

The Brazil-Africa Cooperation Programme on Social Development aims at promoting exchange of knowledge between the Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger and African countries in the development of social policies and programmes. It is an initiative financed by the British Department for International Development and supported by the International Policy Centre For Inclusive Growth.

Brazilian Government Helps Angola in Promoting Children's Rights



Children's performance at the National Children's Forum of Angola.

The National Children's Forum of Angola, which was created in 2007, hosted its IV meeting in Luanda on 15–16 June. The Forum focused on the 11 commitments in the initiative "Children: Think National, Act Local", and participants discussed policies, programmes and implementation strategies to promote the rights of the children at the local level. Nearly 400 people from across the country attended the event. Workshops were previously held in all the provinces to assess progress in the areas of life expectancy, nutritional and food security,

birth certification, early childhood education, primary education, juvenile justice, the prevention and reduction of HIV/AIDS among families and children, the prevention of violence against children, family provision of support, communication, and the inclusion of child-related issues in the national budget. Lídia Gomes of Brazil's Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger (MDS) took part in the Forum. She shared the Brazilian experience of designing and managing the Single System of Social Assistance, as well as of programmes for children.

The areas of learning between Brazil and Angola will be the Single Registry, cash transfer programmes, food and nutritional security, and income and employment generation initiatives.

The next step in this exchange will be a technical workshop in Luanda for various sectors of government. With the support of UNICEF and the Brazilian government, Angola's Ministry of Assistance and Social Re-integration (MINARS) will design a national system of social protection. Minister João Baptista Kussumua of MINARS travelled to Brazil in May and proposed the event; he will invite several authorities from different ministries with a view to promoting inter-sectoral dialogue and raising awareness of the social protection agenda in Angola.



Fostering Learning Between Brazil and Kenya

According to Esther Mathenge, Kenya's Minister of Gender, Children and Social Development, social protection is one of the flagship programmes of Vision 2030, the government's long-term development platform.

The government has reported that inadequate programme financing, the accelerated growth of poverty, the spread of HIV throughout Africa and the weak performance of current policies are major challenges for the country. Social protection policies are fragmented, and thus many vulnerable groups are denied access to their rights.

Learning between Brazil and Kenya seeks to close some of these gaps by helping Kenya to design a Single Registry. The partnership also aims to develop effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and sound inter-sectoral programme coordination.

Despite the country's challenges, there is growing mobilisation for the social protection agenda in Kenya. The current process of formulating the national policy on social protection seeks to improve programme implementation. The policy will



Minister Esther Mathenge in a field visit to a school in Olinda-PE, August 2009, Bruno Spada/MDS.

bring together the main actors involved, harmonise information and processes, and promote capacity building and training. Kenya is a signatory (2006) to the Livingstone Declaration.

Relations Between Brazil and Mozambique

Mozambique's Ministry of Women and Social Action is preparing to receive a mission from Brazil's Ministry of Social Development (MDS). MDS will work with the National Institute of Social Action (INAS) and the Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security (SETSAN). Requests for support from the Mozambican government include the development of Social Assistance

Reference Centres (CRAS), a common database, improvement of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and implementation of food and nutritional security initiatives similar to Brazil's Food Acquisition Programme.

Mozambique has longstanding social protection initiatives, but it faces the

severe challenge of weak management systems with inadequate mechanisms for targeting, monitoring and evaluation. Several organisations are currently identifying and mapping areas of vulnerability and poverty in Mozambique, and Brazilian experts will contribute to this process during the missions to take place later this year.

Course on Public Management for African Partners

The Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) is considering delivering a course on Public Management for African Partners. Similar initiatives have taken place in Latin American countries such as Paraguay.

The idea is to reach a better understanding of the reality of public management in countries such as Angola and Mozambique. Additionally, partnerships need to be established with national institutions so that parallel knowledge

exchange on capacity building between the two countries can be appropriately and strategically framed. The Brazil-Africa cooperation programme is helping to facilitate this dialogue.





Update on the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme

Ghana has successfully completed its roll-out of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme. LEAP has far exceeded the original target of 15,000 households and now covers a total of 26,000. That total includes beneficiaries of the newly launched Emergency Food Crisis Programme, which was established with support from the World Bank and the World Food Programme in response to the increase in global food prices. The initiative covers 20 districts across eight of Ghana's agriculturally vulnerable and flooded regions. The Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment has been able to provide for 18,000 households that have disabled or elderly members, as well as vulnerable families with children. This year, the Ministry plans to expand the coverage to 35,000 households.

It aims to provide longer-term cash transfer assistance and to provide supplementary social services to these in-need groups.

Following the data collection phase of LEAP, the Ministry has created a Social Protection and Livelihoods Technical Committee (SPLIT). Given the importance of measuring, monitoring and evaluating the benefits that LEAP provides to target households, this body was created to ensure that beneficiaries have easy access to complementary government programmes. Among these are initiatives in health, education, agriculture and other social services.

