



Regional Cooperation Newsletter – East and South Africa Region

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1. Social protection: A development priority in the post-2015 UN development agenda

80% of the global population has no access to comprehensive social protection. Social protection programmes tackle multiple dimensions of poverty and deprivation (decent work, education, health care, food security, income security) and can therefore be a powerful tool in the battle against poverty and inequality. Social protection can play a fundamental role in creating more inclusive and sustainable development pathways. In the absence of social protection, people, especially the most vulnerable, are subjected to increased risks of sinking below the poverty line or remaining trapped in poverty for generations.

Social protection is an important instrument for the pursuit of at least six of the eight present MDGs by ensuring universal access to key essential services in quality basic and maternal health care, education, nutrition and environmental health. However, the importance of social protection for equitable progress as mapped out by the MDGs has been recognized in full only recently. Indeed, advantage in access to decent work and social security has been an important reason why better-off nations and population groups achieved stronger progress between 1990 and 2005 than did countries and people with weak access to equitable growth and social protection.

The post-2015 UN development agenda requires a new approach to international and national development, taking the multiple interlinked global challenges that exist even more into account. It is therefore of paramount importance that, in view of the multiple roles that social protection can play in social and economic development, the post-2015 UN development agenda will acknowledge the critical role extending adequate social protection plays in furthering key

outcomes, ensuring the inclusion of all groups in development and society as a means to combat inequality, vulnerability and poverty.

The post-2015 debate needs a renewed and comprehensive focus on poverty, inequality, income distribution and social inclusion. Fiscally sustainable social protection schemes based on strong legal and regulatory frameworks should be an integral component of national development strategies to achieve inclusive, equitable sustainable development.

The objective of this document is to underpin this argument, while proposing concrete post-2015 goals related to social protection and associated indicators that allow measuring progress.

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Think%20Pieces/16_social_protection.pdf

2. South Africa's Welfare Success Story II: Poverty-Reducing Social Grants

Despite being a middle-income country, by international standards; South Africa has an extensive and progressively targeted social security system. But is the scheme genuinely contributing to declining levels of poverty and inequality in the country? And what of the concerns that grants and social assistance is an aggravating cause of the structural disequilibrium evident in the South African labor market?

In 1980, the South African government committed itself to removing racial barriers in terms of many of its social benefits programs. By 1993, all individuals in need were more or less receiving the same grant level per beneficiary. This investment in the people of South Africa was well worth it—ensuring a better quality of life than any would have experienced without access to a grant, as well as the assistance given in terms of access to health services and education. South Africa's social grant network has since grown to be among the largest in the developing world and, for this financial year, the scheme's expenditure is projected to reach \$12 billion.

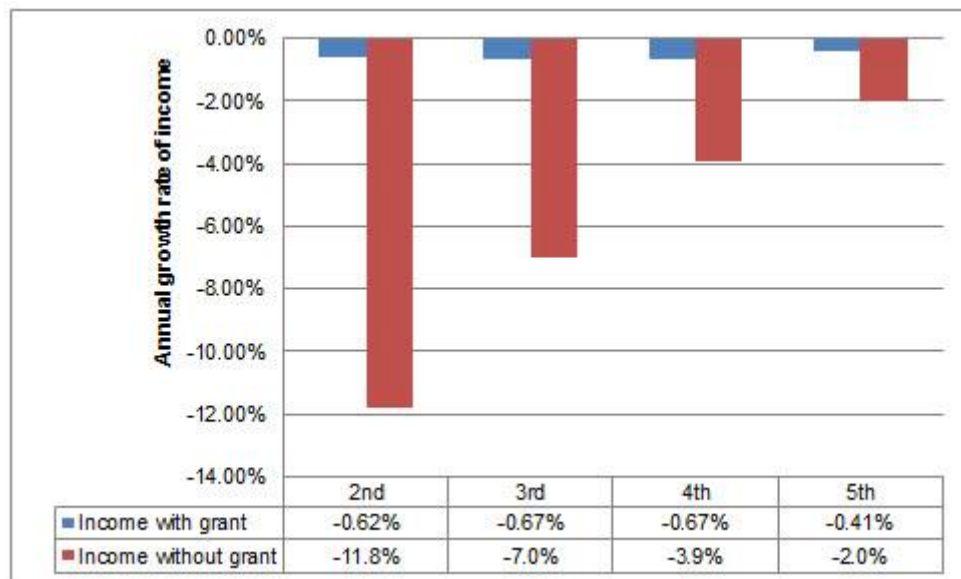
More importantly though, the system of social grants in South Africa is well targeted, ensuring that the elderly, the disabled and those looking after children receive a cash transfer of some form. The number of people receiving grants increased from 2.4 million in 1998 to 16 million in 2011. In terms of the number of grant recipients and the proportion by type of grant, the largest are made up of the child support grants (71 percent), old age grants (18 percent) and disability grants (7 percent). Others include the foster care grant and the care dependency grant. While the public discourse on social grants is often critical and negative, research indicates that social grants have actually had a tremendous and noticeably positive socio-economic impact on poverty and inequality outcomes in South Africa.

