

PROGRAMME TO FIGHT AGAINST EXTREME POVERTY

Tekoporã, the transfer programme with co-responsibility of Paraguay

EUROsociAL is supporting Paraguay in its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and to extend social protection in the country. To do so, it supports the Tekoporã Monetary Transfer Programme with co-responsibility, which reaches 500,000 families.



FIGHTING AGAINST EXTREME POVERTY: A REGIONAL ISSUE

Despite the advances achieved over the last few years in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2014 there was still extreme poverty in 28% of the population, including 12% living in conditions of extreme poverty. These figures correspond, respectively, to 167 million poor people and 71 million homeless people.

In this context, the main tools of the countries in the region to fight poverty are Conditioned Transfer Programmes or those with Co-responsibility (CTP). The CTPs have been created in order to stop the intergenerational transmission of poverty through the development of human skills in the most vulnerable families. They are based on monetary support mainly aimed at improving education, health and nutrition of these families' children, and at the same time promoting the expenditure levels in these households.

There is a strong consensus regarding the huge potential of monetary transfers to strengthen families'

assets, and even to strengthen their capacity to generate income by connecting their members to policies for training and labour integration and production. This complementarity between areas of protection and promotion is incorporated in most of the CTPs.

In the last four years, EUROsociAL has supported the innovation of several monetary transfer programmes in Latin America. Particularly, the CTPs from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay have received its support.

This support has involved two core aspects: 1) coordination with measures and services for work integration and production of the beneficiary families, and 2) improvement of their operational and management designs, and greater integration within the social protection systems.

EUROSOCIAL'S SUPPORT

In Paraguay, EUROsociAL has supported Tekoporã in a monetary transfer programme with

SOCIAL PROTECTION



COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

PARAGUAY

co-responsibility that reaches 133 districts and 101,814 families, approximately 500,000 people. The aim of Tekoporã, which in Guaraní means "good life", is to provide social protection to households in conditions of poverty and to improve the participants' quality of life, facilitating the exercise of their rights to food, health and education. The increase in the use of the basic services establishes a community support to empower the families and strengthen social networks.

EUROsociAL has contributed to the strengthening Tekoporã by supporting two specific projects:

Comprehensive review of the Tekoporã programme

The design and management and implementation system of the Tekoporã Programme has been renovated. The consultancy, which has also allowed a new operational guide for the programme to be drafted, has been led by the former executive secretary for Overcoming Extreme Poverty and coordinator of the Bolsa Familiar Programme of Brazil, Ana Fonseca.

Review and implementation of the information system of the Tekoporã programme

EUROsociAL has also supported the definition and launch of the information system for the programme, which allowed the ISO 9001 Certification for the payment process to be obtained, being the first social programme in Mercosur to receive a similar certification. As a result, transfers are now regular, allowing households to better plan and organise their expenses.

Tekoporã is already working as the gateway for the National Social Protection System and it is contributing to improve the conditions of thousands of families in Paraguay.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL ACTION SECRETARIAT

Supporting Tekoporã is part of a more extensive support activity to Paraguay's Secretariat of Social Action, created in 1995 to coordinate social policies in the country, with a special focus on the eradication of poverty. In 2013, when the new Government of President Cartes took office, 23.8% of Paraguayans were still living in conditions of poverty and 10.1% in extreme poverty. SAS had an uncoordinated organisational structure, an inefficient information and operational management system, and monitoring procedures that were incomplete and out-dated regarding the structure of the programmes and projects.

Once these limitations were identified, and as a result of a request from the Minister of Social Action, the EUROsociAL Programme from the European Union has become an important partner of SAS to boost a series of organisational and management changes. Thanks to the support from Argentinean and Spanish experts, advice has been given to SAS to constitute its Institutional Strategic Plan, reorganise its management system in a result-oriented manner and, at the same time, revise its structure and organisation chart. Also thanks to EUROsociAL, SAS has in recent years become a more efficient institution to achieve its goals.

EUROSOCIAL'S SUPPORT ITINERARY

Comprehensive review of the Tekoporã Programme

- ▶ A comprehensive diagnosis of Tekoporã including all its elements, and in particular its operational aspects, which are reflected in the new operational guide.
- ▶ A document with recommendations so Tekoporã can comply with defined objectives.
- ▶ Guidelines for a new communication strategy to make Tekoporã and SAS more visible, to be adopted by SAS.
- ▶ Guidelines aimed at Tekoporã becoming the gateway to a social protection system taking into account its universality and presence in all departments and districts.

Review and implementation of the Tekoporã Programme's Information System

- ▶ Review of the payment processes, inclusion of beneficiaries and operational management and control of co-responsibility of the Tekoporã programme.
- ▶ Analysis of the sequences scheduled for the different processes and recommendations to reduce the phases and speed up the paperwork.
- ▶ Joint definition with SAS officials of the flows and diagram of each process.
- ▶ ISO 9001 Quality Certification for every process.
- ▶ Inclusion of the processes in an operational guide.

FIRST-HAND

▶ Héctor Cárdenas

Minister of the Secretariat of Social Action, SAS, Paraguay



"The cooperation from EUROsociAL was the basis for the certification of a social programme with ISO 9001. Elements of effectiveness and efficiency that are usually found in the private sectors have been added to Tekoporã".

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION



Through EUROsociAL's support, the pioneering experience from Brazil has been transferred to Paraguay for conditioned transfer programmes. The starting point and inspiration was the successful Brazilian programme: "Bolsa Familia", which in one decade has achieved that poverty in Brazil be reduced by half (from 9.7% to 4.3%), thanks to its wide scope and coverage —about 50 million Brazilians with low income level. Over the years, "Bolsa Familia" has developed and been integrated into a wider plan called "Brazil Free from Want". Brazil Free from Want was launched in June 2011 and is made up of three axes: guaranteed admittance, access to services, and productive inclusion, together with a focus on active search.

This experience and its importance to Paraguay's social policy, was emphasised during the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Tekoporã programme, in September 2015, with the participation of the President of Paraguay, Cartes, and the former President of Brazil, Luiz Ignácio Lula da Silva, together with senior officials from the European Union.

VIDEOS



Interview with Héctor Cárdenas, Minister of the Secretariat of Social Action of Paraguay



Tekoporã's harvests: three life histories



Historical collection: launch of Tekoporã

Coordinating Partner



Operating Partners

