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Social assistance for people living with disabilities in Brazil: main debates and current challenges

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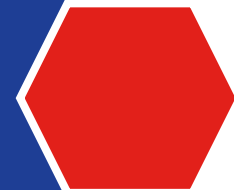
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**INCLUSION, INTEGRATION
AND TRANSFORMATION:**
Social Protection for Persons with
Disabilities in the SADC



**The 1988 Constitution and the
establishment of social
guarantees for people with
disabilities**



◆ Article 203, V → regulated by the Brazilian Social Assistance Law (*Lei Orgânica de Assistência Social, LOAS*) of 1993 → originating the Continuous Welfare Benefit (*Benefício de Prestação Continuada da Assistência Social, BPC*):

“Social assistance shall be rendered to whomever may need it, regardless of contribution to social welfare and shall have as objectives: (...) V – the guarantee of a monthly benefit of one minimum wage to the handicapped and to the elderly who prove their incapability of providing for their own support or having it provided for by their families, as set forth by law.”

**Programme profile – Continuous
Welfare Benefit (BPC)**

2.

Continuous Welfare Benefit (BPC)

INCLUSION, AND TRANSFORMATION:
Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in the SADC

General objective	Ensure personal autonomy of people living with disabilities and the elderly by means of unconditional cash transfers and provision of services.
Stakeholders involved	Ministry of Social and Agrarian Development; Social Assistance Reference Centers (CRAS); National Social Security Institute (INSS); Banking system.
Management and implementation	Potential beneficiaries' first stop are the CRAS. The formal requests for BPC are then handled by INSS.
Beneficiary selection criteria	Categorical targeting: beneficiaries are either people aged 65 (and over) or people of any age living with long-term (producing effects for at least 2 years) physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments. Means test: poverty is assessed based on the income per capita of beneficiaries' families, which must not exceed 25% of the minimum wage.
Amount of benefits	BRL 937 (around USD 300) per month.
Benefits delivery	Beneficiaries receive a magnetic card from the accredited banks.
Coverage	4.4 million people nationwide (2.4 million are PwD).
Programme expenditure (2016)	BRL 45.6 billion

Sources: WWP, INSS, MDS

**Main points of debate and
challenges**

3.

◆ Eligibility conditions

- ◆ Disabilities concept, income criteria and family definition

◆ Promoting opportunities of access to education and the labour market

- ◆ Tracking and Monitoring Program of School Access and Attendance (*BPC Escola*)
- ◆ BPC Employment Program (*BPC Trabalho*)

◆ Fiscal sustainability

Conclusions

4.

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