Fiscal incidence estimates indicate that 76 percent of government spending on social grants is received by the poorest 40 percent of the population. In addition, the contribution of these transfers increases the share of total household income coming from grants to rise from 4.7 percent to 7.8 percent. Furthermore, the 2005-2010 expansion of the state's social security system to include more grants for the elderly (by 23 percent) and child support (by 44 percent), significantly increased the levels of expenditure of the poor and contributed to declining household income inequality. Specifically, the data shows that if grants were not made available

to South Africa’s poor, income inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient would have been considerably higher at 0.74 instead of 0.69. In Gini terms, this is a huge difference, and, indeed, the inequality-reducing effects of the social grants system cannot be over-stated.

Ultimately, social grants stabilized income levels of the poor in the post-apartheid era in South Africa. Figure 1 below presents a picture of annual household real income growth between 1995 and 2010 for the 2nd to the 5th decile of the income distribution—including and excluding cash transfers in total household income. The figure clearly shows that the inclusion of social grant income kept real household income relatively stable across the distribution. However, had income grants not been available, real household income would have declined for those in the 2nd and 3rd decile by 12 percent and 7 percent per annum, respectively.

Figure 1: The growth of real income with and without grant income by decile, 1995 – 2010



Source: Own calculations using GHS 1995 and GHS 2010 data.

In addition to being well targeted and contributing to declining levels of poverty and inequality in South African society, the social grant scheme is also accepted as one of the most technologically advanced in the world. The use of a biometric system of ATM-driven cash advances to recipients in all parts of South Africa, for example, has drawn international acclaim in terms of its innovation, accessibility and safety.

Micro-econometric evidence further indicates that social grants aid investment expenditure by poor households and aid job search behavior among the unemployed. There is also very little evidence of labor supply disincentive effects arising out of the allocation of a grant [1][2]. Ultimately, the structural disequilibrium in the South African labor market cannot be viewed as arising from the country’s extensive and progressively targeted social assistance scheme. In fact, social assistance may well be just what many in South Africa need, enabling them to actively

pursue a job search, move out of a poverty trap, and take control of and direct their futures, instead of being slaves to the circumstances in which they were born.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2014/01/27-south-africa-welfare-poverty-bhorat>

3. Sustainable Development in Zambia: Experiences and Ways Forward

A look at the mining industry's impacts on Zambia

Zambia is largely a mining country with abundant deposits of copper, cobalt, emeralds, coal, amethyst, gold, lead and zinc. Historically, the industry has been a pillar of Zambia's economy and continues to do so today. It is also the country's largest foreign exchange earner. However, volatility of world market prices in the past led to instability in the sector and, thus, the economy as a whole.

This was exacerbated by pervasive state control and economic policies that placed a high dependency on the mining sector. In fact, despite the rich endowment of natural resources, Zambia ranks lowly on the Human Development Index and is considered one of the poorest highly indebted countries of the world.

While many empirical studies have been conducted on the impact of mining on sustainable development, hardly any extensive research has been carried out on the impact of mining on the local livelihood of the people and the environment and biodiversity. Existing information does not incorporate macroeconomic trends like economic growth, and the impact of mining on the environment and biodiversity in Zambia.

Mining regulation schemes

The liberalization policies brought about by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank under the Washington Consensus led to a large number of developing countries including Zambia, introducing new regulatory regimes that promoted foreign direct investment which has since been growing at a high pace in recent years. The speed of extraction of minerals in resource rich countries has invariably increased at a very high rate, posing serious problems to sustainable development.

After the year 2000, the commodity market recorded an upturn in prices mainly due to increased demand for commodity metals in fast growing economies like China and India. This also coincided with a rise in the mineral production in the country. The volume of copper exports has in recent year's registered sustained growth, increasing from 201,000 metric tons in 2000 to 423,000 metric tons in 2005. Consequently, Zambia's economy has recorded high growth over the last 5 years with GDP growth averaging 4.8% per annum.

By its nature, mining is a highly disruptive activity. It requires large tracts of land, consumes significant quantities of water and leaves a lot of waste materials. The modern mining techniques prefer open pit mining, which destroys vegetation covering and leaves long-term damage to the

physical structure of the land.

One of the most important issues in mining is waste management to minimize the long-term environmental effects. Mining wastes have a profound effect on the surrounding ecosystem. If they are not chemically stable, they can be a permanent source of pollution to the natural water system. This results in alterations in quality, quantity and availability of surface water or ground water. Such changes can affect the spawning grounds of fish and the habitats of bottom-dwelling creatures. Acid drainage may be the most widespread threat to aquatic species. Such effects may lead to extinctions, or may restrict access to species that local communities depend on, such as fish, vegetables, and medicinal plants.

Addressing the problem

To counter the environmental and social impacts of mining, the government should formulate clear policies and regulations for the management of natural resources. The formulation process should ensure that policies reflect the interest of a wide range of actors including communities, civil service, workers' representatives, investors and donors. Standard international practice requires mining projects to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.

