

BTS NRC 2013

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## CRISIS-HIT PORTUGUESE TOWN HOLDS 'SOLIDARITY BAZAAR'

A town 60 kilometres from Lisbon has launched a new type of market -- where shoppers donate food destined to help some of those who've been hardest hit by the country's gruelling financial crisis.

Duration: 01:46.

At this unique bazaar in the small town of Benavente, north of Lisbon, creating a sense of solidarity is more important than simply making money.

People bring food which they exchange for coupons they can use to buy toys, DVDs and other jumble donated by the local community.

The local council organised this Benavente solidarity bazaar for the first time last month. The food they collect is distributed to some of those who've been hardest hit by the country's gruelling financial crisis.

With unemployment in Portugal affecting 39 percent of young Portuguese and 16 percent overall, many locals welcome such initiatives.

*I think this is a good opportunity to find things like books, DVDs or dolls, valuable items in times of crisis and when you have financial problems. At the same time it helps solidarity by giving food to families in need.*

Solidarity is all the more important. With the 2013 approved budget promising to include even more austerity measures.

2.6 million Portuguese, that's 25.3 percent of the population, are currently at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

*With this policy the country will increasingly become as poor as it was 40 years ago. The coming years will be very hard, so we will have to develop initiatives like this because the government won't help us I'm sure.*

So far the food gathered through this bazaar reaches around forty families but this only looks set to increase over the coming months.