
Brazil's Zero Hunger Has US\$ 12 Billion Budget for 2006

Contributed by Priscilla Mazenotti
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Brazil's Family Grant is one of the 31 federal government actions encompassed by the Zero Hunger program, which over the past two years has received US\$ 12.253 billion (27.5 billion reais), administered by 13 ministries.

"It is a strategy to ensure people who have difficulties with access to food the human right to an adequate diet. It is our prime organizational axis for various government policies, permeating various ministries as well as activities by municipal and state governments and society," said the national secretary of Income and Citizenship in the Ministry of Social Development and Hunger Alleviation, Rosani Cunha.

Next year's budget for the Zero Hunger program is US\$ 12.030 billion (R\$ 27 billion), and it counts on assistance from other programs.

Among them, the National Program for the Strengthening of Family Farming (Pronaf), which benefits 1.6 million farm families, and the Family Service Program (the Family Houses), which serves over a million families. There are 1,777 Family Houses altogether in 1,200 Brazilian municipalities.

Cunha also mentioned the Program of Food Acquisition from Family Farming, which helps families in two aspects.

"Those who produce and are assured a market for what they produce - around 100 thousand family farmers - and those who use and benefit from this produce, people in day-care centers, homes for the elderly, and social protection networks - nearly five million people in nearly two thousand Brazilian municipalities."

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