

Community of Practice News.

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One Mission. One Vision It begins with you!!!



Word from the Chairperson CoP

Dear Members

Welcome to our first edition of the CoP News Magazine

I heartily congratulate all those countries that made it to the Kampala- Uganda Face to face CoP meeting and thank the Uganda Government for the warm reception, care and supportive environment they provided.



I also want to unreservedly thank our technical presenters for the wealth of knowledge they shared and I hope it will go a long way to improve our service to deliver more responsive cash programmes. You ably delivered on our theme, *“enhancing, Understanding and Learning on Adaptive Social Safety Nets in the African Context”*

To our funding and implementing partners the World Bank, Unicef, SIDA and Rapid Social Response, we owe you a service and that service we will provide will all honesty dedication and accountability.

To all our member countries, I must say that listening to advice and views provided in the feedback you provided, the CoP steering committee is all sold out to deliver the best of service as mandated to us. Keep that advice coming.

This year, we will be more engaging on all exchange our platforms. Like we promised you can now engage our communications focal person and the steering committee on our Facebook page out Twitter handle @SP_Gateway, Community of practice and contribute to our blog some of these new platforms were introduced hardly a week after the face to face meeting to show the speed and zeal for the next year.

I urge you to keep us informed of your challenges and developments, for this is the only way we can share, learn and improve from each other.

I want to unreservedly congratulate my committee for being reconfirmed for the next two years and ask them to work hard towards fulfilling the theme in our slogan **One Mission, One Vision It begins with you!!!** This edition of the Newsletter mainly focuses on the CoP face to face meeting in Kampala and innovations that were shared by the various countries. Please begin sending us the next updates (one page) for we hope that we can maintain the momentum of producing a newsletter every quarter.

Nice reading!!

MATTOW

Chairman CoP

UGANDA HOSTS THE 16TH FACE TO FACE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP) FOR CASH TRANSFERS CONFERENCE IN AFRICA MEETING.

By Joseph Basoga CoP Communication specialist

The Community of Practice (CoP) of Cash Transfers in Africa is a learning platform where countries meet, share experiences and learn from each other on issues of Cash transfers and Social Protection. This year Uganda was the proud host of CoP.

The five-day gathering brought together close to 100 practitioners from Government, development partners, local and international NGOs, private sector, academia and researchers to share experiences and learn from each other on issues related to social cash transfer programs and social protection under the theme “*how to make social protection systems in the region more responsive to shocks*”.

While speaking at the opening session of the conference the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development Hon Peace Mutuuzo said, that the call for social protection programmes is not only based on human rights or moral grounds, but on the belief and fact that social protection is an important instrument for economic growth. It is an investment in human capital development which is no less important than investments in physical infrastructure,”

It was noted that African countries have common characteristics of high poverty, high unemployment, high dependency ratios, natural and man-made disasters, and high disease burden. All these require substantial investments in social protection interventions and yet today most of the countries are performing at less than 2 per cent of GDP investment in social protection.

Mutuuzo noted that, Social security is a human right and a social and economic necessity. It should therefore be treated as a core function of development policy as emphasized by the Sustainable Development Goals / Agenda 2030.

she therefore emphasized that While safeguarding the right to social protection is an obligation of the State, it remains a shared responsibility with partners and citizens.

In the Africa region and beyond, there is evidence to show that social protection programmes targeting lifecycle risks and vulnerabilities that people face at different stages in life have an impact on health and well-being of recipients.

Here in Uganda, Government has adopted the National Social Protection Policy, and integrated it in its National Development Plan (NDPII), underscoring the importance of social protection in addressing risks and vulnerabilities.

“Social protection programmes help households and communities to recover from crisis or disaster. Working through government systems and strengthening local capacity to respond effectively, can prevent families from falling into poverty,” said Dr Steen Lau the World Bank Director for Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice.

Given the drive to ensure social protection systems in the region are more shock-responsive, this meeting of the Community of Practice (COP) represents an invaluable tool for learning and knowledge exchange, and will contribute to the adoption of innovative approaches to alleviate the burden of emerging global challenges on vulnerable populations.

The UNICEF Representative in Uganda Dr. Doreen Mulenga said that “With over 56 per cent of the population below 18 years of age, Uganda’s vision to become a middle-income country by 2040 remains highly contingent on the Government’s ability to safeguard children’s rights.” Adding that Investing in its young population will enable Uganda to reap an unprecedented demographic dividend.