The government of Ghana has been highly supportive of LEAP but the lack of resources

continues to pose a major challenge. The government is working with other development partners to mobilise funding for additional capacity development. Much progress is being made in a dialogue on regional cooperation within West Africa on social protection programmes. Governments are currently focusing on designing and implementing their own national schemes, but they anticipate greater cooperation and exchange in the near future.

Based on an interview with Angela Asante, Consultant to the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment, Ghana.

Bridges Between Africa and Asia

Social Protection in Asia is a network of research projects set up by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the United Kingdom and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) in India, with the support of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Ford Foundation. IPC-IG supported the participation of two panellists from Latin America (Leonardo Gasparini of CEDLAS in Argentina) and Africa

(Bibi Gyose of NEPAD) at the conference "Social Protection in Asia 2009" which took place in June. That event promoted discussion of how to foster South-South learning and inter-regional cooperation on social protection.

Leonardo Gasparini discussed conditional cash transfer programmes in Latin America and their impact on poverty and inequality. Bibi Gyose addressed the major social

protection challenges confronting Sub-Saharan Africa. The outputs of the event will be published by both IPC-IG and IHD. This is part of IPC-IG's work on building partnerships in policy dialogue within the framework of South-South learning.

For more information, see: <http://www.socialprotectionasia.org/>

New Website of the Africa- Brazil Cooperation Programme on Social Protection: Much More Complete and Dynamic

Distance learning is one of the main pillars of the Africa-Brazil Programme on Social Development, and our website is one tool in that regard. With a view to broadening the capacity for knowledge dissemination and fostering South-South learning, the programme will redesign its website.

Training materials and key readings will soon be available. The portal will also be more interactive, enabling users to upload news, comments and suggestions. It will help facilitate the exchange of knowledge between institutions, experts and local managers, thereby expanding the range of possibilities for South-South learning. Stay tuned!





Brazilian Government and IPC-IG Share their Experiences at a Forum Organised by the World Bank in Cairo

The World Bank hosted a Learning Forum entitled "Social Protection Responses to the Three Waves of Crisis: Finance, Food and Fuel" from 15 to 18 June in Cairo, Egypt. The event brought together more than 200 policymakers and practitioners from around the world. The aim was to exchange knowledge and identify best social protection practices in dealing with crises facing vulnerable groups. Experiences were shared by about 30 participants from countries such as Indonesia, Bangladesh, Colombia, China, India, Yemen, Jamaica, Peru, Kenya,

Nepal, Thailand, Turkey, the Philippines, Pakistan and Brazil.

The Brazilian presentation prompted great interest among the participants. Bruno Câmara spoke on behalf of the Brazilian government. The Director of IPC-IG, Degol Hailu, also contributed to the debate. He presented existing initiatives and collaborative mechanisms for South-South knowledge-sharing on social protection. Various IPC-IG initiatives have provided a foundation for South-South learning: the

Africa-Brazil Cooperation Programme on Social Development, a number of partnerships with research institutes in the South, the organisation of study tours, and publications and evaluation projects. These examples of South-South efforts revealed the numerous possibilities for disseminating knowledge on social protection in an increasingly dynamic environment. This Learning Forum familiarised participants with the potential impact that cooperation between developing countries can have on the improvement of social protection systems worldwide.

Brazilian Programmes on Food and Nutritional Security Are Being Discussed Globally

Countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa have approached Brazil's Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger (MDS) with regard to furthering cooperation on food and nutritional security. Several missions of senior foreign authorities have visited Brazil to learn more about programmes in these fields.

Recently, the Food Acquisition Programme (PAA) and the Cisterns initiative have prompted the greatest interest. A delegation from Paraguay visited Brazil this year to learn more about such experiences. Brazil has also helped Haiti to develop a public policy response in

food and nutritional security targeted at poor rural families. Bolivia, Guatemala and Senegal are also planning to implement the PAA.

The PAA is the focus of a partnership between Brazil and the Senegalese government that has been in effect since 2005 with support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). East Timor has received Brazilian support in the implementation of the PAA, the distribution of food baskets and the building of cisterns.

During their visit to Brazil, members of the Angolan delegation from the Ministry of

Assistance and Social Re-integration discussed the PAA, as well as educational programmes in the areas of food security, community kitchens and cisterns. The Ethiopian government is interested in learning more about rainwater harvesting technologies, while Nigeria wants to gain a better understanding of the creation and management of low-budget restaurant programmes.

The learning agenda with Africa has been moving towards including different kinds of programmes so as to support a wider social assistance network that does not rely on only one single initiative.

