

Social information systems: policy integration and social inclusion

## The Brazilian Single Registry for Social Programs

Recent Developments in the Role and Design of Social Protection Programs

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# What is the Single Registry?

- A tool to identify and collect socioeconomic information about low-income families. Being those whose:
  - ✓ Monthly *per capita* income is up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  minimum wage (US\$155)
  - or
  - ✓ Total income is up to 3 minimum wages (US\$930).
- Families with higher income can be registered if they qualify for specific social programs implemented at any level (Federal, state or local).
- The Single Registry is intended to be the database for all social programs addressed to low-income families in Brazil (except for contributory or semi-contributory pensions).

# Goals of the Single Registry

- To identify and characterize the socially vulnerable segments of the population
- To open a gateway to social policies and programs addressed to low-income families – achieving convergence of efforts to reach these families
- To be a planning, evaluation and monitoring tool for low-income family policies
- To be a source of indicators that reflect the various dimensions of poverty and vulnerability

# What kind of information does the Registry contain?

- Comprehensive data regarding the poorest and most vulnerable families in Brazil, with huge potential for use by social policies and programs.
- Information collected:
  - **Household level:** family composition; address and housing conditions; access to public services (water; electricity; sanitation); monthly expenses; enrolment in social programs.
  - **Individual level:** civil documents; educational level; labor market situation; income level; disabilities.

# Single Registry in numbers

- Approximately **79 million individuals** and **23.9 million families** are registered – **91%** low-income (**53%** extremely poor – *per capita* income up to US\$ 35 per month)
- Information of more than **75%** of families is up-to-date;
- Approximately **80,000** daily updates or inclusions;
- From June 2011 (when the Brazil without Extreme Poverty Plan was enacted) to August 2012, **775,000** extremely poor families were registered.

# Roles of Federal, State and Local administrations

- **Federal government:** regulates the Single Registry and is responsible for developing and implementing the information system; shares the operational costs with state and local governments.
- **State governments:** provide technical support and training to local administrations.
- **Local governments:** identify and register low-income families in the Single Registry; are responsible for keeping the information up-to-date.

# Roles of Federal, State and local administrations

- All municipalities are informed about the estimated number of low-income families living in their territory. This number is based on the Census and on the National Household Sample Survey.
- Municipalities also receive information on how to register traditional groups or families living in specific conditions: Native Brazilians, Quilombolas, homeless people, unemployed people, people in slave-like conditions.

# Single Registry history

- **1990s:** reforms in social programs and policies. Expansion of social rights and introduction of universal services by the Federal Constitution of 1988. New roles for the Federal Government (funding, regulation) and local governments (implementation). Emergence of new targeted cash transfer programs (PETI and the first CCTs at local level).
- In **2001**, the Single Registry was created to be the unified database for social programs. A form for collecting information about low-income families and an information system were developed, in order to support the implementation and integration of these programs. The first CCT programs at national level also emerged this year.
- In **2003**, the Bolsa Familia Program emerged, unifying four previous CCTs at the national level.



# Single Registry history

- In **2005**, the Federal Government and local administrations signed an agreement to share the management of the Single Registry and the Bolsa Familia Program.
- In **2006**, the Federal Government introduced a financial incentive for local administrations to keep the Single Registry up-to-date.
- In **2007**, a new regulation was put in place. Goals, procedures, tools and roles were more clearly defined. The Single Registry became a mandatory instrument to select beneficiaries for a range of social policies. It also became a major tool to coordinate social policies addressed to low-income families.
- In **2010**, a new form and a new internet based IT system were adopted: Single Registry Version 7.0 ('V7').
- In **2011**, the Single Registry became the tool for selecting beneficiaries of the Brazil without Extreme Poverty Plan.

# Use of the Single Registry

- Social work services
- Housing programs
- Full time schooling
- The Bolsa Familia Program
- Power subsidy– ranging from 10 to 65%
- Water-tanks program
- Green grant

# Main Challenges

- Increasing coverage of low-income families
- Monitoring IT system availability and connection conditions
- Monitoring management in municipalities, taking care of database quality and updating
- Development of tools to make data use easier

Secretaria Nacional de Renda de Cidadania

[luis.paiva@mds.gov.br](mailto:luis.paiva@mds.gov.br)