



Global Child Nutrition Forum
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Argentina School Foodservice

Due to 2001 crisis the food situation in Argentina changed dramatically. All initiatives food related were unified in a National Plan for Food Security, in order to: provide alimentary assistance to families in risk situation, alimentary assistance in special cases (celiac, malnourished), assistance to communitarian kitchens and school foodservice and family, school and communitarian farm.

The objective of the plan is to assure for vulnerable population the access to an adapted, sufficient, and agreed to the particularities and customs of each region feeding.

The program called "The Most Urgent Hunger" is led by the Ministry of Social Development. The plan is orientated to families that live socially adverse situations and nutritional vulnerability. The program is coordinated by a National Commission of Nutrition and Food integrated by the Ministry of Social Development, Health, Education, Economy, Production, Employment and NGO: similar structures are created to replicate the model in provinces and municipalities.

The Ministry of Social Development is the institution responsible for school foodservice at national level. The funds for school foodservice are decentralized and came from a co- participation federal fund. Each province is autonomous for its program and administrates it. Provinces have different level of advanced, some provinces (Cordoba, Santa Fé, Buenos Aires) have structured programs and other delegate the responsibility and resources directly to schools.

Previously, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has led the school foodservice. They started a project called "Improvement of the quality of foodservices in school with socio-educative vulnerability" that project continues today and it is part of the National Plan of Food Security. The initiative was borne with the idea to guarantee the attendance of kids to school and improve the performance of students with nutritional deficit through the financial support of foodservice. It was targeted to the poorer and educational risk schools. The financial support complemented but not replaced the regular funds assigned to school foodservice.

Since the beginning of the project until February 2004 it was invested 52.608.179 (US\$) on the project. 11.281 schools were assisted from 23 provinces covering the nutritional needs of 1.954.020 students.

During this year, the project "Improvement of the quality of foodservices in school with socio-educative vulnerability" was transfer to the National Food Security Plan, to unify all national state actions food-nutrition related. The plan was re-named as School Foodservice Reinforcement. The general objective of the plan is to reach nutrition and development of kids who attend to school with socio- educational risk from kindergarten, elementary school and/or special schools. The plan aims at improve the quality of the selected school foodservice, implement capacity building action, promote the participation of community leaders by developing proposals to

improve local school foodservice situation, train school teachers about nutrition and food and improve the nutrition of kids in vulnerable conditions.

The coordinators of the School Foodservice Reinforcement project from the Ministry of Social Development are receiving proposals from provinces to assign the funds of the program.

Buenos Aires, Capital City of Argentina

In Buenos Aires, Capital City of Argentina, the school foodservice is coordinated by the Secretary of Education, Direction of Cooperatives and School Foodservice .

The system is operated by public concessionary. There are approximately 22 companies able to participate in the system. The concession last 2 years and includes: the educational year, the winter and summer school.

The school foodservice system provides 190.000 breakfasts per day, 70.400 lunches, 33.000 quick lunches and 20.000 snacks (sandwich). Breakfasts are free for all students. The lunch and other meals are delivered by a scholarship system, which almost all kids receive through a full scholarship. Selected companies not only provide the meals but also the personal to cook and serve them. The infrastructure is provided by schools; In cases where schools have no infrastructure available, catering companies provide the meals already cooked.

The Direction of Cooperatives and School Foodservice counts with 20 nutritionists the coordinate and audit the service. Schools also have a commission integrated by parents, the cooperative group and the vice-principal to coordinate the system in the school.

The objective of the program is to offer a quality service that corresponds to the kid's nutritional needs, and increase the coverage of the program. During this year the budget has increase on a 12%: 20% on lunches, 73% quick lunches, 27% snacks and 6% breakfast. The year menus have incorporated liquid milk that has better acceptance than powder milk

Provinces of Argentina

The province of Santa Fe invests 13.300.000 US\$ in school foodservice per year. The Ministry of education coordinates the program. The objective of the school foodservice is to assist as many schools as possible, assuring a quality and safety service in order to provide nutritional food to kids at school age. The menus cover 50% daily calories between the milk cup and the foodservice; and 83 % of the total daily grams/protein.

The province of Misiones has a different system, where funds are transferred directly to schools and cooperative school group, in order to organize the foodservice of the institution. The principal and the cooperative are responsible for the school foodservice. The province also provides training and education for the implementation and also audits the service.