

Brazil's food security falls below world average for the first time

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Among the poorest people in Brazil, food insecurity is at the level of African countries, according to Gallup findings surpassed the global average for the first time. Hunger disproportionately affects women, poor households and people aged 30 to 49, who typically have more children, harming a generation of children.

The rate of food insecurity in Brazils population has doubled since 2014, the year Brazils Dilma Rousseff (Dilma Rousseff) The economy fell into recession under the Rousseff government, and growth has been flat since then.

That percentage jumped from 17 percent in 2014 to 36 percent by the end of 2021, surpassing the 35 percent figure based on 125,000 global surveys for the first time, according to Gallup data analyzed by Brazils Foundation Vargas (FGV) Social Policy Center. % of the global average.

Of the poorest 20% of Brazilians, 75% confirmed that they had run out of money to buy food in the past 12 months. Among women, 47% were confirmed, compared with 45% among those aged 30 to 49, both higher than the global average.

Marcelo Neri, Director of the Social Department of the Brazilian Foundation of Vargas (FGV), said: "The high proportion of food insecurity among these populations will have long-term effects that are worrying. Because it involves There are many children who are undernourished."

"Equally alarming is the widening inequality of food insecurity, which is very sad. Among the poorest 20 percent of the population in Brazil, hunger levels are close to those of countries with the highest hunger rates in the world, such as Zimbabwe (80 percent) . On the other hand, in Brazil, the relatively wealthiest 20 percent of the population experienced a decline in hunger (to 7 percent), only slightly higher than in Sweden, a less food insecure country."

The late 2021 survey has yet to be weighed down by further increases in food prices this year, especially after the start of the war between Russia and Ukraine, major producers of wheat and corn.

And the findings of the survey have the following background: For seven consecutive months last year, the Federal Economic Council provided emergency assistance to 39.2 million families, with monthly subsidies ranging from 150 reais to 375 reais. Currently, only 17.5 million families receive the new Brazilian allowance, receiving 400 reais per month.

According to Renato Mafuf, coordinator of the Brazilian Network for the Study of Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security (Rede Penssan), all factors that keep Brazilians at high levels of hunger until 2020 worsened last year and are worsening this year. exacerbated.

Research by the Research Network in December 2020 showed that more than half (55%) of Brazilians are at risk of some degree of food insecurity (severe, moderate or mild).

"Unemployment remains high, while incomes, especially for informal workers, are low. Our social benefits (Auxílio Brasil) are lower than 2020 levels (when they reached a maximum of R\$600 per month)," Mafuf noted.), and a war broke out between the two major food-producing nations."

"The point is, the government doesnt have a structured anti-hunger policy, it just reacts spontaneously with some micro-measures like lowering import tariffs. We dont have any reason to believe that things will turn out for the better."

Food inflation should hit 12 percent this year, well above the national broad consumer price index (IPCA), which will worsen food insecurity, according to forecasts by MB Consulting.

Sérgio Vale, chief economist at MB, noted: "The growth of metals commodity prices has decelerated due to the prospect of a slowdown in Europe, China and the United States, but food prices have followed a different path. Subject to ongoing pressure to stay out of economic activity."

Translator: Cao

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