



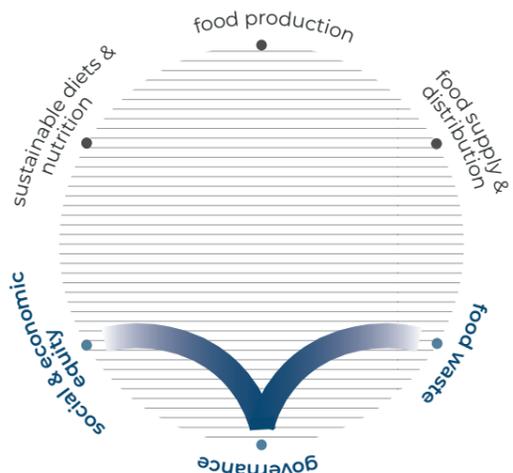
## BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINA

Title of Practice

### BUENOS AIRES CARES ABOUT FOOD: A ROBUST INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category GOVERNANCE

Main impacts on other MUFPP categories



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#### Context

In Buenos Aires, historically food policy approaches have been hampered by a lack of joined-up work due to insufficient cross-government commitment. Involvement in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact in 2015, together with the pledge to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, led to the development of a new food policy program created by the Buenos Aires City Government. The objective of this program, called "Cuidemos los alimentos" (Food Care Program), is to design, devise, coordinate and implement a sustainable food policy for the city of Buenos Aires. A range of considerations – health, economics, environmental and social aspects – are factored into the development of the policy, under the supervision of the City Government General Secretariat and International Relations. The Programme has received support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and lies within the National Programme on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, which aims to reduce food waste on a national level.

#### Overview of the food practice

The City Government General Secretariat and International Relations, responsible for the coordination of the delivery of the city government's core strategic objectives, acts as the Coordinator of the Food Care Programme. A distinctive aspect of this Programme is the space it creates for drawing together diverse government agencies for the purpose of jointly pursuing sustainable urban food actions, rooted in consensus and shared commitment. To this end, the Programme has set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee, in which different units of city government are represented. The Committee liaises closely with the City Legislature, which is important for ensuring alignment of proposed actions with local and national legislation.

The Programme works by providing an overarching framework from which concrete actions and interventions come about in two different ways. First, actions result from consensus-based decisions of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. Second, actions can be initiated and formulated by one of the different agencies forming part of the Committee, provided they are complementary and strategically consistent with the Programme. For example, the Directorate General for Healthy Development operates an initiative targeted at primary schools called "My Healthy School", focused on healthy living issues. This initiative has recently incorporated food waste and responsible consumption issues with educational tools expected to reach 50 000 students and teachers.

As part of the Programme, a comprehensive diagnostic of food waste in the city at the household consumption stage was performed. This study helped to lay the groundwork for the 2017 Ac-



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tion Plan, which focuses on promoting a change of habits among city consumers to reduce food waste and contribute to healthier eating. To that end, an awareness raising campaign is being implemented via the Programme's website and through educational events at Health Stations, Green Points, gastronomic fairs and citizen gatherings.

#### Results and lessons learned

A robust institutional framework is now in place for the city of Buenos Aires to address food policy priorities more strategically and effectively. The Programme is based on local food-related priorities but is also in line with the global New Urban Agenda. It has raised the profile of food policy issues as a critical management priority across city government. The Inter-Ministerial Committee also proved to be an effective vehicle for generating coordinated plans and actions and for developing additional public policy instruments conducive to sustainability in food system design.

The innovative character of the Food Care Programme is due to its interdisciplinary, intergovernmental, inter-sectoral and inter-jurisdictional approach. As a result it has been provided a space for the planning and coordination of actions, not only within government but also with other strategic partners essential for the development of a sustainable food system for the City of Buenos Aires. Through collaborative planning and dialogue, and through regular multi-stakeholder participation, a new culture of collaboration has evolved from urban food issues in the city. A significant element of innovation has also been the reach of the Programme to younger people. This has developed for example from the delivery of actions within the city's public schools in the "My Healthy School" initiative, generating the interest of youth in food-related topics.

For the continuity of the program in 2018 and beyond, coordination for the larger Food Care Programme is expected to shift to the Directorate General of Healthy Development, where even more engagement of citizens and stakeholders is planned.



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