

The Brazil-Africa Cooperation Programme on Social Protection aims at promoting technical assistance from the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger to 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 Poverty Centre.

Study Tour Africa-Brazil on Social Promotion and Protection

Between 25 and 29 August, 25 representatives of the governments of Angola, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Namibia, plus delegates from the African Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union took part in a study tour on social promotion and protection in Brazil.

The event was part of the Brazil-Africa Cooperation Programme on Social Development and sought to foster cooperation

between the Brazilian government and the participating African countries in developing successful social protection policies.

After three days in Brasília the delegation made a field visit to Recife, in Pernambuco state. There they were introduced to various initiatives supported by MDS, such as the Cisterns Programme, the Food Purchase Programme, Community Restaurants, Bolsa Família and a Social Assistance Reference Centre.

In Brasilia, the African officials had an opportunity to present their experiences to an audience of 220 people from various ministries, international organisations and donor agencies in a seminar entitled "Social Promotion and Protection in African countries". After the seminar, the delegations had a chance to gain a better understanding of Brazil's experience with the Bolsa Família programme, the Single Registry, food and nutritional security policies, the Single System for Social Assistance, work on monitoring and evaluation, and increasing efforts in the field of income-generating policies.



Opening Session of the Seminar "Social Promotion and Protection in African Countries".

The visit was very much appreciated by all the participants, who expressed a keen interest in increasing cooperation with Brazil and with their African counterparts. According to Sansão Buque, Director of the Cooperation Department in Mozambique's Ministry of Women and Social Action, "the mission was very useful because it enabled a great exchange among all the countries involved and I hope the results of this South-South Cooperation are not long in coming."

Following the identification of each country's requests, the Brazilian government will now engage in a bilateral dialogue on the provision of technical assistance to the new partner countries with the support of the International Poverty Centre and DFID.



Field visit in Cumaru, PE - Cisterns Programme.

First Ministerial Conference in Namibia: Strengthening South-South Cooperation

The first Conference of Ministers for Social Development in Africa will take place in Windhoek, Namibia, between 27 and 31 October. With the theme "Towards a Sustainable Social Development Agenda for Africa", the meeting's main objectives are to review and adopt a social policy framework for Africa, examine the progress made on social development by the member states of the African Union (AU), and establish

partnerships to support the implementation of social protection instruments. Apart from the AU's member states, only four countries from outside Africa were invited to take part in the conference: Brazil, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Venezuela.

Minister Patrus Ananias has already confirmed that he will attend, and it is expected that his participation will help advance cooperation

between Brazil and Africa, as well as to deepen the dialogue between them. The three Regional Experts Meetings on Social Protection, held in Uganda, Egypt and Senegal in preparation for the ministerial meeting, also affirmed the importance of South-South cooperation. This will be one of the topics to be discussed in Namibia. More information is available at: <<http://www.africa-union.org>>

Actions for Productive Inclusion: New Opportunities for Emancipation

During the Africa-Brazil Study Tour on Social Promotion and Protection, the National Secretary of Institutional Networking and Partnerships in Brazil's Ministry of Social

Development and Fight Against Hunger (MDS), Ronaldo Coutinho, explained the government's efforts to foster the productive inclusion of the beneficiaries of social programmes.

One of the initiatives in place is the Sector Qualification Plan (PLANSEQ)/Bolsa Família, which seeks to prepare 185,000 beneficiaries of Bolsa Família to re-enter the labour market.





This reinsertion will be by means of the new jobs created in civil construction by the Programme to Accelerate Growth (PAC). The Secretariat's main role is to generate synergy between the activities of MDS and the federal government, so as to create opportunities for the beneficiaries of social programmes.

MDS is also organising 31 regional meetings with managers of social assistance and

Bolsa Família, with the aim of mobilising them to help beneficiaries in income-generating programmes.

