



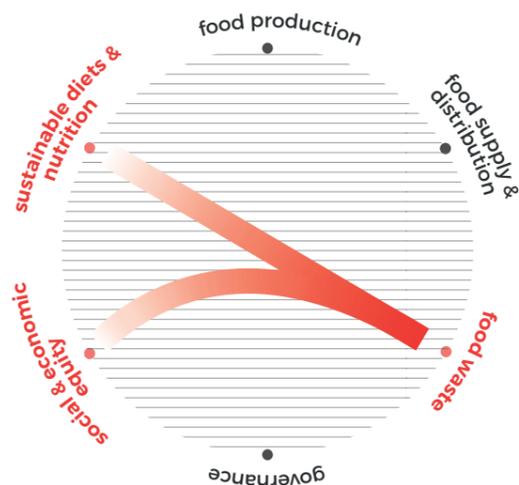
## BELO HORIZONTE BRAZIL

Title of Practice

### BELO HORIZONTE REDISTRIBUTES SURPLUS FOOD THROUGH ITS FOOD BANK

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category  
**FOOD WASTE**

Main impacts on other  
MUFPP categories



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#### Context

Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais state, is Brazil's sixth largest city, with a population of more than 2.5 million. While the city itself is 100 percent urban, it forms the core of the Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region, which comprises **urban and rural areas**, reaching a total population of more than 5.7 million. Like other Brazilian cities, Belo Horizonte suffered high rates of poverty and hunger in the early 1990s, with almost 38 percent of families in the metropolitan region living below the poverty line. In 2003 the Federal Government launched its **Zero Hunger programme**, with the objective of eradicating hunger and fighting poverty. The adopted policy is based on food and nutritional security that recognizes the inalienable right of all citizens to sufficient, good quality food. Pursuing this goal, a combination of emergency measures and programmes to redistribute income, boost food production and create employment was implemented. Among the adopted strategies, the Food Bank programme stands out, aiming to **close the inequality gap** and reduce food waste through redistribution to the most vulnerable.

#### Overview of the food practice

Belo Horizonte's **Food Bank** acts upon the reception of food that no longer fits in the commercialization patterns, but keeps its nutritional properties unchanged, presenting no risk to human consumption. By means of partnerships with grocery stores and supermarkets, the food is received, selected, processed (if necessary) and **distributed freely to non-profit civil societal organization**, which in turn prepare and distribute free meals to individuals in social vulnerability situation. Currently, 20 metric tonnes of food per month pass through this process via 36 partner institutions, which in turn provide meals for approximately 6 000 people. The Food Bank's operation is totally funded by the City's budget. Additionally, the Bank receives donations of food products from the Food Acquisition Programme (PAA) by means of an agreement between the City of Belo Horizonte and the Ministry of Social Development. In this way, in addition to combating waste and hunger, it strengthens **family farming** and promotes **rural development**.

At the same time, the Food Bank develops educational activities, focused on **responsible consumption** and **promotion of citizenship**. In this space, courses of good practices for food production are conducted, designed by professionals involved in the handling and preparation of meals and directed to units of the municipality and their beneficiaries such as schools, early childhood education units, shelters, hostels, and retirement homes. The curriculum has a duration of 20 hours, with practical and theoretical courses administered by a team composed of nutritionists and engineers in agronomy and

work security, constituting interdisciplinary action in a state of constant evaluation and update. The course content has a focus in practical training and improved performance of food handlers, including food security in food preparation, adequate utilization of food, and standardization of recipes, so as to avoid waste with routine procedures and **guided planning in healthy food practices** and conscious consumption.

#### Results and lessons learned

The programme benefits large groups of people, who are provided with nutritious meals by 36 non-profit organizations. Currently, Belo Horizonte's Food Bank distributes approximately 20 000 kilograms of food and assists 6 000 people weekly, while reducing food waste. At the same time, the programme develops **educational activities** and raises awareness of responsible consumption in order to support an informed citizenry. As a result, this practice is a successful example of **integrated intervention** across the different categories of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, combining food waste combat, social and economic equity, healthy diet and nutrition and sustainable food supply and distribution. Another important feature of the Food Bank is its **multi-stakeholder nature**, which connects a group of public, private, national, and international entities. The link between the government, civil society, enterprises and institutions are the basis of any action to combat hunger and food waste in all its spheres. Once the **partnership** has been established, the logic that determines the creation of the Food Bank is very simple and easy to replicate, representing a complementary tool for food security, nutrition and food waste policies. For instance, a food bank is currently being implemented in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, as a result of a cooperation with the city of Belo Horizonte. Also, joint work and partnerships offer an opportunity to integrate new regional Banks in Belo Horizonte's metropolitan area as well as multiply and strengthen this format of institutional innovation for other regions or states.



**36**  
nonprofit  
institutions



**20 000 kg**  
of food donations



**6 000**  
beneficiaries



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- LEI MUNICIPAL N° 8.617, 17th July 2013.
- [www.citymayors.com/society/belohorizonte\\_food.html](http://www.citymayors.com/society/belohorizonte_food.html)
- [www.fao.org/ag/agp/greencities/en/ggclac/belo\\_horizonte.html](http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/greencities/en/ggclac/belo_horizonte.html)