



END OF YEAR NOTE 2020

Anglophone and Lusophone Community of Practice of Cash Transfers in Africa

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. In 2020, this group welcomed one additional country, Cape Verde, for a total of 26 member countries¹.

Each group of the CoP is led by a six-member Steering Committee with a two years mandate (more on the CoP on session III). The CoP is supported by a Facilitation Team consisting of staff from the World Bank and UNICEF.



¹ The Anglophone/Lusophone CoP group includes Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, 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.

Our Steering Committee

The Anglophone and Lusophone CoP and its Facilitation Team (composed by World Bank and UNICEF staff) have recognized the importance of ensuring coherence and government ownership of the CoP, which resulted in the formation of a Steering Committee for the Anglophone and Lusophone CoP. The Anglophone/Lusophone Steering Committee was officially formalized at the Face to Face meeting in Tanzania in May 2016.

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE COP

Mr. Malang N Fofana

For the Gambia

is a Public Health Nutritionist with over 30 years of work experience. He works with the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) as the Programme Manager responsible for Programme implementation. He is currently the Project Facilitator for The Gambia Social Safety Net Project that is implementing the largest cash transfer scheme in the country.

Mr. Iorwa Apera

For Nigeria

is the National Coordinator for the National Social Safety-Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO). Apera is an accomplished development professional with 30 years of extensive technical and managerial experience and has successfully led several programmes in local and international non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Titus Ouma

For Uganda

works in the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development-Kampala Uganda as Senior Programme Officer Capacity Building in the Expanding Social Protection Programme. He is responsible for Implementation of capacity building activities for all National, Regional and Local government structures. He has led in the development of training content on social protection for stakeholders in Uganda.

Mr. Mawutor Ablo

For Ghana

Social Protection, Monitoring and Evaluation expert from Ghana with more than 12 years' experience in Social Protection. He led the development of the National Social Protection Policy and was also involved in the design and implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) and LEAP in Ghana.

Mr. Takatso Shale

For Lesotho

is responsible for coordinating the provision of social development services and the implementation of social safety net programmes in the district. He is the Focal person in the design and implementation of the Lesotho Child Grants Programme.

Mrs. Winnie Mwasiaji

For Kenya

led the rethinking of social protection system in Kenya. She spearheaded the team that conceptualized, designed and developed the cash transfer programmes for Kenya. She also initiated and led the team that designed and developed the single registry system for the consolidated cash transfer programmes.

Highlights

Planning the Face to Face

During 2020, the Members of the Steering Committee supported by the WB and the UNICEF facilitation team have worked to keep the CoP platform active and to better engage with its member countries. The first part of the year was dedicated to the preliminary work for the 8th CoP Face-to-Face (F2F) Ethiopia meeting on Economic Inclusion, originally planned for May 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In this occasion we would like to thank the Ethiopian Government for their desire to host the event, their support to the planning, and their flexibility in adapting to the changes due to COVID-19.

In view of the event, in February 2020 the CoP's Steering Committee and the UNICEF/WB Facilitation Team in collaboration with the Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) met with the Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopian Organizing Committee in Addis Ababa for a 4-day summit. While an important aspect of the meeting was the organization of the Face-to-Face meeting, the conversations concentrated on the governance and the sustainability of the CoP, as well as on the potential partnerships for our Community. At a critical point of the CoP existence, our discussions touched upon the needs to strengthen our engagements and relationships with existing and potential donors, as well as the paramount importance to increase the proactive and meaningful participation of CoP members.

The Addis F2F event was cancelled in March 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. However, the work of the CoP continued and focused on existing and potential partnerships. We cemented our collaboration with the World Bank's Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI), already forged to co-organize the F2F event. In terms of potential collaborations, we are exploring ways of working more tightly with the Francophone Community of Practice of Cash Transfers in Africa.

Digitalization of the CoP

The COVID-19 pandemic had massive global impact and continues to spread. The Community of Practice (CoP) of Cash Transfers in Africa has been particularly instrumental to share knowledge and find common intervention strategies to contain the COVID-19 effects, by directly engaging in a dialogue with governments from all around Africa.

In such global emergency, we have been working on keeping our Community alive and adapting to a virtual format as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the community engaged in discussing and sharing policy recommendation and experiences on the governments social protection responses to COVID-19 through online events.

Webinar I

We hosted our first CoP WEBINAR "Government social protection responses to COVID-19 in SSA" on Zoom on September 16th, 2020 at 12:30 WAT/3:30 EAT. Using the Zoom platform, we were able to provide translation in both Portuguese and French which allowed for African countries from around the continent to participate. The translation also opened the door for a more substantial and effective cross-collaboration with the Francophone CoP.

The Webinar featured presentations on the social protection response to COVID-19 delivered by the Mr. Samuel Dusengiyumva, representing the Governments of Rwanda, Mr. Myles Ongoh, representing the Government of Ghana and Malang Fofana, representing the Government of the Gambia. The online event also featured a presentation by the current Steering Committee to CoP members on the Steering Committee roles, responsibilities and rotation – with a request for interested countries to submit their nominations to become members.

Substantial participation of more than 60 participants from the Anglophone, Lusophone and Francophone countries, enabled lessons learning and engagement from the connected colleagues, who posed questions to presenters and elaboration of their own country interventions. The CoP received very positive feedback from member countries, including enthusiastic feedback from several of the Francophone CoP member countries² (The recording of the event, as well as the slides have been made available on our [Community of Practice page](#), hosted by our colleagues at socialprotection.org).

Webinar II

A Second CoP WEBINAR “Government social protection responses to COVID-19 in SSA”, was hosted on November 25th, 2020 at 12:30 WAT/3:30 EAT. The webinar was offered in English, Portuguese and French and was facilitated by the newly inducted CoP Steering Committee members (see bios on page 4).

We had three wonderful panelists, Mr. Apera Iorwa, representing the Government of Nigeria, Mrs. Bessie Chimwemwe Msusa, representing the Government of Malawi, and Mrs. Dra Ana Teresinha, representing the Government Angola, as well as a discussant from our newest country to join the CoP, Cape Verde, Mrs. Mrs. Mónica Furtado. In addition to members from the Anglophone and Lusophone CoP, Mr. Mr. Merlin Ngoupeyou joined us to represent the Government of Cameroon.

During the event, the presenters shared experiences in vertical and horizontal expansion of their cash transfer programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentations and the debates focused on a number of themes, including the identification and selection of new beneficiaries, the inclusion of “new groups” into the social protection programs, including informal workers, as well as delivery systems. Link to the presentations and recorded session can be found [here](#).

In continuation of virtual lessons sharing and engagement, the Anglophone CoP will host its 3rd virtual Webinar in April 2021 jointly with the Francophone CoP. **In view of our upcoming Webinar, please let us know if there is any topic you would like us to cover!**

² The Video Recording at this [link](#) (Passcode: 8?INp6NK). socialprotection.org is an online member-based knowledge sharing and capacity building platform, open to social protection practitioners, policy-makers, and experts, as well as academics and students. This platform, hosts our online Community, used to share presentations and stay in touch with CoP members to obtain new information about social protection in Africa.

What 2021 will bring

We hope that CoP members will more actively engage through our social media platforms in 2021! For this upcoming year, we are planning a number of additional activities, including a webinar with all CoP members to be held in April 2021, and training for our CoP members. In the hope to have a better engagement, we will work to build our own website, and assure a better engagement through our social media platforms!