

EVALUATION RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW-UP PLAN

Evaluation Title: ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT 2023Y

Strengthening Social Protection for Pandemic Response: Identifying the Vulnerable, Aiding Recovery and Building Resilience

Implementing Division/Office: ECLAC: Social Development Division/Division for Gender Affairs/Statistics Division

Date: August, 2024

| Recommendations and proposed actions | ECLAC response and anticipated actions | Responsible Entity (Division/Unit) | Estimated target date for completion | |
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| Rec. 1 | Strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation within and across the RCs to allow sharing best practices, learning, and innovation with the aim of ensuring resilience of national social protection systems. | | | |
| | The project design had multiple flaws that didn't benefit reporting, learning, and governance, significantly reducing the project efficiency. When engaged with other RCs in a project, ensure pragmatic project design that would allow inter alia cross-regional learning, benefiting from the comparative advantages of each RC, balancing targets with the resources (including, time, human and financial) allocated within the project. | The project allowed to increase knowledge and establish a fluid contact between teams working in topics related to social protection systems among Regional Commissions. This has led to greater contact and exchange on topics produced during the project and afterwards in the field of social protection. This exchange is expected to continue in time and includes sharing knowledge management products, updates on research being carried and identifying other opportunities of collaboration, such as in a document that is being coordinated and produced in the context of the Second World Summit on Social Development. | Social Development Division | Nov-25 |
| Rec. 2 | Involve other UN agencies engaged in project-related themes to better harmonize support and improve results. Use regional DCOs, RCOs and UNCTs as entry points towards this end. | | | |
| | The RCs do not have country presence even though they have strong contacts with relevant national counterparts. Hence, for SP departments those counterparts are usually the national ministries for social protection. However, to ensure coordination and avoid overlaps between various UN entities (as several UN entities traditionally engage in social protection related programming), and to perform in spirit of One UN, there is a need to mobilize the RC mechanism within each country of intervention. | The Social Development Division regularly informs Offices of the Resident Coordinator of missions. Information to relevant UN agencies on technical assistances processes in Member States is often provided and will be incorporated as a relevant practice in social protection projects. For example, in the case of Honduras, ECLAC is implementing a technical assistance project for the Education Ministry in conjunction with the local UNICEF office. The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a subsidiary body of the ECLAC is the main regional intergovernmental forum on women's rights and gender equality within the UN system. It is organized by ECLAC as Secretariat of the Conference and, since 2020, with the support of UN -Women. In addition, ECLAC periodically convenes an inter-agency meeting with United Nations agencies, funds and programme providing a space to share information, as well as feed into the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Throughout project implementation ECLAC coordinated with UN Women and other agencies working on the care economy including ILO. In addition, a new Development Account Project which has been approved and which ECLAC is coordinating and implementing with ESCWA and ESCAP, includes the commitment to ensure formal communication with the Resident Coordinator in each of the Target Countries, a process that is now is underway. | Social Development Division Division for Gender Affairs | 1-Dec-25 |
| Rec. 3 | Embed the innovative solutions developed within this project in own portfolio of activities | | | |

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| <p>The project produced a range of solutions (e.g. tools, methodologies, etc.) that were at best piloted and applied in a few project countries. However, the potential of those solutions to create impact is far beyond that limited scope of project countries. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that the RCs will embed those solutions in their programmatic options. This should be one of the major indicators of the project success.</p> | <p>The toolkits and databases produced and updated in the framework of the project have been widely disseminated in regional seminars that the Social Development Division regularly organizes, have also catalysed research areas and participation in regional networks (such as the case of social registries) and have informed various documents that have been published. Further dissemination of these materials will be made at the next Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>Throughout its programme of work ECLAC has ensured horizontal and triangular cooperation to promote mutual learning. For example, the case of Bogota which was a pilot in georeferencing the demand and supply of care services at the territorial level, is a case that has since been documented with ECLAC's support. In addition, learning has been promoted which included exchange between Bogota and Renca in Chile, and subsequently between the Municipality of Renca and the government of Brazil.</p> <p>Furthermore, ECLAC acts as Secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. For the most recent XV Regional Conference, ECLAC produced the position paper "The Care Society as a Horizon for Sustainable Recovery with Gender Equality" which included information on some of the methodologies and tools which had been developed with the support of the project, such as georeferencing of care services in Bogota. Subsequently, the territorial approach that "fosters the integration of statistical and georeferenced information to identify the demand and supply of care in the territories" has been recognized by governments in the Buenos Aires Commitment adopted at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2022 (Art.33). During the period of the project ECLAC launch the Community of Practice to Measure the Care Society, a regional tool for dialogue and interactive learning among policy makers and technical staff.</p> | <p>Social Development Division</p> <p>Division for Gender Affairs</p> | <p>1-Dec-25</p> |

