



colansa

Community of Practice
Latin America and Caribbean
Nutrition and Health

ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022

MARCH 2022



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Colansa completes

1 year

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

at the forefront

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 (\$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; exempts 100% fruit juice and dairy-based beverages;

10% ad valorem tax on drinks with <6.25 g sugar/100 mL. *Implemented Oct. 2014*

BERMUDA: 50% ad valorem tax

on sugar, sugary drinks, candies and dilutables; exempts 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; exempts 100% juice, coconut water, and plain milk. *Implemented Aug. 2015*

PERU: 25% ad valorem tax

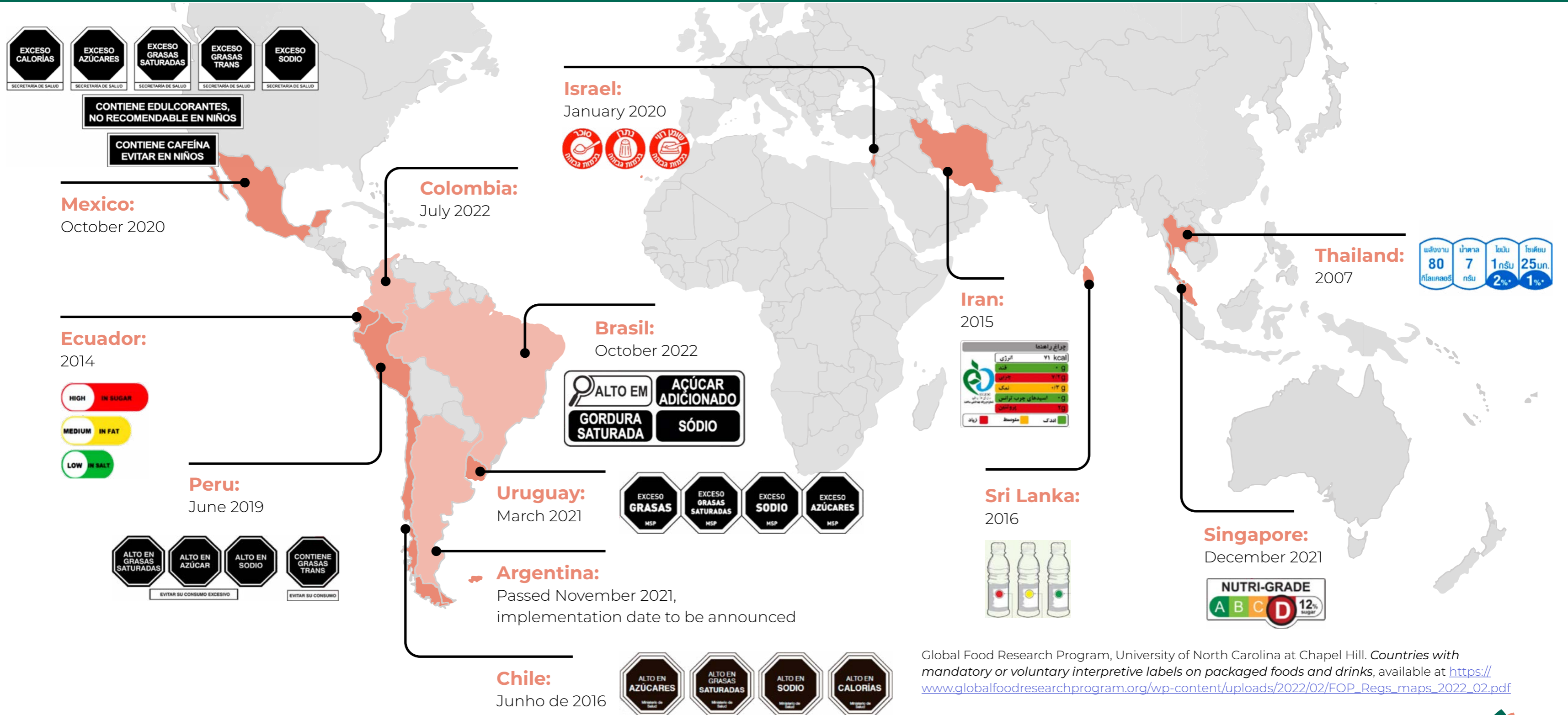
over drinks containing >6g sugar/100 mL (increase from previous rate of 17%);

