

**OXFAM WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND
FOOD SECURITY
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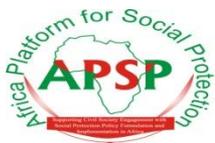
**TOPIC: THE INVOLVEMENT OF CSOs IN SOCIAL
PROTECTION IN WEST AFRICA – DESIGN,
MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND
WEAKNESSES**

By

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APSP - Defining Social Protection

- Social Protection is a set of policies and programmes designed and implemented by the state and other stakeholders to reduce poverty and vulnerability by cushioning people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against shocks and the interruption or loss of income and promoting their ability to come out of poverty.

The Social Protection Agenda in Africa (The AU)

- The AU SPF is an example of the AU's desire to lift social development to the same level as other sectors such as economic development
- Since the Ouagadougou declaration of 2004, the AU and its partners have been working to raise awareness and knowledge about social protection as an important mechanism to fight poverty
- This includes the Livingstone and Yaoundé Calls for Action (2006), the national and regional consultations in early 2008, the Mapping Study on SP and the inclusion of SP as an important theme of the SPF (2008)

Cont'd

- Reviews suggest that there are SP programmes or discussions to establish them in over 44 African Union members states with a significant number of these having been initiated in the last three years
- The majority of these have been shorter term pilot programmes funded mainly by donor organisations, UN agencies and INGO's, but there are bigger, national programmes initiated and funded by member states

Some Countries Implementing “Conventional” SP Programmes in West Africa

- Ghana (to be used as key example)
 - National Health Insurance Scheme, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Cash Transfer Programme, School feeding programme, Free Uniforms for pupils in basic schools from poor families.
 - *The successes in Ghana are based on increasing government ownership and commitment as well as a conducive policy environment*
- *Example of some other countries with social protection programmes:*
Burkina Faso, Swaziland, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, Malawi, Senegal, Lesotho, Kenya, Mali, Niger, ????????

Some Traditional Forms of SP in Africa

- In Southern Africa, the Chief's Fields (**Zunde raMambo** in Zimbabwe), is a concept that ensured food security for the poor
- In Swaziland (2004), the King directed that all the 360 Chiefdoms establish 3 hectare **chief's fields** to cater for the needs of the OVC
- **One cow per family** in Rwanda

NB: There is no adequate evidence that these traditional forms of SP have attracted the serious attention/interest of many donor agencies

SP in the new world development paradigm - Overview

- Traditional (the poor are the problem):
 - Focus development on economic growth
 - Wait for economic growth to reduce poverty
 - Residual interim safety nets
 - Donor (expensive) emergency assistance where necessary. E.g. PAMSCAD in Ghana in the 1980s

... *NOT WORKING (in Africa)*
- Emerging (the poor are the solution):
 - Provide comprehensive social protection
 - Social protection will help to generate economic growth
 - This will reduce poverty
 - Reduced emergency assistance, freeing donor resources

THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES OF SP IN WEST AFRICA

➤ Design – the broad steps:

- Engagement of donor-defined/approved consultants (Local/international)
- Design Missions to countries already implementing SP programmes, normally outside Africa
- Desk-top design and writing of SP Strategy/Policy/Legal Framework
- Validation Workshops
- Ministerial/Cabinet/Parliamentary approval

Design and M'ment Cont'd

➤ Management:

- Departmentalization
- Management Committee at MDAs level
- National Implementation Committee including CSOs (few instances – Ghana initially)
- Inter-ministerial Steering Committee (normally between Social Welfare/Devt. and Finance Ministries)
- Government – Development Partners Steering Committee (Ghana)

LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT OF CSOs IN DESIGN AND GOVERNANCE OF SP

- Not encouraging. **Ghana as case study:**
- Began as government-only policy agenda
- CSOs joined in the course of its development
- Push aside in the course of implementation
- ✓ It is more about “You have to pay the piper to call the shots”. Only those with proven financial muscle rather than adequate local knowledge of the situation/capacity are considered as true partners

MECHANISM GUARANTEEING TRANSPARENCY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- To the donor

- Scheduled reports (narrative and financial)