Efforts are underway to build a comprehensive national social protection system, including adoption of the policy implementation roadmap, putting in place the national coordination architecture, and a single registry. Several social protection interventions currently under implementation have demonstrated strong evidence of the positive impact on communities, notably:

It was exemplified that Direct income support interventions currently being implemented in Uganda include the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) now in 47 districts of Uganda reaching 153,700 beneficiaries, the Disaster Risk Financing in Karamoja region of Uganda reaching 33,000 beneficiaries, Labour intensive public works under phase three of the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund 3 in Eastern and Northern Uganda reaching 31,386 beneficiaries and others which include pensions for public servants and the National Social Security Fund for contributory social security.

Given the drive to ensure social protection systems in the region are more shock-responsive, this meeting of the Community of Practice (COP) represents an invaluable tool for learning and knowledge exchange, and will contribute to the adoption of innovative approaches to alleviate the burden of emerging global challenges on vulnerable populations. The meeting was attended by 17 Anglophone countries of the 35 that make up CoP. Countries include Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Ends.

Notable Comments

“The call for social protection programmes is not only based on human rights or moral grounds, but on the belief and fact that social protection is an important instrument for economic growth. It is an investment in human

capital development which is no less important than investments in physical infrastructure,”

Hon Hajat Janat B. Mukwaya, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

“With over 56 per cent of the population below 18 years of age, Uganda’s vision to become a middle-income country by 2040 remains highly contingent on the Government’s ability to safeguard children’s rights. Investing in its young population will enable Uganda to reap an unprecedented demographic dividend”.

Dr. Doreen Mulenga, UNICEF Representative in Uganda.



HOW CoP AFRICA COUNTRIES ARE USING INNOVATION TO MAKE BETER USE OF CASH TRANSFERS

For the past 5 years the community of practice on cash transfers in Africa has ably served as a platform to create and enhance understanding of cash transfer dynamics and operations and generally support the development for social protection initiatives in Africa.

In this regard the Kampala Uganda face to face meeting was a special one where various countries displayed and explained breath taking innovation each filled with passion and hope and telling a story that the future of Social Protection in Africa is bright.

Donkey for School Programme– Eritrea

The most innovative story this time round was from the Ministry of Labour and Human welfare (MoLHW) Eritrea. Since 2009 a programme to promote human opportunity to education for children with disabilities especially girls have been achieving positive results.

The initiative was mainly to address the mobility problems by providing donkeys to strengthen resilience of targeted households.

The country records indicate that 5% of all Eritreans are disabled probably because of the war that has been ravaging the country. This means that about 870 households live with children with Disability and are can now attend school because of the Donkey for School programme. This is aggravated with the challenge of limited water sources that makes it hard for children



especially the girl children to go to school because house hold chores are too many.

In order the solve this crisis the social protection department innovated into the **Donkey for school initiative**. Here each family that has a disabled non-school going child is given Donkey as an incentive to



find a replacement for house help or animal that does work that would have been done by the girl child as well as transport for some disabilities to go to school.

The donkey has indeed revolutionised both work and income for the families and it now used to as an income generating item that can be hired to fetch water. The donkey

foals (young ones) can be sold at 5000 Eritrean Nakfa equivalent of USD333. This is a huge boost to the income security in the family.

Eritrea also provides incentive in for of cash grants to families that that sends girls to school. Before this initiative about 45% of girls did not attend to school compared to only 37% of boys. This initiative has seen 900 girls sent to middle school. All together 15000 children with disabilities access education, the programme has increased class grade performance, assisted children to play more with their peers and improved their psychological wellbeing.

Vertical Expansion of Social Protection in Malawi

From Lilongwe in Malawi, Brighton Ndambo, the Principle Social Welfare Officer from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, and Unicef's Emergency Social Protection Officer Tendai Munemo explained how the country's flagship Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) was vertically expanded, using an interactive game which put participants in beneficiaries' shoes, putting to life data collected at country level. They highlighted how, based on evidence generated from the experience of automatically including

SCTP were included in the humanitarian response in 2016/2017, the decision was made in 2017/2018 to expand the SCTP vertically to provide humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries in the form of emergency top-ups.

