



**35th SCN Session - Patrus Ananias, Minister  
of Social Development and Fight against  
Hunger of Brazil**



## Accelerating the reduction of the maternal and child undernutrition

**Patrus Ananias**  
Minister of Social Development and Fight  
against Hunger - Brazil

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Nutrition  
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### **BRAZIL**



**Population:** 184 million people  
**Area:** 8.5 million km<sup>2</sup>  
26 states, 5,564 municipalities and the Federal District  
**GDP (2006):** US\$ 1.2 trillion  
**HDI:** 0,8  
**Poverty rate (2006):** 19.3% (36 million people).  
**Gini coefficient (2006) :** 0,562



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## **Zero Hunger**

Federal Government strategy which ensures the Human Right to Adequate Food:

- It articulates various programs and actions;
- It allows a better synergy among Public Policies;
- It creates the basis for promotion of food and nutrition security;
- It contributes for the eradication of extreme poverty and the promotion of the sense of citizenship for the population which is most vulnerable to hunger;
- It articulates structuring and emancipation actions with urgent measures that ensure rights, facing the false dichotomy between structuring vs emergency policies;
- It encourages civil society's participation and control on elaborating and monitoring social policies;
- It focuses on families, giving special attention to the territoriality issue;



## **National System of Food and Nutrition Security – SISAN**

- The right to adequate food is institutionally ensured by joint actions undertaken by the three levels of government and civil society, enforced by the Organic Law of Food and Nutrition Security – LOSAN, which implements the National System of Food and Nutrition Security – SISAN;
- The National System of Food and Nutrition Security integrates policies which allow the Brazilian population to have access to quality food, regularly and in adequate quantity.
- The State has to be involved in food production, commercialization and storage, and has to promote food education and guarantee access to water and food, among other actions.



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## **National System of Food and Nutrition Security – SISAN**

SISAN includes, among other actions:


- Policies targeted to strengthening family agriculture (financing, technical assistance and guarantee of purchase)
- Local installations to facilitate food and water access (low-income restaurant program, food banks, community kitchens, cisterns);
- Other policies, such as rural and food storage policy, rural reform, school meals, healthy food.

- It consolidates the participation of civil society by means of the National Council on Food and Nutrition Security – CONSEA (18 Ministers of State and government representatives, and 36 representatives of civil society) and the National Conferences on Food and Nutrition Security
- Partnership and integration among Ministries, federative entities, civil society and private enterprises.



## **Bolsa Família Program**

- It is a cash transfer program with conditionalities on health and education which benefits 11.1 million poor families, who have a monthly income of less than US\$ 70 per capita;
- It articulates the strategy for social development and fight against hunger, focusing on poor families all over the national territory;
- It transfers, per family, a monthly average of US\$ 40;
- After the extension of age limit for children of the benefited families (up to 17 years old), to be implemented in 2008, the benefit for each family can reach up to US\$ 100 per month;
- Budget for 2008: 6 billion dollars.



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## **Bolsa Família Program**

- It ensures the access to “social minimums”, such as food and other basic goods (income);
- Counterparts on health and education help to break the intergenerational poverty cycle;
- Free resource utilization by the families promotes their development
- Integration with other actions, expanding families’ social rights



## **Health Assistance and maternal and child nutrition in Brazil**

- Family Health Strategy: it covers more than 93 million people (50% of the Brazilian population).
- Food and Nutrition Surveillance System: continuous information on the nutritional conditions of the population and the factors that influence them.
- Distribution of the essential micronutrients, such as iron and vitamin A, as part of the basic health assistance.



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## Results

### Reduction of the child death rate

- The child death rate (children under 1 year old) has dropped from 46,9 per thousand, in 1990, to 24,9 per thousand, in 2006, which means a reduction of 44,9%.

### Reduction of the child malnutrition

- The malnutrition measured per weight per age of the children who are under 1 year old has dropped from 10,1% in 1999 to 2,4% in 2006.
- Among children between 1 and 2 years old, malnutrition has dropped from 19,8% to 4,8%.
- The problems caused by the nutritional deficits in both age groups showed a reduction superior to 75% in seven years.



## Results (continuation)

### Bolsa Família program and the malnutrition reduction

- Research about the nutritional status in the Northeast semiarid region shows a strong reduction in the malnutrition rate:
  - 1996: 17,9%
  - 2005: 6,6%.
- The participation in the Bolsa Família Program is associated with a reduction in chronic malnutrition, measured as height for age deficits as follows:
  - Children from 0 to 6 years old: 30% reduction
  - Children from 6 to 11 months: 62% reduction



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***Thank you!***

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