



Regional Conference  
on Social Development  
in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Santiago, 3–5 October 2023



## SIDE EVENT

### “Social registries in the face of the cascading crisis and the challenges of digital social protection in Latin America”

Fifth Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

October 4th, 2023

13:00 to 14:30. (Chile time, -3 UTC)

Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium

#### 1. Introduction

In recent years, Latin America has faced a series of cascading crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation and slowing economic growth in several countries. These crises have affected fundamental aspects of people's daily lives and challenged countries' social protection systems in their ability to respond to emergencies and disasters of various kinds. In the context of a changing risk landscape due to the climate crisis and the challenges of digital transformation, among many other factors, the development and strengthening of social information systems, particularly social registers, are crucial for the design and decision-making of social protection policies. The consolidation of these systems allows for greater agility in processes, improved responsiveness to crises, optimised resource management and the implementation of strategies aimed at consolidating and strengthening social protection systems in the region.

Social registers enable the population to have timely access to social protection systems. According to this logic, the integration of different sources of information, which converge in universal social registers and consolidated social information systems, is essential for the functioning of countries' social protection policies. Such registries make it possible to coordinate the work of different institutions, facilitate synergies, enable the identification of potential users of other programmes, reduce transaction costs and improve the efficiency of social protection benefit delivery systems. In short, social registers and their integration are an essential tool for maximising the impact of social protection policies and for moving towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems.

#### 2. Objective

This side event aims to present different experiences and institutional, financial and inter-institutional coordination challenges for the consolidation of social registers in a context of cascading crises and digital transformation. Interregional cooperation and dialogue allow us to learn from past experiences, identify common problems, seek evidence-based solutions, identify best practices, and more effectively address structural and emerging challenges in the region. This forum facilitates the exchange of ideas, the identification of common issues and the exploration of evidence-based solutions, ultimately leading to better outcomes for social protection systems in the face of complex and evolving regional circumstances.



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As part of the 5th Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the activities of the CEPAL-BMZGIZ project "Transformative Reactivation: Overcoming the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean", this side event aims to create a space for dialogue and exchange in this area. It will review the experiences of countries at different stages of development that have made progress in establishing social registries. The aim is to identify the measures needed to strengthen them and the strategies for funding and inter-institutional coordination required for their further development. The event will address the challenges faced by these countries in the context of cascading crises, where emergency responses and the consolidation of resilient social protection systems are increasingly required. In addition, the ongoing digital transformation process poses challenges for these tools, such as data and information protection, algorithm design, and the significant digital connectivity gaps that still exist in the region. Finally, lessons learned from regional and interregional experiences will be shared to help strengthen the processes of scaling up these registries in the region.

### 3. Methodology and questions

The session will be structured around a round of brief presentations on lessons learned and key challenges in the implementation of universal social registers in the region (10 minutes per panellist). It is suggested that the panellists' presentations and closing interventions be based on the following guiding questions:

- 1) What are the institutional opportunities and challenges in establishing social registers and expanding them towards universality? (addressing institutional, coordination and financing aspects)
- 2) The pandemic has brought various challenges but also opportunities for social policy development. In your experience, what relevant changes have occurred in the social registry in your country/area of analysis? What notable innovations emerged in this context that have been integrated into subsequent operations? (Are existing registers prepared to face new crises, or what would be needed to do so?)
- 3) What challenges does the availability of new data sources pose for strengthening social registers?
- 4) What are the challenges and opportunities of increasing digitalisation for extending the coverage of social registers and achieving higher levels of interoperability? What are the challenges related to the technical skills of civil servants? What measures can governments take to fill existing gaps and make better use of digital universal social registers? What are the risks of increasing digital social registers for the institutional management of social protection policies?

### 4. Date and Time

October 4th, 2023, from 13:00 to 14:30. (Chile time, -3 UTC)



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## 5. Participation

The event is aimed at government representatives, members of civil society and academia in the region.

Limited space is available.

## 6. Languages

Spanish and English (event with simultaneous translation)

## 7. Preliminary Program

<b>Wednesday, October 4th, 2023</b>	
Moderator: Nincen Figueroa, Social Development Division, ECLAC	
<b>Inaugural Session: Welcoming Remarks</b>	
<b>13:00-13:10</b>	<p><b>Welcoming Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Alberto Arenas de Mesa</b>, Director, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p> <p><b>Manfred Haegib</b>, Principal Advisor CEPAL-BMZ/GIZ program</p>
<b>Round Table</b>	
Experiences and institutional challenges of social registries in a context of cascading crisis and digital transformation of social protection systems.	
<b>13:10 – 14:10</b>	<p><b>Interventions</b></p> <p><b>Van Elder Espinal</b>, Technical Director of the Social Policy Cabinet, Dominican Republic.</p> <p><b>Paula Poblete</b>, Under-Secretary of Social Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Chile</p> <p><b>Leticia Bartholo</b>, National Secretary for Evaluation, Information Management and Social Registry, Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil</p> <p><b>Rafael del Cid</b>, Director of the Honduran Centre for the Study of State Policies in the Social Sector, Ministry of Social Development</p> <p><b>Javier Paulini</b>, General Director of Targeting and Social Information, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion</p> <p><b>Rodolfo Beazley</b>, Expert consultant in social protection systems from the German Cooperation (GIZ)</p>
<b>14:10-14:20</b>	Space for dialogue and questions from the public
<b>14:20-14:30</b>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p><b>Luis Tejerina</b>, Social Protection and Health Division, IDB (to be confirmed)</p> <p><b>Amalia Palma</b>, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p>