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 yogurts. *Implemented eMay 2018, updated June 2019*

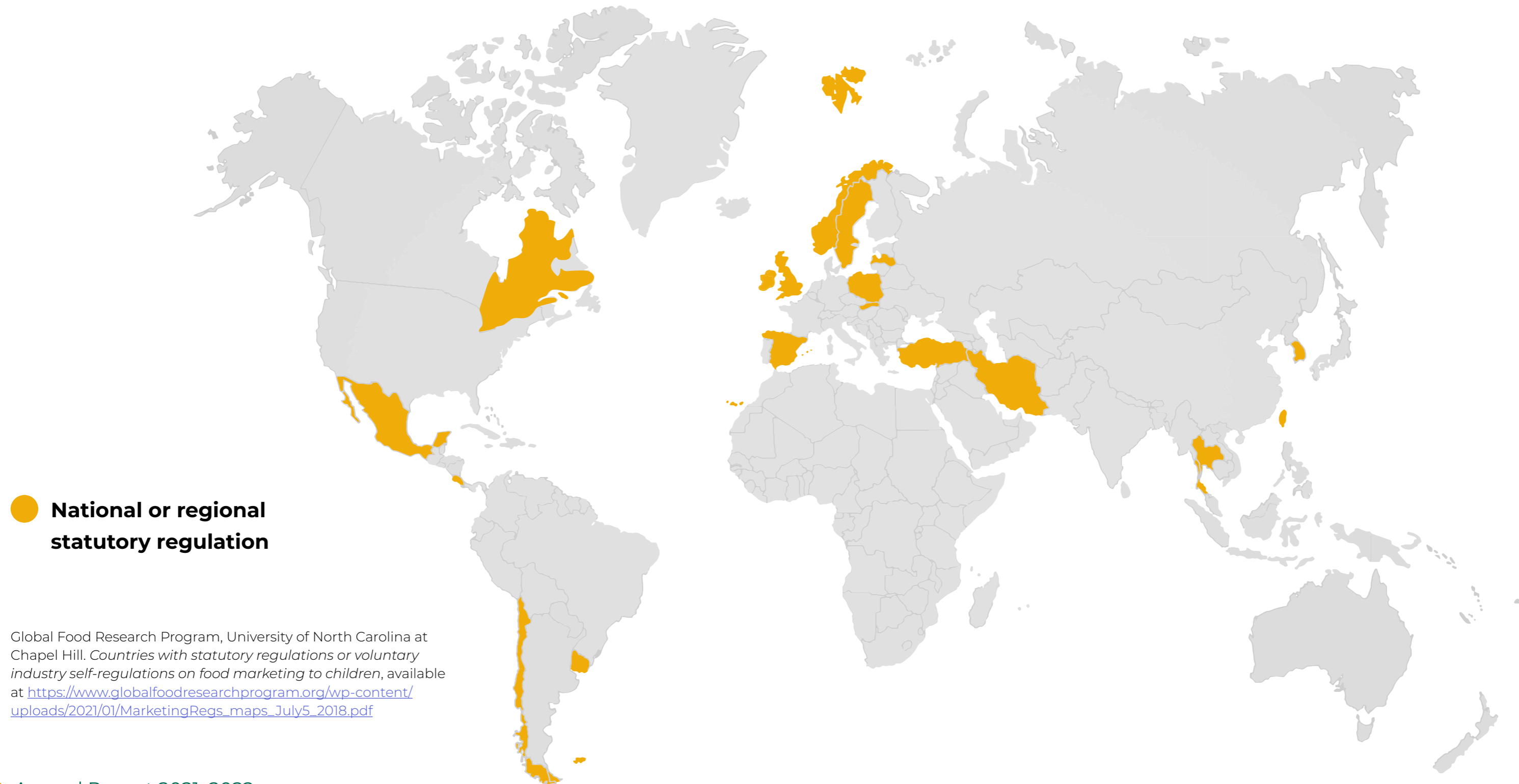
Global Food Research Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. *Sugary drink taxes*, available at: https://www.globalfoodresearchprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Sugary_Drink_Tax_maps_2022_02.pdf

