Colansa is a network of civil society organizations, universities, researchers and professionals, with different backgrounds, that work in the development of healthy, sustainable, equitable and inclusive food systems and in the promotion of nutrition and health of the populations of Latin America and the Caribbean, with particular attention to the prevention of non-communicable chronic illnesses (NCDs).
Its main objective is to promote spaces for discussion and continuous debate on experiences, strategies and proposals for the improvement of the region’s food systems, always guided by scientific evidence, in an environment of democratic coexistence and broad representation, with a focus on political incidence and in the improvement of public policies on food and nutrition.
Latin America and the Caribbean is the region in the world that most advances in public policies on food and nutrition.

In recent decades, Latin American and Caribbean countries have stood out for innovation in public policies related to the promotion of healthy eating, through community-based technologies and regulatory measures aimed at expanding and qualifying the information offered to citizens.

**Taxation of sweetened beverages, front-of-package nutrition labeling, restriction of marketing targeted at children, regulation of food environments such as schools**, among other policies, are increasingly effective in improving food systems.
Facilitating choices for *in natura* foods and healthy culinary preparations and making choices for ultra-processed foods and beverages difficult is the main objective of such policies, which guarantee the right of individuals to healthy food through clear and adequate information.

These are major challenges for the region that also suffers most from the impacts of malnutrition and the alarming numbers of premature deaths from non-communicable chronic diseases.
**Sugary drink taxes**: Mexico, Caribbean, Central and South America

**MEXICO**: 1 peso per liter (US$0.05)
on all drinks with added sugar, excluding milks or yogurts.
*Implemented Jan. 2014*

**PANAMA**: 7% tax on sodas:
(previously 5%)
5% on other non-alcoholic drinks with added caloric sweeteners.
10% on syrups & concentrates. Exempl: dairy drinks, juices with
>7.5 g sugar/100 mL. *Implemented November 2019*

**ECUADOR**: 10% ad valorem tax
on soft drinks with <25g of sugar/L and on all energy drinks, regardless of sugar content:
*$0.0018 per gram sugar* on drinks with >25 g sugar/L.
Exempl. dairy products and their derivatives, mineral water and juices that have 50% of
natural content. *Implemented May 2016*

**CHILE**: 18% ad valorem tax
on sugary drinks containing >6.25 g sugar/100 mL;
includes all non-alcoholic drinks with added sweeteners; exempls 100% fruit juice and
dairy-based beverages;
10% ad valorem tax on drinks with <6.25 g sugar/100 mL. *Implemented Oct. 2014*

**PERU**: 25% ad valorem tax
over drinks containing >6g sugar/100 mL (increase from previous rate of 17%);
17% ad valorem tax on drinks with 0.5–6 g sugar/100 mL (unchanged);
12% ad valorem tax on drinks with <0.5 g sugar/100 mL (decrease from
previous rate of 17%). Exempl. Plain water, 100% juice, plain milk, drinkable yogurt.
*Implemented eMay 2018, updated June 2019*

**BERMUDA**: 50% ad valorem tax
on sugar, sugary drinks, candies and dilutables; examp; diet sodas, 100% juice, and diet iced teas.
*Implemented Oct. 2018*

**DOMINICA**: 10% excise tax
on food and drinks with high sugar content, including soft
drinks and energy drinks. *Implemented Sep. 2015*

**BARBADOS**: 10% excise tax
on sugary drinks, including carbonated soft drinks, juice drinks,
and sport drinks; exempls 100% juice, coconut water, and plain milk. *Implemented Aug. 2015*

Global Food Research Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sugary drink taxes, available at:
Countries with mandatory interpretive labels on packaged foods and drinks

- **Mexico**: October 2020
- **Colombia**: July 2022
- **Ecuador**: 2014
- **Peru**: June 2019
- **Brasil**: October 2022
- **Uruguay**: March 2021
- **Argentina**: Passed November 2021, implementation date to be announced
- **Chile**: Junho de 2016
- **Iran**: 2015
- **Sri Lanka**: 2016
- **Singapore**: December 2021
- **Thailand**: 2007
- **Brazil**: October 2022

Countries and jurisdictions with mandatory standards for food available in schools and in their vicinity, including restrictions on unhealthy food

Americas:
- USA (national and state)
- Bermuda
- Mexico
- Costa Rica
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Brazil
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Chile
- Uruguay

Europe:
- Finland
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Germany
- France
- Portugal
- Hungary
- Slovenia
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Macedonia

Southeast Asia and Pacific:
- South Korea
- Malaysia
- New South Wales
- Australia
- Vanuatu
- Fiji

Africa, Middle East:
- Israel
- Jordan
- Iran
- Kuwait
- Bahrain
- United Arab Emirates
- Mauritius

History and first activities

2017 / Brazil
Healthy and sustainable food systems Webinar

2018 / Argentina
IUNS/ICN Congress

2019 / Panama
CLAS Event

2019 / Mexico
SLAN Congress

2020 / Brazil
IDRC project discussions

August 2020
Start of the IDRC project

March 2022
1 year anniversary of Colansa

March 2021
Launch of Colansa

2021
Annual Report 2021–2022
Colansa in 2021: first steps

- The Colansa Coordinating Committee is composed of representatives of the following organizations: Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (Idec) - Brazil, Instituto de Nutrición y Tecnología de los Alimentos (INTA) - Chile, Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria (IECS) - Argentina, Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP) - Mexico, Coalición Latinoamérica Saludable (CLAS) and Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón (FIC).
• Since its creation, in March 2021, Colansa has actively contributed, through technical meetings, seminars and publications, to the discussion of fundamental themes for facing challenges common to most Latin American and Caribbean countries such as: front-of-package nutrition labeling, regulations, promotion of healthy eating, food guides, paths for the transition to healthy and sustainable food systems, among others.