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| Rec. 4 | For strengthening resilient social protection systems, invest in building adaptive social protection (ASP) to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of shocks and boosting resilience for long-term development. | | | |
| | While there is a growing recognition of exponentially growing risks of disruption of societies, the instance when the social protection system would be put at stress would be increasing. Building resilience of social protection system requires focused and systematic efforts through ASP. This implies integrating basic social protection with disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change to allow vulnerable households to prepare, cope and adapt to shocks and ensuring that they do not fall deeper into poverty. The evaluation did not had a focus on ASP, however, given its increasing applicability for emergency response purposes, and through the prism of resilience of SP system, it is advisory | The Social Development Division is developing research on the reconfiguring structure of social risks and its impacts on social protection systems, including those related to disasters and climate change. The Division promotes an approach to social protection systems that are universal, integrative, sustainable and resilient, so this dimension is already being promoted and deepened in the analysis produced. Strengthening resilience in non-contributory social protection systems, increasing its articulation with disaster risk management is a recommendation which will be also included in the 2025 edition of the Social Panorama of Latin American and the Caribbean. | Social Development Division | 1-Dec-25 |
| Rec. 6 | Shape programming for institutionalizing CE in general (national) budgets ensuring care economy responsive budgeting and tagging. Alternatively, incorporate CE in the gender-responsive budgeting process. | | | |
| | The COVID-19 context heightened the criticality of care economy for resilient social protection system. While in many instances working with women's machinery is a key and an entry point, however, it is critical to ensure whole-of-government approach when planning for CE interventions with institutionalized funding arrangements. | ECLAC's approach to the care economy involves working across the government and ensuring sustainable funding for care systems. The emblematic case of the District Care System of Bogotá in Colombia, the development of which was supported by ECLAC, included not only different departments of the Office of the Mayor of Bogotá but also an Intersectoral District Care System Committee that coordinated with academia, the private sector and civil society organizations. Design and implementation of the system also included ensuring financial sustainability, which entailed securing public funding through both new resources and restructuring of existing. ECLAC has since also provided technical support to the government of the Municipality of Renca in Chile for development of a care system, which has included providing support on potential tools and policies that can provide financial sustainability for the system. It is important to note that at the most recent Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2022 governments adopted the Buenos Aires Commitment which charts the progress towards the care society, in which they recognize the principle of co-responsibility (Art 8) and encourage coordinated work between national machineries for the advancement of women and other entities responsible for care policies, and between the different levels and branches of government (Art 18) as well as promoting budgets with a gender perspective and financing mechanisms that ensure, amongst others, the right to care (Art 27). | Division for Gender Affairs | Completed |
| Rec. 7 | When indicating any project outputs as 'innovative' provide sufficient background analysis to indicate the benchmarks not only within a given context (e.g. at the level of a target project country) but broader to ensure learning, if applicable, from other cases. | | | |
| | The attention towards strengthening social protection systems in each of the five regions has long lasting history and there have been multiple solutions (e.g. tools, methodologies, frameworks, and such) already developed and even piloted and practiced. While context is changing requiring completely new solutions or adjustments of the existing ones, there is a need for careful benchmarking prior to declaring any solution | The introduction of benchmarks will be strengthened in future project designs. This is already being done in projects under implementation in the field of social protection at the Social Development Division, reflected in output indicators. | Social Development Division | Ongoing |
| Rec. 8 | To better guide social protection policies, adjust the production schedule of project outcomes to that of the needs of political decision-makers | | | |

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| | the pandemic has exacerbated the need for timely, updated and reliable statistics. Innovative methods such as nowcasting were used by the project to address these needs but sometimes too late, making the results less useful for policy makers during the pandemic or even obsolete. | Technical assistances that are being carried by the Social Development Division in the field of social protection include as first step the definition of a plan of work, developed and agreed with the counterparts. It is being assured that this plans include the needs and priorities set by both high level authorities and technical teams at the counterpart institutions. | Social Development Division | 31-Dec-26 |