Countries with **mandatory** interpretive labels on packaged foods and drinks

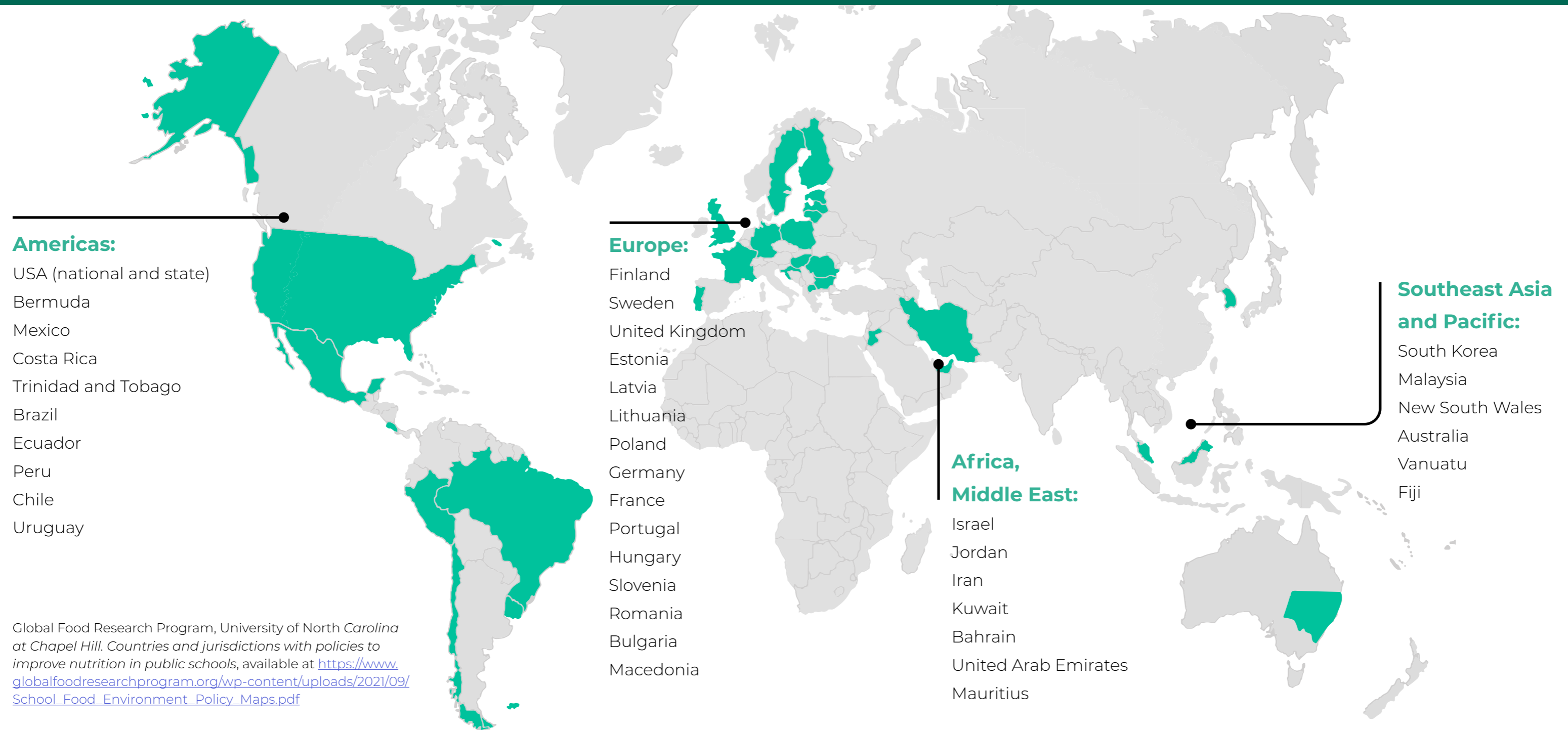


Global Food Research Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Countries with mandatory or voluntary interpretive labels on packaged foods and drinks, available at https://www.globalfoodresearchprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FOP_Regs_maps_2022_02.pdf

