



International
Labour
Organization

Progress Report - Colombia

13/12/2021 - 30/11/2022

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS FOR ALL - PHASE II

Project Code (GLO/21/34/MUL)



Donor: Germany, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Admin Unit: SOCPRO

Project title:	BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS FOR ALL - PHASE II
Report type:	Annual
Reporting period:	From December 2021 to November 2022

Linkages:

Strategic Policy Outcome: Outcome 5: Improved national knowledge base and capacities to inform a just transition process.

Country Programme Outcome: Colombia

Sustainable Development Goal: SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere - Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

UNDAF Outcome: Outcome 3: Technical assistance for the acceleration of ODS

Related project(s): COL/20/50/SWE - GLO/21/25/SWE

Preparation

Report prepared by: Blanca Platino, 04/01/2023

► ILO Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All

Annual update 2022 – Colombia

1. Country context

The Government of Colombia has been making advances in its commitment to green growth through fair, economic, social and environmental transition processes that involve green jobs. Action to this end is led by the Ministry of Labour with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

As a consequence of the ratification of the Paris Agreement (Law 1844 of 2017), the Nationally Determined Contributions were updated, making it possible to further the goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for 2030 to 51 per cent. The Colombian Ministry of Labour is at the forefront of efforts to devise a Just Transition Strategy that will enable the just transition of the labour force towards a resilient and low-carbon economy in 2033. The Strategy sets out to improve the quality of life and raise the social and economic inclusion of the population, ensuring that no-one is left behind. It will embrace the just transition principles of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and will be based on social dialogue with the participation of employers, workers, the Government and citizens in its design and implementation.

This commitment was affected by the presidential elections that took place in Colombia during the first half of 2022. In August, the new Government came to power, bringing about changes in the political agenda and for workers in public institutions, including the Ministry of Labour of Colombia.

In November 2022, the new Government of Colombia released the first draft of the National Development Plan 2022-2026, entitled "Colombia, World Power of Life". The document defines the goals that the Government must realize within the short, medium and long term throughout the next four years, and which include:

- Progress in realizing Colombia's climate change ambition, established in the Paris Agreement, where it committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 51 per cent in 2030 and to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Transformation of the energy matrix, the second biggest GHG generator in the country is the energy sector, mainly because the supply is derived from oil (41 per cent), natural gas (20 per cent), hydropower (13 per cent), coal (13 per cent), firewood (6 per cent), bagasse (5 per cent), renewable resources (1.96 per cent) and other waste (0.04 per cent). In light of this fact, the goal is to progressively steer the sectors towards an economy with fewer negative impacts on the environment and society.
- Promoting a fair, safe, reliable and efficient energy transition in order to advance the goal of carbon neutrality in the economy, develop production processes with less environmental

impact, promote the circular economy, conserve water sources and adequately manage solid waste.

2. Progress report

Outcome 5: Improved national knowledge base and capacities to inform a just transition process in Colombia.

The implementation of this outcome has been delayed owing to the elections that took place in Colombia during the first half of 2022 and the appointment of temporary officials in Government institutions.

However, synergies have been established with the Agence Française de Développement and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and their progress will be considered in a report on social protection and just transition. This report will serve as a basis for the current programmes in social protection which will be an important reference for the development of the report to be produced by the ILO. Similarly, the terms of reference for the report, “Analysis of the social protection system with a focus on the programmes in place or being designed by the current Government to facilitate a just transition” were issued in November 2022. Because we were unable to find suitable candidates, the selection process will thus be conducted sometime before the end of January and the beginning of February 2023.¹

Output 5.1: Stakeholders have identified the capacity of the current social protection system to protect people and contribute to a just transition and have policy options at their disposal to integrate social protection in the Just Transition Strategy

The ILO constituents in Colombia have initiated debates on the importance of integrating social protection into a just transition processes. The main focus right now is in the coal mining sector where a pilot programme on just transition began in December 2022. The ILO has already started to engage with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, trade unions from the mining and energy sector, academia and the enterprises active in the mining corridor of Cesar, which is located in the north of Colombia. On the strength of this pilot programme and the anticipated results yielded by the ILO report (Outcome 5), it is expected that we will be able to engage our constituents in the identification of priorities and policy recommendations in 2023.

¹ The terms of reference are available in the following links: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/stefany-gonz%C3%A1lez-pach%C3%B3n-5756711a3_tdr-consultor%C3%ADa-an%C3%A1lisis-de-la-protecci%C3%B3n-activity-7016862389929156608-SNwN?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop; and <https://colombia.un.org/es/214614-consultoria-analisis-de-la-proteccion-social-para-una-transicion-justa-en-colombia-oficina>

Output 5.2: Stakeholders have analytical work and policy advice on how to systematically integrate social protection in the Just Transition Strategy at their disposal

Based on the results of the national report on social protection and just transition and the identification of needs in the local context, we expect to come up with final recommendations for public policy implementation both for the national Just Transition Strategy and at the local level in the pilot programme that the national Government is conducting in the mining corridor of Cesar.

3. Collaboration and partnerships

The adoption of the just transition principles of the ILO in the Just Transition Strategy for Colombia will make for a strong alliance between the ILO, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. Likewise, employers' and workers' organizations will be key partners so that the Just Transition Strategy comes to be designed and implemented within the framework of social dialogue.

The Agence Française de Développement and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will also provide an important reference for the report on social protection and just transition. Other partnerships with the ILO involve institutions such as CNV International, which in 2022 started working with the trade unions in the Cesar mining corridor.

4. Challenges and actions

The biggest challenge posed is the change of Government that took place in August 2022 and the resulting delays in the implementation of the project's activities. However, the lack of information in Colombia on the issue of social protection and just transition, the interest of the current Government in the energy transition and the implementation of the commitments for the Nationally Determined Contributions can be beneficially deployed to engage institutions. Nevertheless, the degree to which the enterprises and employer's organizations are committed to just transition is uncertain; for, they are prepared to obstruct any decision over the reduction of their activities in the mining sector. In this regard, the Government is playing a key role in initiating social dialogue processes that reduce the uncertainty over how just transition processes will be developed.

5. Summary and outlook

The ILO provides a support framework to accelerate the progress of Target 1.3 of the SDGs in Colombia, which aims to strengthen social protection systems, including their capacity to contribute to the mitigation of climate change and to facilitate a sustainable and just transition. In Colombia, this effort will help to improve the national knowledge base and build capacities that inform the resilience of social protection systems within the context of climate change (and climate policies) by: (1) supporting an analysis of the social protection system with a focus on its contribution to a just transition; and (2) providing policy advice derived from analyses of how to systematically integrate social protection into climate policies and strategies.