

Social Protection Week in Mozambique –activities financed and organized by ILO

Social Protection Team in Maputo

The Ministry of Gender Children and Social Welfare (MGCAS) has been conducting on a yearly basis since 2012 the "SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK", having as slogan "Investing in social protection is an investment in human capital" and with the following main objectives:

- Disseminate actions undertaken in the country under basic social protection provided by the National Institute of Social Action (INAS) and reinforce collaboration with other Government sectors;
- to advocate and promote public discussion about the importance of social protection and social assistance programmes in combating poverty specially to the most vulnerable to risks;
- To exchange experiences on best practices and implementation mechanisms of basic social protection programs.

The week of 17 – 21 October was chosen by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action to be the Social Protection Week for 2016 where Government, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations were invited to participate.

ILO office in Maputo has been supporting the Social Protection Week since its institutionalisation by MGCAS in 2012 and this year was no exception.

As part of the ILO - Civil Society Platform for Social Protection in Mozambique (PSCM PS) partnership on advocacy, 21 journalists represented from the 11 provinces of Mozambique that participated in a previous SP training provided by ILO and PSCM-PS (Niassa Province, 14-16 June 2016) participated in all activities of the Social Protection Week.



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Day 1

Social Action Fair

The Social Action Fair was proposed to MGCAS by ILO and the Civil Society Platform for Social Protection in Mozambique and funds from ILO and Oxfam materialized the idea together with MGCAS.

The idea behind it was to present programmes and services offered by INAS, MGCAS, other Government partners and CSO to the population in a underprivileged neighborhood of Maputo outskirts, where more easy beneficiaries could participate and obtain direct contact and information with professionals working on the social arena and access services available, also involving health, education, justice and civil registration services.

As the Fair took place on the first day of the Social Protection Week, the Permanent Secretary of MGCAS, Mr. Danilo Momade Bay, on his opening speech launch the Social Protection Week and mentioned the fact that *"Mozambique has taken important steps to design their own social protection floor. As a result of this process, today our country has a set of legal instruments and strategies governing Basic Social Protection interventions (...). The implementation of these and other instruments allowed the expansion of coverage of basic social services with emphasis on basic social security programs to individuals and groups living in vulnerable situations."*

Participants at the fair benefited from free health services such as eye sight tests and HIV tests, legal services, birth registration services, assignment of the Single Tax Identification Number (NUIT) and identity card (ID) and others services provided by different institutions represented at the fair.

<http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/index.php/breves/60291-maputo-realiza-feira-de-accao-social.html>

<http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/index.php/capital/60497-desde-ontem-no-bairro-ferroviario-feira-de-proteccao-social-oferece-servicos-gratuitos.html>



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Day 1

Launch of the Film “Being Someone”



Also on the first day of the Social Protection Week, Monday evening, ILO invited all their partners and general public to attend the official launch ceremony of the Documentary Film “Being Someone” at Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano, followed by a cocktail.

This film illustrates the lives of 4 distinct households in Chokwe District that are beneficiaries of a basic social security programme provided by the National Social Action Institute (INAS), along with policy makers, and tries to capture issues like economic impact of transfers and linkages with health and education.

In the course of the film, each one of the beneficiaries of the cash and food transfer program demonstrate that SP programmes that can play an important role in poverty reduction and resilience to vulnerabilities. An investment in human capital has multiplier effects on the local economy by ensuring minimum levels of consumption, and inclusive growth. It also plays a key role in strengthening social cohesion by building an equitable and peaceful society, which is essential for inclusive socio-economic development in the long term.

“Being Someone” can be accessed at:

<http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=54137>

Day 2

Visit to Beneficiaries and round table to discuss the Budget for Social Protection in 2016 with parliamentarians from two committees: Committee for Planning and Budget and Committee on Social Affairs, Gender, Technology and Media.

On the second day of the Social Protection Week, ILO in partnership with Civil Society Platform for Social Protection in Mozambique organized a visit to the beneficiaries of the Basic Social Subsidy Program (PSSB) implemented by the National Institute of Social Action (INAS) in Maputo City (Maxaquene B district) with Parliamentarians from two committees: Committee for Planning and Budget and Committee on Social Affairs, Gender, Technology and Media, a group of 35 Parliamentarians.