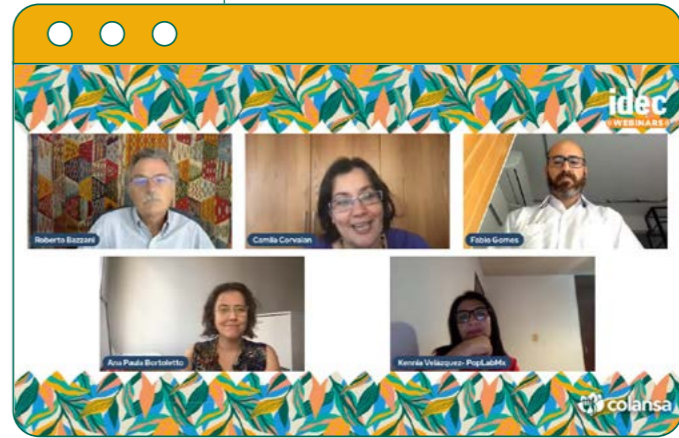
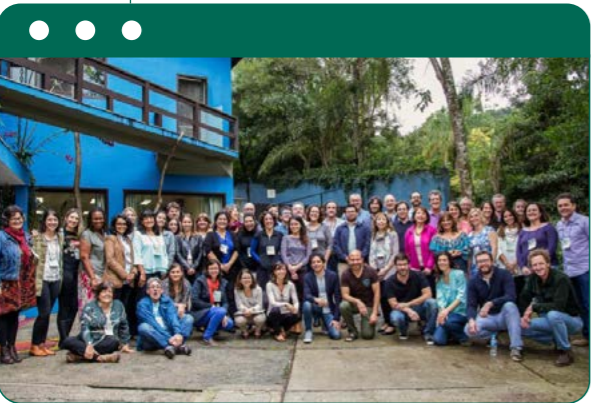
Countries with **any statutory regulations** on food marketing to children



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



History and first activities



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.

