



Setting the Scene: Trends, Challenges and Emerging issues

Social Protection Policy and Programming in Sub Saharan Africa

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Overview

- **Social protection in Africa:**
 - Emerging Trends: regional and country level
 - Current landscape
 - What does the evidence say, to date?
- **What does this mean for the PtoP? *Strategic Moment of Reflection***
- **What are some of the gaps – evidence and policy-** Perspectives from Eastern and Southern Africa

Social Protection in Africa

- Momentum for social protection: global, regional and country level
 - **Global:**
 - SP as a proposed target -under Goal 1- in the SDGs
 - Central focus in the International AIDS Conference
 - Global bodies aiming to coordinate/harmonize work in social protection: SPIAC-B
 - **Regional:**
 - Wealth of evidence, mainly due Transfer Project and PtoP
 - Concrete efforts to raise the profile of evidence on cash transfers: Strategic Partnership with African Union
 - AU Expert Consultation on Children and Social Protection Systems (Cape Town, April)

Social Protection in Africa

(Regional-cont)

- *Recent*: Addis Ababa Ministerial Declaration at the Fourth Session of the Ministers of Social Development (May); commitment to:
 - Expansion and scale-up of social protection programmes
 - Operationalize comprehensive social protection systems
 - Allocation (and ring-fencing) of national resources to social protection
- Country level commitments to scale-up and expansion
 - Kenya, Zambia, Lesotho, Tanzania, Senegal, among many others

Emerging Trends: Africa-wide

Heterogeneous landscape

- **Eastern and Southern Africa**
 - Expansion of cash transfer programmes in the region (in addition to well established programmes in Southern African countries)
 - Expansion and scale-up: *from pilots to national coverage*
 - Systems building: *from fragmentation to coordination*
 - National allocation of resources: *from donor funded projects to nationally-owned systems*
 - HIV-Sensitive Social Protection
- **West and Central Africa**
 - Cash in emergencies; social protection and resilience
 - Strong focus on nutrition and food security
 - Social health insurance
- **North Africa**
 - Reform of long-established programmes; looking at how to bring together/rationalize fragmented programmes into systems
 - From regressive subsidies to progressive social spending

Emerging Trends: Africa-wide

Difference in policy and programmatic questions around social protection. Different moments?

- **Eastern and Southern Africa**
 - How to finance scale-up/expansion? What are the financing options available? How to sustain investments?
 - How to bring fragmented programmes together? What are the key building blocks of a social protection systems?
 - How to make sure design of social protection programmes effectively reach children (and families) affected by HIV and AIDS?
- **West and Central**
 - Do CT create dependency? Are CT handouts? How ensure beneficiaries are not discouraged from income generating activities? (first generation questions?)
 - How to make SP programmes flexible to effective respond to emergencies?
- **North Africa**
 - Bringing together fragmented programmes, and necessary mechanisms
 - Increasing equity and addressing exclusion
 - Subsidy reform and possible re-allocation

Where are we in the policy and programmatic debate? What do we know?

- **Social cash transfers work in Africa:** social cash transfer remove **economic** barriers to access essential services, improve capacity of families to improve their livelihoods.
- Visible impacts on: (programmes' objectives)
 - Consumption, food security,
 - Dietary diversity, nutrition?
 - School enrolment, attendance, transition?
 - Access to health services, morbidity

AND beyond programme's objectives:

- Addressing economic and social drivers of HIV risk (among adolescent girls)
- Economic and productive impacts
- Social cohesion/community dynamics
- Benefits that multiple to non-beneficiaries (local economy)



Where are we in the policy and programmatic debate? What do we know?

- Impacts depend on design and implementation:
 - Social transfer values: changes in consumption and economic/productive impacts are seen when size of transfer is at least 20% (or more) than household consumption per capita.
 - Targeting / eligibility criteria/ profile of beneficiaries
 - Predictability and timeliness
 - Unconditional transfers and choice- multiple impacts
 - Enabling factors / necessary preconditions: supply of services (availability and quality) and local markets (availability and quality of commodities).
- Political economy of social protection-
 - Political Will (sine-qua-non factor)**
 - Value of impact evaluation (results and process)
 - Context-specific analysis and evidence, as well as regional-wide

What does this mean for PtoP?

- **New landscape coincides with critical moment for PtoP**
- What should be the relevant research and policy agenda for the Project? **What is the best way to define this agenda? In this process, a couple of things to remember:**
 - Highlighting the economic dimension/contribution: strengthens message on the role of social protection on poverty reduction
 - Uniqueness of the process and methodology
 - Mixed methods
 - Partnerships (UNICEF, Governments, international researchers, local research)
 - Policy relevance: results are discussed in current, policy discussions at country level and have influence design and implementation

Perspectives from ESA Region: Why this partnership is critical for UNICEF?

- Children's well being depend on families' livelihood, capacity to care for them; Child poverty is multi-dimensional (economic and social)
- Social impacts depend on livelihoods and vice versa
- The advocacy –'making the case'-message is strengthened by integrating evidence on social impacts, with evidence on economic and productive impacts
- Systems approach: multi-sector approach
- Integrating different pillars of social protection (including livelihood production)
- *** Relevance of the evidence and analysis for policy discussions at country and regional level

Perspectives from ESA Region

- What are the key policy questions (country, regional and global level) that PtoP should help to address? Some ideas (from the regional perspective):
- **Social Protection Systems**
 - Mix of interventions? Current evidence focuses on cash, what about other instruments? And mix of instruments?
 - Differentiated poor - Different approaches depending on profile of beneficiaries? Are there complementarities? Implications for targeting approaches?
 - How to maximize synergies with other sectors, e.g. agriculture, rural development, nutrition



Where are we in the policy and programmatic debate? What are the key gaps?

- Sustainability of impacts (at HH and local economy)
 - Who can 'graduate'? Threshold effects?
 - How does SP contribute to economic **productivity**.. From Protection to Production to Productivity?
- Are we focusing too narrowly on rural smallholders? What about agricultural labour, urban-rural migration and urban food security?
- Understanding relationship between social and economic vulnerabilities
 - Gender differentiated impacts
 - Can/does SP create a virtuous circle? Does impact on social relationships change over time (longitudinal qual)?
 - Unpacking intra-HH labour/time allocation, consumption, and production and pathways through which SP shifts

Where are we in the policy and programmatic debate? What are the key gaps?

- How to better link agricultural and social welfare ministries to strengthen and expand social protection?
 - Potential convening power across partners in PtoP. Who should take the lead in fostering these linkages? What are the implications of different ministry leads?
 - What are the political opportunities and moments
- How does this fit in the current discussion around resilience? Climate change, predictable emergencies/fragility?

AND....

- **Given stronger focus on national financing and sustainability, MoF key audience. PtoP evidence contributing to building stronger case for this audience.**

Thank you/Grazie mille/Gracias!

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