

## Blog Summary of the Webinar: [Brazil's National School Food Program – A Conversation](#)

### Description

This conversation was the first in the Coalition for Healthy School Food's series *School Food Around the World*. The webinar, held on March 31 2021, covered elements of Brazil 's National School Food Program-the Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar (PNAE). The webinar was hosted jointly by [Food Secure Canada](#) and the [Coalition for Healthy School Food, Ryerson's Centre for Studies in Food Security](#), and the [George Brown College School of Hospitality and Tourism Management](#). The session covered many aspects of the PNAE, including information on funding, procurement, implementation, and how it has adapted to the global pandemic.

### Participants

#### Hosts:

- Cecilia Rocha – Director for Studies in Food Security and Professor, School of Nutrition, Ryerson University
- Andrea Moraes, School of Nutrition and Chang School, Ryerson University
- Debbie Field – Coordinator of the Coalition for Healthy School Food

#### Panellists:

- Bruno Costa e Silva – PNAE General Coordination, Ministry of Education, Brazil
- Luiz Henrique Bambini – Consultant, School Food Programs
- Patrícia Camacho Dias – Social Nutrition, Fluminense Federal University (UFF), Brazil
- Viviany Chaves – Nutritionist, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), Brazil

### Summary of Presentations

#### PNAE Official Video

- Brazil's National School Food Program (SFP) was established in 1955 and is the world's most extensive school meal program.
- It is the only program that serves 100% of public-school students and includes early childhood, elementary, secondary, and adult literacy students as well as students from Indigenous and Quilombola (Afro-descendant) communities.
- PNAE has around 6,000 Dietitians, 80,000 School Meal Counsellors, and an investment of 4 billion Brazilian Real (BRL/R\$)<sup>1</sup>.
- The program aims at providing balanced and healthy meals to students. Around 30% of the total food procurement must come from family farms (Law No. 11.947/2009).

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<sup>1</sup> The technical responsibility for school feeding in the States, the Federal District, municipalities, and federal schools is the responsibility of nutritionists, who must comply with the guidelines provided for by Law and in the relevant legislation. From: <https://www.fn-de.gov.br/index.php/programas/pnae/pnae-area-gestores/pnae-manuais-cartilhas/item/12094-caderno-de-legisla%C3%A7%C3%A3o-2021>

## PPT Presentation

- PNAE provides meals for over 42 million public-school students.
- Federal funding is on a per child/day cost (for food only), and it varies from R\$0.32 for youth to R\$1.07 for day-care centres and R\$0.64 (R\$1 = CDN\$0.23) for Indigenous and Quilombola school children.
- PNAE was created in 1955, with significant policy changes made in 2009.
- According to federal legislation, 30% of food must be purchased from family farms. There are specific guidelines on how far these farms can be from schools.<sup>2</sup>
- In April 2020, temporary legislation was enacted that allowed the program to distribute food directly to public-school students when schools were closed due to the pandemic. Each municipality responded to this policy unilaterally (see Q&A for more information on this).
- Legislation amendments made in 2020 also limited the purchase of processed and ultra-processed food to a maximum of 20% of expenditures. In addition to this, 75% of purchases must be spent on minimally processed foods (in-natura).

## Q&A

The attendees asked several questions on the cost and funding, changes in legislation due to the pandemic, and monitoring and evaluation of the Brazilian SFP.

- PNAE made several changes in legislation during the pandemic. For example, distinctions were made between local and small farmers. It enabled indigenous farmers to prioritize supply to their local villages. Local governments were permitted to deliver meals directly to students' homes (however, this was not an obligation). Local governments faced several challenges while providing food, as money was not allotted to them for this purpose. Municipalities adapted to the challenges in various ways, such as distributing ingredients for cooking instead of prepared meals and giving vouchers that allowed families to buy food from local markets.
- The federal government transfers money monthly to each municipality to run PNAE. Municipalities also add extra funding according to need. Greater community vulnerability, remote locations and difficult to reach areas, and unique food culture contribute to the increased cost for indigenous and Quilombola residents.
- Existing legislation enables making adjustments for students with special dietary needs. However, special diets require documentation from a doctor.
- 30% of local procurement is tracked through an online reporting system that every municipality must fill in. This self-reporting covers information about the number of

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<sup>2</sup> Definition of FAMILY FARMER AND RURAL FAMILY ENTREPRENEUR: the one who practices activities in the rural environment, meeting, simultaneously, the following requirements: I – do not have, in any way, an area greater than 4 (four) fiscal modules; II – predominantly use the family's workforce in the economic activities of your establishment or enterprise; III – have family income primarily from economic activities linked to the establishment or enterprise itself; IV - direct your establishment or business with your family (from Caderno de Legislação 2020. PROGRAMA NACIONAL DE ALIMENTAÇÃO ESCOLAR – PNAE. ANEXO IV (continuação). VALORES DE REFERÊNCIA PARA ENERGIA, MACRONUTRIENTES E MICRONUTRIENTES. PRÉ-ESCOLA, ENSINO FUNDAMENTAL, ENSINO MÉDIO E EJA. (TECHNICAL NOTE No. 1879810/2020/COSAN/CGPAE/DIRAE - CHANGES IN FOOD AND NUTRITION AND FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS OF RESOLUTION CD/FNDE No. 6, OF MAY 8, 2020). From: <https://www.fnde.gov.br/index.php/programas/pnae/pnae-area-gestores/pnae-manuais-cartilhas/item/12094-caderno-de-legisla%C3%A7%C3%A3o-2021>

participating children, details of purchase from family farmers, and information of the family farmers. Family farmers are defined by size and income. While the size of the farm may vary depending on the region, the farmers must rely on the income from their farm (i.e., most of their income must come from farming).

- Many schools didn't have the infrastructure and funding at the time of PNAE's implementation. Hence, states and municipalities contribute funds for kitchen and equipment infrastructure and personnel to prepare meals and complement the amount the federal government transfers to purchase food.<sup>3</sup>
- PNAE is a constantly evolving program.

**Please follow the links below and see the Policy Document attached to the Coalition's Webinar on Brazil's National School Food Program, for more resources and information on PNAE and the [Betinho Project](#).**

[PNAE Official Video](#)

[Webinar Slides](#)

[Information on the Betinho Project](#)

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<sup>3</sup> Policy Brief #1. Financing of the Brazilian School Feeding Programme. n.d. From: <https://centrodeexcelencia.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PolicyBrief1EN-1.pdf>