

## **SOVEREIGNTY, FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

In 2020, the Professional Master's Program in Public Health Policies (MPPPS) of the Fiocruz School of Government in Brasília (PPGPPS/EGF/Fiocruz) issued a call for the selection of participants on the theme "Public Health Policies in coping with and living with COVID-19 and other health emergencies."

The thematic axes of PPGPPS/EGF/Fiocruz are Social Justice and Health, and Surveillance and Health Management, and exceptionally, the theme of Sovereignty, Food and Nutritional Security was included. This experience, concluded in 2023, brought numerous academic-scientific productions developed by faculty, researchers, and postgraduate students, with significant contributions to addressing outbreaks, endemic diseases, and pandemics.

Therefore, to fulfill the purpose of disseminating the academic-scientific production of the MPPS, RACA launched the call for a special edition titled "Sovereignty, Food and Nutritional Security in the Covid-19 Pandemic".

In this edition, articles, essays, experience reports, and narratives from both the production of PPGPPS/EGF/Fiocruz and other national and international productions on coping with the Covid-19 Pandemic and its consequences for Sovereignty, Food, and Nutritional Security are published.

It begins with an experience report on the "Implementation of the National School Feeding Program in the Municipality of Nova Lima/MG during the Covid-19 Pandemic in the years 2020 and 2021." This report presents the experience of the municipality of Nova Lima (MG) regarding the implementation of the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) during the COVID-19 pandemic, describing the coping strategies and difficulties arising from the pandemic context that hindered access to meals offered in school units.

Articles have been published on the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic in agroecological production regions to promote food and nutritional security, as well as strategies implemented by school feeding programs.

The article "Even COVID-19 Passed By: Resistance and Resilience of Agroecological Families in the Central Sertão of Ceará" analyzes the resistance and resilience strategies for sovereignty, food, and nutritional security among farming families that are part of the Agroecological Farmers Network of the Central Sertão of Ceará, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The article aims to rethink the agri-food system based on an agroecological model as a path of resistance and resilience adopted by families for self-consumption and overcoming hunger and food insecurity, supported by a territorialized strategy.

The article "School Environment as a Stage for Interaction between Different Family Dietary Practices and Actions Promoting Adequate and Healthy Eating" presents aspects that contribute to understanding how culture and dietary practices interact with actions promoting adequate and healthy eating in the school environment of a large city. It emphasizes the importance of identifying pathways that mobilize shared knowledge between family and school to promote healthy food environments.

Two international articles have been published addressing strategies implemented in Colombia regarding the oligopoly of processed foods. The article "Opposition Strategies to the Public Policy Initiative for Healthy Taxes on Ultra-Processed Food Products in Colombia" presents a set of public measures involving the Congress of the Republic of Colombia in adopting the healthy tax and implementing front-of-package labeling. The results highlight the actions of civil society and the government amid conflicts of interest. The article "Oligopolistic Market of Ultra-Processed Products and Beverages in Colombia" describes the identification, characterization, and mapping of companies producing ultra-processed foods with a significant market share in the food and beverage industry in Colombia in 2018.

Finally, the article "Analysis of the School Feeding Program during the Pandemic - Strategies Employed for Food Supply" analyzes the execution of the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) during the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic through an integrative review. The results indicate the absence

of organized civil society in advocating for food and nutritional security (SAN) policies, especially in supporting the PNAE.

This edition also features articles submitted in the continuous flow of the journal. The article "Self-Care and Meanings of Obesity by Health Professionals" addresses the theme of the meanings of obesity from the perspective of health professionals and the low effectiveness of biomedical models in treating this global pandemic. The study presents the meanings of obesity as perceived by both obese and non-obese health professionals working in a public health institution in Salvador, Bahia. It highlights experiences of unsuccessful weight loss, where the suffering is intensified by a sense of weakness in self-care and the weight of disapproving looks from others, coupled with market-driven logic. The article "Qualification of Care for People with Overweight and Obesity: Perspectives of Primary Care Professionals" analyzes the low effectiveness of dominant biomedical and curative models of healthcare for people with overweight and obesity. It concludes with eight conceptual fields for the qualification of ongoing education for health professionals.

We hope that the publication of this material in this edition documents the various strategies implemented at the local level by programs and public policies in Brazil and the Americas during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, these strategies continue to pose modern challenges that need to be overcome for the promotion of the Right to Adequate and Healthy Food.

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