

## Final findings

### Social and Health Policies for Inclusive Growth

‘Social and Health Policies for Inclusive Growth’ (SHPIG) is a research project that ran from 2015 to 2018 aimed at developing new strategic knowledge on the effectiveness of cash transfer programmes and social health protection policies in Ghana and Kenya. It investigated whether or not cash transfers and social health protection policies in Ghana and Kenya are complementary. It also looked at how the political-economy and social-cultural context at national and local levels facilitates or hinders social protection reforms, as well as how this impacts on their political sustainability. To answer these two questions, the project looked at the integration of inclusive growth objectives into the design and implementation of social protection interventions in Ghana and Kenya. The study conducted a within-country comparison across time using existing household data, as well as a survey, interviews and focus group discussions at the community and household levels. A political economy perspective combining process-tracing and institutional analysis was used to assess the factors hindering and facilitating policy change at the national and local levels. The following are the final findings, policy messages and knowledge products.

#### Final findings

- The interaction analysis of the Ghanaian Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) cash transfer and the National Health Insurance (NHIS) showed positive and significant separate effects on food consumption, health, land ownership, livestock, and education for the poor and extreme poor. However, joint effects were found to be largely lacking. Some complementarity effects were found for child health (two out of three anthropometric measures), land for the poor, and livestock for the extreme poor.
- Political economy analysis in Kenya showed that the policy areas of social health insurance and cash transfers are characterized by processes of gradual institutional change. While the extension of cash transfers is slow-moving yet incremental, social health insurance reforms follow a pattern of non-cumulative change, including blocked reforms and even reform reversals. Strong conflicting interests between governing institutions and actors, different communication structures and levels of complexity, as well as different historical legacies, contribute to the observed differences.
- In Kenya, the implementation structures of cash transfer programmes at the local level are closely enmeshed in the local political economy and their institutional setting in order to make the programmes work, leading to ambivalent outcomes for the poor.

#### Policy messages

##### The private sector (entrepreneurs, traders, investors etc.)

- Social protection policies represent key investments in poverty reduction and sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Social protection policies also help maintain and support labour productivity and, as such, are a key pillar for long-term growth and investment.
- There is a need to further strengthen social protection mechanisms and expand social protection to the wider population and cover more health and economic risks. The business community at the local and the international level needs to take on part of this responsibility.

## Civil society and practitioners organizations

- Raise public awareness on the scope and impact of social protection measures in order to increase public support.
- Resolve informal institutional weaknesses and invest in pro-poor institutional learning (counter political patronage and clientelism to win political votes, improve horizontal and vertical collaboration, harmonize fragmented policies).
- Stimulate convergence between formal and informal institutions by enhancing selection and entitlement transparency, accountability towards recipients, information about fees and service coverage, and democratic representation of the poor).

## Policy makers

- Both cash transfers and social health protection are important for the poor and most vulnerable. Although the study did not find many complementarities between the different instruments for cash transfers and social health protection, it shows that the interventions in the two countries met overlapping needs for poor households.
- Deliver cash transfers and social health protection programmes the way they are promised. Implementation problems weaken the social impact of social protection programmes and reduce their potential to contribute to inclusive growth. Such problems also reduce the complementary impact of programmes.
- Households do use social protection to enhance their sources of income. However, these investments are mainly made by households that have an existing asset base (i.e. labour force, productive inputs). In order to enhance investment incentives, also for labour or asset constrained households, it is necessary to increase transfers and provide wider complementary services (i.e. skills training, etc.)
- Social policies are not implemented evenly across geographic and political areas. It is key to understand the local political and institutional context in order to address implementation challenges adequately. Local institutions, such as traditional authorities, are conventionally understood as barriers to effective implementation. However, this research has shown that this is not always the case. Adequately trained and integrated (accountability), traditional authorities may also have an important multiplier role in effectively implementing a programme in an institutionally-constrained setting.
- In order to better manage reform dynamics and develop integrated and coordinated social protection systems, it is important to take account of the specific reform dynamics in different sub-social policy sectors and their underlying factors. These dynamics may differ substantially, also impacting on reforms in other sub-policy sectors. Understanding these dynamics may help to manage better expectations, as well as plan and manage for intended reforms differently.

## Knowledge products

- European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes. (2016). *Social and Health Policies for Inclusive Growth (SHPIG) in Kenya and Ghana: preliminary policy messages*. SHPIG Policy Brief, November 2016.  
[https://www.eadi.org/typo3/fileadmin/user\\_upload/SHPIG/SHPIG\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_No\\_1\\_Nov2016.pdf](https://www.eadi.org/typo3/fileadmin/user_upload/SHPIG/SHPIG_Policy_Brief_No_1_Nov2016.pdf)
- Dipple, L. (2017). *Should cash transfers and social health protection go hand in hand? Country focus: Ghana*. SHPIG Policy Brief, 7 July 2017.  
[https://www.eadi.org/typo3/fileadmin/user\\_upload/SHPIG/SHPIG\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_No\\_2\\_July2017.pdf](https://www.eadi.org/typo3/fileadmin/user_upload/SHPIG/SHPIG_Policy_Brief_No_2_July2017.pdf)
- Pouw, N. (2017). *The effects of social protection policies on vulnerable groups*. Video presentation on Governance and societal notions of equality and inequality, Nicky Pouw, University of Amsterdam, 21 December 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpXIK7Sr3f0>
- Rohregger, B., Bender, K., Kinuthia, B., Schüring, E., Ikua, G., & Pouw, N. (2018). *The politics of implementation or why institutional interaction matters: The role of traditional authorities in delivering pro-poor social policies in Kenya*. IZNE Working Paper Series 18/2, May 2018.  
<https://pub.h-brs.de/frontdoor/index/index/docId/3661>
- Pouw, N., Rohregger, B., Schüring, E., Alatinga, K., Kinuthia, B., & Bender, K. (2018). *Social protection in Ghana and Kenya through an inclusive development lens: complex effects and risks*. IZNE Working Paper Series, 18/3, May 2018.  
<https://pub.h-brs.de/frontdoor/index/index/docId/3662>
- Bender, K., Rohregger, B., Kinuthia, B., Ikua, G., Pouw, N., & Schüring, E. (2017). *Understanding multiple trajectories of extending social protection to the poor: an analysis of institutional change in Kenya*. IZNE Working Paper Series 17/6, September 2017.  
<https://pub.h-brs.de/frontdoor/index/index/docId/3370>

## Contact:

Dr Nicky Pouw, research project leader, [N.R.M.Pouw@uva.nl](mailto:N.R.M.Pouw@uva.nl)

## Weblink

<http://includeplatform.net/research-group/breaking-the-vicious-circle-between-poverty-and-ill-health-are-cash-transfers-and-social-health-protection-policies-in-ghana-and-kenya-mutually-complementary/>