>