Another important partnership is established through a technical cooperation agreement with the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES). MDS intends to propose changes in the criteria for the Bank's credit lines so that recipients of the loans can make a formal commitment to

pursue objectives that will help reduce poverty and bring workers from the informal sector to the formal sector.

Following this experience, MDS will propose similar initiatives in other public banks, such as Banco do Brasil, Caixa Econômica Federal, Banco da Amazonia (BASA) and Banco do Nordeste (BNB).

Cash Transfer Programmes in Africa and Latin America New Issue of Poverty in Focus

The fifteenth issue of Poverty in Focus, an International Poverty Centre publication on the lessons of cash transfer programmes in Africa and Latin America, was launched in August 2008. Edited jointly by Degol Hailu and Fabio Veras Soares, the publication contains articles

on Bolsa Família in Brazil, Oportunidades in Mexico, initiatives in Honduras and Nicaragua, the experience of the Opportunity NYC programme in New York, the Zambia pilot project and other programmes from southern and eastern Africa. It also discusses the findings

of evaluations of cash transfer programmes and the legal protections underlying the main initiatives. This issue of Poverty in Focus is available at: <<http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCPovertyInFocus15.pdf>>

Interviews: African Perspectives

During the study tour to Brazil, representatives of the African Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union were interviewed. Parts of the interviews are reproduced below.

Yero Baldeh, Senior Economist, African Development Bank

What are your expectations of the new programme "Africa-Brazil: Cooperation on Social Development"?

"Africa-Brazil: Cooperation on Social Development' is an initiative that the Bank is highly supportive of. Brazil has done a lot in the area of reducing inequalities and there's a lot that African countries can learn from Brazil and other Latin American countries ... My participation in the study tour is a manner of knowing more about the mechanisms surrounding this cooperation programme and also of seeing how the Bank can play an active role in fostering them. So we are able to learn how it works and to transfer some of this knowledge to African countries."

How can the Brazilian experience help in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection systems in Africa today?

"As I said, Brazil has a long experience. So we hope that this experience will help us when we deal with the governments. We can get these best practices and make sure that they are incorporated in the design of interventions in Africa. As you know, there are a lot of vulnerabilities in Africa, which, to some extent, are similar to the ones Brazil is facing. So it's a very critical and relevant experience that we can transfer."

Grace Kalimugogo, Acting Director of the Department of Social Affairs, African Union

How can social protection be promoted as a regional issue and constitute a field for the regional integration of African countries?

"Social protection must be promoted at this level because Africa has tended to focus on other issues like conflicts, whereas conflicts are rising sometimes because people lack basic


services. So that is mainly the importance of regional cooperation: promoting social protection, so that the population knows they have food security, education. And it promotes integration because it brings the countries to develop at related levels. Currently, many countries have different levels of development. For example, if you take South Africa or Tunisia, they are far ahead of others and this is a challenge for the neighbouring countries."

The Africa-Brazil Cooperation Programme on Social Development is expected to be consolidated as a biregional forum to foster the exchange of policy experiences and for knowledge-sharing.

What are your expectations of this programme? How could the African Union be involved in this project?

"The special expectation is providing a learning experience for all: for Brazil, the international partners and African countries. The Brazilian experience is very recommendable and a few African countries have also done a lot, they





have a lot to share, whereas others need to learn and apply these lessons at home. The African Union brings together 53 African countries, so it will also be very useful for us. The African Union is a meeting space. During the next conference, African policymakers will continue to share experiences, learning from each other and planning together.”

Bibi Giyose, Food and Nutrition Security Advisor, New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

How could some aspects of the Brazilian experience be adapted and implemented in the African context to fight hunger and malnutrition?

“Even though Brazil is a middle-income country, both in Africa and Brazil, inequalities between the haves and the have-nots point to the fact that a good proportion of the population are poor and they don’t have access to basic services. Africa still has a very high malnutrition rate, and still experiences very high food insecurity, and so do certain parts of Brazil, particularly the Northeast ... It is very exciting for me to learn more about the Brazilian strategy “Zero Hunger” ... So, if we can

work with Brazil closely to support and build human capacities, then I think we would take a better path towards achieving the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.”

