

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES IN CABO VERDE



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ADOPTING A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR

Over the last few years, Cabo Verde has made significant efforts to improve its social protection system. These efforts have led to positive results in the areas of health, education, access to housing and protection for people in vulnerable situations. Recently, the country established the National Centre of Social Pensions (CNPS), which provides a social pension to about half the people above the age of 60 years.

The Cabo Verdean economy has experienced favourable development and most human development indicators show significant improvements, ranking Cabo Verde among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Life expectancy has risen, infant mortality has been halved over the past 20 years, literacy and primary school attendance rates have recently hit the 100 per cent mark, and poverty has reduced significantly. These advances were decisive in the country's graduation to the middle income category in 2008.

In recent years, the ILO has extensively supported Cabo Verde to achieve universal social protection coverage. The ultimate objective is to build a social protection system that is inclusive, coherent and coordinated to provide lifelong coverage against social risks. With these efforts, the country is well on its way to achieving its objective of a social protection floor (SPF). It is also considering ratifying the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102).

CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR

Cabo Verde is strongly committed to achieving universal social protection through contributory and non-contributory benefits. Over the past ten years, it has significantly increased social security coverage, extended social pensions, and developed social assistance programmes in the areas of education, nutrition, housing, and poverty reduction.



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However, some challenges still exist. Social protection programmes are highly fragmented, reflecting a lack of coordination and a need to improve governance. With 6 per cent of its total expenditures going towards social protection, Cabo Verde could achieve greater impacts through better management of schemes and a more efficient information system.

By addressing these challenges, Cabo Verde can ensure that social protection coverage is expanded from 36 per cent of its working-age population to universal coverage.

SOCIAL PENSIONS IN CABO VERDE

In 2006, Cabo Verde created the National Centre for Social Pensions (CNPS). With support from the ILO, CNPS redesigned its social pension scheme for older persons, survivors, and people with disabilities. Beneficiaries receive around 5,000 Cape Verdean Escudos (US\$51) per month.

A mutual benefit fund was also created to provide funeral benefits and reimburse a part of the costs of prescription medicines for pensioners.



For me, it is very good. When I get the pension, I can pay the bills for water and the phone to talk to my children who all live abroad. And I still have a little remaining for the rest of the month.

- Maria Afonso, a CNPS pensioner

FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The ILO has extensive experience in supporting countries to provide social protection for all. With your help, we can make the SPF a reality in Cabo Verde and achieve SDG target 1.3 on social protection.

With your support, we can:¹

- Strengthen institutional coordination of social protection institutions and establish a National Social Protection Council composed of representatives from the main institutions involved in this sector.

US\$ 200,000

- Reinforce the institutional capacity of CNPS to become the manager and administrator of the non-contributory social programmes.

US\$ 250,000

- Reinforce administration of the social pension.

US\$ 150,000

- Effectively extend social security to independent and domestic workers and other groups of workers.

US\$ 300,000

- Universalize health protection and improve the financing of the schemes.

US\$ 300,000

- Consolidate a comprehensive information system for social protection programmes.

US\$ 250,000

- Consolidate and improve production of statistics and analytical capacity to support better policy-making.

US\$ 200,000

LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports on the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can support stakeholders in Cabo Verde and improve people's lives, you can contact:



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¹ The activities are under negotiation with the Government and should not be considered as final.