Malawi has experienced repeated widespread weather-related shocks, that have undermined the stability of livelihoods and long-term development strategies Humanitarian food response has increased considerably, reaching 6.7 million people in 2016, which was the largest and



longest response in the country's history. Despite facing these shocks, the Government of Malawi has invested, with support from development partners, in building a social protection system that has grown in maturity and impact. The Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP), which targets households defined as ultra-poor and labour-constrained, is one of the main programme of the social protection system. A study conducted by UNICEF in 2015, showed that SCTP beneficiaries, at the community-based humanitarian targeting stage, were largely

excluded from receiving humanitarian food assistance under MVAC. Based on these findings, the Humanitarian Response Committee agreed that the 132,916 ultra-poor households under SCTP in the drought affected districts be automatically included in the drought response caseload for 2016-2017. On an operational level, the automatic inclusion was a success, as 79% of the sampled SCTP households confirmed benefitting from the automatic inclusion. The core problem regarding automatic inclusion, based on feedback collated during Focused Group Discussions, lies in using a different channel (MVAC) than the SCTP programme to provide additional assistance to households on SCTP during the lean season since the communities viewed the SCTP beneficiaries as double dipping (receiving assistance from 2 programmes). This process led to the operational trial of the vertical expansion of the Social Cash Transfer. Using the Bank contracted by the programme to deliver the cash transfers, temporary humanitarian top ups of 13500 MWK or USD18.5 were provided to SCTP families living in Balaka, which was affected by the drought between December 2017 and March 2018.

The introduction of additional tops ups to the regular Social Cash Transfer has certainly supported the poor and vulnerable household to cope during the lean season. The two pay-outs happened at once, and the amounts adapted to reflect the changes in the key commodity prices.

Shemel Project in South Sudan

In the Cop, Sarah Ali, beamed with joy as she explained success registered under the Shemel Social Protection Programme on Cash transfers. Launched in 2016 the 5-year programme that expires in 2020 was created to provide support to disabled children youth in the displaced nomadic homes. The programme mobilises resources to create employment opportunities by providing cash transfers to target groups.

Social Protection Fund in Tanzania

1.1 million households are being receiving cash transfers to escape poverty shocks. This covers both Tanzania and the Zanzibar. The innovation has now been improved from basic cash transfers to include the conditional cash transfers where every targeted family that has



children going to school is given a little more money ranging from TZ sh 1000 – TZSh 5000. This has created value and enthusiasm for targeted vulnerable families to send children to school.

Building Resilience for Nutritional using social cash transfers in the Gambia

The Gambia is relatively new in the Cop, But innovation in SP in not a new phenomenon in the Gambia. The Gambia has introduced a 2-year Pilot programme located in the central river and upper river north bank, targeting a population of 6176 Gambians. They are sensitised, registered, and provided with basic education in nutrition. This include safe hand washing, and exclusive breastfeeding. They are then 7200 Dalasi's (Gambia Currency) a year which makes about USD150. The real innovation is that the infirm get about twice this money to enable them cope much better. The have also innovated to



include a complaints and grievances mechanism managed by the National Association of credit Union in the Gambia.

SWAZILAND- Social Assistance Policy for Social security and Social Welfare.

The Kingdom that was recently renamed Eswatin probably implements one of the largest innovations in Social Protection in Africa. It includes for components i.e the Prenatal where



ALL expectant mothers who cannot afford prenatal hospital bills only fill a form and send to the department Social Welfare and help is despatched. This has greatly reduced prenatal deaths as well as infant mortality in a Kingdom where more three quarters of the population are women.

The second component of social protection targets children where the Kingdom offers bursaries up to university for those who cannot afford school dues. Moses Dlamini the Kingdom director of social welfare says over 700,000 are benefiting from this initiative.

The third component are the disabled who are entitled to a wheel chair whenever they are located and women who are empowered with Gender related challenges.

Lastly the elderly that number up to 86000 people are up to USD30 per month as a cash grant to care for their social economic welfare and investment. All pensioners are excluded from this grant.

Cash Transfers in the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Director for Social Department in Nigeria Kayode Obasa speaks with Optimism about the

USD 500 million world bank fund, the oil the community based social protection programme in Nigeria. In this Igwe state, homes are ranked according to the level of vulnerability, they are registered, vetted and certified to receive cash grants. While 2 people are eligible to register and collect grants very much, 90% of all people entrusted to pick grants are women, because women have been proved to be more trustworthy and careful spenders.

The bigger innovation here that probably also takes place in the republic of Tanzania is the conditional cash transfers.

While all the beneficiaries are entitled to 5000 Naira i.e about USD 16 per month, all families that have girl children attending school are given an additional USD16.

Zimbabwe's theory of change- The Nyanga Process to resolve violence amongst targeted child beneficiaries

When officials in Zimbabwe wanted to improve on the operations and results for cash transfers under the making cash work for children in Zimbabwe's Nyanga province, the Zimbabwe Harmonised Social Cash Transfers (HSCT) programme called cash plus that was providing cash transfers to 43000 labour constrained people and food for the poor to 12 districts and was revised.

