




EASY DISH: MITIGATION'S PROGRAM ON HUNGER IN RONDÔNIA. ARE THERE EFFECTIVENESS?

PRATO FÁCIL - PROGRAMA DE MITIGAÇÃO DA FOME EM RONDÔNIA. QUAL EFETIVIDADE?

COMIDA FÁCIL - PROGRAMA DE MITIGACIÓN DEL HAMBRE EN RONDÔNIA. ¿CUÁN EFICAZ ES?

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the Rede Prato Fácil program, a public policy to combat hunger in the state of Rondônia. The study analyzed the program's implementation from the perspective of its beneficiaries and considered the systemic relationships between the causes of hunger and the right to food, food security, and food sovereignty as fundamental to addressing this central problem facing humanity and the Brazilian people.

Keywords: Fight Against Hunger. Social Policy. FAO. Policy Evaluation. Social Development.

RESUMO

Este artigo analisa o programa Rede Prato Fácil, uma política pública de combate à fome no Estado de Rondônia. O estudo analisou a execução do programa a partir do olhar de seus beneficiários e considerando as relações sistêmicas entre as causas da fome e o direito à alimentação, a segurança e soberania alimentares como fundamentais para o equacionamento deste problema central da humanidade e do povo brasileiro.

Palavras-chave: Combate à Fome. Política Social. FAO. Avaliação de Política. Desenvolvimento Social.

RESUMEN

Este artículo analiza el programa Red Prato Fácil, una política pública para combatir el hambre en el estado de Rondônia. El estudio analizó su implementación desde la perspectiva de sus beneficiarios y consideró las relaciones sistémicas entre las causas del hambre y el derecho a la alimentación, la seguridad alimentaria y la soberanía alimentaria como fundamentales para abordar este problema central que enfrenta la humanidad y el pueblo brasileño.

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Palabras clave: Lucha Contra el Hambre. Política Social. FAO. Evaluación de Políticas. Desarrollo Social.



1 INTRODUCTION

The fight against hunger is a persistent and complex challenge that impacts several regions of the globe, including Brazil, a country that faces deep socioeconomic disparities despite its vast biodiversity, its technological development, its productive diversification and its hard-working people, as defined by sociologist Jessé Souza, who seek on a daily basis to face adversity and establish a dignified standard of existence for themselves and their neighbors.

The issue of hunger is not limited to the idea that it is synonymous with food scarcity, on the contrary, as a complex phenomenon it is intrinsically linked to structural, political and social factors that affect the availability, quality and regularity of food supply for the population in order to guarantee the provision of a state of food sovereignty and food as a fundamental human right. In this text, the concept of hunger will refer to the one defined by the Food and Agriculture Fund of the United Nations (FAO) as the percentage of the population that is in extreme or high malnutrition.

For decades, since redemocratization in 1985, Brazil has achieved remarkable progress in political, economic and social fields and, in the case of the percentage of the population in extreme malnutrition, the country was even removed from the FAO Hunger Map in 2014, however there was a setback in this area as a consequence of the policies implemented from 2018 onwards, and the percentage of people in extreme malnutrition rose again and thus, hunger returned to being a relevant national problem and only in 2025 did the country again reach internationally acceptable minimum percentages for the prevalence of hunger in its population, which allowed it to leave the hunger map again.

This article discusses the state of food insecurity in its recent historical context and discusses this phenomenon through a brief analysis of a public policy implemented in the capital of the state of Rondônia in the last 5 years, which has expanded as a welfare policy to several municipalities, but which seems, however, not to be directed to confront the causes of hunger or to the search for its effective eradication in that state of the Brazilian federation. despite applying considerable budgetary resources and implementing valuable efforts to mitigate the effects of this complex problem.

1.1 METHOD

The research developed was qualitative with the use of the participant observation method, as observation visits were made to units of the network to understand the



concrete functioning of the network of food supply services, in these on-site visits by the main researcher, users and employees of these units were interviewed and documentary analysis of official data sent by the SEAS team was also carried out, which promptly responded to the advisor's requests, as well as journalistic sources and various documents.

