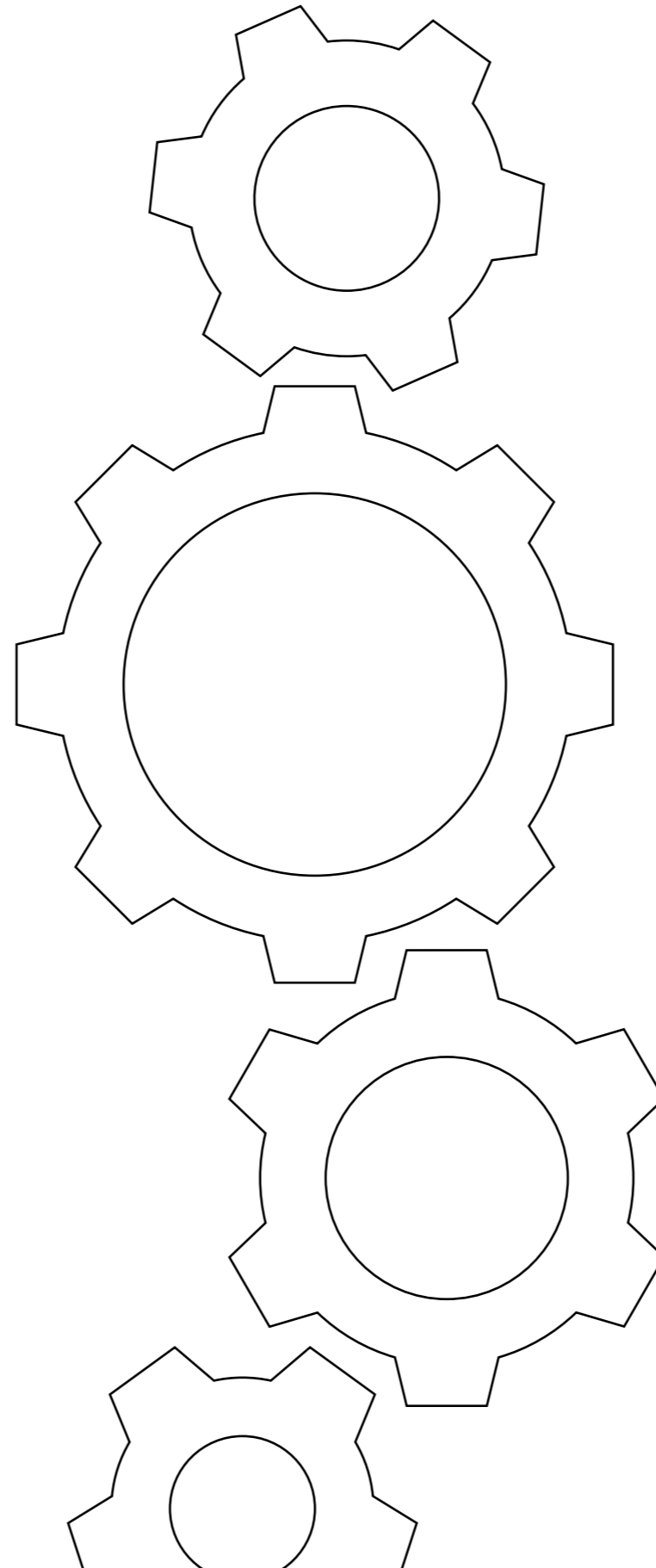




**THE MUNICIPAL
FOOD SECURITY
COMMITTEE
OF LA PAZ**

2013-2015



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INTRODUCTION

Due to the increasing concerns about urban food security, Fundación Alternativas and the Mayor of La Paz, Luis Revilla Herrero, decided to create the [Municipal Food Security Committee of La Paz](#).

It was decided the committee should be composed of both municipal authorities and local actors so as to add diversity to discussions and outcomes. The Mayor and Fundación Alternativas worked together to create a list of government officials and independent professionals to appoint to the committee, and formal invitations were sent.

The committee was launched in December of 2013 and two years later, its work continues uninterrupted. The committee's main function is to create a space for debate, analysis and drafting of municipal public policies that allow the municipality of La Paz to enjoy a healthy, more sustainable, and more resilient local food system.

Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

FAO (2011)



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: A COMMITTEE-LED HOLISTIC APPROACH

The work of the **Municipal Food Security Committee of La Paz** revolves around four main goals and objectives:

JOIN

experience and knowledge to generate discussions and debate, analyzing and creating current food system sustainability strategies.

GENERATE

food policy proposals supported by research, reports and other documents.

INTERACT

with stakeholders from various sectors related to the food system.

MONITOR

feedback on the work of the committee and the implementation of proposed regulations once these are adopted.



WORKING TOOLS

To approach the analysis, design and dissemination of proposals and policies, the members of the committee complement their knowledge on food security accessing data and research and participating in specialized workshops on different topics. This approach ensures participants are aware of the many challenges to food security and enables them to adopt different perspectives when designing problem-solving strategies.