The programme that was introduced by the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare in 2012, started by providing payments to over 50,000 households in 19 districts and later rolled out to an additional 4 districts using a criterion of having at least one adolescent girl or young woman 10- 2-year benefit under the DREAMS (Determined Resilient, Empowered, Mentor, AIDS-free Mentored Safe Women) initiative. In 2017 when a review was done in Nyanga Province, a theory of change to guide strategic planning, implementation and monitoring revealed that there were gaps in the intervention that needed to be addressed to be more responsive to shocks and address the issue of violence that had cropped up among children in Zimbabwe. The child headed families lacked protection from parents and this increased

exposure to violence, step parents had neglected the role of taking children to school, single parents had stigmatised children, and children from disabled and elderly families needed emotional support to avoid violence.

There was need to create more awareness at the pay points to address violence, build communities capacity to care for children and providing parenting and family support. The Nyanga Process revised the theory of change that included cash transfers and specific protection interventions signalling transition from a Cash Plus to Protection Plus model of social protection programming. Strategies like house hold economic strengthening, pre disbursement addressees at pay points, interventions with faith based groups, family clubs parenting groups, child protection policies at schools and timely case management and judicial processes were introduced

The Nyanga resolution to shift from Cash Plus to Protection Plus programming, caused responsiveness to targets for cash transfers set for Zimbabwe as the fund adapted more responsive measures to local priorities, needs and strengths.

Uganda the host – explains the Expanding Social Protection Programme Older people’s programme for Cash Transfers.

Expanding Social Protection Programme

From 2010 to 2015, the Government of Uganda, with support from the UK’s Department for International Development UKaid/DFID and Irish Aid piloted the Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme. The ESP I had two objectives; (i) to develop the National Social Protection Policy and, (ii) the pilot the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) under which the Senior Citizens Grant was implemented.

Following the successful completion of the pilot, the Government of Uganda in 2015 took a decision to roll out the Senior Citizens Grants to an additional 40 districts over 5 years; starting with 20 in Financial Year 2015/16, thereafter to five districts every year, until 2019/20. However, owing to intense demand from different corners of the country, the phased roll out was halted, and a new modality that will give the Programme a nation-wide footprint is being discussed.

The National Social Protection Policy for Uganda was approved by Cabinet in November 2015 and launched in March 2016. The Policy provides a wider framework for social protection implementation in the country, beyond the social grants (Senior Citizens Grants).

What we do

The purpose of the Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme is to put in place a



national social protection system in line with the National Social Protection Policy that benefits the poorest as a core element of Uganda’s national policy, planning and budgeting processes. The ESP Programme comprises of two main components.

The Policy Component

Is concerned with developing a national system and a policy framework for social protection for Uganda. Under this, the ESP provides support to:

- Put in place a national social protection system and policy framework with institutions, funding, human resources and policies for implementation of social protection in Uganda
- Strengthen leadership and institutional capacities across various entities (Ministries, Departments and Agencies) in the Government of Uganda to deliver social protection
- Generate evidence on the impacts of social protection-especially Senior Citizens Grants and Vulnerable Family Grants
- Build government commitment and investment in social protection in Uganda
- A National Social Protection Policy has now been developed and launched. The Policy seeks to promote coordination and harmonization of social protection interventions in the country.

As an integral part of the Uganda Vision 2040, the Policy outlines a clear vision and strategic framework for a well-coordinated national social protection system. The Policy strives to streamline and eliminate duplication in the sub sector. Its specific objectives are to: (i) increase access to social security; (ii) enhance care, protection and support for vulnerable people; and (iii) strengthen the institutional framework for social protection service delivery or social protection in the country.



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Direct Income Support Implementation

This component is involved in implementing social grants –at the moment the Senior Citizens Grants. The Senior Citizens Grants deliver UGX 25,000 (approximately US\$8) monthly to senior citizens (people of age 65 years and above, or 60 and above for the Karamoja region) in the 15 pilot districts, or the oldest 100 people per sub county in the 32 new districts. The Programme currently reaches over 154,000 beneficiaries.



Left to right, Dr. Diego Angemi Chief of SP and Advocacy at Unicef Uganda, Dr. Steen Lau Jorgensen the Director SP and Jobs Global Practice at the World Bank Washington DC, Hon. Peace Mutuzo Regis Minister of State for Gender and culture Uganda, Director SP Ministry of Gender labor and Social Development Uganda Dr. James Ebitu, Ms. Winnie Mwasiagi, Chair Community of Practice and Mr. Kamagenge and Member of CoP steering committee from Tanzania at opening of Community of practice on cash Transfers in Uganda