

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020

- School Food Reinforcement
(Refuerzo Alimentario Escolar)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Social Development

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

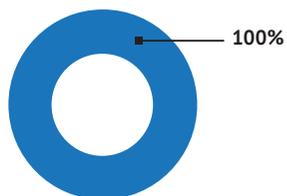
Total: USD 423,624,960

- Government*: USD 423,624,960
- International donors**: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

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

*The government budget is inclusive of contributions from both the federal and provincial governments.

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



INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Argentina have flush toilets, and most have electricity, potable and piped water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias, and kitchens. Schools that participate in the school meal program generally have electricity, storage, and gas stoves.

SPECIAL NOTES

The semi-decentralized nature of Argentina's school meal program means that some information (e.g., employment numbers) is not available at the federal level.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Prepared/processed foods are not purchased with federal funding.

FOOD SOURCES

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



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020

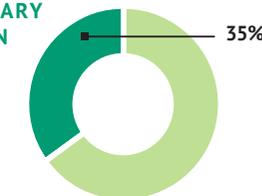
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	2,200,000	660,000	312,308
Primary school	4,300,000	4,128,000	2,098,464
Secondary school	2,738,539	2,355,144	400,000
Total	9,238,539	7,143,144	2,810,772



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 7,038,539

Receiving school food: 2,498,464



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:

Dairy products

Micronutrients:

Iron, zinc, folic acid, vitamin B12, thiamine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Twelve nutritionists are involved in school feeding at the national level, and an additional 1 to 20 nutritionists are engaged in each of the 24 provincial districts of Argentina. To combat overweight/obesity, Argentina provides nutrition education, health education, and physical education.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

There have been studies aimed at improving the coverage of the school feeding program, especially for breakfast, and improving the nutritional content of school meals with the inclusion of more fruits, fiber, and protein.

RESEARCH NEEDED

Studies related to monitoring and evaluation.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

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

Cooks and caterers are hired or recruited at the subnational level, and the cooks are either paid or work on a volunteer basis. Community engagement takes the form of infrastructure maintenance, volunteer labor in food preparation and handling, and participation in meal delivery. Because food banks tend to donate processed foods, which are discouraged in schools, food banks do not play a role in school feeding in Argentina.

CONTACTS: ARGENTINA

Agency: Ministry of Social Development
Website: www.argentina.gob.ar/desarrollosocial

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to the school meal program in Argentina include the establishment of goals for school canteens and the improved regulation of school environments. In addition, nutritionists have been engaged in the program in all provinces.

The program has also faced some challenges. For example, the budget for school canteens was not increased from 2016–2019. In addition, delays in the release of funds in some provinces has caused problems in the context of high inflation.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Argentina responded to the COVID-19 crisis with a temporary pause in school feeding activities, but also an increase in federal funding for school feeding, an increase in the number of students who benefited from school feeding, and an increase in the frequency of school feeding. Temporary changes were made in terms of beneficiaries, the venue of distributing food, and feeding modality. For example, rather than serving meals in school, food was provided to students or their parents to pick up at school to prepare and eat at home. Where students had earlier received only breakfast or only lunch, now they received both meals through their schools. The ability to react and adapt quickly was key to Argentina's success in sustaining the school meal program during the COVID-19 crisis.

SCHOOL FOOD REINFORCEMENT REFUERZO ALIMENTARIO ESCOLAR

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Social Development

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- Five times per week (meals) or twice per month (take-home rations)
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Based on indicators of social vulnerability

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	312,308	–	–
Primary school	2,098,464	–	–
Secondary school	400,000	–	–
Total	2,810,772	–	–

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Poultry	Salt
Roots, tubers	Fish	Sugar
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Green, leafy vegetables	Dairy Milk
Dairy products*	Other vegetables	Yogurt Drink
Eggs	Fruits	Tea
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:

This program began in 1938 and has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Development since 2004. At the provincial level, the Ministries of Education are also involved. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the share of funds provided by the federal government increased from 15% to 28%, with the remainder covered by provincial governments. Efforts are made to limit food waste (for example, by applying compost to school gardens) and packaging waste (for example, by recycling and using compostable materials).

