

The Food Subsidies Programme (PSA) is one of the tools for the implementation of the Strategy. It targets those who are unable to work, due to their age or state of health. For this people, social transfers, such as the PSA, are a modest but valuable source of income and are indispensable to respond to this need.

The PSA in a few figures

- The number of beneficiaries rose from 170 000 to 217 000 between 2009 and 2010; it should reach 252 000 in 2011, or an increase of 162% since 2006.
- Beneficiaries consist of 63% women and 37% men.
- Between 2008 and 2011, the level of the benefit increased by 44% (from 70 to 100 Meticaís).



Beneficiary of PSA: Angelina Joaquim Mate, aged 60, of Mozambique, Matola.

Extending contributory social protection

STEP Portugal is also providing support to the National Social Security Institute (INSS) which, under the authority of the Ministry of Labour, is responsible for compulsory social protection. The Programme's support is based on the preparation of an exhaustive diagnosis of the Institute, and takes the form of training, technical assistance and specific studies, for example concerning the coverage of a specific population group or the financial balance.

Increasing the role of social protection

Another very important and complementary aspect of the Programme's action in Mozambique is intended to facilitate the appropriate integration of social protection into the country's strategic action framework. STEP Portugal is very active in collaboration with other partners in Mozambique in activities relating to the Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty (PARPA). It is contributing to ensuring that social protection is a better and more fully used instrument in preventing and reducing poverty in Mozambique.

Multiple and productive partnerships

STEP Portugal works in close collaboration with the other United Nations agencies involved in social protection, such as UNICEF, UNDP and the WFP in the context of "Delivering as One", and with UNDAF. Coordination of action within the United Nations system makes it possible to improve the relevance and effectiveness of the support provided. STEP Portugal also collaborates with the IMF and the World Bank on financial issues, social expenditure and the links between transfers and productive activity. Mozambique has been selected as one of the pilot countries for collaboration between the ILO and the IMF in relation to the Social Protection Floor. STEP Portugal is also collaborating with the bilateral cooperation activities of several countries, such as the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Sweden. This collaboration is carried out in the context of various working groups associated with the PARPA, with UNDAF and other programmes which are valuable instruments for concerted action with the national authorities.

In **GUINEA-BISSAU**, the Programme contributed in the past to the introduction of innovative practices in relation to access to financial services, food security and alternative means of financing health care. STEP Portugal is today providing support for the National Social Security Institute with a view to improving its effectiveness and extending its coverage. It is also intervening with other United Nations agencies in relation to the financing and access to health care, and strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Women, the Family, Social Cohesion and Poverty Reduction.

In **ANGOLA and SAO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE**, STEP Portugal intervenes from time to time at the request of the public institutions in training and national policy issues. These countries are also associated with the Programme's knowledge development activities.

Information Centre on Social Protection – CIPS

This Centre provides an electronic platform for the sharing of knowledge and resources in the field of social protection in Portuguese-speaking countries. It has a network of focal points in the various member States of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), with the objective of strengthening capacities and knowledge, providing support for policy formulation and implementation based on the exchange of information and experience between the countries concerned and of knowledge acquired elsewhere. The CIPS is currently co-managed by the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP, the ILO Lisbon Office and STEP Portugal.



www.cipsocial.org

Other resources

STEP Portugal Programme
(in French, English and Portuguese)
www.stepportugal.org

ILO platform on the Global Extension of
Social Security - GESS
(in French, English and Spanish)
www.socialsecurityextension.org

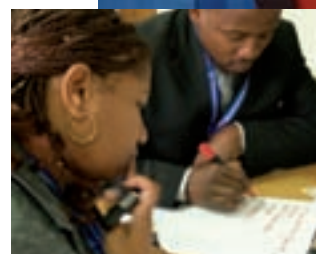
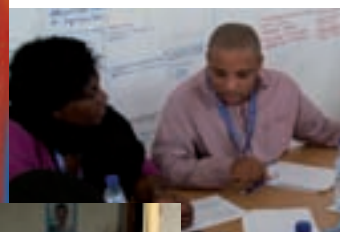
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STEP PORTUGAL

Extending
social protection in
PALOP countries

Strategies
and Tools
against
Social Exclusion
and Poverty

Social security is a human right

To contribute to making this right a reality for millions of men and women who are denied it, in 2003 the ILO launched the Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All. The challenge is considerable, as only 20% of the world’s population currently has access to adequate social protection. In the immense majority of sub-Saharan African countries, social security schemes only cover between 5 and 10% of the population.

A programme anchored in the field

A product of cooperation between the Portuguese Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, the ILO and Portuguese-speaking African countries, the general mission of STEP Portugal is “to support the extension of social protection in the framework of promoting decent work.” The Programme is executed by the ILO Social Security Department and is financed by Portugal.

To fulfil its mission, STEP Portugal offers support to the Governments of Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP) to further their ambition of extending social protection and strengthening its effectiveness. The direct beneficiaries of the Programme are principally public institutions with responsibility for contributory and non-contributory social protection in these countries.



STEP Portugal participates in the International Social Protection Floor (SPF) Initiative: www.socialprotectionfloor.org

Seminar on “Financial governance of social protection systems”, held in Maputo in 2010. Participating countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. Partners: STEP Portugal, ITC Turin and ILO/QUATRIN Africa.

STEP Portugal’s intervention is structured around four main areas:

- Providing technical assistance for the formulation of public social security policies, their implementation and the evaluation of their results.
- Increasing the role of social protection in national development and poverty reduction strategies.
- Contributing to improving the integration and coordination of action in the field of social protection.
- Reinforcing national competence and capacities, including through South-South cooperation.

