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**South-South Food and Nutrition
Security promotion: the Brazilian
experience multiplied**

João Almino

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South-South Food and Nutrition Security promotion: the Brazilian experience multiplied

João Almino*

Over the past few decades, Brazil has seen the strengthening of its South-South cooperation actions as an important axis of its foreign policy. At the same time, the country has experimented positive outcomes for its social policies, especially those impacting Food and Nutrition Security (FNS); thereby, driving the attention from the international community into Brazil's success story. Within the scope of the Hunger Zero strategy, which currently is United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2, Brazil laid down a set of interlinked social instruments and frameworks. This policy intertwining, while furnishing Brazil with multisectoral and inclusive policy tools, has changed the country's FNS background, withdrawing the nation from the World Hunger Map and reducing significantly its indexes of extreme poverty.

Therefore, Food and Nutrition Security constantly solidifies itself as one of the main thematic axis of the Brazilian South-South cooperation. In this field, the knowledge and experience exchange from Brazil takes place in two strategic areas: school feeding and smallholder farming. It was precisely with the purpose of supporting countries in the development of sustainable school feeding programs that the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) signed a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2010. This joint action allowed the creation of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger: a knowledge hub for sharing Brazilian experiences and best practices in sustainable school feeding, and a facilitator for the fulfilment of the demands of developing countries.

Both in this partnership, as well as in the South-South cooperation agenda as a whole, ABC is responsible for coordinating the Brazilian technical cooperation. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of ABC to negotiate, develop, execute, monitor and evaluate the initiatives resulting from the requests received from developing countries. Within the scope of the collaboration established with the Centre of Excellence, it is important to spotlight the support and expertise of the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE). This implementing institution, since the beginning of the ABC-WFP partnership, in 2010, has been providing technical and financial resources for the strengthening of school feeding programs in partner countries.

Proportionally, the political commitment of the Brazilian Government to eradicate hunger and poverty is able to find a concrete example in the partnership established between the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the World Food Programme through its Centre of Excellence. With this collaboration, it became possible to share and to promote a comprehensive and integrated set of Brazilian public policies for FNS at an international level, stimulating qualified policy dialogue on this topic. As the Brazilian School Feeding model advocates the creation of an institutional market through the local purchase of foodstuffs from smallholder agriculture, the model guarantees the provision of nutritionally balanced and adequate meals, meeting the daily needs of students. The dissemination and acceptance of this

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Brazilian model has been amplified due to the commitment and facilitation of the Centre of Excellence. Correspondingly, the dedication and professionalism of the Centre and its technicians have stood out in all the activities carried out during these 5 years.

Currently, the cooperation programme initiative prioritizes 23 countries. All the beneficiaries have already made study visits to Brazil and have received direct technical assistance through training activities, advisory, national consultations and participation in seminars. The joint work of ABC, FNDE and the Centre to strengthening global actors in Food and Nutrition Security was evidenced by the position adopted by African Union heads of state, which, at its 26th Summit in January 2016, recognized the value and potential of school feeding programs that promote the purchase of local foodstuffs. This was derived from an African Union study mission to Brazil in late 2015, led by the High Commissioner for Human Resources, Science

and Technology. The visit was carried out through the partnership between the Government of Brazil and the Centre, which has motivated the adoption of the school feeding model as a continental strategy for improving educational indicators, for promoting smallholder farming, and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finally, reiterating its support to the actions taken in favor of FNS, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency celebrates the quinquennial of the Centre of Excellence against Hunger of the WFP under the feeling that united we can transform realities. Although there are still major challenges for overcoming poverty, reducing inequities and promoting social inclusion, ABC is sure that the collaboration between the Government of Brazil and the Centre of Excellence, powered by South-South cooperation programmes and projects, is an important instrument for overcoming these obstacles.

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