

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- School Food and Health Program
(Programa de Alimentación y Salud Escolar)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

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

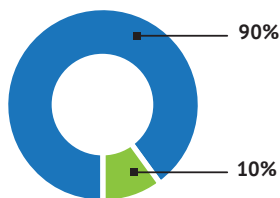
Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

BUDGET

Total: USD 24,385,933

- Government:**
USD 22,000,000
- International donors*:**
USD 0
- Private sector:** USD 0
- Other donors:** USD 2,385,933



Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Yes No No response

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Most schools in El Salvador have electricity, piped and potable water, kitchens, flush toilets, and gender-separated bathrooms. Some have latrines, and very few have dedicated eating spaces.

SPECIAL NOTES

Some population numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast | <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take-home rations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
-
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grains, cereals | <input type="checkbox"/> Green, leafy vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roots, tubers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legumes, pulses, nuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sugar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | |
-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit juice | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Prohibited food items: None

FOOD SOURCES

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

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handwashing with soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing testing/treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Height measurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental cleaning/testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weight measurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Menstrual hygiene |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Testing for anemia | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deworming treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Water purification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye testing/eyeglasses | |

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition Health
- Agriculture Reproductive health
- School gardens HIV prevention
- Hygiene Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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REPUBLIC OF El Salvador



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

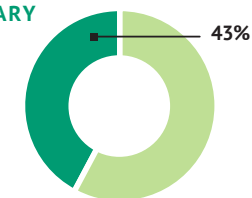
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	342,169	239,643	121,057
Primary school	656,354	613,991	356,026
Secondary school	701,639	450,102	226,423
Total	1,700,162	1,303,736	703,506



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,357,993

Receiving school food: 582,449



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools Vocational/trade schools
- Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved 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/biofortified:

Grains/cereals and beverages

Micronutrients:

Iron, vitamin A, zinc, folic acid, vitamin B12, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

STUDIES CONDUCTED

None reported

RESEARCH NEEDED

While there is a national census of height and weight carried out periodically, rigorous impact evaluations are needed to differentiate program benefits from other influencing factors.

CONTACTS: EL SALVADOR

Agency: Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology

Website: www.mined.gob.sv

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

0	Cooks and food preparers
70	Transporters
	Off-site processors
60	Food packagers and handlers
30	Monitoring
10	Food service management
	Safety and quality inspectors
60	Other

**If blank, no response was provided.*

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

- Yes No No response

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

- Yes No No response

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

- Women Other groups
 Youth No response

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

- Yes No No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes No There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The program prefers to use local products and purchases some food from producer organizations; for example, dairy milk is procured from cooperatives, while beans are procured directly from producers. Food for the program is purchased through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures with preferential treatment for small farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies. However, some food is also purchased from distributors, and it is not always possible to know the source of their products. Parents are involved in the preparation of food for their children.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Strides have been made in food and nutrition education (including the provision of virtual courses for teachers) and in school and family gardens, especially when students were not able to attend school during the COVID-19 pandemic. There has also been an effort to incorporate fresh foods such as fruits, vegetables, milk, and eggs into the school meal program. However, tendering/purchasing processes tend to be time-consuming and complex. At times, this has caused delays in obtaining the products needed for the program. Another challenge is that funding for the program is about \$22 per student per year, while it is estimated that a nutritious and adequate daily meal would require \$65 per student per year.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Schools in El Salvador were closed but operating remotely for most of the 2020 school year. While food was still delivered and the level of funding remained the same, the frequency and size of rations changed, as did targeting. There were also changes in the modality and location of food distribution. There was direct distribution of food to educational centers, and from there, teachers, parents, and others helped deliver the food to students' families to be prepared at home. Safety protocols recommended by the Ministry of Health were followed. It was not possible to include fresh foods (fruits, vegetables, etc.) in the program, however, because there were not sufficient budgetary resources. It also would have been too difficult to transfer funds to the students to compensate for the lack of fresh foods. For future emergencies of this type, it would be good to have national strategic reserves to ensure that food is available for the program, even if production or imports are interrupted. On the positive side, the pandemic prompted the program to adapt to delivering rations tailored to each student. It also enabled the program to make delivery logistics more flexible, even making more direct deliveries to some places, bringing food closer to large educational centers and reducing costs. In addition to the pandemic, there was excessive rain and flooding in El Salvador during the 2020 school year.

SCHOOL FOOD AND HEALTH PROGRAM PROGRAMA DE ALIMENTACIÓN Y SALUD ESCOLAR

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Varied, with the frequency of take-home rations determined by individual schools
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic, focused on areas with high levels of poverty and malnutrition

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	121,057	49%	51%
Primary school	356,026	49%	51%
Secondary school	226,423	50%	50%
Total	703,506	49%	51%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals*	Oil	Fortified beverages*
Dairy products	Sugar	
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

70% Purchased (domestic)	0% In-kind (domestic)
30% Purchased (foreign)	0% In-kind (foreign)

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

El Salvador's School Food and Health Program was initiated by implementing partners in 1984, but since about 2008, it has been administered and funded entirely by the government. In 2020, the program took its normal form before the pandemic, covering 100% of students; and then during the pandemic, it focused on 724,575 students from locations that ranked as severe, high, and moderate on El Salvador's poverty map and who met stunting and malnutrition criteria (very high, high, and moderate per the IV National Census of Height and Weight of El Salvador). The program covered 3,771 public schools in the 2020 school year.