• During its first year of life, much of the work was focused on establishing the bases for action and for the joint construction of its mission, vision and values, as well as its conceptual and political framework, the manifesto on the urgency of healthy and sustainable food systems, governance document, and conceptual framework on a gender perspective. These documents constitute the references that should guide the group’s strategies and activities.
Colansa’s data

Currently, the network has 158 members (134 individuals and 24 organizations) from 18 countries, reflecting the breadth of its scope and reach of its positions. The construction of bridges and the establishment of dialogues between the members provides the improvement of knowledge, bringing individual and group robustness.
Colansa’s data

- **1 thematic hub** (Food Labeling)

- **6 member meetings, 2 thematic events and seminars** (“United Nations Food Systems Summit” and “Childhood Obesity Prevention Strategies in Latin America”)

- **1 advocacy workshop** (SLAN 2021)

- **3 technical meetings** of the Working Group on Food Labeling

- **5 editions** of Colansa newsletters

- **2 issues** of the newsletters of the Food Labeling Hub
Bem-vindo à newsletter da Colansa

Bem-vindo à newsletter da Colansa. Esta é a nossa newsletter que você receberá a cada dois meses em seu e-mail e com a qual os mantemos informados sobre os eventos e estudos produzidos por nossos membros, bem como informações, notícias e tendências relacionadas à alimentação saudável, sustentabilidade, saúde e política ações para melhorar os sistemas alimentares da América Latina e do Caribe.

Este é um espaço aberto para sugestões. Assim, se pretender que algum evento ou notícia apareça na newsletter, não hesite em enviar a sua sugestão para contacto@colansa.org.

nossos cumprimentos
Who is Colansa?

### Professional Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>No. of people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutritionist</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other professions (lawyer, sociologist, economist, advocate, psychologist)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Geographic Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>País</th>
<th>Nº de pessoas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolívia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who is Colansa?

Organizations:

- Grupo de Investigación en Nutrición y Sistemas Alimentarios y Sostenibles (INSAS)
- Consorcio por la Salud, Ambiente y Desarrollo (ECOSAD)
- Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública
- International Development Research Centre
- Unidad de Cirugía Cardiovascular de Guatemala
- InterAmerican Heart Foundation
- Campaña Que rico es comer sano y de nuestra tierra
- Instituto de Nutrición de Centro América y Panamá (INCAP)
- Coalición ContraPeso
- Fundación 5 al Día Venezuela
- Observatorio Universitario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional del Estado de Guanajuato A.C. (OUSANEG)
- Consumidores Argentinos
- Grupo de Estudios, Pesquisas e Prácticas em Ambiente Alimentar e Saúde
- Movimiento de Alimentación Saludable de Panamá
- Centro de Investigación sobre Problemáticas Alimentarias Nutricionales (CISPAN), Escuela de Nutrición, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Buenos Aires
Some of our members
Why Colansa?

Food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean are increasingly associated with negative impacts on health and the environment. It is one of the regions with the highest rates of obesity in the world, living with persistent malnutrition and climate change.

To give you an idea, the region faces the highest levels of hunger in the last 15 years, a situation aggravated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Four out of ten people in the region – 267 million – experienced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2020. This represents 60 million more people than in 2019, an increase of 9 percentage points. This is the highest increase in this index in relation to other regions of the world.
At the same time, nearly 25% of adults are obese, an average much higher than the rest of the world’s 13%.

It is in this challenging context that Colansa operates. Latin America and the Caribbean relies on relevant experiences and leadership policies to promote healthy and sustainable food systems.

**Colansa has the potential to bring together knowledge and key sectors for reflection on systemic solutions and the identification of political opportunities that support sustainable transformation.**

Other regional networks and articulations

Coordinated action to increase impact and synergy with existing initiatives, for example:

- **CLAS** - Healthy Latin America Coalition
- **INFORMAS** - International Network for Food and Obesity / Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) Research, Monitoring and Action Support (Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, Argentina, Chile)
- **COPLAS** - Network of cohort studies in 7 countries (Costa Rica, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia)
- **REALISA** - Healthy Food Environments Network
- **Consortium on sodium reduction policies in Latin America** (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Peru)
- among many others!
Outlook and next steps

One year old, but with adult responsibility. 

Colansa faces the challenge of consolidating and expanding its operations by advancing in new paths and themes.

Some of them are considered fundamental by the global situation, such as the impacts - and multiple developments that are yet to come - of the COVID-19 pandemic, and others circumstantial to the hegemonic food systems in the region, such as, for example, the need to discuss instruments and mechanisms for preventing conflicts of interest in food and nutrition security policies and programs.

In this new phase, there is also a need to expand Colansa’s membership base, improve some communication tools and ensure greater coverage of activities and publications in the three main languages of the region: Portuguese, Spanish and English.
Outlook and next steps

Let’s work towards:

• Actively seek new members who can contribute and are in line with the manifesto and the conceptual and political framework

• Strengthen Colansa as a network for exchanging experiences, practices and evidence in the region

• Expand the reach and representation of members from Caribbean and English-speaking countries

• Advance on crucial issues for the improvement of policies aimed at conflicts of interest, gender issues, social and commercial determinants