



PRESENTATION

In Conditional Cash Transfer programs (CCTs), conditionalities are education and health commitments that seek to induce certain behaviors in families. Their objective is to strengthen the human capital of families, so that future generations may enjoy better living conditions, income generation and employment opportunities.

In Brazil, the main purpose of Bolsa Família Program conditionalities is to improve access to basic social services, such as education and health, for families in poverty - and, as such, contribute to breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty. The intent of monitoring compliance of the education conditionality is to promote access to - and permanence in - schools; in health conditionalities, the goal is to strengthen prevention and promote health among PBF beneficiary families.

The Bolsa Família Program Conditionalities are:

- » In education - school enrollment and a minimum attendance rate of 85% for children aged 6-15 years, and 75% for adolescents aged 16 and 17 years;
- » In health - vaccination and nutritional (weight and height) monitoring of children under 7 years of age and prenatal exams for pregnant women.

The implementation of Bolsa Família Program conditionalities occurs in a context where education and health policies are structured throughout the country and present in all Brazilian municipalities. Access to these policies must be enhanced, however, because poor families have historically been recognized as having lower access to such services - due either to lack of accessibility, inadequate public service provision or even social vulnerability and risk.

Education, health and social assistance are universal social rights under Brazil's Constitution. As such, these are public social policies organized throughout the nation, with responsibilities shared among federal, state and municipal levels of government.

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In Brazil, health services are provided by the National Health System (SUS). SUS is one of the largest public health systems in the world. It ensures full, universal and free access for the entire population of the country. SUS was created by the 1988 Federal Constitution of Brazil to become the health system for over 180 million Brazilians. Basic health care is provided by Basic Health Units, also known as Health Centers, and by the Family Health Strategy.

In education, although there is no unified system, the Law of Guidelines and Bases of Brazilian Education (LDB, *Lei de Diretrizes e Bases da Educação Brasileira*) guides higher and basic education policies in the country. LDB legislation regulates the education system in Brazil and reaffirms the right to education, as guaranteed by the Federal Constitution. It lays out the principles of education and the State's duties vis-à-vis public school education, establishing the concerted efforts of the Federal, state and municipal governments, as well as that of the Federal District.

By monitoring education and health conditionalities, the government is able to identify exactly which poor children, adolescents and pregnant women are having difficulties in accessing these services, which as universal rights should reach all. The existence of conditionalities stems from poverty and inequality in the context of public health and education, highlighting the need for public services to promote equitable access.

In social assistance, although there is no conditionality expected from the family, it remains the responsibility of the Unified Social Assistance System to perform social work with families who fail to fulfil the conditionalities, so as to find the real reasons that prevent children and adolescents from accessing school regularly and that keep children and pregnant women from getting basic health care.

Family monitoring and coaching is the embodiment of the State's responsibility to support families in overcoming various social vulnerabilities and risks related to fully accessing social rights; it is not exclusive to families who fail to comply with conditionalities. However, families in this situation and that are flagged as under family monitoring in the Conditionalities System (Sicon, Sistema de Condicionalidades) may continue to have their income transfers guaranteed (at the discretion of the technical team responsible for the social work done with that family) and be protected from further effects of not complying with conditionalities, such as cancellation of transfers.

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The Unified Social Assistance System (SUAS) is a public system that organizes social assistance services, in a decentralized way, in Brazil. As such, the basic protection provided by SUAS is organized and offered by Reference Centers for Social Assistance (CRAS), where social work is carried out with families to expand and strengthen their inner-family ties and the bonds between families and their communities.

As such, Bolsa Família Program conditionalities have become a tool to increase access to education and health services and to identify access obstacles faced by poor families.

Certain essential design and organization aspects of the Bolsa Família program's conditionalities were incorporated from the beginning of the process, while others emerged only during implementation. Care was always taken to adapt them to the characteristics of Brazilian society and the way education, social and health care services are structured in Brazil. These aspects will be the subject of this series, which will address the main issues pertaining to conditionalities in four products, including this presentation:

1) Bolsa Família Program Conditionalities: Introduction

Introduces the concept of Bolsa Família Program conditionalities and highlights the importance of the services network used by education, health and social policies in the process of implementing management conditionalities

2) Bolsa Família Program Conditionalities: Timeline

Over time, the initial concept of CCT conditionalities was adapted to the characteristics of Brazilian society, while the mechanisms associated with the expansion of social protection - used to identify PBF families with no access to education and health - were enhanced with the central objective of increasing access to education and health by poor families.

3) Bolsa Família Program Conditionalities: Management Players

The publication maps out the various players involved in sectoral policy networks on education, health and social assistance and responsible for implementing the Bolsa Família Program conditionalities at the federal, state and municipal levels.

4) Bolsa Família Program Conditionalities: How Does It Work?

The process of managing conditionalities is organized into different stages, beginning with the generation of a database with the set of children, adolescents and women whose conditionalities will be monitored and ending with the identification of the families who have failed to fulfil them. All processes are carried out by on-line systems (the Conditionalities System, the Attendance System, the Bolsa Família Program Health Management System) and are shared among the different players working in education, health and social assistance, at the federal, state and municipal levels.