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Senior Development Fellowship Report (Rômulo Paes de Sousa)

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SENIOR DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP REPORT (RÔMULO PAES DE SOUSA)

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Introduction

The RPID Senior International Associate programme had a very successful first year. The first two Associates are both highly experienced analysts of health and social policy. Rômulo Paes de Sousa is an expert in monitoring and evaluation and has had long experience of working on targeted cash transfers and on health system development. He has also served as a Deputy Minister of Social Development in Brazil. Xiulan Zhang is the Director of the School of Social Development and Public Policy at Beijing Normal University. She works closely with the Ministries of Civil Affairs and Health and has been involved in many aspects of China's social sector reforms. In this report, an outline of the experiences and achievements of each Senior International Associate follows a general discussion of the programme.

Both Associates have been intimately involved in national policy processes in their country, but have had very little opportunity to reflect on lessons that have emerged from this experience. They used their time as Senior International Associates to undertake a review of their country's experience in managing major health and social sector reform. They worked closely with Gerald Bloom in developing a framework for their reviews, ensuring that they identified lessons for other countries. They presented their findings to an international audience at a major conference and at a variety of consultative meetings. They are completing reports for publication and are producing policy briefs on key lessons for policy actors in low and middle-income countries.

The two associates have also participated in reflecting on the challenges of building mutual learning between health and social policy analysts and actors in the BRICS and other low and middle income countries (LICs and MICs). The IDS RPID programme organised a successful consultative meeting at the DFID Office in Beijing to explore opportunities for mutual learning between the BRICS and policy actors in other LICs and MICs, the challenges faced and strategies for overcoming them. One major conclusion which emerged was that policy analysts in China and Brazil have focused most of their energies on helping their governments manage a major change process and now need to build their skills in undertaking systematic studies of this experience and communicating lessons to people in other countries. They suggested that this is an area to which DFID can add value. We have distributed the conclusions of this consultation within DFID and to potential partners in the BRICS, and Rômulo Paes de Sousa presented his reflections to a meeting at DFID in December 2012.

We plan to continue to involve the two Senior International Associates in further work on building mutual understanding about the management of health system change. We have agreed with the Department of Health in South Africa to organise a consultative meeting of health policy analysts and policy actors from the BRICS in Pretoria, before the next meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Health (November 2013).

We will organise the meeting in collaboration with a leading South African centre of health policy analysis. Government officials will participate in the meeting on an informal basis. The aim is to continue to create opportunities for mutual learning with

senior policy analysts in the BRICS and to explore ways of making lessons from their experiences available to counterparts in other low and middle income countries.

FIOCRUZ, the key Brazilian government agency engaged in health sector development cooperation in Africa, has expressed interest in joining these discussions. Preparatory meetings with the FIOCRUZ Africa Office in Maputo and head office in Rio de Janeiro will be taking place in April 2013, building on initial contacts established through Senior International Associate Rômulo Paes de Sousa (who is a FIOCRUZ associate researcher), and through the RPID programme's collaboration with the BRICS Policy Centre in Rio de Janeiro.

We are also exploring with a Kenya-based NGO, which specialises in evidence to policy linkages, possible activities for facilitating effective communications between the Senior International Associates and other senior policy analysts from the BRICS and their counterparts in Africa.

An informal network is emerging of senior policy analysts from the BRICS with an interest in building mutual learning between their countries. This is creating a forum within which discussions can take place about how to make lessons from their development experience available to counterparts in low and middle income countries. We are taking forward plans to link the policy analysts from the BRICS to existing networks of health policy analysts in Africa.

Selection of Dr. Paes de Sousa

Dr. Paes de Sousa was selected because of his wide experience as both a policy analyst and policymaker in Brazil's social protection and health sectors. His experience as a Deputy Minister for Social Development and the Fight Against Hunger has made him uniquely equipped to provide support and advice for the creation of a programme of activities that involves both policy analysts and policymakers. Dr. Paes de Sousa is also a member of the Advisory Council for the RPID Programme.

Review of policy experience

Dr. Paes de Sousa undertook a study of the implementation of strategies for the reorganisation of Brazil's government health services to achieve very high levels of access to high priority health services. He worked closely with Gerald Bloom, of IDS, to develop a framework for this study and ensure that lessons from the study were made available to policy analysts and policy actors in low income countries. He employed a young researcher to review policy documents and carry out in-depth interviews with policymakers. He also reviewed relevant lessons from Brazil's experience with the introduction of rigorous M&E approaches into the implementation of social protection policies, working with the Centre for Social Protection team at IDS. He has completed draft reports on the findings of both studies and has presented these findings to academic and policy audiences.

Presentation of findings to policy actors

Dr. Paes de Sousa has presented his findings to the following policy actors and policy analysts:

- Presentation of findings at panel on 'Health System Development in Complex, Dynamic Contexts: Learning from Brazil and China' (Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Beijing, November 2012).
- Participation in high-level meeting on opportunities and challenges for mutual learning between senior health policymakers and policy analysts in Brazil and China (DFID Beijing, November 2012).
- Presentation of findings in panel discussion with DFID advisors jointly organised by DFID Global Partnerships Department and the Rising Powers in International Development Programme (DFID Palace St, December 2012).

Outputs for dissemination and policy influence

He is producing the following outputs:

- Report which is to be published as an IDS Practice Paper.
- IDS Policy Briefings on key lessons for policy analysts and policy actors in other low and middle income countries from Brazil's experience with the management of health system development and reform, and with effective monitoring and evaluation of the performance of a large conditional cash transfer programme
- Recording of a presentation on the findings of his review to be used in future meetings with policy analysts in other countries, and made available as an open-source video.

Participation in consultations with DFID and other policy actors

Dr. Paes de Sousa presented findings from his review of the challenges of monitoring conditional cash transfers to a meeting organised by the IDS Centre for Social Protection and RPID teams with DFID Global Partnerships Department and Policy Division. He participated in a meeting between Chinese policy analysts working on global health and two senior Brazilian policy analysts hosted by the DFID Office in Beijing. They explored opportunities and challenges for building mutual learning between policy analysts and policy actors in the two countries and with counterparts in low income countries. A report on this meeting has been disseminated within DFID and to health policy analysts in the BRICS. He also

presented his reflections on the challenges of building mutual learning to a meeting of Global Development Partnerships Programme advisors at DFID HQ in London.

Teaching and training

Working with the IDS Director, Lawrence Haddad, Dr Paes de Sousa was the co-trainer on a short course for senior policymakers from Africa and Asia on Transforming Nutrition, developing and using teaching materials drawing on the experience of Brazil's Ministry for Social Development and the Fight Against Hunger (IDS, July 2012). He also gave key informant interviews and informal supervision for IDS students whose papers or dissertations focused on Brazil's social policy innovations.

Planned contributions to future work of the RPID Programme

Dr. Paes de Sousa will shortly be taking up a new role as head of the UN World Centre on Sustainable Development ('Rio+ Centre') in Rio de Janeiro, but has agreed to continue in his role as a Senior International Associate for the next three years. This will include the following activities:

- Dissemination of his findings of key lessons from the Brazilian experiences to meetings of senior policy analysts and policy actors in the BRICS and in other low and middle income countries (in person and electronically).
- Completion of an IDS Policy Briefing and publications of the study findings as an IDS Practice Paper.
- Participation in the construction of an informal network of senior health and social policy actors.



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