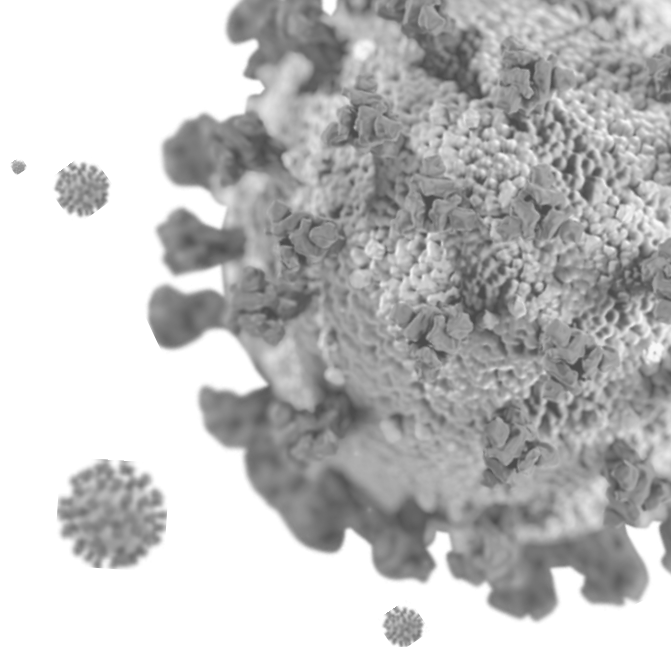


SCHOOL FEEDING & SOCIAL PROTECTION IN BRAZIL

WITH THE COVID-19 Pandemic



In observance of international health recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes have been suspended in nearly all Brazilian public and private schools. According to the 2019 School Census, Brazil has almost 40 million children and adolescents enrolled in basic education, who also benefit daily from school meals. In order to maintain the National School Feeding Programme (PNAE) running, the Brazilian government has authorized the distribution of purchased foodstuffs to students' families in the form of kits. According to the new law, approved on March 30th by the Senate and sanctioned on April 7th by the President, the money from PNAE will continue to be transferred from the Federal government to states and municipalities for the purchase of food items. Food should, then, be immediately distributed to parents or guardians of students enrolled in these schools. The Food Kits must follow the provisions of PNAE's legislation regarding nutritional and sanitary quality, respect regional eating habits, local culture and, preferably, be composed of fresh and minimally processed foods.



Meanwhile, States have also been announcing parallel measures to assist families and children who depend of school feeding. The government of São Paulo, for example, will transfer R\$55 (US\$10) per month to 700 thousand students in the state, as an alternative to school meals. Payments will be made to families of students living in extreme poverty. In the Federal District, the government has already started distributing magnetic food cards to families of 22 thousand children aged from 0 to 5 years. These families will receive R\$60 (US\$11¹) per month. To assist students enrolled in the Bolsa Família program, the state of Paraná has begun to deliver milk shipments to 110,000 children aged from 6 months to 3 years, in addition to kits with non-perishable items from school meals. In Goiás, students enrolled in social programs will receive an amount of R\$75 (US\$14) per student per month. In other states, such as Ceará and Pernambuco, schools in several municipalities have been distributing food kits to students and their families. In the distribution sites, all health and safety measures should be implemented, with proper distancing and hand washing facilities available.

On a broader Social Protection perspective, the Brazilian government has also approved measures to assist informal low-income workers during the pandemic. With businesses closed and circulation restricted, this population's condition to work and earn their income is impaired. On March 30th, the Senate Plenary approved the emergency aid of R\$600 (US\$114) for this population, to be granted during the pandemic. For each benefited family, the granting of the aid will be limited to two members, so that each family group can receive up to R\$1,200 (US\$229). The measure would, in principle, last for three months, but may be extended. Conditions such as having a monthly family income of less than three minimum wages apply. The Senate estimates that the emergency aid will directly benefit 30.5 million citizens - about 14% of the country's population -, with an approximate cost of R\$59.9 billion (US\$11,4 billion). On April 1st, the measure was sanctioned by the president. The enforcement of this measure has started with the registry of beneficiaries that are not already receiving state assistance through social programmes - such as Bolsa Família.

Finally, on April 2nd, the Senate voted in favour of a bill that expands emergency aid to vulnerable families. According to the project, beneficiaries of the Bolsa Família program would receive an extra special benefit of at least R\$300.00 (US\$57) per person per month for six months, extendable for the duration of the pandemic. The maximum amount to be received per family will be R\$1,500.00 (US\$287). During the period when the Emergency Citizenship Basic Income is granted, the conditionalities of Bolsa Família - such as enrolling children in school and getting vaccinated - will be suspended.

RESPONSE

SOCIAL PROTECTION

FEDERAL GOV
cash transfer
 \$114/\$229 month
 30.5mi beneficiaries

SCHOOL FEEDING

SÃO PAULO
cash transfer
 \$10 month/700k students

FEDERAL DISTRICT
magnetic food cards
 \$11 month/22k children

PARANÁ
milk shipment and kits
 110k children

GOIÁS
cash transfer
 \$14 month/student

CEARÁ/PERNAMBUCO
kit distribution
 special safety measures

¹ All values in US dollars are approximate calculations.