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# Tackling Inequalities Beyond 2015 through Social Protection: time to move forward

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# Lessons of the SP policies from LAC countries

- CCT programs have become the backbone of LAC systems of social assistance policies.
- They enjoyed favorable political economy features, including the objective to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty through health care and education, and the incorporation of a contract with beneficiary households, with payments conditioned on compliance with predetermined co-responsibilities.
- They produced an unprecedented monitoring and evaluation effort, which demonstrated their effectiveness through rigorous studies.
- They benefited from a period of sustained economic growth that amplified their poverty - and inequality - reduction effects while expanding the fiscal space for social protection.



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Paes-Sousa, R., F. Regalia and M. Stampini (2013). 'Conditions for success in implementing CCT programs: Lessons for Asia from Latin America and the Caribbean', *IDB Policy Brief*, No. 192. Washington DC, IAB.



# Lessons of the SP policies from LAC countries

- They grew both in terms of coverage and budgets, and survived electoral cycles.
- Their implementation requires a complex inter-institutional framework and the investment of a considerable amount of financial and human resources. But, the investment usually represents a small part of the GDP (0.4 to 0.6)
- The transparent and precise targeting of poor households; the monitoring and evaluation of the program; and the dynamic management of the registry of beneficiaries are key to ensuring the credibility of the programs and their growth in the face of less efficient concurrent social assistance initiatives.



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# Lessons of the SP policies from LAC countries

- Program credibility and efficiency also require investment in customer service, audits, careful verification of beneficiaries' compliance with program co-responsibilities, and setup of efficient payment systems.
- The successful coordination with the actions of different ministries with sub-national administrations, possibly constitutes the main challenge for the implementation of effective programs.
- All associates, ministries and sub-national governments should perceive that the programs are opportunities to achieve their own objectives, and are compensated for the additional burden that is generated by increases in demand.



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# Trends in SP policies in LAC countries

- Adding new layers to the concept of poverty in order to improve target population definition, public interventions and M&E indicators.
- The policies seek to hone skills and expand opportunities for vulnerable populations by improving cash transfer policies, increasing access to social assistance services, improving quality on health and education policies and implementing productive inclusion initiatives aimed at different vulnerable groups such as informal urban workers, family farmers, indigenous peoples, etc.



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Paes-Sousa, R. New Strategy for Poverty Eradication in Brazil:  
the Emergence of the Brasil Sem Miséria Plan. IPC One Pager, No 214. Brasília, IPC.





# Trends in SP policies in LAC countries

- An important budgetary challenge is to strike a better balance between the services offered and the benefits transferred. In general, the social protection/assistance model produces an asymmetric expenditure in favour of benefits.
- Although the relationship with the state programmes is the greatest breakthrough in the design of the plan's institutional architecture behind social protection policies, the effectiveness of partnerships forged with the sub-national levels and private sector requires that legal instruments be constructed.



# Upgrading the SP lexicon: transiting towards SDG

Past tense:

- Targeting, monitoring and evaluation, loans, payments, conditionalities, building capacities and graduation.

Cumulative present:

- Social rights and public investment. Including social protection and food security as part of a social justice strategy which implies legal and investment changes.
- Comprehensiveness. The intervention should cover areas underrepresented in the previous models.



# Upgrading the SP lexicon: transiting toward SDGs

- Geopolitical egalitarianism. Either wealthier areas or the poorest ones should have equivalent motivations to improve their levels of protection (sustainability).
- Gradualism. Considering the unequal installed capacity, provinces and cities should increase tasks, coverage and intensity of their policies according to their delivery capacity.
- Inclusiveness. Poverty eradication and more equitable access to opportunities in the core of the SD strategy.
- Data homogeneity. The process should achieve an acceptable standard for methods and data quality, allowing for a reliable historical series and estimates.