

# 3<sup>rd</sup> End of Year Note 2018

## Anglophone Community of Practice of Cash Transfers in Africa

### I. Introduction

The Community of Practice (CoP) of Cash Transfers in Africa is a learning platform where countries meet, share experiences and learn from each other around social cash transfer practices and social protection, more broadly. The CoP has proven to be a very powerful tool, not only to ignite discussions around cash transfers across Africa, but also to promote examples of good practices and policies among countries.

As an informal network of professionals and practitioners dedicated to sharing their experiences and knowledge, the CoP has contributed to a more informed dialogue with decision-makers and has facilitated problem solving in the member countries. The CoP has stimulated learning, promoted professional development, addressed individual questions, and generated knowledge on cash transfer programs.



To date, the CoP has 41 member-countries (see map). To ensure that language is not a barrier to effective participation, members are grouped into a Francophone group (blue in the map), and an Anglophone group (in red). During 2018, the Anglophone group welcomed additional seven countries, including Eritrea, the Gambia, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa and Sudan. The Anglophone CoP is led by a five-member Steering Committee (in yellow), with a two years mandate. Currently, the members are representatives from Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania and Uganda and are supported by a Facilitation Team consisting of staff from the World Bank and UNICEF.

This note provides highlights of the work of the CoP during 2018 and captures key reflections from the Anglophone CoP face-to-face meeting held in Uganda in July 2018.

### II. Highlights

#### Work of the CoP

During 2018, the Steering Committee together with the Facilitation Team held various VC meetings to discuss how to revitalize the membership of the CoP, maintain its relevance and brainstorm on its sustainability. Towards that objective, the governance of the CoP was enhanced with the development of clear terms of reference for membership, including operational guidelines. Members of the Steering

Committee were assign responsibilities for selected countries to facilitate and enhance effective engagement of member countries in CoP activities. Advocacy material were developed, and member of the Cop Steering Committee participated in several global and regional events that provided opportunities to promote the CoP. Their participation were drawn at the World Bank South-South Learning Forum in Frankfurt, Germany on Adaptive Social Protection where a presentation was made on the CoP to the key donors of the Rapid Social Protection Response and at TRANSFORM training in Zambia where the CoP was advertised. In addition, the Steering Committee prepared four knowledge notes/newsletters which were shared with CoP members ([Read Our Newsletter Here](#)).

### 6th Face-to-Face Meeting of the Anglophone CoP

The 6th Face-to-Face Meeting of the Anglophone CoP took place on July 2-6, 2018 and was hosted by the Government of Uganda. This was the first annual CoP meeting where the CoP through its Steering Committee members were actively involved in the planning and organization of the Face-to-Face. The meeting attracted more than 100 participants from over 20 African countries, as well as a visiting government representative from Chile and a Deputy Minister from Liberia.

Thanks to the numerous interventions and contributions, the face-to-face meeting helped compile a more comprehensive understanding of the role of social safety nets in adaptive social protection in Africa. During the meeting, the participants discussed tools and systems needed to enable responses. Members elaborated on a clear future work plan for the CoP with roles and responsibilities for the next year.

You can watch our videos ([Video 1](#)) ([Video 2](#)) and read the report ([Meeting Report](#)).



Many results were achieved in 2018 during the 6th Face-to-Face meeting, including:

- The development of a preliminary funding framework (including proposal and plan) to facilitate additional funding from development partners;
- The administration of a questionnaire to CoP members to identify ways to enhance the relevance



- of the CoP, ensure greater engagement of its members and revitalize its future activities;
- The engagement with our new member countries, were warmly welcomed to the Community of Practice;
  - The reinforcement of advocacy efforts with newsletters, an End Year Note, and participation in international events;
  - The engagement in presentations at the Transfer Project workshop, as well as to key donors at the South-South Learning Forum (SSLF) held in Germany early 2018;
  - The strengthening of the role of the Steering Committee in planning and holding the Face-to-Face, demonstrating their strong capacity and ownership;
  - The formation of national CoPs to enable sharing of knowledge and good practices nationally; e.g. Ghana has a national committee to coordinate its social protection activities and Kenya has set up its own CoP on social protection.
  - The invitation of some member countries to participate in the Kenya National Social Protection Conference in the spirit of experience sharing.

### **Post Face-to-Face.**

Following the successful Face-to-Face in Uganda, a videoconference meeting was held in November 2018 for all CoP members on the issue of Universal Child Grants (UCGs) approach. Presentation was made by UNICEF and views sought from CoP members on how child grants could be used to address child poverty. UNICEF and ILO will be hosting an International Conference on UCGs in Geneva in the first quarter of 2019.

As the year came to a close, the Vice Chairperson of the CoP Steering Committee, Winnie Mwasiaji, Deputy Director, State Department for Social Protection in the Ministry of Labour and Social protection was among the top civil servants recognized by the Kenyan Government for her contribution to advancing social protection as an important poverty reduction strategy in her country.

### **III. Future and Sustainability of the CoP**

To support the long-term sustainability of the CoP, the Steering Committee aims to develop a funding proposal and plan to engage with other potential financiers for the CoP in future. It is critical that the CoP can demonstrate its value to encourage other contributions to support its future activities. The videos, which were produced as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Face-to-Face meeting, were one way of creating materials demonstrating the importance and value of the CoP.

Moving forward, it is essential that the CoP members strongly engage to ensure the sustainability of the CoP. The following are a few examples:

- Active engagement of members in the CoP activities throughout the year – making sure that learning and knowledge exchange are continuous, demand-driven and go beyond the Face-to-Face events;
- Collect periodic feedback from the members to the Steering Committee about their interests, ideas and suggestions to revitalize the CoP and make it “our CoP” and further enhance learning and knowledge exchange;
- Share inputs with the Steering Committee “focal points” to develop a CoP Work Plan for 2019,



- ensuring inputs from all CoP members;
- Engage in our new social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter to strengthen exchange among members;
  - Identify national CoP champions and ensure yearly budget allocations to co-finance CoP Face-to-Face participation;
  - Encourage bilateral study visits to member countries to learn good and best practices in specific Social Protection initiatives.

#### **IV. A New Steering Committee Member**

Following the 6th Face-to-Face meeting, the Steering Committee is proud to welcome a new member – Mr. Joseph Basoga – who has kindly agreed to support strengthening of the communication aspects of the CoP!

#### **V. What 2019 will bring**

We hope that CoP members will more actively engage through our social media platforms in 2019 (Click on the icon to connect!):



We are working towards the organization of the 7<sup>th</sup> Face-to-Face event where we aim to once again bring together the CoP members in yet another successful forum. Stay tuned for more information!