The effective participation of stakeholders like indigenous and local communities is a pre-condition for a successful EIA (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2006). Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), is also now widely applied and integrated in national procedures for environmental assessment. SEA is a set of tools that identify and address the environmental consequences and stakeholder concerns in the development of policies, plans and programmes and other high level initiatives. SEA involves structuring public and government debate in the preparation of policies, plans and programmes, assessing environmental consequences and their interrelationship with social and economic aspects and ensuring that the results and discussions are taken into consideration when formulating decisions and implementing them.

Sustainable development research in Zambia

Despite the economic success of the mining industry in the recent past, a majority of Zambians continue to suffer extreme poverty. As of December 2005, about 67% of the population was said to be living on less than US\$1 a day.

The economic reforms experienced in the mining sector led to a loss of 8,000 jobs. It is estimated that the 8,000 individuals supported at least five other family members. Most of these unemployed miners resorted to economic activities like charcoal burning, shift cultivation farming methods and small-scale mining to sustain their livelihoods, leading to further environmental degradation.

The mining community and the surrounding neighbourhoods also depended heavily on the mining companies for the provision of social amenities such as health, education, and sanitation.

As these services were no longer offered by the new mine owners, it became difficult for most of the locals to meet their basic needs (John Kangwa, 2001). This undermines the country's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals by the targeted 2015.

http://archive.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=107&ddlID=207

4. Mauritius to harness blue economy to achieve high income status

The ocean is a valuable asset that Mauritius can harness as the island economy leap-frogs to high income status, according to Mauritius International Trade Minister Arvin Boolell.

Given its enormous potential, the government is going all out to channel the vast scope for economic development represented by the ocean, through its vision to make the blue economy one of the economic pillars of the island.

This initiative has been funded by the Australian government (AusAID) for Community-Based Adaptation projects in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS CBA) and implemented through the UNDP Global Environment Facility Grants Programme (GEF SGP).

The main objective of the project is to empower the women community on alternate income-generating activities, such as seaweed cultivation and the production of value added products, cultivation of vetiver, cassava and other medicinal plants (ayapana and lemongrass) and convert them to the advantages of using compost to help them meet the challenges of climate change and sustain their livelihood.

<http://ionnews.mu/mauritius-harness-blue-economy-achieve-high-income-status/>

5. Social Inclusion Programmes: Experiences and Lessons from the Malawi Farm Input Subsidies Programme by Ephraim W. Chirwa

In his presentation Mr. Chirwa looks at the roles of Input Subsidies and the impact of the same on growth and development. He reflects on the FISP Programme. He notes that Agricultural input subsidies can be successful though they can also be costly failures. He notes that political attractiveness requires strong attention to their effectiveness and efficiency. Finally attention should be paid to efficient targeting, complementary investments and sustainable graduation.

http://unctad.org/meetings/en/Presentation/ciem7_2014_ppt_Chirwa_en.pdf

1. News and Events

a) I Event: International Education and Career Exhibition, IERECE 2016 EXPO

Date: 14-15 April, 2016

Location: Zurich, Switzerland

Venue: Novotel Zurich City-West Hotel www.novotel.com

Deadline for Applications: 25 January, 2016

If you wish to be Exhibitor, Sponsor or Volunteer, please enter the **IERECE 2016** web page and send us the relevant filled application form as soon as possible.

Participation Fee: 2100EUR

Financial Aid for Exhibitors: Due to the Exhibitor`s financial aid request we could offer discount on requested participation fee amount. Deadline for Sponsorship request is **02 November 2015**.

IERECE 2016 EXPO web page - <http://www.ipdinstitute.ch/International-Education-and-Career-Exhibition-2016/>

b) II Event: International Winter Academy/3 Month CAS Program in

Peace building, Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Security and Intercultural Dialogue.

Date of Winter Academy: 15 - 25 February, 2016

Date of 3 Month CAS Program: 15 February - 14 May, 2016)

Location of Winter Academy: Zug, Switzerland

Venue: Eckstein Zentrum www.zentrum-eckstein.ch

Deadline for Applications: 20 November, 2015

Scholarship: IPD offers several type of scholarship support to reduction the participation fee amount for most needed potential participants from all over the world counties. In this matter to request discount on the participation fee amount payment, please write your request briefly via email before or during the application submission period till the **1 October 2015**. Unfortunately IPD scholarship program can't cover all the participation fee amount and international travel expenses.

Winter Academy 2016 web page: <http://www.ipdinstitute.ch/Winter-Academy-3-Month-CAS-Program-2016/desktop/>

c) Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016

27 June 2016 - 30 June 2016: Location: Seoul, South Korea: Main Theme: Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People.

d) Rural Development Conference 2016 : March 13th - 15th 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

e) Call for abstracts for International Community Development Conference in Minnesota, USA, July 2016. The Community Development Society (CDS) and International Association for Community Development (IACD) are hosting a joint Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota in July 2016 with the theme: *Sustaining Community Change—Building Local Capacity to Sustain Community Development Initiatives*. The Call for Abstracts is now open!

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Please distribute this newsletter as widely as possible.

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