Could you please brief us on the advantages of South-South cooperation compared to North-South cooperation? What role could be played by the “Africa-Brazil Cooperation Programme on Social Development” in this framework?

“It’s very simple. South-South cooperation is really about countries that have a lot more similarities, exchanging experiences and supporting one another to develop. North-South cooperation is a little challenging, differences aside, just right in terms of the cultures, in terms of the development stages, in terms of expectations even, and really, in terms of the interest in developing the South. Let’s face it: nobody is going to come from anywhere and do it for us. We have to do it for ourselves. It is better for me to learn from another African country or to learn from a Latin American country that has been struggling with similar issues, because they understand where I’m coming from. I understand where they’re coming from and I can better appreciate the steps they took to

get where they are. And I can better appreciate the fact that it’s not going to be easy and the fact that you know they may not be coming with a bag of money for me. To me it’s even better, because throwing money at problems has never been the solution but learning the steps to work better and to take in account development steps, is what strikes me as most important.”

And how about Africa-Brazil cooperation?

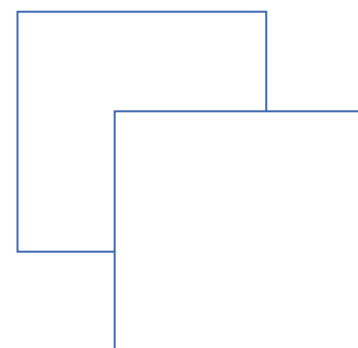
“It has a huge role to play. Brazil was the first country to say ‘we are going to develop generic drugs to fight against HIV/AIDS and we have systems and methodologies and ways to get these drugs to people.’ The laws were not there and Brazil was able to create them. Actually, I wish Africa-Brazil cooperation had happened much earlier, when African countries got their independence because that would have helped us to start on the right footing ... Africa-Brazil cooperation is an honest mechanism. We have to make sure that we keep the communication, that we keep the doors open. We keep being hungry for information, we keep seeking and we keep getting our partners’ tools.”

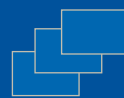
New Resources for the Exchange of Knowledge on Social Promotion and Protection

The new website for the Africa-Brazil Cooperation Programme on Social Development, launched in August 2008, offers a range of new tools to foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences on social protection. The “Learning Resources” section contains relevant documents and presentations from this exchange between Africa and Brazil. Presentations from the three Regional Experts Meetings on Social Protection, organised by the African Union in Uganda, Egypt and Senegal during the first half of 2008, are also available there.

The “Learning Resources” section also includes the presentations made by officials from the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger and the African delegations during the study tour. The site provides internet links to information on social promotion and protection, as well as cash transfer programmes, in Africa, Asia and South America.

For more information, visit <<http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/africa-brazil/homeeng.do>>





Some Relevant Events

- 27–31 October 2008, Windhoek, Namibia.
First African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Development.
- 19–20 January 2009, Cairo, Egypt.
Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice.
<http://www.unicef.org/egypt/media_4579.html>.
- 23–25 February 2009, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
Redefining South-South Cooperation: Africa on the Centre Stage.
<<http://www.conferencealerts.com/seeconf.mv?q=ca1xmx6h>>.

Building Bridges between Brazil and Africa: Sharing the Brazilian Experience and Identifying African Demands

Melissa Andrade
International Poverty Centre

It is widely known that Brazil's experience of social protection has been based on a great deal of political mobilisation, legal safeguards, decentralisation and political debate. It is equally well known that many African countries face budget constraints, a lack of infrastructure and a shortage of apparatus in public administration. But what lessons can be learned from Brazil and then applied to the African context?

