



**SHARING THE EXPERIENCE OF
THE FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM OF
BELO HORIZONTE**

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO FOOD

“I think we should use the example of Belo Horizonte as a lesson taught to us, food is not a commodity. It is a human right and it should be treated as such ...”

Olivier de Schutter
(UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food)

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AWARD WINNING POLICY

Achievements

- Reduction of child mortality by 60% in the first 12 years
- Reduction of malnourishment among children under the age of 5 by 75%
- Fruit and vegetable intake increased by 25 %
 - Named Best-Practice by UNESCO in 2003
 - Awarded with the Future Policy Award by the World Future Council in 2009



SUCCESS PILLARS OF BELO HORIZONTE'S FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM (FSS)

- Establishment of the human right to adequate and healthy food for every citizen by law in 1993
- Development of a comprehensive system for food security with the involvement of civil society organizations
- Central supervision of all programmes through a specially created department that works cross-sectorally with all relevant city offices

CONCEPTS OF THE BELO HORIZONTE FSS

Belo Horizonte has applied the following systematic approach in order to comply with the law guaranteeing the right to food:

- Integrating logistics and supply chains of the entire food system
- Tying local producers directly to consumers to reduce prices and increase food sovereignty
- Using government purchase to stimulate local diversified agricultural production and job creation
- Educating the population about food security and good nutrition
- Regulating markets on selected produce to guarantee the right to healthy, high-quality food to all its citizens

A SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM OF INTERCONNECTED PROGRAMMES

The food security system consists of a bundle of highly interconnected programmes that foster and complement one another. The key programmes are:

1. SMASAN

Central project management through a specially created department within the municipality, the Deputy Municipal Secretariat of Nutritional Food Security (SMASAN). It works cross-departmentally with all city authorities and important civil society organisations and initiatives.

2. Abastecer Programme – Foods at Low Cost

Provision of special sales outlets (Abastecers) to commercial greengrocers in the most popular markets if they offer at least 25 healthy products at a fixed low price.



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KEY ELEMENTS OF BELO HORIZONTE'S FSS

3. Straight from the Field

Provision of market stalls to small-scale farmers from the surrounding area, shortening the supply chain as consumers can buy horticultural products directly from the producers.



4. Public Restaurants

The restaurants are subsidised by the city and provide healthy and nutritious lunches at a low price.

5. Public Procurement

Promoting family farming through the purchase of fresh produce for schools, hospitals, food banks, etc.



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KEY ELEMENTS OF BELO HORIZONTE'S FSS

5. School Meals

Free, fresh and high nutritional school meals for all children enrolled in public schools are being provided.

6. Food Banks

Collection and distribution of perishable food stuffs for social institutions giving it to people living in conditions of vulnerability. Also food banks are provided with produce from rural and family agriculture.

7. Employment and Income Generation

Education and capacity building for jobs in the alimentation sector with focus on healthy nutrition.



KEY ELEMENTS OF BELO HORIZONTE'S FSS

8. The People's Basket

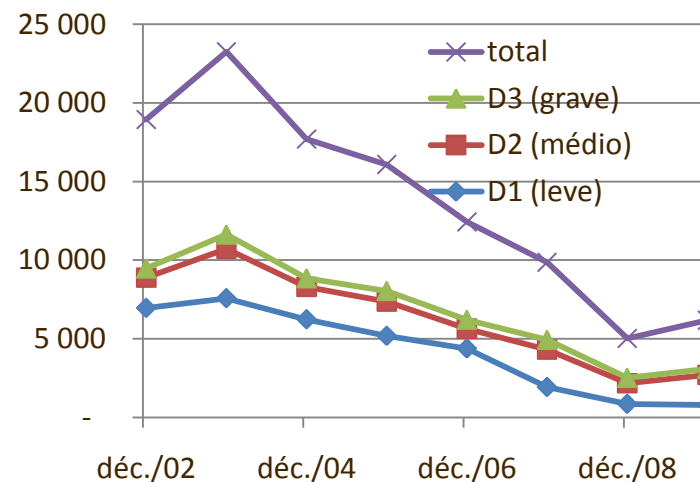
A special programme for the lowest income families that are registered with the authorities. They are given magnetic cards with which they can buy highly subsidized food and foodstuffs and other products (cleaning products, personal hygiene products, etc.) at supermarkets, abastacers and in special busses.



9. Special Programme to combat malnutrition

One of the most effective projects of the SMASAN was to distribute “enriched flour” (with vitamins, minerals and ground cassava leaves) to mothers with young children, pregnant and nursing women in low-income areas through health clinics and the school meals programme to fight malnutrition in the first years of the system.

Evaluation Child Malnutrition



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KEY ELEMENTS OF BELO HORIZONTE'S FSS

10. Education on healthy nutrition

Education about healthy nutrition including free cooking lessons, booklets, workshops etc. particularly in poorer areas of the city. The programme is coordinated by a team consisting of employees from the departments for health, education, sports, social work and food security.



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KEY ELEMENTS OF BELO HORIZONTE'S FSS

11. Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture is supported through three projects

- Community gardens in free space in the city to grow vegetables, fruit and medicinal plants
- School gardens which complement the school meal programme
- Workshops for urban agriculture and plant cultivation on alternative spaces like terraces, roofs and windowsills.



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THE FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM IN NUMBERS

Element	Numbers	Year
Public Restaurants	6 service locations (3 restaurants & 3 refectories) 3,670,000 meals sold per year app. 17,000 meals per day	2010
Big Basket for People	11,045 services provided 64.4 tons sold 291 visits to sites 12 service sites	2009
School and Community Gardens	67 school gardens 54,472 beneficiaries 33 community gardens (self- provisioning) 5,813 beneficiaries	2010
Straight from the Field	29 sale points 23 producers 7 municipalities 664,889 kilos sold	2010

THE FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM IN NUMBERS

Element	Numbers	Year
Food Banks	Volume collected: 586,76 ton. Volume distributed 413,63 ton. Volume composted 129,37 ton. Beneficiaries : 33.197 / month Business Donors: 12 Benefiting Agencies : 80 / month	2010
Rural and Family Agriculture	334 rural agriculturalists 26 municipalities 397.500 tons purchased (R\$ 1,205,645 – U\$ 710K) R\$ 4.500,00/year (US\$ 2,650.00) income per producer	2010
Organic Markets	8 service location 5 producers 3 municipalities 133.9 tons sold	2010

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KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER FROM BRAZIL TO AFRICA

Study Tours for mayors and administrators of African cities to Belo Horizonte

Food Security Weeks in interested cities. These will include:

- Travel exhibition in the town hall showcasing the Belo Horizonte System
- Planning session for policy makers
- Multi-stakeholder workshops
- Workshops for the public about the cultivation, harvest and processing of healthy food

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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