This visit allowed parliamentarians to have a direct contact with beneficiaries, listen to their problems and strategies to overcome their condition and on how they use the basic social protection transfer provided by INAS.

Following the visit, ILO presented to the group of Parliamentarians the fiscal space for basic social protection and budget allocations to the sector in order to illustrate the need to expand fiscal space for social protection and to ensure sustainable funding for INAS programmes on a round table session at Indy Village Hotel in Maputo. The group of journalists from the 11 provinces also attended both the visit to beneficiaries and the round table.





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Day 3

Presentation of Social Protection Studies

Under the activities of the Social Protection Week, ILO, released some preliminary results of the study "*The way to a comprehensive system of social protection in Mozambique*" at Indy Village Conference Center. The consultant responsible for the study, Ruth Castel-Branco, presented the study that aims to analyze to which extent developments in Social Protection in Mozambique is in line with the Recommendation of 202 (R 202) on Social Protection National Floors, adopted by Mozambique being a member state of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2012.

Secondly, Ruben Vicente, from ILO, presented the Social Action Budget Brief for 2016, report that analyses domestic allocations, expenditures and trends for social protection programmes in Mozambique. Also provided information on current budget cuts for Social Area and key messages highlighted were that the original State Budget for 2016, approved by Parliament in December 2015, was revised in July 2016 in response to changes in macroeconomic and fiscal changes in the country and the budget allocated for Social Action - amounts allocated to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MGCAS) and the National Institute of Social Action (INAS), experienced a significant decrease with respect to its relative weight both in terms of GDP (0.56% of GDP in 2016 compared to 0.75% in 2015) as State Budget (1.6% of State Budget compared to 1.98% of the State Budget of 2015) compared to years above. This



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decrease marks an interruption of the positive growth trend of continuous allocation to Social Action, especially in the last five years.

Social Action Budget Brief 2016 can be accessed at: http://www.ilo.org/addisababa/countries-covered/mozambique/WCMS_537449/lang--en/index.htm

Taking advantage of journalist's participation some elements of this presentation served as a basis for some articles on Mozambican press:

<http://www.verdade.co.mz/tema-de-fundo/35-themadefundo/59886-filipe-nyusi-tira-tinha-dinheiro-da-proteccao-social-dos-mocambicanos-em-2017>





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Day 4 & 5

National Conference on Social Protection

In 2014 the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action organized the first National Conference on Basic Social Protection in Mozambique. This conference was seen as a forum for public dialogue between different stakeholders in the area of basic social protection and advocacy for the growing recognition of social protection as an important tool to fight poverty, promotion of an inclusive society and as a mechanism that enables the poor and vulnerable people to enjoy the benefits of development and wealth creation.

Now this is an event held every two years and this year, the National Conference on Social Protection was held at Centro de Conferências Joaquim Chissano led by the Vice Minister of Gender, Children and Social Action that on his speech recognized and praised the ILO's partnership: *"For the organization of this Conference and the Social Protection Week, we count on the invaluable support of our cooperation partners and civil society organizations working in this area, in particular the ILO, the World Bank, to whom we thank you".*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Oldemiro Balói, in his opening speech , highlighted the impact of social protection on the circulation of resources between markets and on improving exchanges between populations quoting that *"Community-level cash transfer programs can strengthen local markets and enable vulnerable populations to access goods and products".*

Speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, Oldemiro Balói drew attention to the need to continue improving the quality of services provided in the field of social assistance that will be achieved through the mobilization of resources for basic social protection programs, which contributes to improving the living conditions of many citizens without any means of subsistence.

<http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/index.php/sociedade/60755-segundo-oldemiro-baloi-proteccao-social-deve-impulsionar-economia.html>



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<http://www.minec.gov.mz/index.php/imprensa/destaques/160-ministro-baloi-a-proteccao-social-so-sera-efectiva-se-estivermos-em-paz>

<http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/index.php/sociedade/60702-proteccao-social-qualidade-e-prioritaria-na-assistencia-a-carenciados.html>