2 DISCUSSION

In 2020, the state of Rondônia created a program to mitigate the problem of hunger, called Rede Prato Fácil, which began operating in 2021, with resources from the State Fund for Combating and Eradicating Poverty (FECOEP) and according to data from the Secretariat for Women, Family, Assistance and Social Development - SEAS, published on June 23, 2025, on the portal of the Government of the State of Rondônia, until that moment, 4.3 million meals had already been served.

Considering the average cost of R\$ 20.00 per meal, this program totals about 86 million in resources applied to this government action, especially if the public resources spent are taken, the Prato Fácil network is indisputably an important state initiative, but there is no clear evidence that there is a contribution to confronting the causes of the hunger problem and the guidance for the execution of food sovereignty policies, In addition, the development of the program in an incremental manner should be considered as a factor in evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed actions.

The Rede Prato Fácil Program articulates restaurants accredited by bidding for the execution of an administrative contract entered into between the State of Rondônia and these organizations that offer meals, subsidized by the state government for those registered in CadÚnico and that fit into one of these situations: have an income of up to half a minimum wage per person in the family and/or receive the BPC (Continuous Installment Benefit) and/or be retired and with an income of up to one salary minimum. From these beneficiaries, R\$ 2.00 per meal is charged. In its current stage, the program has establishments in eight municipalities in Rondônia:

- Porto Velho: 8 restaurants, about 1,701 meals a day;
- Ariquemes: 4 restaurants, 499 meals/day;
- Cacoal has 3 restaurants, 449 meals/day;
- Guajará-Mirim: 2 restaurants, 370 meals/day;
- Jaru: 3 restaurants, 268 meals/day;



- Ji-Paraná: 1 restaurant, 568 meals/day;
- Rolim de Moura: 1 restaurant, 223 meals/day; and
- Vilhena: 1 restaurant, 422 meals/day.

About 239 tons of food, until June 2025, were served to keep the program running. The results achieved, according to data from the secretariat responsible for the program, account for more than 3 million meals served in Porto Velho alone. In 2025, the service was expanded to eight municipalities. There has been an important contribution to the reduction of hunger and food insecurity in Rondônia.

Table 1

Parameters for distribution municipalities of the interior - RO

MUNICIPALITIES	NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENROLLED IN THE UNIFIED (POVERTY + LOW INCOME).	PROPORTION % PEOPLE (POVERTY + LOW INCOME) X TOTAL.	NUMBER OF MEALS PROPORTIONALLY TO BE SERVED.
Ji-PARANÁ	34.643	20,28%	568
ARIQUEMES	30.454	17,83%	499
CACOAL	27.382	16,03%	449
VILHENA	25.753	15,08%	422
GUAJARÁ	22.609	13,24%	370
JARU	16.350	9,57%	268
ROLIM DE MOURA	13.616	7,97%	223
Total	170.807	100%	2.799



The design of the program established formal parameters for registration and execution, in the modeling of the selection notices, from the definition of the number of beneficiaries based on an estimate and a proportionality on the target population as a guarantee of a number that could define the design of the bidding within the available budget limits and with the capacity to attract potential companies to registration.

The definition of the amounts to be paid per meal by the public administration to accredited restaurants was a parameter fundamentally created in order to arouse interest and promote the adhesion of food service market agents to the Rede Prato Fácil program, but the choice to solve this public policy problem through the market mechanism, despite representing an efficient way of regimenting stakeholders, it can incorporate all the weaknesses pointed out in the literature on outsourcing essential public services (Druck et al (2018, p. 135)) and also those present in the debates on the relations between agent and principal and in the promotion of constrained rationality (Melo, 1996).

Table 2

Costs per meal and estimated total 12 months

MUNICIPALITY	AMOUNT (STATE SUBSIDY)	ESTIMATED VALUE (12 MONTHS)
Ariquemes	R\$ 18,00	R\$ 2,910,168.00
Jaru	R\$ 18,00	R\$ 1,562,976.00
Guajará-Mirim	R\$ 18,00	R\$ 2,157,840.00
Cacoal	R\$ 20,00	R\$ 2,909,520.00
Ji-Paraná	R\$ 20,00	R\$ 3,680,640.00
Rolim de Moura	R\$ 20,00	R\$ 1,445,040.00
Vilhena	R\$ 20,00	R\$ 2,734,560.00
ESTIMATED TOTAL		R\$ 17,400,744.00

To monitor the actions and establish a minimum standard in the supply of meals, reference tables were created for use in the composition of the meal menus to be served by accredited establishments, both in the definition of ready-to-eat items, as well as in the quantities and types of proteins throughout the week, which suggests a concern with the offer of a balanced and nutritionally adequate diet.

