



Pan-Amazonian Seminar on
SOCIAL PROTECTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The challenges and potential
of the Amazon Region**

BELÉM, PARÁ, BRAZIL - MARCH 27-31, 2017

Introduction

Social assistance models in Amazonian countries tend to favor urban, more homogeneous places compared with the spatially, ethnically and culturally dispersed Amazon Region. While the region's natural and social characteristics have posed a challenge for Social Protection, its potential has been generally ignored in terms of social policies.

The Pan-Amazonian Seminar on Social Protection sought to promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences among the South American countries that have parts of their territories in Amazonia. The goal was to invite discussion on social protection initiatives especially focused on traditional peoples and communities, to stimulate dialogue between governments and social movements, disseminate best practices in public social protection policies. The Seminar aimed in this way to raise the profile of the social protection agenda and its interface with environmental sustainability, human rights and multiculturalism.

Representatives from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Peru, Guyana and Suriname attended the seminar. The lectures and round table discussions provided an opportunity for attendees to share experiences on social assistance issues in general, income transfer, and food and nutrition, as well as social participation of traditional peoples and communities. The field visits enabled the international participants to learn about Brazil's social protection policies at first hand.

An important outcome of the seminar was the "Belém Charter for Social Protection in Amazonia". This document contains a set of principles to be observed in the formulation and implementation of social protection policies in a specific Amazonian context. Note that the Charter was signed by representatives as a personal commitment and is therefore non-binding on countries and institutions.

All the lectures and discussion panels were summarized in a virtual book prepared by the Ministry of Social Development (MDS) with the collaboration of WWP. **Access** (in Portuguese only).

The MDS gratefully acknowledges the following partners for their assistance with the event: World Bank; UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; GIZ - German Agency for International Cooperation; WWP - Brazil Learning Initiative for a World without Poverty; the Brazilian Navy; the State of Pará Secretariat for Social Assistance, Labor, Employment and Income; and the Municipal Prefectures of Belém, Barcarena and Acará.



1ST AMAZONIAN SEMINAR ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

MARCH 27-31, 2017

HOTEL PRINCESA LOUÇÃ
AV. PRESIDENTE VARGAS, 882, BELÉM (PA)

31 SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

17 DISCUSSION PANELS

223 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC OFFICIALS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLES AND
COMMUNITIES, RESEARCHERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5 challenges for social policies in the Amazon region

This video produced on the occasion of the Seminar shows the specific characteristics of the Amazonian territory, such as the difficult access to the widely scattered and culturally diverse areas of Amazonia.



PROGRAM

DAY 1

MARCH 27

Opening session

Session 1 - Social and environmental challenges of the Amazon

4

DAY 2

MARCH 28

Session 2.1 - Lecture: "Food and Nutrition Security in the Amazon Region"

Session 2.2 - Round table: "Promotion of productive activities and sustainability in the Amazon Region"

Session 2.3 - Lecture: "The challenges of delivering social policies in the Amazon"

Session 2.4 - Round table: "Institutional arrangements for the provision of social assistance and income transfer in the Amazon context"

Book launch: "Trabalho Social com Famílias Indígenas: proteção social básica para uma oferta culturalmente adequada"

DAY 3

MARCH 29

Session 3.1 - Lecture: "The challenges of access to public policies by traditional Amazonian peoples and communities"

Session 3.2 - Round Table: "Institutional channels of dialogue with Amazonian populations"

Session 3.3 - Lecture: "The profile of poverty in the Amazon"

Session 3.4 - Lecture: "Social assistance surveillance in Amazonia"

Session 3.5 - Round table: "Challenges and solutions for registering people to facilitate their access to social protection services and benefits in the Amazon context"

DAY 4

MARCH 30

Session 4.1 - Panel: "Socio-environmental and productive inclusion"

Session 4.2 - Panel: "Protection of children and adolescents in Amazonia"

Session 4.3 - Panel: "Social protection for foreigners: refugees, immigrants and dual nationals"

Session 4.4 - Panel: "Innovation in socio-territorial diagnosis and monitoring in Amazonia"

DAY 5

MARCH 31

Appraisal / Proposals for agendas, themes and commitments for the next Pan-Amazonian Seminar on Social Protection

Closing Session: "Commitments for future social protection in Amazonia"

Signing of the "BELÉM CHARTER FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AMAZONIA"

STUDY VISITS (March 30)

