

End of Year Note 2019

Anglophone and Lusophone Community of Practice of Cash Transfers in Africa

I. Highlights

During 2019, the members of the Steering Committee supported by the WB and UNICEF facilitation team have worked to keep the CoP platform active and to better engage with its member countries. Most of the work of the team has been focused at the organization of the 7th Face to Face event, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda.

a. 7th Face-to-Face Meeting of the Anglophone CoP

From May 20-24, 2019 representatives from 23 countries¹ participated in **the 7th Face-to-Face meeting of the Africa Community of Practice on Cash Transfers for Lusophone and Anglophone countries**. The focus of the event was the role of Cash Transfer Programs in contributing to enhanced Human Capital Development in Africa.



The discussions during the five-day conference centered on the **Role of Cash Transfers in Building and Sustaining Human Capital Development**. The framing presentation *What is Human Capital and What Are Its Different Dimensions?* (Dena Ringold—World Bank), was followed by examples from Kenya and Rwanda, as early adopters of the Human Capital Development Index.

Representatives from other countries discussed the role of Cash Transfers in the early years (Kenya, The Gambia and Rwanda), Cash Transfers in Education and Health (Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana), and how to maintain Human Capital in the transition towards adulthood (Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda), while Ana-Carolina Machado from the IPC discussed the idea of Universal Child Grants in the African context.

The event featured **several working group activities, during which the participants exchanged lesson learned and knowledge through compelling discussions and dynamic exercises**. Among the others, debates focus on themes such as on the role of investments in education and health, political transitions and the political economy of Cash Transfers, and the value of the Community of Practice. Participating countries were also called to showcase innovation and best practices on how Cash Transfers programs can build Human Capital. Twelve countries showcased innovative solutions and programs they are currently running and are related to policies, program design, delivery systems, intersectoral coordination between social protection, health and education.

¹ Approximately 70 government representatives involved in the design and management and implementation of Cash Transfer programs, along with ministries in charge of finance, statistics, and social services, across Africa participated in the conference. Those included delegates from Angola (3); Botswana (2); Eritrea (2); Eswatini (1); Ethiopia (4); The Gambia (4); Ghana (3); Kenya (3); Lesotho (2); Liberia (2); Malawi (1); Mozambique (2); Namibia (3); Nigeria (5); Rwanda (10); Seychelles (2); Sierra Leone (2); Somalia (3); South Sudan (2); Tanzania (2); Uganda (3); Zambia (3); and Zimbabwe (2).

