

**INCLUDE**

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES



# **SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN AFRICA**

**International Conference**



**CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS REPORT**

21 June 2018

SKYZ Hotel, Naguru Hill, Kampala, Uganda



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
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We are also indebted to the presenters and all delegates from research institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and the media who participated and brought their wealth of expertise, without which the deliberations reported herein would not have been possible.



The Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) is Uganda's leading think tank in economic research and development policy. The Centre was established in 1993 as an autonomous not-for-profit organization limited by guarantee to fill fundamental voids in economic research, policy analysis, and capacity building for effective in-country contributions to Uganda's policy processes. EPRC is now a reputable, credible and independent policy think tank in Uganda, renowned for providing research based evidence and policy analysis to support the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government policies.

## INCLUDE

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

INCLUDE, the Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies, is a not for profit organization that brings together researchers from African countries and the Netherlands who work with the private sector, NGOs and governments to exchange knowledge and ideas on how to achieve better research-policy linkages on inclusive development in Africa. The platform is one of five knowledge platforms initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to contribute to knowledge and effective policies in the Netherlands and Low and Middle Income Countries.



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## ACRONYMS

<b>CFO</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DfID</b>	Department of International Development (UK)
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>EPRC</b>	Economic Policy Research Centre
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Development Product
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>LEAP</b>	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
<b>LEWIE</b>	Local Economy Wide Impact Evaluation
<b>MGSLD</b>	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (Uganda)
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health (Uganda)
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NHIS</b>	National Health Insurance Scheme
<b>NUSAF</b>	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
<b>OVC</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
<b>PAL</b>	People's Action for Learning
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SSA</b>	Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>URBRA</b>	Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

By 2010, the proportion of citizens from developing countries living on less than \$1.25 a day had declined from over 50% to 21%. Despite this reduction, the World Bank's State of the Poor report shows that the number of people living in poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has increased from 205 million in 1981 to 414 million in 2010. An additional concern that arises is inequality. The Africa Economic Outlook 2018 by the African Development Bank shows that income inequality has not narrowed and that Africa is the world's second most unequal continent after Latin America. In response to concerns over poverty and inequality, there have been calls to ensure that economic growth is inclusive, implying that economic growth reduces not only levels of poverty but also levels of inequality.

Social protection is increasingly considered to be one of the promising interventions for promoting inclusive growth and development by enhancing the ability of individuals and households to generate income, cope with risks and shocks, and gain access to services and stabilize livelihoods.

In the 2000s, many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa adopted social protection programmes following the need to address the adverse effects of the structural adjustment policies. These interventions were backed by the African Union endorsement of social protection in its Ouagadougou Declaration (2004) and the Livingstone Declaration (2006). The interventions took various forms, targeted different populations and had divergent implementation and financing modalities. Some countries like Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Rwanda have formulated national social protection frameworks and strategies, while other countries are at different stages of formulating social protection policies and legislation.

While some of these interventions have registered significant initial achievements, social protection programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), are generally poorly funded in national budgets, the coverage of the programmes is still low and primarily driven by development partners, and in some countries less pro-poor, raising doubt as to whether or not the current programmes can have significant impact on alleviating poverty and reducing inequality. More resources and stronger political will is required to scale up and sustain these social protection programmes beyond donor support.

It was against such a background, that the conference on social protection for inclusive growth in Africa was held to create a platform for better understanding of the role that social protection policies play in promoting inclusive growth and development in Africa, including its contribution to achievement of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### 1.2 The Conference

The international conference on "Social Protection for Inclusive Growth in Africa" — was held on June 21, 2018 at the SKYZ Hotel, Naguru Hill, Kampala (see annex 1 Conference Programme). The conference was jointly organized by the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Uganda's leading think tank in economic research





and development policy and the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform, a multi stakeholder knowledge platform on inclusive development established by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It brought together over 80 delegates from Uganda, Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Rwanda, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Belgium, Netherlands and the United States of America (see annex 2 List of Participants). Specifically, the attendees included senior government officials (directors and heads of commissions and other high ranking government employees), diplomatic corps including the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda, H.E. Henk Jan Bakker, Eleásara Antunes from the Mozambique Embassy; representatives from civil society, private sector, think tanks, academia, and the media.

The delegates engaged in rigorous debate about the role social protection policies and interventions play in advancing inclusive growth and development in Africa, as well as, the policy actions needed for the strategic implementation of social protection in Africa.

## 1.3 The Conference Proceedings

### 1.3.1 Purpose, Objectives and Outputs

The conference whose theme was “*social protection and inclusive growth in Africa*” was organized for the purpose of increasing awareness and fostering constructive dialogue between policy makers, civil society, private sector players and researchers on three key aspects of social protection—financing and investment, implementation and coordination of policies, and utilization of research on “what works, in social protection in Africa. The conference sought to provide all stakeholders, specifically policy makers with evidence, experiences and policy recommendations on three specific objectives, namely;

- Increasing awareness of the (cost) effectiveness and complementarity of social protection programmes for inclusive growth and development in SSA. The idea was to promote the utilization of available research work on what works in social protection in SSA by showcasing promising initiatives to invest in, and discussing what lessons from SSA experiences /programmes are relevant for Uganda and other countries in Africa.
- Discussing modalities for the implementation of social protection in Africa through sharing experiences on financing modalities (including opportunities and constraints) and also sharing experiences on coordinated multi-stakeholder interventions including opportunities and constraints.
- Identification of knowledge gaps requiring further investigations in the areas of design, implementation, financing and sustainability of social protection programmes in SSA.

