

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN EL SALVADOR



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STRONG POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

El Salvador has recently taken firm steps towards establishing a universal social protection system. The Government's strong political commitment and social dialogue have contributed significantly to this process. In 2009, a Universal Social Protection System (SPSU) was introduced, which seeks to ensure universal social protection in the areas of health, food, income security, and vocational training. In 2014, Congress adopted the Social Development and Protection Act (LDPS) with a view to institutionalize the SPSU and bolster its operations.

The SPSU follows a Universalist approach guided by rights-based principles and a strategy based on the life-cycle concept. Non-contributory programmes are targeted mainly at persons who are socially vulnerable. These initiatives are transforming the structure of the social protection system in El Salvador with noticeable socio-economic impacts.

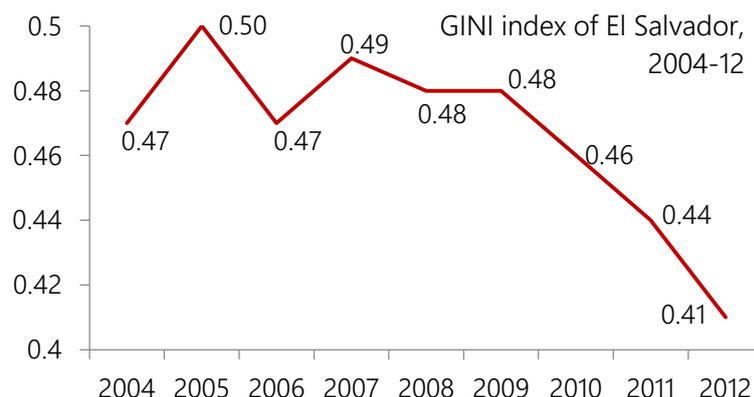
SOCIAL PROTECTION HAS HELPED TO REDUCE POVERTY

The process of creating a new social protection system has not been easy. It is only recently that the Salvadoran State has adopted an active social policy with a view to develop universal social protection and establish appropriate priorities.

The principal interventions that have contributed to the process are: the creation of the SPSU (2009); the Five-Year Development Plan (2010-14) which includes and prioritizes social protection; the Global Anti-Crisis Plan (2009); the reform of the health sector initiated in 2010 with the purpose of bolstering leadership, health services, health-care personnel, and public participation; and the adoption of the Social Development and Protection Act, 2014.



Since 2009, over 2 million people, 30 per cent of the population, have benefited from the SPSU. The country has witnessed a progressive decline in poverty and income inequality. Poverty rates fell from 40 per cent in 2008 to 34.5 per cent in 2012, and inequality, measured by the Gini index, dropped from 0.48 to 0.41 during the same period.



CEMENTING SOCIAL PROTECTION THROUGH STATE POLICY

Approved on 3 April 2014 by El Salvador's Legislative Assembly, the Social Development and Protection Act aims to guarantee the human right to social protection to all people, particularly the most vulnerable like children, women, older persons, indigenous people, and people with disabilities.

The Act consolidates a set of social protection programmes launched under the Presidency of Mauricio Funes (2009-14) to ensure their sustainability. It represents the significant progress made by El Salvador in extending social protection to all.

- It ensures free uniforms, backpacks, and meals for school students.
- It reaffirms the Ciudad Mujer initiative launched in 2012 by merging all state institutions that provide support (health care and social services) to women.
- The Family Agriculture Plan (PAF) guarantees income security to vulnerable older people and rural workers.



FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The ILO has long experience in supporting countries to extend social protection. With your help, we can support El Salvador's commitment to extend access to social protection for all people.

With your support, we can:

- Improve coordination between the SPSU and general social policy, and among social institutions.

US\$ 200,000 for one year

- Expand the fiscal space to make the system sustainable, particularly by reducing external funding.

US\$ 100,000 for one year

- Expand non-contributory programmes in particularly vulnerable regions.

US\$ 200,000 per year

- Expand social security coverage to groups that are not covered, with the informal economy as a priority.

US\$ 200,000 per year

- Strengthen and mainstream social dialogue through continuous capacity building and participation of workers and employers.

US\$ 100,000

- Consolidate the health reform process under the leadership of the Ministry of Health.

US\$ 350,000 for two years

- Share the country's experiences through briefs, web pages, and videos.

US\$ 50,000

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 El Salvador and improve millions of lives, you can contact:



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