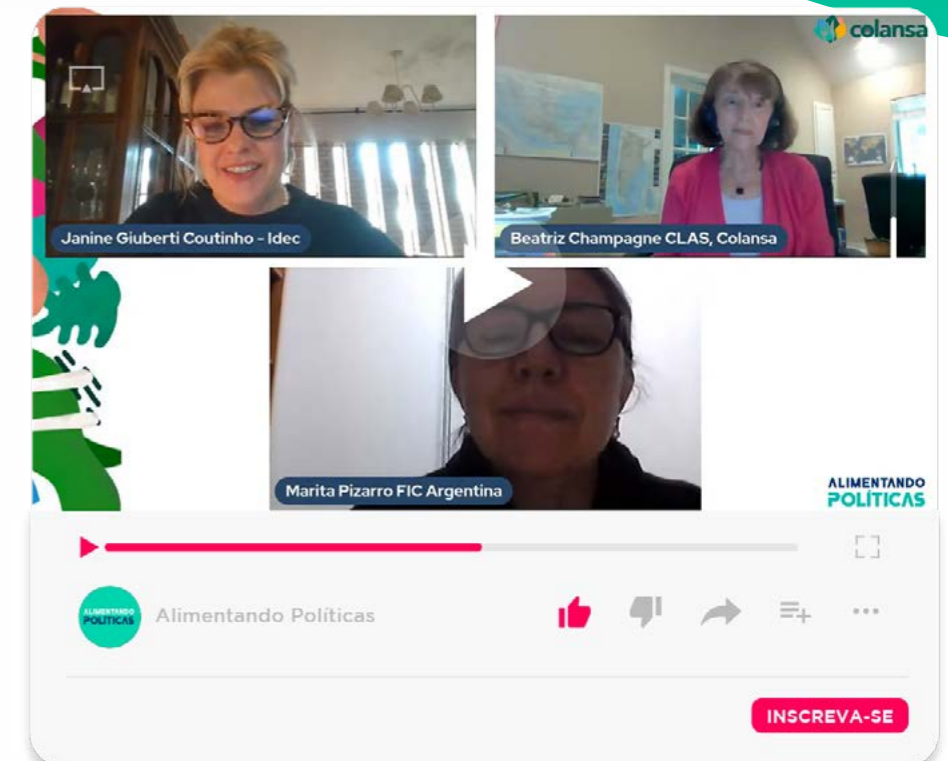
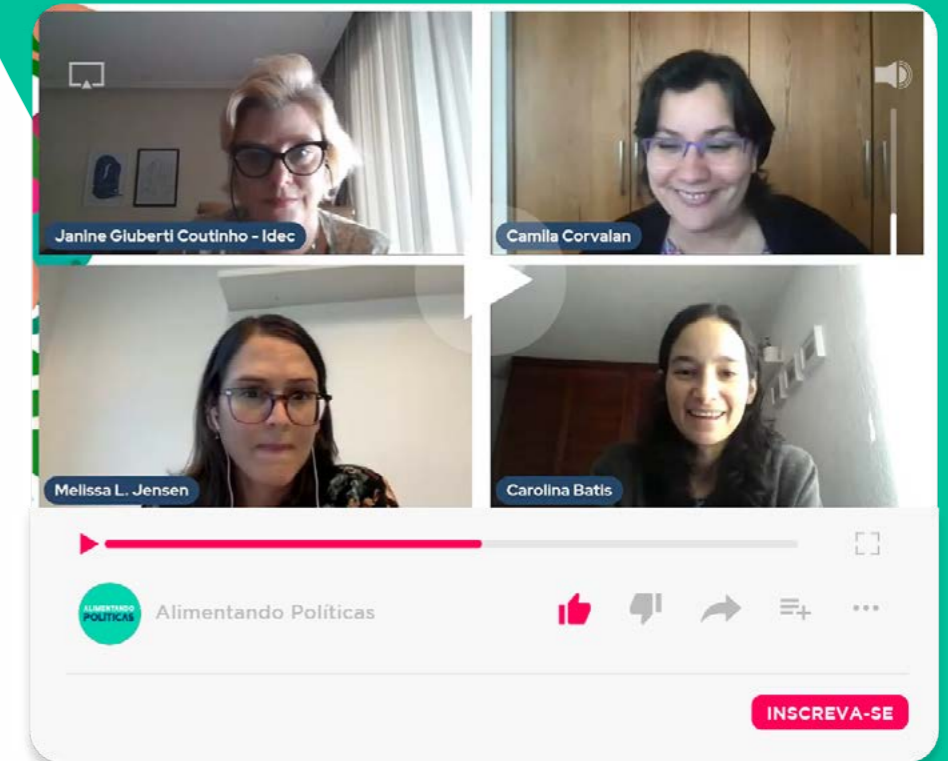
Colansa's data

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 o manteremos informado 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

