

City	Medellín
Country	Colombia
Population	2,500,000
Title of policy or practice	Bono alimenticio (Food Voucher)
Subtitle (optional)	
URL video	https://wetransfer.com/downloads/0edaf53961026a77b9008d8d83781b3420190517195734/d27db4e3bc95d55796e13b7a6789e3a520190517195734/e0c12e
Category	Social and Economic Equity
SDGs	SDGs: 2, 3, 10.
Brief description	<p>The Development Plan 2016-2019, “Medellín cuenta con vos” (Medellín counts on you), describes the dream city: a comprehensive development of the population, a new model of social equity that shall be inclusive, egalitarian, fair and innovative in the defence of the fundamental rights of citizens.</p> <p>The "Food Voucher" project consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Voucher: Provision of a duly identified paper voucher that allows its holder to claim 5 food groups with specific products and the maximum quantities they are allowed to redeem: Grains and groceries, Meat, Fruits, Vegetables and Cured Meats, according to the indicated value, place, date and in previously selected stores; • Educational Meetings: The beneficiaries of the project will participate in educational activities that will help them to promote and prevent food risks; • Follow-up Home Visits: These visits allow monitoring and motivating the implementation of what has been learned during the educational activities, verifying the good use of the food redeemed with the food voucher and the fulfilment of the criteria to continue to take part in the project; • Practical Gastronomic Workshop: its main goal is to galvanize the beneficiaries of the food voucher project into the preparation of low-cost recipes that encourage the consumption of natural food, health care and the promulgation of healthy eating habits. <p>The Food Voucher project is a key strategy to reduce food insecurity in the different households of the city, composed of older adults, children, victims of displacement, LGTBI persons and people with disabilities. Households are selected through an open call: the vulnerability conditions of each household are evaluated and, according to the obtained data, a monthly Food Voucher is awarded for approximately 7 months.</p>
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	01/2015 – 12/2019 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<p>The Project is developed in the City of Medellín, Department of Antioquia, Colombia, by the Mayor's Office of Medellín, from the Secretariat of Social Inclusion, Family and Human Rights (Secretaría de Inclusión Social, Familia y Derechos Humanos), specifically from the Food and Nutritional Security Team (Equipo de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional).</p> <p>Local partners include the city's Food Banks to carry out the activities associated with the project; Municipal or Corregimental Planning Councils (Consejos Comunales o Corregimentales de Planeación), Local Action Boards (Juntas de Acción Local), Communal Action Boards (Juntas de Acción Comunal) that collectively carry out the project's activities</p>

Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give priority to resources and select projects to develop; • Organize open call events in specific days to apply to the program; • Verify the fulfilment of the criteria required to take part in the project; • Follow-up visits; • Validate the level of food insecurity of each family; • Select the beneficiary families; • Involve all the families in educational meetings and hand out the food voucher; • Support and advise families at each stage of the project.
Innovation	<p>The implementation of the Food Voucher project is a model of socioeconomic innovation in the city of Medellín: it allows to reduce food insecurity for the most vulnerable families through educational meetings, home assistance and participation in practical gastronomic workshops. In the local or international context, this project has not been developed with the strategies mentioned above and can therefore be considered as separate contribution, whose main objective is not only developing the market, guaranteeing access and permanent availability of food, but also educating and raising the community awareness in order to eat properly, promote healthy eating habits and conditions at moderate prices.</p> <p>Bearing in mind that poverty and hunger are a global socio-economic situation, the Food Voucher project can be adapted to or replicated in any country, city, department or municipality that wishes to counteract these phenomena and improve the living conditions of their residents with high levels of vulnerability and food insecurity.</p> <p>Our city has become an important regional and global leader in the fight for overcoming poverty and reducing violence, which has marked a remarkable increase of living conditions and greater opportunities.</p>
Impact	<p>The Food Voucher project has an impact not only on the participating families, but it also boosts the local economy of the commercial activities where the Food Voucher is redeemed and the communities that surround them. The social policies are meant to improve the well-being and inclusion of the citizens; moreover, the project is directed to families that, due to health problems, religious beliefs and/or culture, do not eat certain foods; these foods are replaced in accordance with their eating habits.</p> <p>Moreover, a saving of approximately U\$80 per month has been registered: families can therefore use this money to satisfy other basic needs such as health, education, transportation, public services and housing among others. The availability of food that they previously couldn't buy and the improvement of the citizens' quality of life increases social and economic equity, dignifies, integrates and improves the socioeconomic conditions of households.</p> <p>The attention given to vulnerable families with high levels of food insecurity through the Food Voucher project during the years 2015 to 2019 has been as follows:</p> <p>Year 2015: 1,100 families Year 2016: 2,052 families Year 2017: 3,820 families Year 2018: 3,602 families Year 2019: 6,874 families</p>
Inclusion	<p>The development of the Food Voucher project is achieved through alliances with non-profit associations, such as the city's food banks, and with the local suppliers of each municipality and/or <i>corregimiento</i> of the city. This allows not only to optimize time and to reduce transfer costs for the families at the moment of the purchase, but it also increases in a representative way the sales in</p>

each one of the commercial activities: moreover, the Municipal or ~~Corregimental~~ ^{Corregimental} Planning Councils (Consejos Comunales o Corregimentales de Planeación) can participate actively: this guarantees social control and clarity in each one of the activities related to the project.

Adversity coefficient

According to the Medellín 2016-2028 Food Security Plan, 53.6% of households in Medellín suffer from food insecurity; therefore, the economic resources allocated for the execution of the Food Voucher project are not enough to attend to the people that present this condition of vulnerability.

During the execution of the project, a high presence of severely disabled people has been identified: they need a special food diet, but they can't afford it because of their situation of poverty and food insecurity.

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/antioquia/inseguridad-alimentaria-es-del-53-5-IF4632208>

In some districts and/or *corregimientos*, the armed conflict and clashes between civilians have made it impossible to carry out family characterization activities, follow-up home visits, educational meetings, delivery and redemption of food vouchers.

<http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/medellin/combates-entre-pandillas-en-altavista-medellin-88628>

<http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/medellin/guerra-de-altavista-se-extendio-hasta-robledo-124164>

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/antioquia/seguridad/cuatro-conflictos-afectan-la-vida-en-medellin-AJ4579626>

In addition, families find it difficult to develop normal citizen participation, due to fear of armed conflicts, to the prohibition to circulate in certain border areas (invisible borders) and to forced displacement to other places; as a consequence, the families give up participating in the projects developed by the Mayor's Office.