

How to integrate social policies in conditional cash transfer programs

1. Has the relationship between the sectors improved over time? Have you noted any progress?

Rodrigo Lofrano: Yes. The professionals involved in monitoring the health and education conditionalities at the federal level realized over time that the BFP helps to strengthen access to health and education policies. Improved access is a positive development because it makes health and education provision more visible and credible. For instance, around 80% of the data of the Ministry of Health's Food and Nutrition Surveillance System (SISVAN) arise from monitoring the conditionalities of BFP beneficiaries. In the education area, the only students with school attendance records nominally registered in a national computerized database are those from BFP beneficiary families.

2. Given the success of the Bolsa Familia Program, do you feel this success is shared equally between the three sectors (health, education and social assistance)? How feasible is this? And how important is it to share the outcomes?

Rodrigo Lofrano: Success has been partially achieved in this respect. We are aware that, in terms of incorporating sectorial strategic assessments, the positive results of the Bolsa Familia Program are more incorporated by the teams managing the actual program, but less so by the teams of the sectors involved. A better way to share this success would be to establish clearer mechanisms for distributing federal funds from the Decentralized Management Index (IGD) to the states and municipalities. A further measure would be to ensure that data collected by the areas is fed back to the states and municipalities. For example, the family health teams could receive the nutritional diagnosis of families from which nutritional data has been collected. The MDS is currently working on these aspects. It is very important to roll out the achievements of the program to the other areas with a view to strengthening their commitment to improve family monitoring procedures and quality.