Table 3

Reference table for daily preparation

MINIMUM QUANTITY OF READY-TO-EAT FOODS	
PREPARATIONS PER PERSON	
RAW SALAD	30 grams
COOKED SALAD	50 grams
COOKED PROTEIN DISH	200g bone-in preparation or 180g boneless preparation
COOKED GARNISH	60 grams
COOKED BASE DISH	Rice: 200 grams and Beans: 150 grams
FRUIT	Fruit Suggestions:
	Banana: 1 unit of 120g
	Guava: 1 unit of 170g
	Orange: 1 unit of 180g
	Apple: 1 unit of 150g
	Pear: 1 unit of 180g
	Tangerine: 1 unit of 135g
	Mango: 1 unit of 117g
	Star fruit: 1 unit of 180g
Cashew: 1 unit of 120g	

This mechanism can be simplified in the following principle "guarantee at least one type of beef or chicken protein with bone or without bone once a week and a maximum of 5 times a month for each specific type, and eventually offer other types of animal protein, dispensing with the processed forms".

These parameters seem to indicate that the program seeks to guide the registered members to offer diversified food, if we consider the requirement of minimum and maximum limits and the variety of proteins, raw and cooked foods and the presence of fruits, however no evidence was found that nutritional balance is considered an element of quality to be respected in the evaluation of the policy.

3 FINDINGS

The analysis of this public policy seems to indicate that, as of 2020, the relevance of the theme of fighting hunger was recognized by the executive and, as a consequence, incorporated into the governmental actions of the State of Rondônia, given the ideological nature of the composition of local powers, the design and formulation of this policy were based on a market solution such as accreditation of companies to offer meals.



The Rede Prato Fácil Program, as a public policy, seems to have been designed ignoring the causes of hunger and that the confrontation to solve any problems that ignore their causes does not usually achieve success.

Another important factor that seems to have been relegated to the background is the effective knowledge of the beneficiaries who are the recipients of the policy, as it was oriented to capture potential credentials, and therefore, despite having good formal precautions to ensure the legality of contracts, it seems to come from an abstract human being who is not possessed of concreteness who cannot participate in the resolution of the problems in which he is implicated.

The Rede Prato Fácil Program, despite indicating that it is oriented towards the supply of healthy food, did not include concrete mechanisms for capturing food from family farming, which is the main source of supply of this type of item, in its design.

4 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The comings and goings in policies to reduce hunger and extreme malnutrition in Brazil and the continuation of medium and high rates of food insecurity among the population indicate the existence of flaws in social and economic policies that need to be addressed at all levels of the federation, as well as the return of actions and programs practiced before 2014 highlight that the problem of hunger and food security require policies structuring, continuous and systemic economic policies.

However, these policies, in order to be effective and effective in guaranteeing food security and food as an essential right, must be designed and operate from the perspective of food sovereignty and without submission to logics centered on a vision of the food market and/or on the exclusivity of solutions by the market and/or that prioritize the agricultural production of primary items for export, as the main solution to Brazil's problems.

Current debates about food sovereignty, sustainability, and the role of local communities in food production are gaining importance amid global change. The study of these issues in the Brazilian context allows the identification of more effective methods to promote food security and eradicate hunger. As a result, this article sought to analyze the issue of hunger from a broad perspective, placing it in the context of its confrontation and discussing the means and obstacles to building a more just and secure society.

A policy that is oriented towards solving the problem of hunger needs to be based



on the search for a complex and difficult balance between producing healthy food for the domestic market and obtaining gains in the trade balance. Both factors are essential for the structural fight against the problems of hunger and food security, as well as the promotion of food sovereignty and the right to food for all.

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