Key demands for national and international action on universal social protection

Universal Social Protection: End Poverty and Reduce Inequality
Side Event High-Level Political Forum
Tuesday July 18th 2017
Social protection for all

Key for poverty and inequality reduction, and to achieve the 2030 Agenda

Adaptation to National Context: Implications of the 2030 Agenda for Argentina

• Social protection floors (ILO R20): Greatest challenges: Guarantee 1, 2 & 3
  → Higher unprotection for young and female households

• Link with SDGs: Focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3 and 5

  • Considered as social protection priorities for the Government’s Goal “Zero Poverty”, according to Argentina’s Voluntary Report

  • All starred (*) indicators are also considered by the Argentinian Government in the Voluntary Report
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

32% of the population under the poverty line

Infantilisation of poverty
- Moderate* and extreme poverty* affect 42.3% and 9.4% of children under 5 years of age, respectively.
- 22.3% of children under 5 years of age live in households with at least one unsatisfied basic need (vs. 12.5% of total population).
- Significant regional disparities across the country.

Source: CEDLAS and CIPPEC based on EPH, INDEC
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Existing social protection policies
Conditional Cash Transfers: Universal Child Allowance and Universal Pregnancy Allowance, but:
• Lack of universal coverage*
• Lowest children coverage in the poorest quintile
• Government social spending as a % of total spending remained constant

Proposal: universal income for families with children (Guarantee 2)
Based on the current family allowances scheme:
• Universalization: Reach all children
• Make the system more progressive
• Increase cash transfer amounts
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Malnutrition as the greatest concern
- Obesity epidemic* with lack of specific micro nutrients
- Severe food insecurity affects 4.5% of households and it has low incidence among children.

Proposal: encourage healthy eating and physical activity
- Strategies to promote healthy food choices
- Industry regulations and incentives Encourage healthy habits
- Raise public awareness

*Child malnutrition estimates* (% of children 0-5 years old)

Source: ENNyS, 2005
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Infant mortality* reached an all-time low in 2015: 9.7 deaths per 1,000 births.

Maternal mortality*
- Outstanding debt: unmet MDG

Sexual and reproductive health
- Teenage fertility rate* constant and 67% unintended*

Proposals
- Sexual and reproductive health: Raise awareness; Improve access to contraception; Enhance sexual education; and sexual violence and abuse prevention
- Maternal and infant wellbeing: expand services & linkage to transfers
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Significant gender gaps remain:
- Poverty: the other face of the infantilisation of poverty
- Labour market participation and performance
- Disproportionate burden of unpaid work*

Proposals:
- Remove barriers (i.e., maternity and paternity leaves)
- Expand care services
- Fulfilment of Sexual and Reproductive Rights: She decides

**Conclusion**

Guaranteeing SPFs as a prerequisite for SDGs realization

Focus on “leaving no one behind”:

- Needs to be translated into a focus of universalization with expansion of social policies.
- Focus on not creating dual regimes of social protection
  - Allow the progressive fulfilment of rights

**Social protection floors for all**, an useful framework for:

- Identifying gaps → **Argentina**: families with greater proportion of women and children
- Mutidimensional approach: fulfilment of several SDGs (+ SDG10 and 17). Requires minimum income insurance and strategies for (re)productive conciliation
Conclusion

Guaranteeing SPFs as a prerequisite for SDGs realization

Means for implementation (principles of R202):

- **Coordination within government:** sectors & levels
- **Articulation** with private sector and civil society (as partners, responsibility is on the States)
- **Relevance of disaggregated data & integral systems of information**
- **Calls on progressive & sustainable structures for financing:** relying on international cooperation solely at first. Mix of contributive and non-contributive sources.

→ Ultimate leads to building strong resilient societies & enabling fulfillment of human rights
Further reading:
Díaz Langou and Caro Sachetti: Sustainable Development Goals and Early Childhood in Argentina: Gaps and priority actions to leave no one behind, CIPPEC, July 2017. Available at: www.cippec.org