2017 Social Protection Week in Mozambique

activities supported by ILO Maputo

The Ministry of Gender Children and Social Action (MGCAS) has been conducting on a yearly basis, since 2012, the "SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK", having as slogan "Investing in social protection is an investment in human capital" and with the following main objectives:

• Disseminate actions undertaken in the country under basic social protection provided by the National Institute of Social Action (INAS) and reinforce collaboration with other Government sectors;

• to advocate and promote public discussion about the importance of social protection and social assistance programmes in fighting against poverty, especially for the most vulnerable to risks;

• To exchange experiences on best practices and implementation mechanisms of basic social protection programs.

This year, having 17th of October as the International Day for Poverty Eradication, the Social Protection Week 2017 took place during the week of 16 – 22 October.

This is a Week were different activities and events are organized by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action and other Government Institutions, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations are invited to engage and participate, under the overall coordination role played by MGCAS.

ILO office in Maputo has been supporting the Social Protection Week since its institutionalisation by MGCAS in 2012 and this year was no exception.

ILO has been providing evidence-based, analytical work to support advocacy efforts to enhance domestic fiscal space dedicated to social protection programmes in Mozambique since long. ILO has identified Journalists as a key player to expand the national debate around social protection and bring it to the society as a whole. In this regard, ILO and the Civil Society Platform for Social Protection in Mozambique (PSCM-PS) have started a join collaboration earlier in 2015 in order to strengthen the engagement of journalists in social protection related issues, organizing a series of training workshops and field visits with a group of twenty-two journalists selected from all

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provinces of Mozambique (two per province) and from different media (newspaper, radio and TV). That group of journalist were also invited to participate in trainings, contests for best articles about social protection (Gala award held in November 2016), programme site visits and exchange visits where social protection systems are better established (joint Study Tour - MGCAS, INAS, MEF, ILO, PSCM-PS – to Brazil in April 2017).

The 2017 Social Protection Week came as a timely moment and opportunity to engage once again with the same group of journalists; ILO, jointly with PSCM-PS, supported the attendance of the journalist group in the Social Protection Week 2017, allowing them to participate on all events and therefore increasing their knowledge and promote an ideal platform for media coverage and enhanced debate about social protection topics.

2017 Social Protection Week Final Agenda:

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<tr>
<th>1º FEIRA</th>
<th>16 – 18 17</th>
<th>2º FEIRA</th>
<th>19 – 20 17</th>
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<th>21 – 22 17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participe do Programa Bem-estar na SEMANA DE PS (DINAS)</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>ENCONTRO DA PLATAFORMA AFRICANA DE PROTEÇÃO SOCIAL (Hend Ghebr)</td>
<td>Toda a dia</td>
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<td>Participação no Programa Caso do Brasil na SEMANA DE PS (DINAS)</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Feira da Ação Social LICHINGA (PSCM PS- GIT – DIFCAS MUCASA)</td>
<td>Toda a dia (1h-1,5h)</td>
<td>Feira da Ação Social Serial LICHINGA (PSCM PS- GIT – DIFCAS MUCASA)</td>
<td>Toda a dia (1h-1,5h)</td>
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<td>Feira da Ação Social – MAGDEE (PSCM PS- GIT – DIFCAS MUCASA)</td>
<td>Toda a dia</td>
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“Investir na proteção social é investir no capital humano”

With financial support from:
Day 1

Social Action Fair in Magude

The Social Action Fair became an institutionalized event of the Social Protection Week after having 2016 as the initial attempt, initiative brought as an idea by ILO and PSCM-PS (First Social Action Fair held in Maputo, Bairro Ferroviario, October 2016). It is now fully organized by MGCAS and based on the good reviews and outcomes from the Social Action Fair in 2016, MGCAS expanded the concept to two other provinces besides from Maputo – Niassa and Quelimane - were all the organization was in charge of MGCAS Provincial Directorates with financial and technical support from PSCM PS, ILO, UNICEF and World Bank.

As per previous year, the idea behind the Social Action Fair was to present programmes and services offered by INAS, MGCAS, other Government partners and CSO to the population, where more easily beneficiaries can participate and obtain direct contact and information with professionals working on the social arena and access services available (also involving health, education, justice and civil registration services).

District of Magude (Maputo province) was chosen to launch the Social Protection Week with a fair that featured several tents exposing and providing various basic services to the community, namely:

- Information on basic social services, with emphasis on Social Assistance, health and education programs;
- Counselling and legal advice;
- Financial inclusion through the attribution of NUITs;
- Birth registration and civil identification;
- Health and Social Action Services;

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• Information on prevention and fight against drug abuse;
• Initiatives of religious institutions, civil society organizations, NGOs, Associations and Community Based Organizations supporting and monitoring social services.