The Programme is composed of a decentralized team so that it is as close as possible to the needs of the countries. Its activities are determined jointly and periodically with national actors, which makes it possible to continually adapt its activities to the specific context and needs of each country. It makes available to its counterparts the expertise that only an international body can provide and help apply by sharing the experience acquired by other countries.

The activities of STEP Portugal at the country level form part of Decent Work Country Programmes and are carried out in association with the ILO Offices in Dakar, Lusaka and Yaoundé.

Sharing knowledge and know-how

STEP Portugal undertakes a series of activities intended to facilitate the access of Portuguese-speaking African countries to international experience relating to the extension of social protection. These activities, which supplement technical assistance, consist of training, the production of studies, tools and study visits. The Programme also supports an electronic platform: the Information Centre on Social Protection (CIPS). In the field of training, it works in very close partnership with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin (ITC Turin) in the context of a project that is also financed by Portugal.

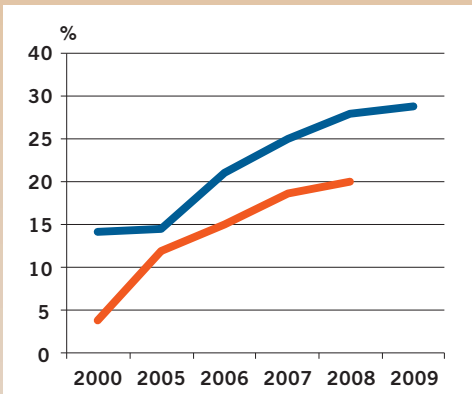


In CAPE VERDE STEP Portugal works closely with the Ministry of Social Development and Family for strengthening and extending the coverage of contributory and non-contributory social protection schemes.

Strengthening and extending social insurance coverage

STEP Portugal is one of the main partners of the National Social Welfare Institute (INPS), which is responsible for employment-based social insurance. The Programme is strengthening the capacity of the INPS in the fields of quantitative management and the extension of coverage to the self-employed, domestic workers and workers in micro- and small enterprises.

The social insurance system today has one of the highest coverage rates in sub-Saharan Africa, and it has been in constant progression in recent years.



Active contributors in the economically active population (in %)

Beneficiaries of an old-age pension in the 60+ category (in %)



“Every month I receive my pension and I live off that. It isn’t much, but my life has changed because I can count on the money to buy the basics – goat’s milk, food, soap... I don’t need to wait for charity from others. It is also a relief for my family, who know that I am not going to starve. It’s good to know that I have a guaranteed pension and it gives me peace of mind because I can rely on it!”

Luísa Oliveira Marques, aged 81, of Cape Verde, St. Vincent Island.

Protecting the most vulnerable

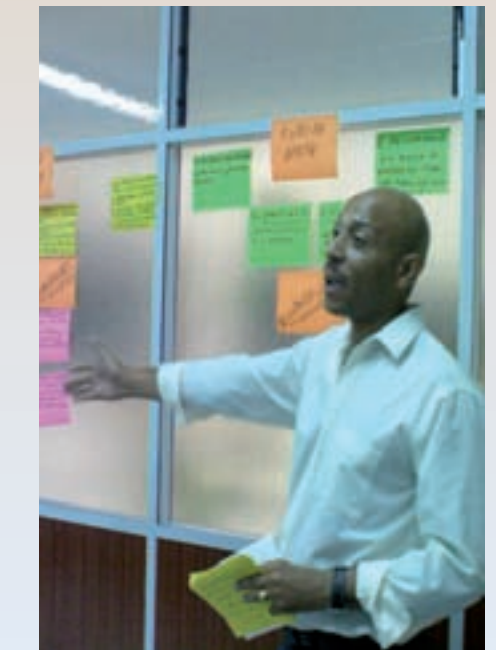
Cape Verde was one of the first African countries to grant a non-contributory pension to the elderly and the disabled. The establishment of a unified system of non-contributory social pensions benefited from the support of STEP Portugal, starting with the creation of the National Social Pensions Centre (CNPS), which is intended to cover all men and women over 60 years of age living in poverty – who were often previously informal sector workers. The social pension also covers the disabled, invalids and children with disabilities living in poor families. The Programme is accompanying the CNPS in seeking an increasingly effective mechanism for the provision and management of pensions.

The social pension in figures:

- Over 90% of the target population are currently covered by the social pension
- The amount of the benefit has been constantly readjusted by the Government, and is now set at \$65 a month, amounting to an increase of 60% between 2007 and 2010.

The experience of Cape Verde proves that it is possible, even in a low-income country, to introduce a non-contributory pension system, which is an indispensable component of a social protection floor for all.

In view of the plurality of social protection mechanisms in Cape Verde, what is now at stake is to forge a common vision of the social protection system which will result in a better articulation of its various components.



In MOZAMBIQUE

A defence against poverty and social exclusion

STEP Portugal has developed fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Women and Social Action and its National Institute for Social Action.

In this context, the Programme at first provided support for the formulation of the National Basic Social Protection Strategy. The Strategy targets an increase in the coverage and impact of basic social protection, an improvement in its effectiveness and better coordination between the various programmes and services. The basic social protection programmes are intended for the elderly, the disabled, poor workers and other vulnerable groups.

STEP Portugal is currently providing support for the implementation of the Strategy by assisting in the definition of its constituent programmes, strengthening effectiveness in the provision and management of benefits, improving the competencies of the national actors involved and facilitating the coordination of external support.

“The support of STEP Portugal has made it possible to improve policies and strategies in the basic social protection sector for the most vulnerable. It has also provided continuous technical assistance and trained government managerial staff in the field of social protection with a view to identifying the target populations.”

“Through the improved design of interventions, more beneficiaries have been reached: coverage has been extended and interventions have had greater impact.”

Ms Elsa Alfai, advisor to the Ministry of Women and Social Action of Mozambique.