In the case of Brazil, one must look at the main items of the public agenda before devising strategies for the bilateral dialogue with Africa. First, social protection is a priority on the political agenda, and the 1988 constitution is the main legal yardstick of social policy in the country. In that respect, the political process involved in the First Conference of

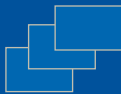
Ministers for Social Development, to be held in Namibia, offers an opportunity for mobilisation that should be expanded to other ministries engaged in promoting social development, so as to foster discussion in the legislative and executive branches of African governments. This political mobilisation presents the first and most strategic possibility of exchange between the two continents.

Apart from the importance of "social protection" in Brazil and the adoption of social policies that guarantee rights, another possibility for learning is in the area of social protection systems, such as Brazil's Single System of Social Assistance and the more recent Food and Nutritional Security System. This articulate and strategic approach is one of the topics on an agenda that is gaining

importance in many African countries, as evidenced by the drawing up of social protection frameworks in nations such as Kenya. The main goal of these frameworks is to make existing programmes more comprehensive and to create a systematic vision of social protection, often with the support of bilateral cooperation agencies and multilateral organisations. This brings to the forefront the second possible item on the agenda for cooperation.

In Brazil, along with the creation of these social protection systems, there has also been a mobilisation of different actors in participatory processes, including national conferences and national, regional and municipal councils. This is a fundamental characteristic of Brazilian social policy, one





that brings about greater sustainability in establishing national guidelines. This experience has been supported worldwide by the mobilisation of civil society, and is currently under development in Angola in the form of the National Children's Council. Many other countries, such as Mozambique, have a great interest in sharing knowledge and experiences with Brazil's National Council on Food and Nutritional Security (CONSEA).

Other landmarks in the recent history of Brazilian social policy were the creation of the Single Registry in 2001 and the unification of the federal government's cash transfer programmes under Bolsa Família in 2003. These developments built an axis of public action that would link programmes and actions within the three levels of government and combine immediate poverty relief with long-term investments in human capital. The successful experience of the Single Registry in targeting programmes has inspired countries like Ghana to implement the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP). As a cash transfer programme, LEAP works as a centre for complementary initiatives in Ghana, using the Single Registry and political mobilisation as tools to support the new social protection strategy. The experiences of the Single Registry and Bolsa Família, which are already being shared with many countries, comprise the fourth area of ongoing cooperation.

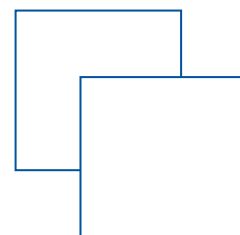
In addition to the Single Registry, Bolsa Família and the establishment of social protection systems, it is also worth noting the investments that the Brazilian government has made in monitoring and evaluation, through a secretariat within the Ministry of Social Development created for that purpose. In Mozambique, the National Institute of Social

Action (INAS) has been developing information systems to monitor the implementation of its programmes, and it plans to invest further in mapping levels of vulnerability in the country.

INAS's efforts echo the Brazilian experience and reveal a possible form of collaboration between the two countries on the basis of what was discussed in the three Regional Experts Meetings on Social Protection, organised by the African Union between April and June 2008: the importance of creating databases whose information can be disaggregated to target initiatives and allow social protection programmes to be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated more effectively. This is another area of possible cooperation.

Brazil's experiences are highly consistent with political moves under way in Africa. It is important to remember, however, that developments in Brazil are part of a broader context within the country's public administration. An effective cooperation strategy should incorporate not only the know-how behind the programmes, but also the experience in strategic political change, working with new concepts and guidelines.

Experiences in both Brazil and Africa have been identified, and an initial agenda for cooperation is under discussion. A more refined agenda will evolve as the bilateral cooperation projects unfold in the coming months. As the experience develops, the "reading" of the exchange will also evolve, helping to create new forms of "software" for a better understanding of South-South cooperation possibilities and, more specifically, the future of Africa-Brazil relations in the area of social development.



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