Rainwater Infrastructure for Domestic Water Supply

by Christian Lehmann and Raquel Tsukada (IPC-IG)

A widespread and familiar image is that of women in the developing world walking long distances while carrying heavy water containers on their heads. Recently,

this picture has been changing across Sub-Saharan Africa and in Brazil's semi-arid region. The two areas have similar geographic conditions and face daunting

challenges of water security. They have also discovered a strategy to cope with long periods of drought: domestic rainwater harvesting (RWH). This has enabled



both regions to make significant progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halving the population without access to safe drinking water by 2015. But Brazil and Africa can advance further in this area through an exchange of best practices in RWH.

There are various kinds of RWH schemes. The most common RWH technology is a cistern. Runoff rainwater is diverted from house rooftops via gutters (made of bamboo, plastic or metal) into a closed tank. Storage capacity may vary from 5m³ to more than 50m³ of water. In Brazil, cisterns with a capacity of 16m³ are built at poor rural households in the semi-arid region. The “One Million Cisterns Project” is conducted by a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) and supported by local communities and the national government. Since 2001, more than 290,000 households have been provided with a cistern. The beneficiaries are selected by a very active community and the targets include unusually poor, female-headed households.

Training is a crucial part of effective RWH—learning to manage water and the proper handling of the biochemicals used to maintain the quality of the stored water. Another Brazilian programme, “P1+2”, began in 2007 and consists of building 52m³ cisterns that collect water from a paved catchment. The increased volume of water available for irrigation spurs the household’s agricultural production. This enables the household to increase output from subsistence agriculture and engage in small-scale commercial production and medium-sized animal husbandry.

In 1999, Kenya (Kusa, in the Nyando District) started constructing 6m³ cisterns for domestic water consumption. A successful feature of this project was the formation of common interest groups—clusters comprising individuals engaged in similar economic activities. They meet together before the construction of the cisterns to discuss follow-up production activities.

In Uganda, a RWH project in the Oruching Valley has completed construction of ferro-cement tanks with a storage capacity ranging from 6m³ to 15m³ for domestic consumption. Initially, the programme was supported by NGOs. In contrast to Brazil,

however, where the initiatives remain largely government-funded, a more promising financing scheme emerged in Uganda. Inspired by the experience of various beneficiaries, non-beneficiary households have increasingly organised themselves into savings and credit groups, thereby financing cisterns with less government support.

What can Africa and Brazil learn from each other? In Brazil, government-NGO partnerships to finance and build cisterns have been successful. Moreover, capacity building activities such as water management training, as well as the provision of infrastructure for cash crop production, have the potential to improve the livelihoods of poor households in a significant and enduring manner.

The African experience points to innovative ways of community cooperation and financing schemes for cistern construction. Common interest groups in Kenya create social networks that strengthen small producers. Credit and savings groups can not only increase the ownership, sustainability and scale of a cisterns programme, but can also empower women’s role in development.

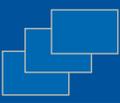
Local culture and knowledge are crucial elements of success. But what channels are available to exchange best-practices? Besides cooperation through official government bodies, community-based organisations are gaining momentum. In Africa, regional rainwater harvesting associations—the Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP) and SearNet—and national associations in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Somalia play a key role in the exchange of experiences by means of consultations, publications and study tours. In Brazil, the Brazilian Rainwater Catchment and Management Association organises biannual symposia and promotes dialogue on rainwater harvesting among practitioners, researchers, technicians and politicians.

The experiences in Africa and Brazil have shown that rainwater harvesting has the potential to become an effective and innovative means of achieving water security in isolated areas. An open dialogue and ongoing cooperation on best practices are essential to realise this potential and to effectively improve the lives of poor.



Field visit of African delegation to the Cisterns Programme, August 2008, Bruno Spada/MDS.





Upcoming Events

International Conference on Compliance and Contribution Collection

ISSA, 28–30 September 2009 | Montevideo, Uruguay

<http://www.issa.int/aiss/News-Events/Events/International-Conference-on-Compliance-and-Contribution-Collection>

Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes Course

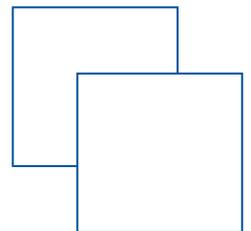
EPRI, 25 October–7 November 2009 | Chiang Mai, Thailand

<http://www.epri.org.za/courseChiangMai2009.htm>

XX Reunión de Directores de Cooperación Internacional de América Latina y el Caribe: “Impacto de la Crisis Económica y Financiera Mundial en los Programas de Cooperación Internacional de América Latina y el Caribe”

AECID, 24–25 September 2009 | Antigua, Guatemala

<http://www.sela.org/sela2008/XX-DirectoresCoop.asp>



Ministério do Desenvolvimento Social e Combate à Fome



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