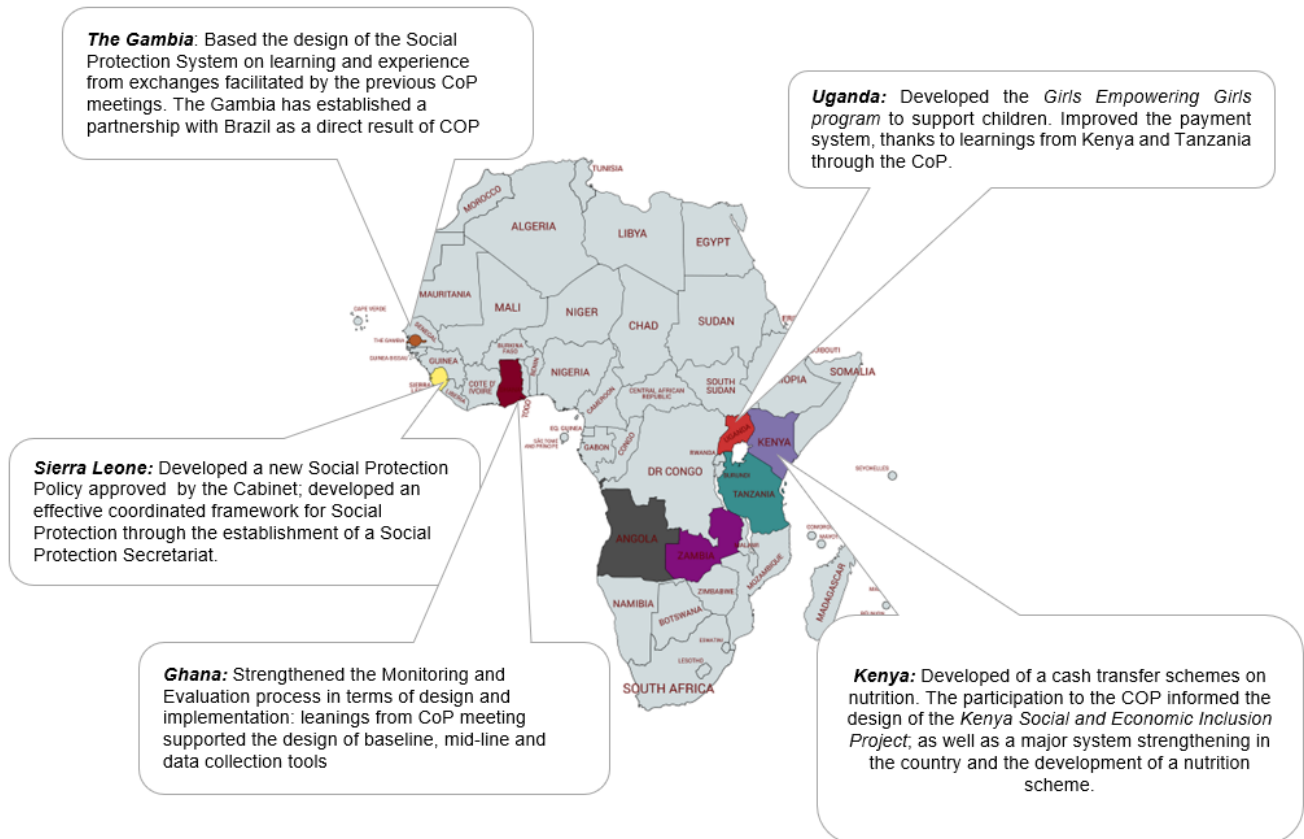
The CoP has proved to be a very valuable platform, not only to ignite discussions around operational and design related issues of cash transfer programs across Africa, but also to promote good practices for complementary services and to stimulate policy discussions. As an informal network of professionals and practitioners who are dedicated to sharing experience and knowledge, the CoP has contributed to a **more informed dialogue with decision-makers and has facilitated problem solving among individual members**, stimulating learning, promoting professional development, addressing individual questions, and generating the type of knowledge that members need in their daily work.



b. The Value of the CoP

During the 7th F2F event, members were called to reflect on what **concrete difference in term of informing the design of new policies and programs**, M&E practices, and development of partnerships the participation to the CoP made for the members. The idea of this session was to encourage participants to give concrete examples on how CoP had added value.

The table below presents some of most relevant policy contributions. The learning exchange facilitated by the CoP has influenced the institutional arrangements and coordination in various countries in social protection policies. In particular, some countries have worked more efficiently towards integrated cash transfer systems.



II. Future and Sustainability of the CoP

In terms of the sustainability of the CoP, the SC and the FT have been working on determining how to assure a sustainable future to the CoP. This is based on 4 elements:

1. At the global level, the CoP must be part of the WB and UNICEF's overall strategy for Africa. Financial and technical support from the World Bank and UNICEF to the CoP is critical to its sustainability and to ensure the continuation of successful face-to-face event;
2. At the country level, the CoP must be part of the country development activities, and the countries should incorporate CoP activities in their annual work plans and budget. This would allow effective participation to the CoP activities, as well as the F2F event;
3. It is important for the CoP SC and FT to define the needs of the platform, and seek opportunities for resource mobilization from financial institutions at local, regional and global levels;
4. Important for the CoP will also to invite external partners to CoP activities and matching their needs with their potential support.



Members also discussed the succession of the Steering Committee members. The Steering Committee will follow-up to request CoP members to express their interest in hosting the event.

III. On the CoP

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 ensure that language is not a barrier to effective participation, the African CoP organizes its 43 member-countries into two language groups:

- (i) *The Francophone group, with 18 member countries;*

(ii) The Anglophone/Lusophone group (green in the map); during 2019, the Anglophone group welcomed two additional countries, Rwanda (host of the 2019 Face to Face meeting) and Somalia, for a total of 25 member countries².

Each group of the CoP is led by a five-member Steering Committee with a two years mandate. Currently, The Anglophone CoP is led by only three countries, members representatives from Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda.

The CoP is supported by a Facilitation Team consisting of staff from the World Bank and UNICEF.



IV. What 2020 will bring

We hope that CoP members will more actively engage through our social media platforms in 2020!

Click on the icon to connect!



² The Anglophone/Lusophone CoP group includes Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.