MacBook Pro

Boletim #03 | Outubro de 2021



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nossos cumprimentos

O PRINCIPAL INGREDIENTE

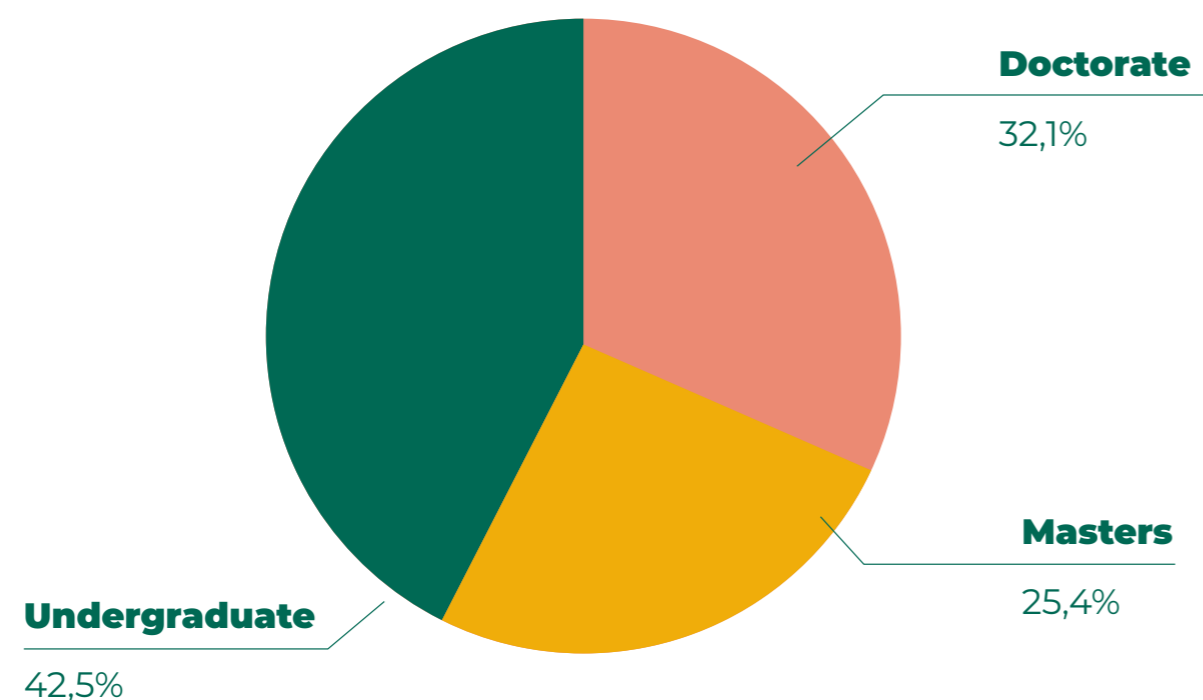
A Argentina empreende a batalha pela rotulagem frontal dos alimentos. O Senado do país enfrentou o primeiro episódio de uma discussão que deve ser muito acirrada. Os representantes do governo argentino na Câmara lutam para aprovar uma lei que queira ajudar uma população que registra 68% de obesos entre os adultos. O modelo argentino de rotulagem em discussão é semelhante ao de outros países da região, com os já famosos octógonos pretos alertando para os altos teores de gordura, sódio e açúcar nos produtos, e para ajudar no combate à obesidade, hipertensão e riscos cardíacos. Mas não será um caminho fácil: repetindo os esquemas de outros países, a indústria alimentícia começa a expressar seus medos infundados sempre que um governo tenta alertar seus cidadãos sobre os riscos de uma alimentação não saudável.



A Cúpula das Nações Unidas (ONU) sobre Sistemas Alimentares terminou, mas os problemas permanecem. Os membros da Colansa não podem aceitar como positivo um evento após o qual os documentos oficiais ignorem a palavra "ultraprocessado". Por isso, os membros da Colansa elaboraram um manifesto de 16 pontos aberto a mais colaboradores e que qualquer pessoa pode assinar para apoiá-lo. [Leia mais sobre o balanço da cúpula e do manifesto aqui.](#)

O ESSENCIAL

Who is Colansa?



Profession	No. of people
Nutritionist	67
Researcher	27
Doctor	9
Teacher	8
Other professions (lawyer, sociologist, economist, advocate, psychologist)	23

País	Nº de pessoas
Brazil	38
Argentina	17
Mexico	14
Chile	13
Costa Rica	8
Guatemala	6
Panama	6
Uruguay	5
Ecuador	5
Colombia	5
United States	5
Peru	3
Paraguay	2
Canada	2
Venezuela	2
Puerto Rico	1
Dominican Republic	1
Bolivia	1
TOTAL	134

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 Estudos, Pesquisas e Práticas 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.

(FAO, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2021. Latin America and the Caribbean – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021: Statistics and trends. Santiago, FAO)

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





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