



Community of Practice  
Cash Transfers in Africa



# **WEBINAR:** **Government SP Responses to COVID in SSA: Expansion of cash transfer programs during COVID**

## ***CASE STUDY OF VALOR CRIANÇA PROJECT ADAPTATION TO COVID-19***

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**Country: ANGOLA**

# Social Protection Response to #COVID19

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## ▶ Key points of the Presentation:

- ▶ COVID-19 demanded rethinking of existing child grant programme “*Valor Criança*”
- ▶ Logistical Adaptation and Coordination of Payments
- ▶ New Pilot Emergency Projects- Luanda and emerging sectoral cash transfers



# Social Safety Nets system in the country

- ▶ Description of the overall system (pre-COVID) :
  - ▶ Valor Criança launched its 1<sup>st</sup> payment in August 2019 and made two quarterly cycle of payments in three Provinces (Bié, Moxico and Uíge) reaching 6,325 families and 11,473 children by December 2019
  - ▶ 3 separate banks in the 3 provinces with cash payments in the rural areas through payment points (quarterly payments)
  - ▶ Payment implementation supported by social activists and the Centers for Integrated Social Acton (CASIS) and Local Administration through the Municipalization of Social Action programme MAS



# The Delivery Chain for CT



April 2018: CT pilot approved by the President

May-October 2018: training of MASFAMU, preparation of systems, banks, institutional coordination

Nov-December 2018: massive enrollment in the 3 provinces (silent)

Jan-March 2019: confirmation of beneficiaries for the Child Grant - MIS system

April-June 2019: training of activists and logistical planning

July-August 2019: 1° Payment

Nov-December 2019: 2° Payment

Jan-March 2020: 2°: massive enrollment and confirmation of beneficiaries

# The Delivery Chain for CT

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## Provision of benefits and/or services and Management of CT

- ▶ 3,000.00 AOA (10USD) provided per child per month for up to 3 children under 5 years old;
- ▶ *Cash-Plus* activities to be carried out by CASIs through the MAS (Municipalization of Social Action) to include child protection and nutrition
- ▶ Registration of grievances during payment days and treatment through subsequent missions for enrollment and confirmation of beneficiaries
- ▶ Active follow-up of grievance cases through the Municipal Focal Points and Local Administration

# The COVID-19 situation in the Country

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- ▶ The 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of payment programmed for March 2020 was cancelled as a result of the *State of Emergency* decreed in Angola due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- ▶ All 3 banks were unable to make the payments due to the travel restrictions and reduction of workforce
- ▶ MASFAMU prioritized *Valor Criança* project and included in the priorities for the Intersectoral National Commission on COVID-19 and as a key social protection response to the crisis
- ▶ Detailed negotiations lead by the Minister as well as the Secretary of State with the 3 banks and the Provinces to ensure continuity of the project in the new context



# The COVID-19 situation in the Country

## KEY DECISIONS AND ACTIONS:

- ▶ Continuity of the Valor Criança by placing it as key project of the COVID-19 national response;
- ▶ *Top-Up* benefit from 3,000.00 to 5,000.00 AOA;
- ▶ Make combined cycles of payments due to the delays and operational challenges (semestral payments)
- ▶ Adapted to the specific needs of the banks through negotiations (payments in bank agencies)
- ▶ Payments reestablished in July and August reaching 7,073 families and 13,423
- ▶ 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> cycle to be paid in December is expected to reach 9,982 families and 18,511 children



# Social protection system | Pre and post COVID-19

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## ▶ Lessons learnt:

- ▶ Early negotiation with all partners and adaptation to the national measures on the pandemic was key
- ▶ Training of all involved at the different levels to the new circumstances
- ▶ Reinforcing existing mechanisms such as the CASIs and their role in providing support to the beneficiaries



# Challenges

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- ▶ **Main challenges:** Banks and the limitations with regards to the workforce
- ▶ Travel restrictions (required special authorization for the travel and payment cycles)
- ▶ Damba- Municipality which is still pending payment due to incapacity of bank to deliver services in this municipality

# Mid-term and long-term prospects

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## ▶ Key points:

- ▶ MASFAMU will continue to ensure continuity of the Valor Criança project
- ▶ Emergency Pilot Projects have emerged in Luanda and will be launched with the health sector based on the *Valor Criança* experience



# Thank you!

## Any questions?

