



Regional Cooperation Newsletter – East and South Africa Region

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1. Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Zambia

According to the World Health Organization estimates, about 2 million women and men in Zambia, or 15 per cent of the population, have a disability. A higher percentage of people with disabilities live in rural areas where access to basic services is limited. In 2005, the employment rate of persons with disabilities was 45.5 per cent of the population, compared to an employment rate of 58 per cent among persons without disabilities. A 2000 Population and Housing Census, which collected data on disability, reported that a large percentage of people with disabilities are self-employed workers, while very few are employers. The same Census also says that more than 80 per cent are employed in agriculture, making it by far the most common occupation.

As group, a majority of Zambians with disabilities live in poverty and generally have unproportionally low literacy levels compared to persons without disabilities. Disabled persons often have to resort to street begging as a means of survival.

Governmental support for people with disabilities

The Government of Zambia has adopted a number of laws and policies pertaining to people with disabilities, including their right to productive and decent work and to basic services, workers' compensation, social security, and entrepreneurship development. The main ones are:

- The 1991 Zambian Constitution, amended in 1996, contains one provision on disability relating to just and equitable social benefits and amenities suitable to the needs of disabled people. The country's Constitution is under review.

- The Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVET) Act, 1998, states that the “special needs of people with disabilities will be taken into consideration”.
- The Workers’ Compensation Act (No. 10 of 1999), revises the law relating to the compensation of workers for disabilities suffered or diseases contracted during the course of employment.
- The National Policy on Education, 1996, recognizes the right to education for each individual, regardless of personal circumstances or capacity. The Ministry of Education has overall responsibility for education, including special education.
- The National Employment and Labour Market Policy (NELP), 2005, show the government’s intentions to provide for improved care and support services to vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities.
- The National Youth Policy, 2006, aims at including disabled youth in mainstream programmes and projects targeting youth.
- The National Long-Term Vision 2030 articulates the country’s development agenda for the next twenty-five years. One of the objectives is to make Zambia a middle-income country by 2030 in which all people will be provided with opportunities to improve their well-being.
- The Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) 2011 to 2015 builds on the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) 2006-2010 and aims to attain the full participation, equality and empowerment of persons with disabilities. It seeks to provide enhanced support to disabled persons through increased government spending on disability; develop inclusive mainstream policies; review existing pieces of legislation; and establish and/or strengthen institutions and systems that cater to people with disabilities.
- The Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission Act, 2008, aims at empowering people with disabilities economically through start-up businesses that will employ others.
- The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2012, aims to domesticate and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while repealing the 1996 Persons with Disabilities Act.

The way forward

Productive and decent work enables people with disabilities to realize their aspirations, improve their living conditions and participate more actively in society.

Ensuring a disability perspective in all aspects of policy and labour legislation, effective implementation and enforcement of existing disability laws and policies and providing for equal employment and training opportunities are among the factors that contribute to the reduction of poverty and to the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities in Zambia.

2. Social Protection in Tanzania: Establishing a national system through consolidation, coordination and reform of existing measures

National Context

Tanzania's current rate of GDP growth is standing at approximately 7% per annum, with the country expected to maintain this course. Poverty is on the decline though still pervasive, with 28.2% of mainland Tanzanians being poor and 9.7% extreme poor. The fact that ; a large percentage of the population lives close to the poverty line leaves a significant share of Tanzanians very vulnerable to small variations in income and other shocks.

The existing mandatory Social Security Schemes currently cover about 8.1% of the population, deemed low as compared to most low income countries where it is about 25%. Social assistance coverage is also limited. Overall, over 90% of the population, including almost all informal sector workers, the self-employed and the unemployed, do not have protection in case of vulnerability to life contingencies, livelihood shocks or severe deprivation. In this context, there is need for immediate intervention in terms of policy and legislative instruments as well as stable institutions and governance mechanisms to design and implement extensive social protection coverage for Tanzania's population. Interventions are largely fragmented and an integrated child- and HIV- sensitive system entirely needs to be established. The current planned expansion of TASAFA III/Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) to cover about 6 million extreme poor people and the ongoing work on developing a National Social Protection Framework (NSPF) are important steps towards addressing this. The country has witnessed a steady increase in its public investments in social protection which currently stands at 6.8% of the GDP, or 2.3% excluding health spending.

Policy and institutional framework

The Government of Tanzania (GoT) has implemented a number of measures to enhance the social protection system as part of national priorities to be implemented through the "National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP)" popularly known as MKUKUTA & MKUZA.

The social protection goals of the NSGRP are concerned with the provision of adequate social protection and the rights of the vulnerable, with basic needs services and protection in mainland Tanzania, as well as to improve safety nets and social protection for poor and vulnerable groups in Zanzibar. Below are indicated some key policies and related instruments and institutions that are supporting the achievement of these goals

The agenda ahead:

Tanzania is developing a framework for national coordination and investments in social protection. Examining and drawing up a plan for reforming the existing social protection/safety net measures

including various subsidies is one of the top priorities before the NSPF taskforce. Addressing health, age, adolescence/youth, disability and migration related vulnerabilities is central to this reform and consolidation vision, supported by a series of ongoing analyses.

