Brazil's Cadastro Unico: an enduring bridge to consolidated targeting efforts
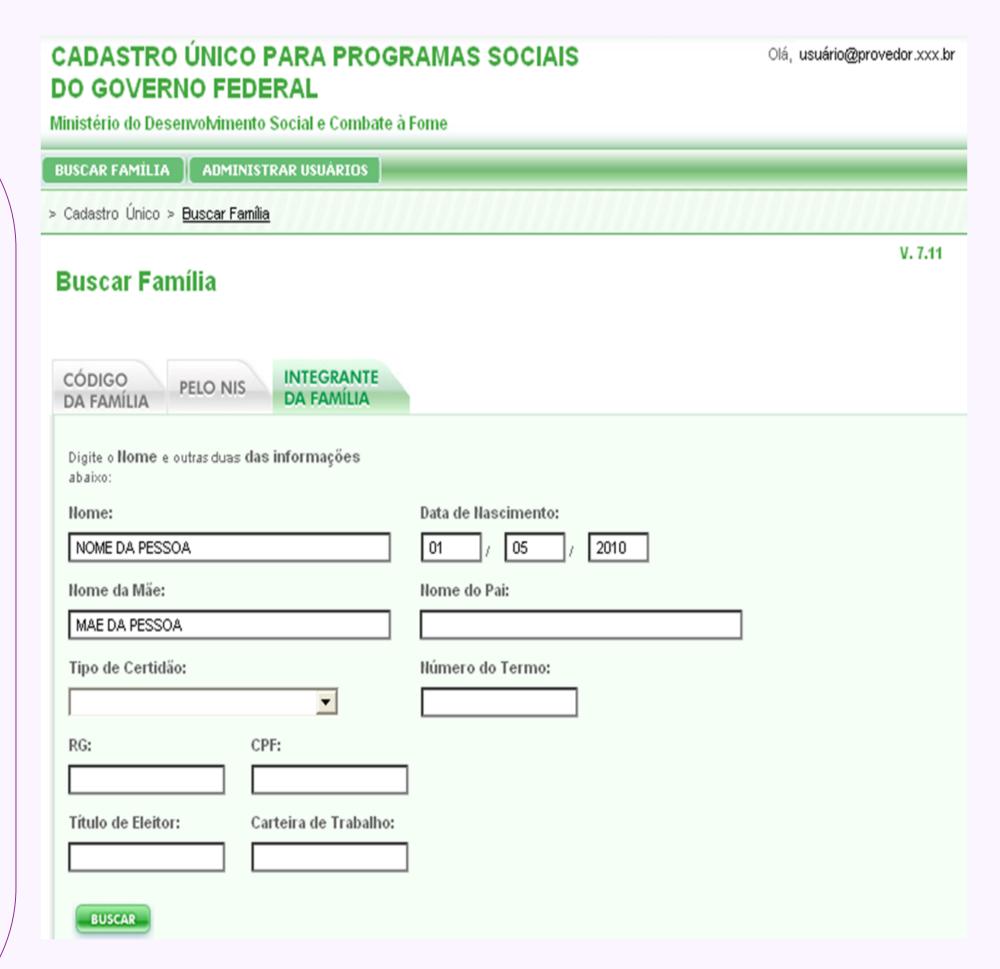
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BACKGROUND and OVERVIEW
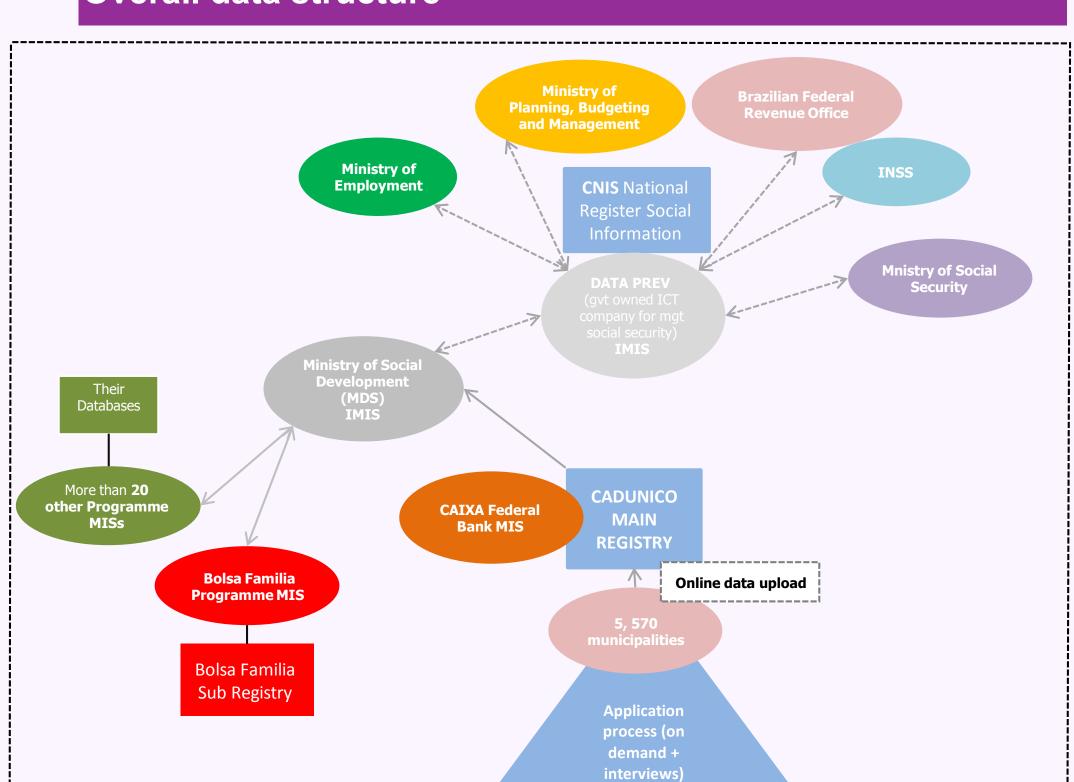
- **Cadastro Único** was **set up in 2001** through a ministerial decree and has since evolved through continual improvement. It received a major upgrade from 2005 onwards, increasing its coverage among low income Brazilian families.
- The Single Registry, which is based on the initial data-collection effort of the Bolsa Familia programme, now contains more than **26 million households** (85 million people and **40% of Brazilian households**) and is **used by more than 20 programmes.**
- 77% of all registry data is **updated every 2 years**.
- Cadastro Único is **managed by several institutional actors** who perform the following roles:
  - **Design** (questionnaire, systems, data security and protection, internet support, financial support, etc) is led by the **Ministry of Social Development;**
  - **Data collection and entry** is decentralised to **local governments**. Data collection is co-funded by the local and the central governments (using a decentralised management index)
  - **Data consolidation is run centrally by Caixa**, a federal **bank** on a performance-based contract with the Ministry of Social Development. Caixa is also responsible for generating **the social identification number** (unique number for each registered person);
  - Continuous **training** organized by the **States** (regional governments) and the **Central Government**.

