

EVALUATION RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW-UP PLAN

Evaluation Title: ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT 1819AI

Leaving no one behind in Latin America and the Caribbean: strengthening institutions for social policy coherence and integration to foster equality

Implementing Division/Office: Social Development Division of ECLAC and Headquarter in Mexico

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Recommendations and proposed actions	ECLAC response and anticipated actions	Responsible Entity (Division/Unit)	Estimated target date for completion
<b>Rec. 1</b> ECLAC should continue supporting the implementation of social protection policies aimed at reducing inequalities			
<p>The drafting and implementation of policies to address social inequalities in a coherent and integrated way requires time, spaces for discussions and continued support. ECLAC should therefore continue supporting the implementation of social protection policies aimed at reducing inequalities. The specific niche of the Commission with regard to the equality agenda includes rights-based and universal social protection systems that emphasize the role of the State, as well as integrating supply and demand considerations within each pillar of social protection. ECLAC could enhance the differentiation of its interventions by increasing the focus on this progressive agenda through its strong normative and conceptual framework. Given the broad spectrum of topics and sectors addressed, targeted collaboration with other United Nations entities might be useful, for instance on topics including workers, migrants, rural areas and gender.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DDS and the Mexico Office are assisting Honduras in its reformulation of the social protection system; • In Peru, an analysis is being carried out of the options to extend the coverage of the pension system to independent workers, at the request of the Pension Standardization Office (ONP);</li> <li>• In Mexico and Peru, the DDS is carrying out technical assistance to support the extension of the coverage of the health and pension systems, at the request of the Mexican Social Security Institute and the Pension Standardization Office (ONP) aiming at closing the coverage gaps towards universal social protection systems;</li> <li>• In the Dominican Republic, ECLAC's support was requested to carry out a diagnosis on the Protocol for the selection of recipients and delivery of Solidarity Pensions in the subsidized regime, at the request of the National Security Council of the Dominican Republic which is a key policy for the reduction of inequalities.</li> <li>• The impact of technological transformations from an inequality perspective is currently investigated in the framework of a EU financed project;</li> <li>• At the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) of Haiti the Mexico Office is assisting the country on social protection through its Policy on Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS, launched in 2020), the cost estimation of policies - such as cash transfers and other mechanisms (essential health service packages, graduation and school canteen) and the process of National and Departmental planning of this policy. Partnership with WFP-Haiti.</li> <li>• Just transition and its link with inequality reducing policies are currently studied through a case study in Colombia on just transition and social protection, a project financed by the French cooperation; • Virtual meeting of specialists on non-contributory pension systems; • Virtual launch of the report on universal social protection; • Virtual launch of the book on non-contributory pensions • The DDS is assisting Paraguay in strengthening its social information system, key to identify and deliver social protection policies to the most vulnerable population.</li> <li>• Mexico Office is including workers, migrants, population from rural areas and women as relevant populations in the analysis of challenges and opportunities for social protection policies, as reflected in documents oriented to examine structural gaps.</li> </ul>	<p>* SSD and the Mexico Office</p>	<p>2024</p>
<b>Rec. 2</b> SI			
<p>ECLAC could contribute to more national policy experiences being shared regionally in a more systematic manner for better replication. This would include the institutional changes that were necessary and the challenges faced in implementing social (protection) policies. One specific suggestion is to hold rather short events on one topic, using only one or very few cases of countries that have implemented interventions related to this specific aspect, and then allow for discussion and the sharing of experiences among participants. Other specific suggestions include staff exchanges, visits to relevant countries, and the use of the virtual platform to display videos with messages by national officials on their experiences with certain policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of the Fifth Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the preparation of the position paper on the institutional framework of social policies • Third Regional Seminar on Social Development; Roundtable and Workshop "Opportunities to move towards universal social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: the role of interregional dialogue" • Virtual meeting of specialists on non-contributory pension systems.</li> <li>• Organization of a study tour in Mexico to analyze care systems with Cuban national officers, planned for August 2023.</li> </ul>	<p>* SSD and the Mexico Office</p>	<p>2023</p>
<b>Rec. 3</b> ECLAC should make more use of existing resources and collaboration within the Commission and should combine in-person with virtual activities			

	<p>The project has showcased the successful collaboration between SSD and the Mexico office, as well as the innovative and successful collaboration between divisions in the context of the virtual platform.</p> <p>For instance, the collaboration with ILPES could be broadened to improve training content and the presentation of results, especially when working in the same countries. Along the same lines, ECLAC should continue combining virtual workshops with in-person workshops and in-country technical assistance to maximize resources and increase efficiency. Initial virtual workshops could give a broader view on the topic, identify the counterparts' main challenges and policy priorities and define the target group and content of further workshop and advisory services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SSD participates in courses organized by ILPES. An example is the the presentation on the response of social protection in the face of disasters; in the framework of the ILPES course "Formulación de estrategias para la resiliencia territorial frente a desastres socio-naturales" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of the Fifth Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and of the Third Regional Seminar on Social Development</li> <li>• Roundtable and Workshop "Opportunities to move towards universal social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: the role of interregional dialogue" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SSD and the Mexico Office continues its technical assistance on the reforms of the social protection system with Honduras</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Mexico office has experienced several hybrid ways of giving technical assistance recently. Especially, the virtual workshops (not only as a preparation, but also as a complement) and in-person workshop in the project "Protecting public investments from disasters climate change"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>* SSD and the Mexico Office</b></p>	<p><b>15-Jul-05</b></p>
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Rec. 4	<b>ECLAC should maintain positive contact and communication with mid- and high-level technical and policy design staff</b>		
<p>An important lesson learned was that providing high-quality tools, studies, workshops and technical assistance is not enough in view of frequent government transitions and high staff turnover and the lack of ECLAC country offices. The timing is especially important: in Honduras, the document prepared for the new government, continued contact with former staff and relatively early communication with the new government allowed for continuity of technical assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The continuation of the technical assistance in Honduras has been carried out in close coordination with high-level technical and policy design staff</li> <li>• The organization of the Fifth Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is based on continuous contact and meetings with mid-and high-level technical and social policy officers.</li> <li>• In Mexico, a strong technical relationship has been built between ECLAC and the Welfare Ministry, thanks to several positive technical assistances, on strengthening social economy capacities (financed by IFAD) or on designing social policy for the southern frontier, among others.</li> </ul>	SSD and the Mexico Office	2024
Rec. 5	<b>ECLAC should make use of the virtual platform that was created during the project</b>		
<p>The platform could best be integrated into the existing Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is recommended that the link with other databases be made more evident, for example with RedDeSoc, the database on non-contributory social protection, the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Institutional Framework Database for Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean. A governance and dissemination strategy should be created and should include a yearly update of the contents of the platform and of policy documents. Apart from including public officials, the dissemination strategy should also target academics, researchers and civil society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Launch of the Toolbox website has been communicated at RedDeSoc</li> <li>• The platform is also being promoted during different seminars in which staff of the DDS and the Mexico Office participates</li> </ul>	DDS and the Mexico Office	2025