Finally, it is increasingly clear that achieving the social protection objectives as espoused in the NSGPR would require the integration of social protection within the national and sectoral planning and budgeting exercises.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tanzania/over>

3. South Africa: Social protection for children

Of the 23 million children under the age of 18 in South Africa, about 60 per cent live in poverty. The Child Support Grant, introduced in 1998, initially covered only 10 per cent of poor children. Incremental changes in the eligibility criteria and successful awareness-raising campaigns increased the coverage to 11.7 million poor children in 2015, or 85 per cent of the target group. The grant has been shown to have a positive impact on the recipient children and their families.

Social protection for children in South Africa is delivered through the Child Support Grant, Foster Care Grant, Care Dependency Grant, free education, school feeding and affordable health services. The CSG provides 330 South African Rands (ZAR) (27US Dollars –US\$) per month to poor children up to 18 years of age.

1. Main lessons learned

- South Africa has demonstrated that the extension of social protection to children is feasible and affordable for middle -income countries.
- Social grants for children complement services, such as free education, school feeding and affordable health services, thereby contributing to reduce poverty and vulnerability while ensuring that all children have access to nutrition, education and care.
- It is essential to have political will and commitment of the government particularly, to increase public expenditures on social protection. Today, South Africa redistributes roughly 3.5 per cent of its GDP through social assistance programmes.
- The creation of a specialized management institution, namely the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), made delivery of social grants transparent and independent from political considerations.
- The Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme (ICROP) helps people living in hard-to-reach and remote areas who are often excluded from receiving social protection benefits.

2. How is social protection provided to children in South Africa?

In 1913, the idea of providing income support to households with children was conceptualized by means of the Children's Protection Act, which provided for a State Maintenance Grant (SMG). The SMG was a means-tested grant paid to women who did not receive support from their partner or the child's father or who were in situations such as widowhood or desertion. Although all South Africans were legally eligible to receive the grant, people in the independent states where the black population lived were unable to access it because the states did not administer the benefit.

The grant, therefore, effectively discriminated against the non-white population. Male family members often migrated to urban areas to find employment, leaving behind their families and breaking up traditional households. A main concern regarding the SMG and its focus on the nuclear family was that it did not fit the reality of many South African families. After the end of the apartheid era, a reform of the social protection system was envisioned to meet the needs of multi-or skip-generation households where children were often raised by grandparents after parental migration or death from HIV/AIDS.

In 1998, the Child Support Grant (CSG) replaced the SMG and was designed to reach the child instead of being linked to the child's biological parents.

Please read more.....

http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/Ressource_PDF.action?ressource.ressourceId=54139

4. Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Integration of Gender and Social Issue in Climate Change in Kenya

The project was initiated at the time when Kenya was formulating its Climate Change Response Strategy (CCRS) and needed to ensure gender considerations was felt by stakeholders in the climate change sector. This was motivated by the fact that Impacts and burdens of climate change (drought, floods, and extreme weather events) are not equally distributed among women and men. Evidence shows that women are more affected and overburdened by the climate change impacts because of their roles and responsibilities at the household and community level.

In particular, women are responsible for food production, household water supply and energy. With the changing climate, discharge these responsibilities is getting more and more tough, and women's exposure to risks and hazards is getting intense. It is also worth noting that women's experience and knowledge in adapting to climate change has potential to improve policies, decision making and programming.

The project aimed at ensuring that national climate change policies and programmes benefit women, marginalized groups and the poor but also tap from their knowledge and experience. IEWM focused its activities in this project on strengthening institutional capacity for integration of gender and social issues in climate change, which acted as the lens by which the needs for diverse groups would be identified and addressed. The project also facilitated learning and experience sharing among stakeholders.

Goal and Objectives

The overall project goal is strengthened national climate change policies and programmes in response to the needs and concerns of women and men.

Objectives

1. To establish and raise awareness of the gendered impacts of climate change among decision makers and implementers in order to inform the implementation of the NCCRS.
2. To facilitate Knowledge and information sharing and learning among national actors through an online portal and discussion blogs.
3. To build institutional and individual capacities for gender mainstreaming in climate change in order to create an enabling environment for gender responsiveness.
4. To strengthen the Non-state Actors (NSA) advocacy and lobbying work towards gender sensitive and inclusive programmes and policies

<http://iewm.org/strengthening-institutional-capacity-for-integration-of-gender-and-social-issue-in-climate-change-in-kenya/>

News and Events

- a) [Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development](#) - Royal Dublin Society, Ireland. 4th – 7th July, 2018
- b) The Social Workers Association of Zambia will host the [3rd Africa Regional Joint Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development](#) in Livingstone, Zambia. The event is organized in collaboration with the International Federation of Social Workers Africa (IFSW Africa) and the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA) June 25 – 28, 2017
- c) **The 4th International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development (ICPSD 2017)**

The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM) takes great pleasure in inviting you to the 4th International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development (ICPSD 2017) to be held on the 05th – 06th December, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Conference will witness the participation of Academicians, Researchers, Professionals, Government officials and Policy makers in a single platform addressing a global issue in the pursuit of finding solutions for a better tomorrow.

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