Screenshot of Cadastro Unico Application at Municipal Level

Overall data structure

Key components of the integrated data system

- The data entry system for Cadunico (managed at Municipal level) performs instant **automatic validation checks** (duplication, documentation, completeness, etc.);
- The **Ministry of Social Development** runs **periodic cross-checks with other data sources to ensure accuracy of data**: comparison with death certificates, formal workers' incomes and receipt of contributory policies. This is mainly interfaced through the **National Register of Social Information** (**CNIS**), managed by **DATAPREV** (government owned ICT company for management of social security). CNIC:
  - contains more than 230 million records of individuals and over 35 million legal entities (companies or institutions) documenting the development of employment contracts, payroll, and contribution amounts for each registered individual.
  - Is the main registry that allows Brazilians to receive pensions, social insurance in cases of illness or disability, and several other types of pensions or social benefits.
- Cadunico is also linked with the **payment systems of some of its programmes**. Specifically, three programmes have direct access to Cadunico data and use it for payments, through **Caixa** (Bolsa Família Program, Bolsa Verde Program, Program Development for Rural Productive Activities). Most other programs access information **on demand** for targeting and monitoring purposes.

Challenges and limitations

- Further development needed to enable automatic and **online database linkage** with user programs: web services, database synchronization/import;
- **Lack of common national identification number** (multiple sources and registries of personal data): lInkages between databases are currently made through "**match keys**" (name, mother's name, birth and codes from some documents)
- **Connectivity and technology gap** in several regions of the country
- Institutional challenges in a **decentralised context**: (i) strengthening roles of states in provision of technical assistance; (ii) strengthening capacities at municipal level to improve local management.
- Reducing **data collection** efforts: questionnaire is too big and everything is done by individual applicant

REFERENCES/FURTHER INFORMATION

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