INTERNAL WORK

Since December of 2013, the committee convenes meeting on a monthly basis. Meetings revolve around the analysis and discussion of challenges to the local food system, the participatory construction of proposals and public policies, and efforts geared towards generating strategic alliances between private and public actors.



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Frequently, the committee organizes working sessions with an array of local actors, both public and private, who are invited to provide input and sector-specific perspectives on urban challenges to food security. These sessions aim to foster citizen participation in the design of policies and proposals to ensure these are responsive to the needs of citizens.

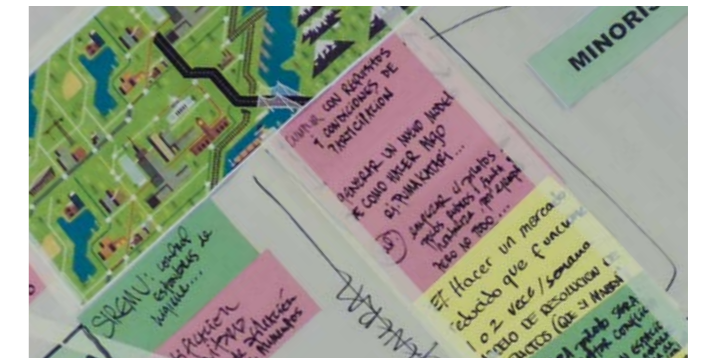
NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION FORUM (MARCH 2015)



FEEDBACK SESSIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL FOOD SECURITY LAW PROPOSAL (APRIL 2015)



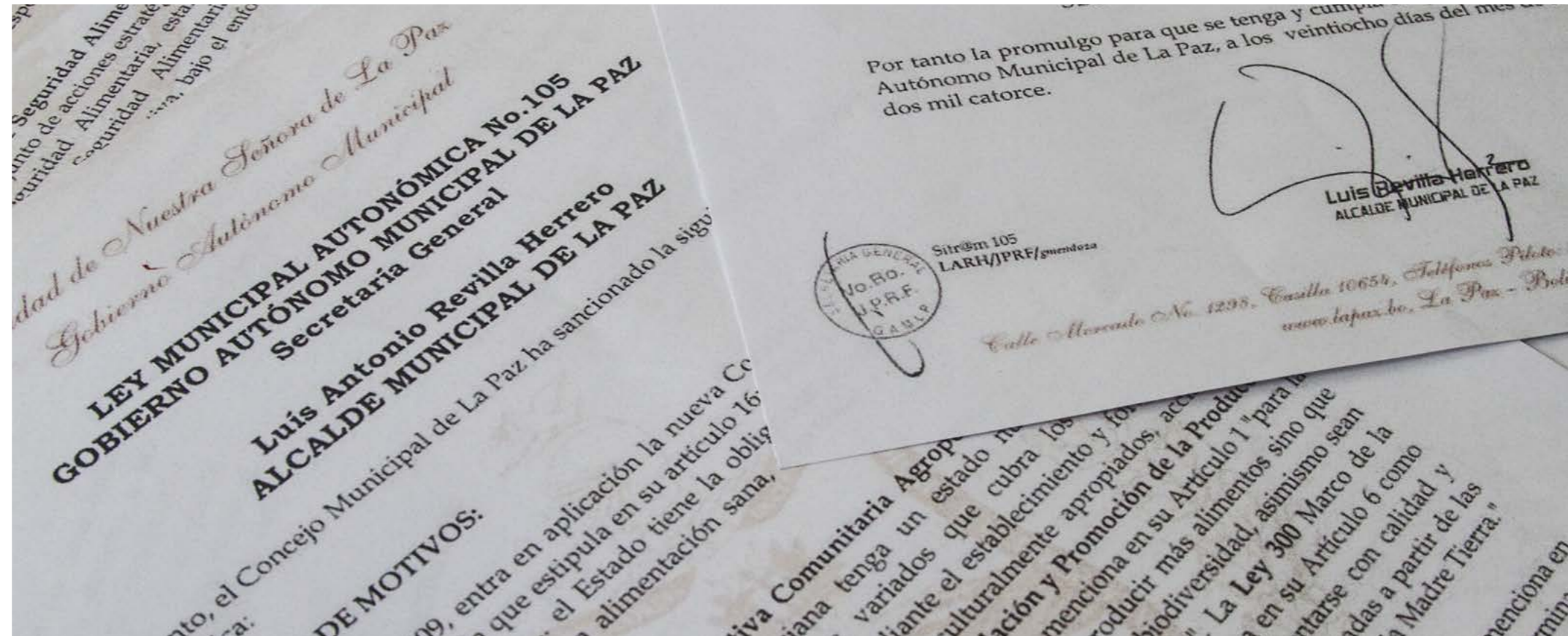
WORKING GROUP SESSION ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTERS (AUGUST 2015)



INFLUENCING THE PUBLIC AGENDA

In 2014, the committee drafted the first Municipal Food Security Law of the city of La Paz, with the participation of a diverse group of actors, both public and private.

