

# Promoting evidence-based policymaking for inclusive development in Africa

Most African countries have shown high economic growth in the last decade, but a large number of people does not benefit from this progress. Unemployment has remained high, social welfare is improving only modestly, and income inequalities within countries have widened. Inclusive development means fighting not only poverty, but also inequality. INCLUDE supports research and brings the results (and existing knowledge on the same topic) to policymakers and practitioners. The aim is to promote evidence-based policymaking for inclusive development in Africa. INCLUDE is one of five knowledge platforms established by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote research for policy.

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## Where?

The research results are presented to policymakers both in Africa and in the Netherlands, in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Focus is on the partner countries of Dutch development cooperation in Africa: Benin, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Mozambique.

## Who?

A number of international research groups have been selected by NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development and INCLUDE. These groups address pressing policy questions on three themes: strategic actors, productive employment and social protection. Read on to find out more about these themes!

The actual Platform consists of professionals from Africa and the Netherlands: policymakers, academics, business people and development practitioners. The Platform members meet twice a year and engage in activities to get more knowledge to policymakers.

## How?

### *By promoting productive employment*

The challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa is not only to create enough jobs for the ever-growing population, but also to create decent jobs: jobs of sufficient quality, that yield sufficient earnings to meet people's basic needs. Creating these jobs does not only depend on national policies, but is also linked to the global trade and financial system.

### *By promoting social protection*

More and more, social protection is seen as a key road to fight inequality and promote participation of the poorest groups. But do these interventions lead to a lasting impact on inclusive development? Are the costs of the interventions justified? INCLUDE supports research to find out.

### *By finding strategic actors*

Ruling political and commercial elites, both at national and international levels, often resist change. INCLUDE supports research that studies how initially 'unwilling' actors can be convinced that inclusive development is the best way forward. INCLUDE also supports research that studies how 'willing' actors who do not yet possess the political influence to promote inclusive development, can be empowered to do so.

## What about the results?

Research results and lessons learnt on 'what works where' are presented to policy makers and policy implementers through:

- Updates on the website, factsheets, the Knowledge Base for Policy, newsletters, social media, policy recommendations and Questions of the Week
- Direct meetings between researchers and policymakers: Platform meetings, seminars and conferences
- Policy-knowledge communities that link the research teams to broader knowledge communities around a specific theme or a country.

To promote evidence-based policymaking for inclusive development in Africa, INCLUDE supports research groups and policy-knowledge communities and collects the evidence base in dossiers.

## Research groups

### Productive employment

- The IT sector in Kenya
- Empowering female Ugandan entrepreneurs
- Productive employment in segmented markets
- Feeder road development
- Dutch multinational businesses in Africa

### Social protection

- Social protection through maternal health programmes
- Maternity fee waiver in Kenya
- Social health protection in Ghana and Kenya
- Weather insurance for Ehtioipian farmers
- Post trauma services for women's empowerment
- Social protection in the Afar region
- Social protection in Uganda

### Strategic actors

- Economic empowerment and sex work
- Agricultural partnerships
- Informal workers' political leverage
- Barriers to Batwa inclusion in Rwanda
- Inclusive business strategies in Africa

## Policy-knowledge communities

- Social protection in Kenya
- Women's entrepreneurship and social protection in Uganda
- Entrepreneurship development in Rwanda
- Employment creation in Kenya
- Employment creation in Nigeria
- Youth employment in Mozambique's extractive industry
- Youth employment in Ghana

## Dossiers

### Inclusive agricultural transformation

One pagers on:

- Agricultural transformation and agribusiness in Africa: how can jobs for women and youth be created?
- Job opportunities for youth in Africa's agricultural transformation
- What works to empower women in Africa's agriculture?
- The importance of social protection for Africa's agricultural transformation
- The role of inclusive value chains in Africa's agricultural transformation
- A policy agenda for inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa

### Youth employment

One pagers on:

- What works to engage the private sector in youth employment?
- Focus areas for private sector engagement in promoting youth employment
- The evidence base on what works to promote youth employment
- Ten focus areas for youth employment policies
- Youth employment in Sub-Saharan Africa

### Women and inclusive development

Reports on:

- Making social protection gender sensitive for inclusive development in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Gender-aware women's entrepreneurship development for inclusive development in Sub-Saharan Africa

One pager on:

- Female entrepreneurship: linking gender equality, employment and development

### Informal sector

One pager on:

- Developing the informal sector for inclusive growth

*And other publications - expected mid-October*

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