



The Brazilian Experience

The National School Feeding Programme

Brazil has **one of the largest national school feeding programmes** in the world. It supports approximately **one quarter of the Brazilian population**, ensuring children's right to adequate and nutritious food.

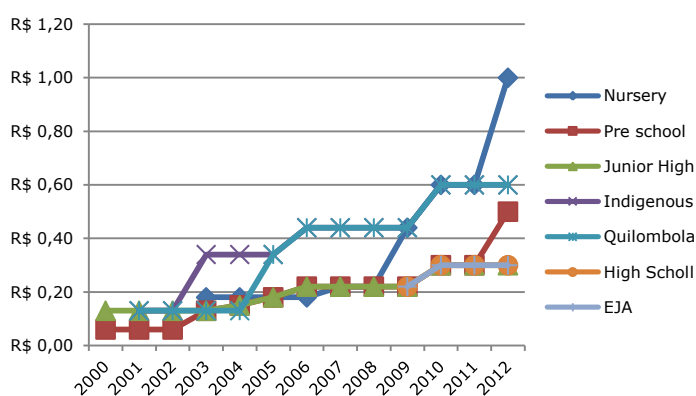
The National School Feeding Programme, known by its Portuguese language acronym **PNAE**, is part of the Brazilian government policy to provide school meals for all public schools and philanthropic basic education institutions, **from nurseries to high schools**. Such meals must cover **at least 20% of the daily nutritional needs** of the student. Municipal, state and federal schools, as well as philanthropic institutions are included.

Basic Information

In 2012, **PNAE served 44 million students in 160,000 schools**, with a food budget of R\$3.4 billion, or almost US\$1.7 billion. The programme defines a daily per capita value that should be used exclusively to purchase food. PNAE has recently started to support those in education at higher levels. Education for youth over 14 years of age and adults (known in Brazil as EJA), for instance, began to receive funding in 2009. The per capita values vary with the level of education, according to the table below, and its evolution is seen on the graph on the right:

Learning Stages	Age	Per capita
Nursery	0-3 years	R\$ 1,00
Pre-school	4-5 years	R\$ 0,50
Junior High	6-14 years	R\$ 0,30
High School	15-18 years	R\$ 0,30
EJA	> 14 years	R\$ 0,30
Quilombola*	0 - 18	R\$ 0,60
Indigenous	0 - 18	R\$ 0,60

*Brazilian Maroon communities
Source: FNDE, 2013



Source: FNDE, 2013



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How does it work?

PNAE, like other public policies under the *Fome Zero* strategy, relies on **decentralization and multi-sector coordination**. The food budget is managed by **the National Fund for the Development of Education – (FNDE)**, the federal body responsible for support to all levels of public education, including those not under the direct responsibility of the federal government.

The Brazilian public education system is decentralized, as is PNAE. **Every school** is under the responsibility of an **'executing agency'**, which is either **the state government, a municipality or a philanthropic organization**. The executive agency receives the funds to purchase food in 10 installments through the year, considering an academic year of 200 days. The number of students for each agency is determined by the School Census of the previous year.

All funds offered under the PNAE must be used for the purchase food, and **a minimum of 30%** of food must be acquired from **local smallholder farms**. The **storage structure, utensils, preparation and actual cooking** are responsibility of the executing agency. The agency must have its own **nutritionist**, to oversee the menu and its nutritional value, **respecting regional food habits** and requirements defined by FNDE. Among such requirements is that the menu must regularly offer fresh vegetables and fruits and that soft drinks are forbidden.

Principles of PNAE

- Offer nutritious meals, including fresh vegetables and fruits
- Respect for local eating habits
- Support to local smallholder farms
- Social participation through a School Feeding Council, with parents and local civil society organizations, which oversees implementation of the programme

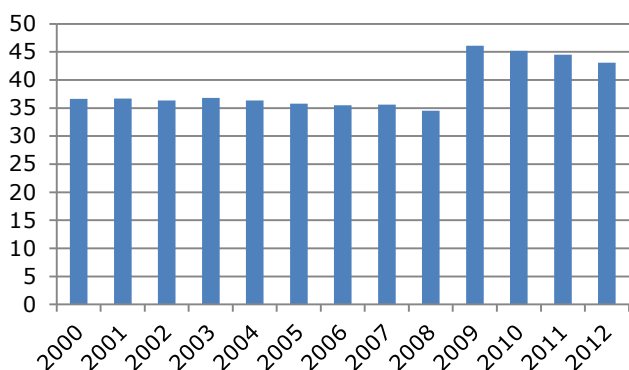
Responsibilities of the local executing agency

- Nutritionist
- Definition of a local menu, taking in consideration nutrition requirements and local eating habits
- Food facilities and utensils
- Food handling (purchase, storage, distribution, preparation)

What is the size of the programme?

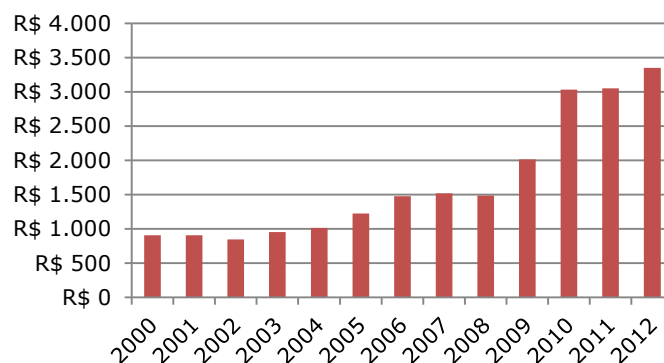
Number of students in the programme:

Students (millions)



Food budget of PNAE:

Funds (millions)



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