



This series of Research Group Fact sheets shows ongoing research projects related to INCLUDE, the Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies

Building the economic case for investments in social protection in Uganda

Many governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have established national social protection policies, partly due to evidence that social protection can contribute to inclusive growth and development. In 2010, the Government of Uganda established the Expanding Social Protection Program (ESP) to ensure that social protection becomes an element of national development planning. Consequently, the ESP instigated Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE), but some stakeholders doubt that non-contributory schemes such as SAGE contribute to development of human capital. This study investigates the potential inclusive growth effects of social transfers by comparing the cost-effectiveness of the SAGE, Early Childhood Development Programme, Public Works Programme and the Food Assets Program in Uganda.

Main question

- What are the potential effects of SAGE and its costs?
- Would alternative social protection programmes be more cost-effective in achieving human capital development and productive asset accumulation compared to SAGE?
- To what extent do SAGE transfers produce local economy effects?
- Do social transfers foster the economic and social mobility of poor households?

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Country focus

- Uganda

Planned activities

- Establish a Technical Review Committee (TRC) in Uganda to share and discuss methodological issues and research results
- Review academic literature and reports on social protection interventions in Uganda
- Application of econometric models for the analysis of SAGE and UPS data and design of the static and dynamic microsimulation models
- University of Makerere researcher to visit Maastricht University
- Develop a dedicated project page on the MGSoG/UNU-Merit website to disseminate project results, resources and materials
- Share knowledge to a wider audience through stakeholder workshops, presentations in academic conferences and during the Knowledge Platform activities
- Develop at least three policy briefs, research papers and final report relevant to the interests of different policy actors