

Side event Decade of Action to achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030

Co-hosted by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) and the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)
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Talking points on "The importance of social protection fund the most left behind people?"
African perspective- Doline Busolo

Context

Is social protection so important?

Social protection systems help individuals and families, especially the **poor and vulnerable**, cope with crises and shocks, find jobs, improve productivity, invest in the health and education of their children, and protect the aging population

However a recent scoping by APSP on SP in Africa found that Social insurance coverage is not improving (5-10%). In fact it is declining due to lesser numbers entering the formal employment sectors.

Covid 19: Much as all the countries in Africa have defined categories of the left behind groups based on the socio economic, discrimination, governance geographical and shock/fragile and geographical categories, Covid 19 in itself is a game changer. The countries need to redefine the most left behind group eg Kenya 763,000 lost jobs, the economy has shrunk by 0.3%, what are the implication. Total employment dropped from 18.1 million in 2019 to 17.4 million in 2020.

Given the present scenario governments in Africa will receive less money through taxes, and so expenditure on vital public services, such as healthcare and education will and have already reduced.

There is a decline value of the currency due to inflation

Pensioners are losing their contributions as governments are not paying
The informal sector and have equally affected by the Covid 19 pandemic (The AU, ILO, FAO and APSP are carrying out a survey under the SPIREWORK

programme to see how SP can be rolled out to these sectors)

In Africa there are several pilots not being scaled up

Therefore

In Africa, SP for the left behind category is therefore seen as important for basic survival of the vulnerable groups providing basic needs of food shelter health and therefore seen relevant to caution

-SP is important for improved livelihood, building resilience to and during a shock and against life cycle risks.

It is necessary to assist the most left behind to access basic services that the government has withdrawn because of overstretched budgets and lack of human capital

- It will be necessary to help the most left behind group to own by definition of the most left behind again

-Social protection is an investment

1. It improves the lives of people by enabling access to basic needs (it improves livelihoods)

2. It puts resources in the hands of people who become empowered to make social and economic decisions and therefore improves their dignity eg the ambulance purchased for expectant women in Nigeria

3. It leads to growth of local/community economies, when people are able to hire labour, purchase goods at local shops, order goods from outside of communities(from towns, etc), money is exchanged at the local level

4. It leads to people investing in money, goods and services. People can start banking money engage in merry go rounds and other forms of investment.

Regarding the CSOs

The CS will hold the States accountable to ensuring social protection is seen as a right and investment and particularly ensuring inclusion so no one is left behind.

Support development of policies and legal frameworks

CS play an active role in Africa in the current and post COVID-19 Recovery Plan and ensure that social protection is seen as investment and appropriate allocation are made in national budgets;

Support CS play their role in social accountability and transparency;

Capacity building and raising awareness to strengthen capacity of community especially most disadvantaged like the elderly , disabled, youth, those a high risk of Covid 19 particularly those with underlying health conditions, limited access to water and sanitation and living in overcrowded communities and migrants etc to know their rights under social protection and to know how to claim their rights;

Support Research and advocacy on evidence gathering and how investment in social protection can reduce poverty, build resilience to shock, increase access to affordable food and healthy diet and be a leverage for enhanced livelihood and productivity.- **fast-tracking progress among the furthest behind.**

The Ultimate goal to enhance ownership and sustainability