

Brazilian Government's Unified Registry for Social Programs is a tool for identifying and recording the social and economic conditions of **low-income Brazilian families**.

families that survive on a monthly income of up to one half of a minimum wage per person or on a total of three minimum wages per family.



Most of Brazil's social programs select beneficiaries on the basis of information contained in the Unified Registry. The Unified Register is however much more than a database on the low-income population in general: it is also a mechanism for highlighting the situation of the most vulnerable population groups throughout the country, mapping their needs and enabling the actions of different areas of government to be coordinated in all Brazil's states and municipalities.

The Unified Registry consists of :

- » Registration forms containing information on low-income families collected by Unified Registry interviewers;
- » A computer-aided information system for entering and updating data on the registered families; and
- » A database containing details of all the families registered in the Unified Registry.

The above are essential for ensuring that the Unified Registry can achieve its main purpose: to **map and identify the poorest and most vulnerable segment of Brazil's population**, and to provide information on the country's different geographic areas¹ and their key socioeconomic features.

Goals of Brazil's Unified Registry



¹ Municipalities, States and the Federal District.

Text adapted from the following publications:

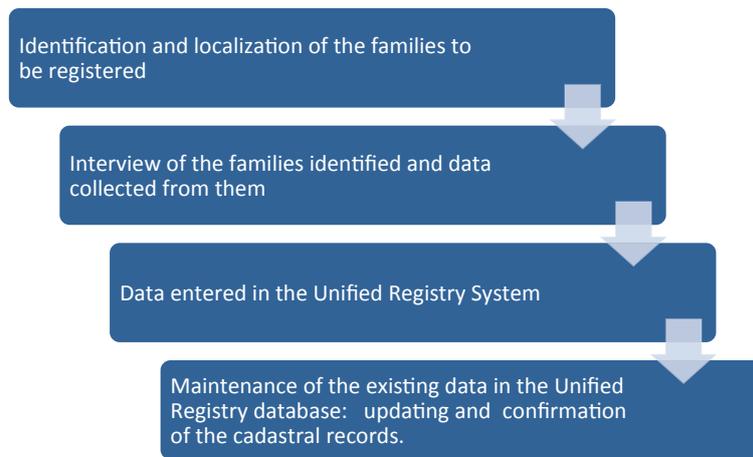
(i) Management Manual of the Unified Registry for Federal Government Social Programs – 2nd edition

(ii) From the Bolsa Família Program to a the Brazil Without Poverty Plan: A short account of recent developments in the quest to overcome extreme poverty in Brazil, by Luis Henrique Paiva, Tiago Falcão and Leticia Bartholo, in: The Bolsa Família Program : a decade of inclusion and citizenship.

Registration Process

The municipality is the key player in the management of the Unified Registry in Brazil, responsible for identifying low-income families, registering them, ensuring that the relevant details are entered in the Unified Registry national database, keeping this data up-to-date and analyzing possible inconsistencies.

These tasks, comprising the four stages of the registration process, ensure that the information collected is a true picture of the socioeconomic situation of the registered families that can be reliably used by Brazil's different social programs:



It is important to emphasize that **updating the data is a continuous process** because population data can change rapidly. The records are updated:

- » whenever there are changes in the family household composition, changes of address or changes in household income or outgoings ; or
- » a maximum of 24 months after the date of the last interview.

In order to ensure that the data are of good quality, families are interviewed again whenever the records are due for revision. The purpose of this interview is to detect whether the registered information needs to be updated. For example, the birth of a child will involve increased family expenditure; a new address may imply a change in household circumstances; and a change of employment could mean a change in household income which may sometimes affect the family's expenses.

Information provided by families is **self-declared**. Prior to starting the interview the Unified Registry interviewer is instructed to warn the family of their responsibility to speak the truth or run the risk of foregoing their access to government programs.
