

Ecuador



Ecuador joined the Coalition in November 2021.

Achievements

Ecuador's school meals programme provides daily rations to students from early childhood through secondary school. The programme is a state policy aimed at improving the nutritional status of children and adolescents, covering approximately 15% of their daily nutritional needs. In 2025, the programme reached over 2.7 million students across 12,731 schools, delivering nearly 224 million rations. Procurement is carried out through a national reverse auction system, with at least 35% of funds allocated to local and small-scale producers, including those from the social and solidarity economy and family farming.

In June 2024, Ecuador launched a decentralized school meals pilot programme in partnership with WFP to deliver fresh and healthy meals in 14 schools across the Coastal and Highland regions, reaching approximately 20,000 children and adolescents since 2024. Supported by a state investment of USD 2.5 million, the programme has strengthened local food systems by engaging 321 producers and 7 associations, delivering 936 tons of food annually, and training 263 members of the educational community in nutrition and hygiene. Implemented in collaboration with partners, the model reflects Ecuador's commitment to inclusive, community-based school meals.

Next steps

Ecuador aims to expand the school meals model.

The country seeks support to:

- Secure sustainable and multi-year funding for the delivery of fresh and healthy school meals.
- Strengthen logistics, infrastructure, and training for programme staff.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation systems and define clear performance indicators to support long-term planning and impact assessment.
- The partnership model with WFP and the Ministry of Education could be institutionalized through formal agreements, standardized protocols, and a legal-operational framework, allowing gradual expansion to 320,000 beneficiaries across 1,524 schools over the next four years.
- Additionally, a study with the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) is evaluating the feasibility of an investment project to increase the number of beneficiaries in this school meal program.

Highlights

- Reaching over 2.7 million students across over 12,700 schools through its national school meals programme.
- Allocating at least 35% of purchases to local and small-scale producers, from family farming.
- Launched a decentralized school meals pilot with WFP to deliver fresh, healthy school meals and strengthen local food systems.