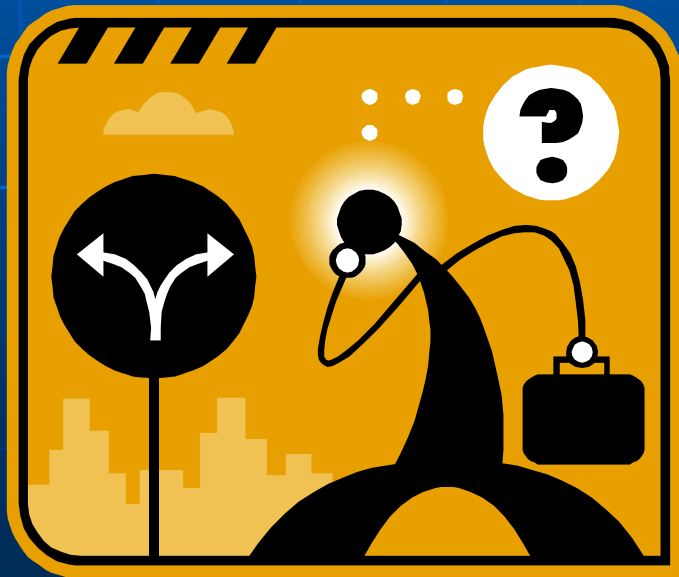


National Food Security Plans: Considerations from Brazil's Zero Hunger Program

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Brazil - Zero
Hunger Program

National Food
Security Plans



Selected main ideas:

- Zero Hunger Program: a comprehensive national food security program; an important global reference
- Guarantee of short-term food access by vulnerable populations + longer term structural changes to help them overcome poverty, hunger and exclusion
- Prioritized hunger on political agenda: allowed linkage between food and nutrition security policy and rethinking the role of the State
- Notable national results; some parts worked much better/faster than others
- Emphasis on moving from "government policy" to "permanent state policy"

Political Priority and Framework

- Eliminating hunger the top priority of President Lula (e.g, January 2003 inaugural speech)
 - for moral reasons
 - economic imperative; seeing hunger as cause of poverty
- *Twin-track approach: access + production but goes way beyond this, adapted to Brazilian conditions*
- Public food and nutrition security policy as centerpiece to re-examine state action; linking food security + econ development + social inclusion
 - Joint actions by the State and society
 - Overcoming social and economic inequality
 - Connect budget & programs on emergency measures and structural reform
- *Federal gov program but linked to state and municipal levels with community participation*

Institutional aspects

- New Federal Law
- **CONSEA – National Food Security Council (+ State and Municipal Councils)**
- New Ministry (Special Ministry for Food Security – MESA, later Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger – MDS)
- **Budgetary requirements and oversight of impact across ministries**
- Lots of local-level social mobilization and action

Food access + long-term change

- *Access to food:*
 - *Bolsa Familia* conditional cash transfer
 - School feeding
 - Other food programs (school feeding, special groups, food banks, food safety, etc.)
- Structural policies and programs
 - Land reform
 - Generation of income and jobs
 - Incentives for small-scale production by family sector
 - Educational incentives
 - Modernization of food supply systems

Results

- 2003-2008 poverty declined by 27%; extremely poor declined by 48%
- Dramatic declines in child malnutrition, 1996-2006
- Fast-acting conditional cash transfer moved much faster than structural change
- Additional emphasis on rural areas, communities with lower Human Development Indices (*Territories of Citizenship program*): production, infrastructure, promotion of rights

Some conclusions

- Political will and resources were critical: focus on hunger as central theme allowed re-examination of multiple aspects of national policy and role of state and society
- Recognizing the complexity of the hunger – poverty – inequality problem set helped in design the strategy and implement a comprehensive program
- Tying the pieces together helped move toward a permanent of state policy (i.e., beyond the Lula government) and the way Brazil addresses national problems