

Overview of the supply and coverage of Social Assistance Services in Bahia

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In 2018, a partnership was signed between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) with the government of the state of Bahia, Brazil, which was materialised in a letter of agreement within the scope of Project BRA/16/006 for the Strengthening of Social Protection Policies in Bahia. Among the products planned are Products 6 and 7, examining the supply and quality of social protection services in the state. This One Pager presents the main findings of the study.

Social assistance services in Brazil are subdivided by level of social protection: Basic Social Protection (PSB); Special Social Protection of Medium Complexity (PSE-M) and of High Complexity (PSE-A). The main PSB and PSE-M facilities are, respectively, the Reference Centres for Social Assistance (CRAS) and the Specialised Reference Centres for Social Assistance (CREAS). The PSE-A services are provided by accommodation care facilities, focusing exclusively on providing for individuals in vulnerable social contexts.

The indicators studied to analyse the supply and coverage of the social assistance network were based on data from the 2019 SUAS Census, the Monthly Registry of Social Assistance Services (RMA) and the Single Registry. As the demand for services was estimated using specific categories from the Single Registry, it was not possible to observe real demand for social assistance services, especially in cases where it is contingent upon social and demographic contingents that are not always linked to income, such as cases of violence, which are more common in special social protection.

The main outcomes of the study are presented in Table 1.

The analysis aims to support the Social Assistance Superintendency (*Superintendência de Assistência Social*—SAS) to obtain indicators that contribute to improving the monitoring and evaluation of social assistance policy in Bahia, in addition to helping establish priorities for the State Social Assistance Plan (PEAS) and the SUAS Management Improvement Pact.

TABLE 1
Main outcomes

	Supply	Coverage
PSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All municipalities in Bahia have at least one CRAS. The main activities foreseen in PAIF and SCFV are widely offered by the vast majority of CRAS in Bahia (about 95 per cent). The home PSB service has the most limited supply: Only 27 per cent of CRAS offer it. The IDCAS average in the services dimension of the municipalities of Bahia (3.2) is higher than the average of the IDCAS of all Brazilian municipalities (3.1). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The referral capacity of CRAS covers practically all people enrolled in the Single Registry as well as <i>Bolsa Família</i> beneficiaries. However, the number of cases assisted by PAIF and the Service for Strengthening Linkages (SCFV) represents 10 per cent or less of those enrolled in the Single Registry and <i>Bolsa Família</i> beneficiaries, who are identified as the PSB's target population.
PSE-M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All municipalities with a population over 20,000 have at least one CREAS. 20 per cent of municipalities of populations under 20,000 have at least one CREAS. The main activities provided for in the PAEFI are broadly offered by CREAS. The IDCAS average in the services and benefits dimension of the municipalities of Bahia (3.2) is 10 per cent higher than the average of the IDCAS of the Brazilian municipalities (2.9). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One way to analyse PAEFI coverage is to assess programme coverage for specific target audiences, observable in Single Registry. The sum of families with children engaged in child labour that joined the PAEFI in 2019 (disregarding families that joined before 2019) represents 16 per cent of the average of families enrolled in the Single Registry with at least one member engaged child labour. Throughout 2019, there was an increase in the number of homeless families registered in the Single Registry (about 40 per cent), while the number of homeless people assisted by the SEPSR decreased (about 30 per cent), resulting in a drop in service coverage for this population.
PSE-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 per cent of municipalities in Bahia have an accommodation facility, whereas large municipalities and the capital, in general, have more and more varied facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the nature of the accommodation service for the vulnerable population, it was not possible to carry out a coverage analysis based on the data available from Single Registry.

Source: Authors' elaboration.

Reference:

Bloch, C., K. C. Pereira, and M. Rocha. 2021. "Produtos 6 e 7: Relatório Final sobre a análise da oferta e qualidade dos serviços proteção social básica e especial na Bahia." In: "Projeto BRA/16/006 Fortalecimento das Políticas de Proteção Social na Bahia". Brasília: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.