

# **Good Practices in Anti-Poverty Family-Focused Policies and Programmes in Africa: Examples and Lessons Learnt**

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# Introduction

African governments continue to recognise that family-focused development efforts are key to sustainable S-E development.

## At regional level

- *Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development* (1992),
- Resolution CM/Res 1466 (LVIII) of the former OAU urged Member States to lend priority to the observance of the International Year of the Family (1994)
- *The Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action* (2004)
- *The Livingstone Call for Action on Social Protection* (2006)
- *The Yaoundé Call for Action* (2006)
- *The Social Policy Framework for Africa* (2008)
- *The Khartoum Declaration on Social Policy Action towards Social Inclusion* (2010)

# Introduction (Con't)

- However a post-1994 landmark was African Union (AU) *Plan of Action on the Family in Africa* .
- Its 2010 mid-term review of the POA however found, among other things, that:
  - Only ten of the 25 AU Member States that participated in the review have purposely adjusted their respective programmes and policies in accordance with the PoA requirements.
  - Only two of the countries (Cameroon & Uganda) created government ministries or departments responsible for the family (
  - Only one country, Senegal developed a Road Map on Family Policy
  - Over time some countries recorded a decrease in their budget allocation to family related sectors (education health etc.)
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# Introduction (Cont'd)

- At **sub-regional level**,
- SADC 2003 *Charter of Fundamental Social Rights* mandated Member States to ensure workers are given adequate social protection; extended to social services and development social welfare in the 2007 (*SADC Code on Social Security*).
- The East African Community, committed to improving social protection for persons with disabilities
- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development emphasizes the link between social protection and food security.
- ECOWAS' focal area is harmonization of labour laws and child protection
- *Anti-poverty family-focused policies and programmes in the form of social protection, tend to be more prevalent in East and Southern Africa where they are largely aimed at mitigating the effects of HIV and AIDS*

# Introduction (Con't)

- At **national level**, a growing number of African governments are designing and developing national social protection strategies, often in the context of more comprehensive versions PRSPs aimed at achieving economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development (
- Despite a lack of resources there are good practices of anti-poverty family-focused policies and programmes (**Contributory and non-contributory**)

# CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTRUMENTS

Can be categorised into five:

1. Contributory pension schemes;
2. National health insurance schemes;
3. Private health insurance schemes;
4. Community-based insurance schemes; and
5. weather or crop insurances.

# Contributory pension schemes

## *Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF)--South Africa.*

- Five benefits to contributing members including domestic and farm workers: *unemployment benefit; illness benefit; maternity benefit; adoption benefit; and dependents' benefits*
- Assists not only those who lose their jobs, but also those who stop receiving a salary for a period of time.
- Thus contributes to the alleviation of family poverty by providing short-term unemployment insurance.
- Limitations include evasion and non-compliance

# National Health Insurance

## *National Health Insurance Fund of Ghana*

- Est. to abolish out-of-pocket user fees for health services
- Offers affordable medical coverage to informal-sector workers and their families for an annual premium equivalent to US\$18.00



# Community-based insurance

## Mutuelles de santé , Community-based health insurance, Rwanda

- Multisectoral partnership ensured coordinated service delivery
- Showed subsidizing the poor enables equitable access to services.
- A bottom-up and incremental approach scheme ensured progressive introduction and strengthening. **However:**
  - Co-pay could still hinder access to services for the poor.
  - Because of their high vulnerability, particularly to climatic shocks that affect agricultural productivity, the rural poor sometimes lose income and cannot make contributions to the *mutuelle* fund for their families

# NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTRUMENTS

Can be categorised into three:

1. Pure income transfers (transfers to poor h/holds; child & family allowances; and social pensions)
2. Income transfers plus (public works, asset protection and accumulation);
3. Intergraded poverty reduction programmes

# Pure income transfers

- *Social assistance*

## **Basic Income Grant Pilot Project (BIG), Namibia, 2007-2009.**

Provided all Namibians <60 years in pilot area with US\$ 13 /month from Jan-Dec 2008 . Evaluation results:

- Food poverty line fell from 76% to 37% within one year.
- People engaged in income-generating activities rose from 44 to 55%,
- Productive incomes increased by 14%.
- The number of underweight children fell from 42% to 10%.
- Nearly 90 % of the parents could pay fees, nonattendance due to financial reasons dropped by 42%, and drop-out rates fell from 40% to almost zero.
- Average household debt fell from about US\$164 to US\$104; savings increased

## Child & family allowances (South Africa)

- **Foster child grant** paid to a foster parent of children aged 18 or younger (age 21 if a student) and remain in the care of the foster parent.
- **Child support grant.** Means-tested income transfer (approx. US\$21 as at April 2009) aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability among children <17 years. Paid to primary caregiver of a child. Paid for up to six children if they are not biologically related; otherwise, no limit.
- **Care dependency grant** (means-tested): Paid to parent, foster parent, or primary caregiver of of children (aged 1-17) with severe disabilities who require permanent care and have been medically certified to be care-dependent.

## Social pensions

- **Lesotho Old Age Pension**, started in 2004. A universal pension scheme for all citizens of Lesotho >65 years. US\$29/month in 2007. Evaluation results:
  - About 90% of the sampled respondents' households were living below the poverty line compared to about 70% after the inception of the programme.
  - The average poverty gap has also decreased
- **Disability grant, South Africa**. Consists of permanent or temporary disability grants. The latter valid for up to 12 months; in the former recipients obliged to reapply and submit a new medical assessment and report. About US\$132 (April 2009)

# Income transfers plus

***Public works : Expanded Public Works Programme South Africa started in 2004.***

- At end of first phase (2009) EPWP had achieved its goal of creating at least one million temporary work opportunities, of which at least 40% were women, 30% youth and 2% people with disabilities.
- Phase 2 launched in April 2009; aim to create of 2 million full time equivalent (FTE) jobs for poor and unemployed people

## Constraints on capacity

- As a fall back option, it only reached about 4% of the unemployed.
- government not effective at intensifying labour use in its infrastructure procurement;
- Opportunities were very short and pay was below market wages

# Asset protection and accumulation

## *Productive Safety Net Program, Ethiopia, 2005.*

- Provides cash or food aid to vulnerable households in exchange for public work or direct support to people unable to do public work
- Objective-to provide transfers to the food insecure population in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level and creates community assets.

## Evaluation results

- Improved the quantity and quality of food for the beneficiaries.
- 75% of the beneficiaries reported eating more and better and 25% reported building up some assets . **However**
- Unable to provide food security if food prices increase dramatically or food availability in the market decreases significantly.

# Recommendations

- Promote regional networks for research & information exchange on policy and programme options, and good practices
- Develop appropriate indicators and practical methodologies for assessing the direct & indirect effects of anti-poverty family-focused policies and programmes on overall family well-being;
- Draw on good practices from other parts of the world *to* create guidelines for effective extension and delivery of anti-poverty family-focused programmes and services.
- Strengthen M&E of all anti-poverty family-focused policies and programmes that are being implemented in the continent. Disseminate results widely
- Aim at achieving wider coverage through a diagnosis of unfulfilled needs and ways to meet them.



*Thank you!!*