

Paraguay entre todos y todas – Strengthening the national strategy for social policy

Triangular Cooperation Chile – Paraguay – Australia – Germany

Context

Paraguay has begun to introduce an extensive social policy designed to guarantee the rights of all its citizens and to significantly improve their quality of life. Due to the prevailing poverty and the economic and social inequality in the country, implementing such a policy requires more than anything well-coordinated cooperation between the different institutions concerned at national and local level. Introducing the nationwide social programme 'Paraguay entre todos y todas' was an important step towards achieving this objective. Managing the programme represents a major challenge for the Paraguayan Government, given its limited experience of implementing complex social programmes of this scale.

Project

The aim of the triangular cooperation project between Chile, Paraguay, Australia and Germany is to develop a nationwide strategy that will help Paraguay to implement its multi-sectoral social policy more efficiently. The project activities are aimed

primarily at achieving more effective coordination and communication between decision-making bodies at local and national level. In concrete terms, this means stepping up the implementation of social policy in the areas of social housing, health care provision and the protection of children and minors.

A model strategy is being developed and piloted in two areas, one rural and one urban. This strategy will be subsequently evaluated and further developed with a view to rolling it out across the country. Complementing this, support is being provided for training managers at local and national level in order to establish the skills required to steer and implement a coordinated social policy and to firmly establish these skills in the respective institutions. Additionally, a nationwide plan for steering housing policy is being drawn up for the first time. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is acting as a fourth partner in this triangular cooperation project, financially supplementing the contribution of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).



Impact

After the project activities have been completed, the Government of Paraguay will use the management model for more effective provision of social services, which was developed and piloted by the project, as a key instrument to combat poverty. In the current legislation period the strategy will be established in 16 more departments. The pilot project already reaches out to large parts of the indigenous population. They contribute actively to designing the new social policy. Capacity building measures help to develop new methods of community management at partner institutions and to build extensive networks that facilitate intra-institutional communication. The national plan for housing policy (PLANHAVI) that has been developed within the framework of the project will be used as a central instrument of the Ministry of Housing. The ministry has already established a special workforce for the implementation of the plan. A large proportion of the former participants of workshops and training have assumed key positions in the Paraguayan Government. This kind of knowledge sharing strengthens the newly established instruments and contributes to sustainable implementation of PLANHAVI.

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