Adapting the Social Protection program design in response to shocks in Brazil

India: Knowledge Exchange on Adaptive Social Protection and Disaster Risk Resilience
December 2019
Brazil has been facing recurring disaster emergencies that have required public policies adaptations for effective responses, especially in social protection.

From accidents to environmental disasters, the different situations leave significant marks for the affected inhabitants and the territory, whose recovery can take decades or even centuries, impacting generations.

**BRAZIL:**  
Estimated **210 million inhabitants**  
26 states / 1 federal district  
**15.2 million** people live in extreme poverty  
Biggest challenge: **unemployment 12%**
I. Country and disaster context

70.9% of shocks are related to drought
(risk: drought, mortality from lack of access to water, large fires, loss of productivity)

21% are related to climate change such as rains, floods, landslides
(risk: human losses, material losses, environmental impacts, loss of productivity)

Recent records of major disasters events:
Breaking dams (e. g.: Rio Doce-Mariana/MG; Córrego Feijão-Brumadinho/MG)
Water leaking (e. g.: oil leakage in the Brazilian coast – 2 thousand kilometers)
Urban buildings collapse (e. g.: Edificio Wilton Paes Almeida/homeless occupation)

I. Country and disaster context

Brazilian response in emergency and disaster situations

National System of Protection and Civil Defense – SINCDEC

National Protection Policy and Civil Defense

- Reduce risks
- Help
- Recover areas

National systems

PUBLIC POLICIES

DEFENSE AGENCIES AND RIGHTS ASSURANCE

JUDICIARY

SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Unified Social Assistance System
- Cadastro único
- Bolsa família program
II. The evolution of SUAS

Decentralized series of action in 99% of Brazilian municipalities

Set up as “Social Assistance Reference Centers”

Promote access to programs, services and benefits
Other public policies: education, health

In emergency situations

- Integrate Civil Defense Disaster Prevention Plans
- Active search
- Assistance to impacted people/families
- Shelter (food, personal care)
- Registration
- Dialogue with communities
- Social diagnosis (family-territory)

Strategies:

- Cadastro Único
- Bolsa Família program
- Families follow-up
III. Using Cadastro Unico to identify households post disaster

System of inclusion and description of Brazilians in Brazil and abroad with national documentation

76 million people/ 28 million registered families

Income threshold to reach families in poverty and extreme poverty

Grant access to 28 federal programs

Operationalized in the social assistance reference centers – “CRAS”

In emergency situations:

• Active Family planning and search tool in vulnerable areas

• Provide Family information and Family support

• Provide customized information for other public policies

• Grant priority access to affected families to the Bolsa Família Program
III. Using Cadastro Unico to identify households post disaster

- Planning tool and active search of families in vulnerable areas
- Provides Family information for Family support
- Provides detailed information for other public policies
- Tailoring information by territory for planned actions
- Record of household information integrated with social protection tools (medical report)
- Levels of information for public policies integration
- Access to the Bolsa Família program by affected families
IV. The Bolsa Familia Program

13.8 million families

Families with:
- Monthly income per person up to R$ 89.00; or
- Monthly income per person up to R$ 89.01 and R$ 178.00 provided they have children and/or adolescents from 0 to 17 years old.

INCOME TRANSFER
$ Fixed benefit + variable

CONDITIONALITIES
Health / Education Registration update

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

Targeted
Conditioned
Free to use

FONTE: Ministério da Cidadania
IV. The Bolsa Familia Program: response to shocks & emergency support

1. Inclusion of families:
   - The per capita income cut-off criterion for inclusion is relaxed (no longer considering compensation income)
   - Expansion of program to emergency municipalities

2. Grant and Benefit payment:
   - Advance payments (monthly) for affected households

3. Conditionalities:
   - Priority inclusion in education and health services
   - Flexibility in meeting conditionalities
   - Family follow-up;

4. Complementary interventions:
   - Strengthening productive capacities of communities (productive inclusion)
V. Lessons learned

**Prevention**
- Integrated public policy systems (SINPDEC, SUAS, SUS);
- Cadastro Único as tool for prevention plans, active search and social assistance diagnosis;

**Disaster**
- Integrated emergency care (relief);
- Social care: (shelter, food, personal care), psychosocial/psychological;
- Electronic medical record (attendance record);
- Prepayment of social benefits and income transfer (Bolsa Família and social security);
- Survey of social impact to families and communities

**Post disaster**
Continued social work with families – strengthening Family and Community bonds
Projects of productive recovery (productive inclusion) and reorganization of the communities.
VI. Way forward

- Strengthening disaster prevention;
- Greater agility in the assessment of cases for compensation;
- Support affected families and territories as a right;
- Provide complementary and integrated benefits to the Bolsa família program for post-disaster economic inclusion and development;
- Provide compensation to preserve cultural identities of affected peoples and traditional communities (indigenous communities, quilombolas, river communities, ...)
Thank you!

RENATA FERREIRA, BRAZIL