PROGRAM 1 Social Assistance and Income Transfer



PHOTO: MDS

1

Visit to the ship
"Auxiliar Pará"
and interview with
mobile teams



PHOTO: MDS

2

Guided visit to the
Outeiro CRAS and
interview with the
team



PHOTO: MDS

3

Visit to Belém's
Unified Registry
Central

PROGRAM 2
Food Security and Productive Inclusion

PHOTO: MDS



1

Visit to the Menino Jesus quilombola community, with interview

PHOTO: MDS



2

Visit to local cisterns in the community

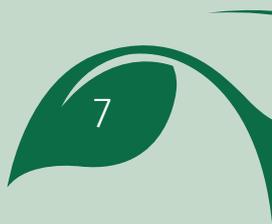


PHOTO: MDS



3

Visit to producers linked to the Food Acquisition Program (PAA), and interview

BELÉM CHARTER FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AMAZONIA

We, citizens of the Amazonian countries and participants in the Pan-Amazonian Seminar on Social Protection, held in Belém, Brazil, from March 27 to 31, 2017:

1. Acknowledge the challenges inherent in the social development of Amazonia and the need for the governments of the region at all levels, and civil society, to make even greater efforts to promote social justice, equality, social protection and the sustainable use of resources in the Amazon Region.
2. Note that, although the delivery of public policies remains a challenge, the Amazonian factor has the potential to support and strengthen social protection across the family, community and political spheres.
3. Recall that any human being has the right to social protection and that this right does not depend on nationality, race, ethnicity, creed, gender, age or culture.
4. Recommend that the formulation and implementation of social policies for Amazonia at all levels of government should always involve the participation of Amazonia's traditional peoples and communities, whether organized institutionally or not, to ensure respect for social participation, and especially for the different forms of social and community organization, production, knowledge, and local practices and potentialities.
5. Emphasize the need to promote access to policies, programs, benefits, services and social rights for all Amazonian peoples and communities, especially those living in remote or difficult-to-reach areas, and we therefore recommend investment in mobile teams, innovation in social technologies and the expansion of the communications infrastructure.
6. Recommend the governments of the Amazon Region, at all levels, to leverage resources and integrate social policies in order to improve identification of the region's most vulnerable population groups and fill gaps in the provision of social protection.
7. Stress the importance of investing in ongoing education and training for managers and staff engaged in deploying social protection policies in Amazonia, paying particular attention to the region's diverse characteristics.

8. Call on the governments of the Amazon Region to scale up efforts to mitigate transnational crimes, such as people and drug trafficking, and arms smuggling, which generate vulnerability among the region's people as well as incurring social risk.
9. Recommend the countries of the Amazon Region to establish and deepen channels for cooperation and dialogue on social protection issues and to draw up protocols to activate social protection delivery in the border regions.
10. Recommend that the governments of the countries of the region and international organizations make joint efforts to produce data on the social reality of continental Amazonia.
11. Encourage universities and research centers to invest in the production of data and knowledge on social protection and sustainability in Amazonia.
12. Strongly recommend that further Pan-Amazonian seminars on Social Protection should be organized on a revolving basis in different countries of the region to encourage broader dissemination of ideas and increase stakeholder involvement.



Mauro Vieira/MDS



NEXT STEPS

The Pan-Amazonian Seminar on Social Protection ended with an agreement between partner countries and the institutions to hold Seminar No. 2 in 2018. Peru's Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) offered to organize the event on a date still to be defined.

It is clear that the Seminar represents a new opportunity for discussions and exchange of knowledge between the region's countries and stakeholders on Amazonia-related social protection policies.

At the end of the seminar, participants completed questionnaires to evaluate the structure of the event and to suggest topics for future Pan-Amazonian Seminars. The main themes were:

-  Protection in rights violation situations;
-  Protection of immigrants;
-  People trafficking;
-  Accommodation for Amazonian people;
-  Indigenous participation in contributory social protection (pensions);
-  Socio-environmental promotion and sustainable production;
-  Indigenous production and work for social and environmental sustainability;
-  Productive inclusion of indigenous peoples;
-  Social innovation and technology;
-  Shared border activities;
-  Demonstration of local experiences (street level, third sector, etc.);
-  Experiences of monitoring in the Amazon Region;
-  Experiences of land use diagnosis and planning in the Amazon Region;
-  Mechanisms for planning territorial development;
-  Gender issues;
-  Child protection in Amazonia;
-  Income generation in Amazonia.



“We have to create a joint agenda in the social area in order to integrate efforts to reduce inequalities and poverty and improve the quality of life of all people living in the Amazon Region.”

Osmar Terra, Brazil’s Minister for Social Development

“The Seminar had an innovative agenda. It was an opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences and to strengthen the cultures of social protection and fight against poverty based on sustainable development.”

Martin Raiser, Country Director for Brazil of the World Bank



“We have to think about engaging in diplomacy at the highest level. We have to consider taking politically responsible decisions with Amazonia. This implies a huge responsibility.”

Julián Torres, Director of Conditional Cash Transfers Program, Department for Social Prosperity, Colombia





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**DESENVOLVIMENTO
SOCIAL**

