

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- School Feeding Program (Programa de Alimentación Escolar)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education

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 257,767,150

A large majority of the budget for school feeding in Guatemala is provided by the Government of Guatemala. However, the precise breakdown of funding sources is unclear.

INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Guatemala have flush toilets, most have kitchens, some have electricity, piped water, and clean water, and very few have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. The school kitchens have either charcoal/wood stoves or gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists both Global Communities and Catholic Relief Services as receiving support from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program in 2021 for school feeding activities in Guatemala.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has funded the Learning for Life Project in Totonicapán at an annual rate of approximately USD 11 million.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green, leafy vegetables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roots, tubers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legumes, pulses, nuts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fruits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sugar |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poultry | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish | |
-
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit juice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Atole (cornmeal drink) |

Prohibited food items: A list of prohibited foods has been prepared by a commission of nutritionists and government representatives.

FOOD SOURCES

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

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

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



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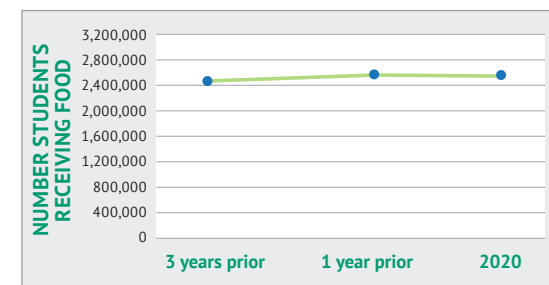
REPUBLIC OF Guatemala



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

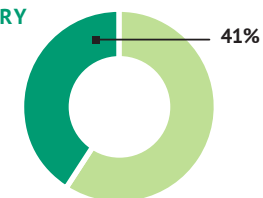
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	1,125,431	499,700	486,795
Primary school	3,290,835	2,045,146	2,039,855
Secondary school	1,682,852	420,200	0
Total	6,099,118	2,965,046	2,526,650



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 4,973,687

Receiving school food: 2,039,855



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:

Salt, sugar

Micronutrients:

Vitamin A, iodine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At least ten nutritionists are involved in school feeding in Guatemala. Some fortified food items are provided in accordance with the National Law of Food Fortification, and nutritional requirements for food baskets are applied to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity. Foods produced in school gardens are consumed by the students.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

Technical diagnosis of the school feeding program (2019);
A study of the height and weight of schoolchildren (2019)

RESEARCH NEEDED

An evaluation of changes in the eating behavior of schoolchildren.

CONTACTS: GUATEMALA

Agency: Ministry of Education

Website: <https://www.mineduc.gob.gt/portal/index.asp>

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

- 0 Cooks and food preparers
- Transporters
- Off-site processors
- Food packagers and handlers
- Monitoring
- Food service management
- Safety and quality inspectors
- 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

Funds are transferred to Parents' Organizations that, in turn, purchase food to be prepared in the schools. Competitive procedures are followed to procure the food, with preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies. Specifically, family farmers accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food are prioritized. Most of the cooks in the program are women—often students' mothers—who generally work on a volunteer basis. The involvement of Parents' Organizations ensures that the program is community-led.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Among the recent successes related to school feeding in Guatemala, the School Feeding Law was issued, which effectively institutionalized the School Feeding Program. Reforms to the law brought an increase in budget per student and the level of coverage. The program is overseen by an inter-institutional school feeding commission. Working through Parents' Organizations allows for the execution of funds at the local (decentralized) level, and there are mechanisms and tools that facilitate the design of school menus with cultural relevance. However, some challenges remain. There is need for a budget for the improvement of infrastructure and equipment in school kitchens, and a need to hire more personnel to provide guidance for the Parents' Organizations. In addition, it remains a challenge to link family farming with the School Feeding Program.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

For much of 2020, schools in Guatemala were closed but operating remotely. In response to the crisis, the number of children reached by the program increased. However, due to limited storage options, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a reduction in the diversity of food for the School Feeding Program. The pandemic also prompted a shift in modality from in-school meals/snacks to take-home rations that have been provided to students or their parents to pick up at school to prepare at home. In 2021, the school feeding law was modified to ensure that the School Feeding Program will be implemented even when classes are suspended or schools are closed due to an emergency. In the 2020–2021 school year, Guatemala was also affected by natural disasters.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM PROGRAMA DE ALIMENTACIÓN ESCOLAR

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school snacks
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week for in-school snacks; variable frequency for take-home rations during the school year

TARGETING:

Universal

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	486,795	–	–
Primary school	2,039,855	–	–
Secondary school	0	–	–
Total	2,526,650	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Poultry	Salt*
Roots, tubers	Fish	Sugar*
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Dairy milk
Dairy products	Other vegetables	Atole (cornmeal drink)
Eggs	Fruits	
Meat	Oil	

* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Ministry of Education issues technical and administrative guidelines for the disbursement of funds at the local level through the Parents' Organizations, which operate the School Feeding Program. The Ministry of Education through the Departmental Directorates of Education (with 26 directorates in the country) are in charge of budgeting the program. At the central level, the General Directorate of Community Participation and Support Services (DIGEPSA) and the Financial Administrative Directorate (DAFI) are responsible for requesting the budget from the Ministry of Public Finance.