So as to ensure the initiative was disseminated among the citizenry and local organizations, a signature drive was simultaneously conducted in different communities around La Paz. More than 1000 signatures were gathered as well as the support of more than 67 institutions and private companies.



The committee organized working sessions on the draft law with members of the La Paz Municipal Council prior to its official submittal to the institutional review and approval process.

The law was recognized as the first citizen-led legislative initiative and was unanimously approved by the Council in October of 2014. This same year, on the 28th of November, the mayor of La Paz signed and approved the law.

The Municipal Food Security Law of La Paz (No. 105) sets out five areas of intervention across the food chain that aim to improve the availability, access, and appropriate use of food.



It is important to highlight that the law recognizes the committee as an official advisory group to the city government of La Paz. Among its faculties, the committee is allowed to propose strategic actions that contribute to the effective development of municipal food security policies, continuously monitoring and evaluating their implementation. Likewise, the committee must act as an intermediary between the city government and other public institutions on matters related to food security so as to promote complementary and existing initiatives and investments.

In 2014, the committee was invited to actively participate in the design of the city government's five year strategic plan.

In 2015, the committee began drafting three policy proposals that seek to ensure the Municipal Food Security Law translates into tangible actions and investments in the short term.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTERS PROPOSAL (APRIL 2015)



MUNICIPAL OFFICE FOR FOOD SECURITY PROPOSAL (MAY 2015)



MUNICIPAL FOOD SECURITY NETWORK PROPOSAL (JUNE 2015)



THE METROPOLITAN AGENDA

Because a food system depends upon many actors and transcends municipal frontiers, the committee decided to adopt a metropolitan approach to its development of food policies.

To this end, representatives of neighboring local governments were convened –El Alto, Laja, Achocalla, Mecapaca, Coroico, Palca and Viacha– to undertake an unprecedented collaborative working process.



The Inter-Municipal Meetings on Food Security led to and enabled the drafting of a working document known as “Food Security for the Metropolitan Region.” The document identifies the challenges to the region’s food security and pinpoints actions that can be adopted collectively and collaboratively by local actors, in an articulated manner.

The document is the result of a collaborative effort between the eight local governments that make up the metropolitan region and calls upon the state government to take a more active role in tending to food system challenges.



In December of 2015, the committee and neighboring municipal representatives organized an event and personally handed the document to the Governor, Dr. Felix Patzi Paco.

FUTURE GOALS OF THE COMMITTEE

As a result of its impact driven work, the committee has consolidated its capacity to serve as an entity dedicated to drafting responsive and feasible policies as well as a body capable of generating change in the public agenda. The committee's future goals include:

- Strengthen the role of the committee as an advisory group to the city government in matters concerning food security.
- Support the city government in its efforts to fully adopt what is established in the Municipal Food Security Law (No. 105) by offering technical assistance and counsel based on the collective experience of the committee's members and associates.
- Extend the committee's area of influence to include the metropolitan region as a whole, serving as an intermediary between state and local actors.
- Serve as an intermediary between the citizenry and the public sector, allowing concerns and problem-solving strategies to emerge from participatory dialogues.
- Promote an active engagement between citizens and their elected representatives so as to collaboratively build a predictable, efficient and healthy food system.
- Position food security and food sovereignty as prioritized subjects within the public agenda and guarantee their consideration in planning and investment processes.

FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



Alternativas is a non-profit organization dedicated to generating sustainable approaches to greater food security in Bolivia's growing cities. We work to unite civic, public and private efforts in the design and application of public policies, programs, and initiatives that ensure individuals and communities are able to satisfy their universal right to food.

Alternativas is the first urban food security initiative in Bolivia that combines community-based development, public policy and entrepreneurialism in the design and implementation of its programs.

Alternativas has supported the ongoing work of the committee, guiding discussions and serving as a moderator during analysis and discussion sessions. This has become an essential element of the success given Fundación Alternativas has dedicated staff to planning and organizing meetings, putting together research material on food security and local food policies, as well as coordinating the participatory events that have taken place over the life of the committee.



HIVOS is an international development organization that works alongside civil society organizations in developing countries to contribute to a free, fair and sustainable world. HIVOS supports the work of Fundación Alternativas since 2013.



Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) is a non-profit German political foundation committed to the advancement of public policy issues in the spirit of the basic values of social democracy through education, research, and international cooperation. FES supports the work of the Municipal Food Security Committee of La Paz and Fundación Alternativas since 2014.



The Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic (Harvard FLPC) is a division of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation at Harvard University. Harvard FLPC assists nonprofit and governmental clients in a variety of local, state, federal, and international settings in understanding and improving the laws impacting the food system. Harvard FLPC supports the work of Fundación Alternativas and the Municipal Food Security Committee of La Paz since 2013.



The Harris School of Public Policy of the University of Chicago is an academic institution based in Chicago, Illinois (USA). The Harris School supports the work of Fundación Alternativas since 2012.



Fundación Alternativas (2015)

The Municipal Food Security Committee of La Paz: 2013-2015



ALTERNATIVAS
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