

Social protection in Africa: A Way Forward



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Nicholas Freeland
*Regional Hunger & Vulnerability
Programme*

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Outline

- ❑ **Donor strategies**
- ❑ **Challenges**
- ❑ **Future pathways**
- ❑ **Principles**

SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA: WHERE NEXT? ¹

SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA: A WAY FORWARD ¹

Donor strategies for establishing social cash transfers in Africa:

(1) Building technical capacities

Strengthen capacity of implementing Ministries

Financing pilot projects

Building the evidence base

Donor strategies for establishing social cash transfers in Africa:

(2) Building political commitment



Lobbying Parliamentarians

**Engaging with
Ministries of Finance**

**Mobilising
civil society**

Challenges

- 1. Externally-driven social protection projects have little domestic traction**
- 2. Government programmes and preferences are given insufficient prominence**
- 3. Standardised imported approaches may be inappropriate**
- 4. Too little attention has been paid to vulnerability**
- 5. Participants are not involved in social protection programming**

FUTURE PATHWAYS

1. Start from government programmes

- ❖ *We propose an in-depth study to examine the political economy of social protection interventions that have been introduced by governments, acting on their own initiative:*
 - ❖ *Why and how were they chosen?*
 - ❖ *What made them succeed?*
 - ❖ *How can donors best support them?*
 - ❖ *Or – should donors leave them alone?*

FUTURE PATHWAYS

2. Work through appropriate institutions

- ❖ *We recommend committing donor resources to establish a pan–African social protection research and policy institute, linked to the AU and/or the African Social Protection Platform.*
- ❖ *At country level, government and donor efforts should be harmonised and coordinated around a nationally–owned vision for social protection.*

FUTURE PATHWAYS

3. Learn lessons from national implementation, not pilots

- ❖ **Financing**: *How should donors and governments co-finance national social transfer programmes, to ensure fiscal sustainability?*
- ❖ **Delivery**: *Disseminate lessons and tools from successful implementation of social transfers at scale to other African countries.*
- ❖ **MDG impacts**: *A comprehensive review is needed of social transfer impacts on MDGs, and growth.*
- ❖ **Dependency**: *What hard evidence exists for social transfers causing “dependency syndrome”?*

FUTURE PATHWAYS

4. Encourage a broader social protection agenda

- ❖ *More research and investment is needed into social insurance mechanisms (weather-indexed insurance, CBHIS, links to financial services).*
- ❖ *To become an effective, predictable safety net, social protection should be demand-led – e.g. from “public works” to “employment guarantee”.*
- ❖ *Recognise two categories of social transfers:
(1) social assistance for “life-cycle risks”;
(2) social insurance for “livelihood risks”.*

FUTURE PATHWAYS

5. New levers of accountability

- ❖ ***More direct engagement and targeted advocacy is needed with key stakeholder groups, to build national support and improve social transfer programming:***
 - ❖ ***Parliamentarians***
 - ❖ ***Ministries of Finance***
 - ❖ ***Civil society (including media)***
 - ❖ ***Beneficiaries themselves.***

Principles (“Ten Tennessus Tenets”)

- 1. Recognise the importance of social protection**
- 2. Support national policy priorities**
- 3. Minimise policy intrusion**
- 4. Rationalise donor support**
- 5. Encompass a diversity of approaches**
- 6. Focus on vulnerability**
- 7. Limit pilot projects**
- 8. Find new levers of support**
- 9. Involve participants**
- 10. Focus on outcomes**

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rhvp
Regional Hunger and
Vulnerability Programme

20 Girton Road, North Park, 3rd Floor, Parktown, 2193, Johannesburg, South Africa
Postnet 307, Private Bag X30500 Houghton, Johannesburg, 2041, South Africa
E-mail: rhvp@rhvp.org Tel: +27 11 642 5211 Fax: +27 11 484 3829 www.wahenga.net

Further information is available from www.wahenga.net or by contacting rhvp@rhvp.org.
Individual staff can be contacted on firstname@rhvp.org

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