



March, 2010

lead agencies
ILO
WHO

cooperating agencies

FAO, IMF, OHCHR,
UN Regional
Commissions,
UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDESA,
UNESCO, UNFPA,
UNICEF,
UNHABITAT, UNHCR,
UNODC, UNRWA, WFP,
WMO, World Bank

social protection floor initiative

SPF Country Brief Cape Verde

Information on UN support for the Social Protection Floor in Cape Verde

Cape Verde has experienced remarkable economic progress over the last decade allowing the country to graduate in 2008 from Least Developed country in the United Nations' scale to the Middle-income country status. Cape Verde has a strategic framework for growth and poverty reduction which asserts the objective of universalization of social protection. Cape Verde is one of the African countries most advanced in setting up a Social Protection floor.

There effective implementation of the main elements of its National Strategy for Social Protection, has helped achieve significant transformations in recent years in the regulatory and institutional frameworks: extension of social security (SS) coverage on pensions and health, increased amount of benefits in certain SS branches (pensions), extension of social insurance to several categories of workers excluded, improved efficiency of contributory and non-contributory sub-systems, etc. The most important elements of the national social protection floor are:

- Income security for the elderly and disabled
 - A means-tested non-contributory unified social pension (elderly aged 60+ and disabled), managed by the National Centre of Social Pensions (CNPS)
 - A contributory pension managed by the National Social Insurance Institute (INPS)
- Social assistance to the unemployed and working poor
 - FAIMOs - Work Team employed by the State for construction of infrastructure works: guaranteeing income for working poor and unemployed, particularly in rural areas and in times of seasonal or critical slowdown of agricultural activity
- Children income security
 - Family benefits provided by the National Social Security Institute (INPS): small number of people covered (significant proportion of children excluded)
 - Adequate school provision
 - School meals support programs
 - Scholarship programs
 - Social assistance program to support orphans
- Access to essential health care for all
 - Social Health Insurance (financed through contributions from employers and workers)
 - Public Health system (financed mainly through taxes)

UN contribution

Since 2004, the ILO supported the government of Cape Verde in several major initiatives in the fields of contributory and non-contributory social protection. The ILO has carried out several studies and advised the government on the reform of health financing. It accompanies the CNPS since its creation: training staff, developing procedures, setting up information and monitoring systems, supporting the setting up of the mutual fund healthcare for social pensioners, etc.. It also supports INPS in both its financial governance (creation and implementation of a statistics and actuarial studies unit, revitalization of the tripartite advisory committee, ...) and the extension of coverage (self-employed and domestic workers).

The ILO, in partnership with ONE UN agencies, supports the inclusion of social clauses (including social protection for temporary workers) in public procurement and public private partnerships for the implementation of labour intensive public works. The ILO is participating in the recently initiated dialogue on income security for vulnerable children.

Cape Verde has a track of significant economic and social achievements over the past two decades. The country has given social protection a high priority in the road to development showing a way to effectively combining growth and equity in a context of scarce resources. It is now probably one of the most advanced countries in Africa in the way towards the establishment of a social protection floor.

Next steps

- Much remains to be done though to improve the efficiency and integration of protection mechanisms and to further expand coverage particularly to some more vulnerable groups in society. It seems, in particular, that the establishment of social transfers for children could be a major step in the completion of access to social protection for all.
- Integrate support from international partners

web platform

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