- Citizens

- A recipient – a favour
- Level of support and release schedules at the pleasure of implementation agencies.
- Poor knowledge about conditionalities

MAIN WEAKNESSES OF SP PROGRAMMES IN WEST AFRICA

- Absence/Inadequate representation of target groups in the process – design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. E.g. Ghana – CLIC vs identification of beneficiaries
 - Errors of inclusion and exclusion
 - Poor knowledge of Conditionalities by target beneficiaries
- Inadequate regular national financial commitments – Ghana just above 50% but irregular in release thereby adversely affecting schedules of payment

WEAKNESSES - CONT'D

- Political polarization of design and implementation process
 - Putting political patronizers with inadequate technical know-how in charge
 - Poor targeting for political reasons
- Poor design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation resulting in a Dependency Syndrome by target beneficiaries.
 - No serious and noticeable graduation in wellbeing and this is a disincentive for long term government commitment.

WEAKNESSES - CONT'D

- Poor coordination – fragmented programmes.

E.g. Ghana

- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) – Department of Social Welfare;
- National Health Insurance Scheme – NHIA and Ministry of Health
- School Feeding Programme – Ministry of Education and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.
- Free School Uniform for basic pupils in poor communities - Ministry of Education

WEAKNESSES - CONT'D

- Design and implementation based on poor quality and sometimes irrelevant data
 - copying SP programmes from other countries and/or put forward by development partners some of which do not make desired impact. E.g. Ghana – GLSS = poverty map (based on infrastructure availability) = LEAP target areas.
- Poor linkage of social protection programmes to national development agenda, hence long period of piloting and minimum impact and sustainability

Social Protection works when you have:

- Strong governments
 - Ethiopia
 - Rwanda
 - Botswana
 - South Africa
- Strong civil society
 - South Africa
 - Bangladesh
- It doesn't work where you have strong donors
 - Malawi
 - Zambia
 - Senegal

CONCLUSION

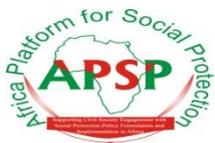
- Governments hardly get their priorities right if civil society is apathetic about the public choices they make.
- Africa needs to be ideologically focused in charting a social protection course that would ensure sustainable action to reduce poverty and vulnerability on the continent.
- Social protection programmes are more effective in improving the well being of the extreme poor if complemented by a wider social policy measures on healthcare, education and other forms of asset redistribution - the need to tackle vulnerability through a holistic approach – integrating SP programmes with other existing social services.

CONCLUSION - Cont'd

- There is the need for political commitment to integrate SP into national frameworks/plans and budget tools such as MTEF.
- Involvement of government , communities and CSOs and coordination among stakeholders, including development partners are key to the success of SP programmes.
- Transparency - accountability at both implementation and beneficiary levels are key issues

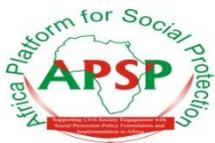
The APSP at a Glance – Introduction

- A network of individuals and organizations operating at national and regional levels, with a commitment to promoting and strengthening the social contract between states and citizens.
- It has member Platforms in all the Regions of the African Union:
 - Central Africa
 - Eastern Africa
 - Northern Africa
 - Southern Africa
 - West Africa
- ✓ National Platforms are a coalition of CSO's operating in various fields in the country which come together to focus on Social Protection (SP) initiatives.



The APSP Development Path

- Idea confirmed at AU Meeting (CSOs in attendance) in Dakar, Senegal in 2008.
- Interim Board established at first CSOs Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in 2008
- Constitution developed and adopted in 2009
- A physically separate secretariat from HAI Africa Regional Office established and registered in Nairobi, Kenya in 2010
- The APSP substantive Board was put in place at AGM in 2010 for a 4-year term



Major Roles of APSP

- Strengthen CSO's to engage with SP initiatives at national level
- Support coalition and Platform building on SP
- Work with governments to design & implement strong SP policies, strategies & programmes
- Engage with regional, continental and international agencies on Social Protection initiatives
- Engage with the UN family, Multilateral and bi-lateral agencies on SP initiatives

THANK YOU

Merci