H.H Excellency Dr. Lucas Mangrasse, Vice Minister of Gender, Children and Social Action, highlighted, in his opening speech, the fact that “Mozambique has a comprehensive set of policies that aims to expand access of social protection programmes and services to the most vulnerable people in the country, however, their actions should be strengthened to increase quality and effectiveness reflected in the improvement of the household living standards”.
An article written by one of the journalists attending the Social Protection Week:
Day 2

Social Action Fair in Quelimane

The second day of the Social Protection Week was dedicated to the launch of the provincial Social Action Fair in Quelimane City, following the same concept and offering the same services as the fair in Magude.

In Quelimane, all organization was in charge of the Provincial Directorate of MGCAS with financial and technical support from UNICEF. Opening speech for the Quelimane’s Social Action Fair was delivered by UNICEF Representative, along with Zambézia Province Governor, Civil Society Organization Representing PSCM PS and MGCAS Provincial Director.

Launch of the Documentary Film “Por conta Própria”

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Also on the second day of the Social Protection Week, ILO invited all their partners and general public to attend the official launch ceremony of the Documentary Film “Por conta Própria” at the cinema hall of the Museum of Fisheries, followed by a cocktail.

As part of the ILO support to the Government on the gradual implementation of a Social Protection Floor in Mozambique, ILO produced a documentary film that attempts to portray the lives of workers in the informal economy and their relation with Contributory Social Security.

The film illustrates the lives of five distinct workers of the informal economy in Maputo that share their difficulties on their daily lives as well as their perceptions about social security.

The film focuses on the role that the contributory social security scheme can play in the transition from the informal to the formal economy, emphasizing the effects of it in reducing poverty, increasing social cohesion, developing human capital and multiplying effects on the economy.

"Por Conta Propria" can be accessed at:

http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=55005

**Day 3**

**Social Action Fair in Lichinga**

The third day of the Social Protection week started with the launch of the provincial Social Action Fair in Lichinga (Niassa province) with a strong presence of Civil Society Organizations. In this occasion, opening speech was delivered by CSO Representative, where (CSO) stressed the fact that the Fair “represents an opportunity to promote public reflection on the importance of social action in combating poverty and the provision of social assistance to the most vulnerable populations”, highlighting that such initiatives are welcomed by the population as that for one day they can have basic services provided in an accessible manner.
African Conference Rights Based Social Protection in Africa: Opportunities, Lessons and Future Implications

The Social Protection Platform for Social Protection in Mozambique in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and with financial support also from ILO, organized a 2 day conference to discuss “Rights Based Social Protection in Africa: Opportunities, Lessons and Future Implications” plus a one day assembly only open to civil society organizations members of the Social Protection African Platform.

The objective of this Regional Conference was to discuss what is rights-based social protection in the context of various African Institutions and States, their status, good practices and recommendations on the way forward.

During the two days of the conference most of the discussions reached the conclusion that there is much still to be done when it comes to the provision of social protection services and civil society organizations shall play a key role in advocacy to ensure that citizens are aware of their right to Social Protection and that rights-based Social Protection is universal.

Day 5

Round table on Social Protection

On the fifth day of the Social Protection Week, ILO and PSCM PS in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS), organized a Round Table with Parliamentarians from the National Parliament, in particular the Representatives from two Committees:

- Planning and Budget and
- Social Affairs, Gender, Technology and Communication

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Also Journalists, Heads of Cooperation from the European Union Member States, Development Partners, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and various Government Representatives were invited and joined the Round Table.

After the opening speech addressed by MGCAS Permanent Secretary, Dr. Danilo Momade Bay, MGCAS delivered a presentation on the state of implementation of the National Strategy for Basic Social Security II (2016-2024), followed by the launch of the Myth Buster paper on Social Protection from UNICEF. ILO presented afterwards the “Social Action Budget Brief for 2017”, report that analyses domestic allocations, expenditures and trends for social protection programmes in Mozambique; and finally PSCM PS presented the outcomes of the Community-based Independent Monitoring performed to National Institute of Social Action (INAS) basic social protection programmes.

Journalists and Parliamentarians were invited to provide some final recommendations at the end of the event, jointly with European Union Representative. Journalists stressed the fact that they need more information from government and development organizations in order to be more active in advocating for social protection.

Social Action Budget Brief 2017 can be accessed at:

http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=54897

**Day 6**

**Cycling for inclusive and fair social protection**

The Mozambican Civil Society Platform for Social Protection (PSCM-PS) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS), organized on 21st of October (6th day of the Social Protection Week) a cycling tour under the motto “Cycling for inclusive and fair social protection” in Maputo city. The objective of this

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cycling event was to raise awareness regarding the needs of the sector and specifically the needs of most vulnerable population. Therefore, the decision to start the tour from the Orphanage “1st of May” located at Avenida Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, which is managed by MGCAS with funds allocated to the social sector.

The cycling tour, attended by a considerable number of participants, ran along of the main avenues in Maputo (Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda, Joaquim Chissano and Angola Avenue), and ended with a breakfast with the children from the orphanage were members of the government, civil society organizations, NGOs, professional cyclists and the general public (children, adults and the elderly) were able to share time with the orphans.