The desired output of the conference was that there be a significant increase in the appreciation of the potential of social protection to contribute towards achieving inclusive growth, poverty alleviation and reduction in inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa. The other expected output was provision of advice to policy makers on how to improve investments in social protection. Indeed, the delegates acknowledged that social protection had already yielded positive results throughout Africa, but the contribution depended on the type of programmes, the target population, sources of finance and the political will. Additionally, the participants also emphasised the need to form alliances that can advocate for social protection as a means of convincing key government actors and policy makers to increase investments.



### 1.3.2 Conference Content, Format and Facilitation

The conference focused on the following themes:

- The relationship between social protection, poverty reduction and inequality
- Financing social protection—challenges and opportunities
- Coordination, policy frameworks and legislation

The first theme was mainly tackled through Keynote speeches presented by renowned professors in the field of social protection, and an interactive quiz session on the myths, facts and figures on the relationship between social protection, poverty reduction and inequality. In addition, there were two parallel panel sessions each focusing on one of the other two thematic areas. The panelists and participants in each of these sessions were tasked to come up with key messages that could be transmitted to policy makers and other actors interested in improving investments, policy frameworks and coordination of social protection programmes in Africa. The panelists were mainly practitioners and government officials. Finally, there was a closing panel session that was devoted to providing an overview of what transpired in each of the parallel sessions as well as the entire conference as a means of searching for a way forward.





## 2. A SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

### 2.1 Opening Remarks

#### 2.1.1 Welcome remarks by Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana, Executive Director, EPRC



Sarah Ssewanyana

In her remarks, Dr. Ssewanyana welcomed the participants and thanked them for honouring the invitation, saying it was a clear demonstration of their appreciation of the critical importance of socio-protection in the region. She also appreciated the renowned social protection experts from outside Africa who accepted to participate in the conference by sharing their experiences in the keynote speeches. She also extended her gratitude to the Include Knowledge Platform for partnering with EPRC to host the conference.

The conference, she stated was very timely, considering that the population affected by poverty and impoverishment remained large in the region and without reliable and predictable resource allocation to social protection. She underscored the fact that the benefits from social protection are high and alluded to the available evidence that has shown that social protection helps reduce poverty and inequality.

Ssewanyana called for the mainstreaming of social protection in government policies and programmes, as well as, integrated planning and budgeting. She urged the governments, particularly the Government of Uganda to put the funds supporting the elderly, youth and women in one basket to avoid interventions that spread thinly and make low impact. She added that there is need for government bodies, departments and agencies to work together to balance priorities that would ensure inclusive growth.

#### 2.1.2 Opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Isa Baud, Chair of the Steering Group, INCLUDE



Isa Baud

In her address, Baud gave a brief background and overview of the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform. She explained that the platform was established in 2012 by the Netherland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote inclusive growth and the use of knowledge at international levels of policy making. INCLUDE also supports the generation of new research and also promotes the synthesis and use of existing knowledge by stimulating engagement between researchers and policy stakeholders involved in inclusive development.

She said the platform consists of researchers from African and Netherlands based knowledge networks, who work with NGOs, private sector and policy stakeholders to exchange knowledge and ideas on how to achieve better research-policy linkages on inclusive development in Africa. Baud expounded that this aim was being realised through three core activities, which included; research, knowledge sharing and policy dialogue.



Baud also highlighted the *African Policy Dialogue*, as one of the forums, that is supported by INCLUDE to encourage the use of existing knowledge in policy making in African countries, and through which the INCLUDE Platform organizes knowledge sharing activities, policy dialogues and short-term policy studies at the national level. It was within this framework, that the “International Conference on Social Protection for Inclusive Growth in Africa”, was organised in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Centre.

The conference, she stated, was designed to create a platform for sharing the findings of the INCLUDE & NWO-WOTRO research projects for increased uptake and better understanding of the role that social protection policies and programmes can play in promoting inclusive growth and development in Africa. She said that the conference provided a more pan African perspective as experts from Kenya, Ghana, Mozambique, Ethiopia and South Africa were invited to make presentations.

Baud explained that inclusive development ensures that vulnerable people also benefit from the development programs but, “whereas most African countries celebrated high economic growth in the past decade, a large number of people remained excluded from these development programmes,” Baud emphasized. She further clarified that on average, Africa spends about 1% of GDP on social protection, covering a range of schemes, however it is not clear which interventions are more effective, and at what cost.

Drawing from the Netherland’s experience, she re-called how the Dutch government was reluctant to include social protection as a core theme in its agenda, because the government defined it as a social norm that was not productive. This argument, she explained led to debates to redefine social protection with emphasis on the contribution of social protection to development. Also included for consideration was the research question on the cost-effectiveness of social protection interventions as well as political economy of the way social protection is implemented. This perspective also emphasized the importance of providing the poor and vulnerable with long term social protection for the future, and the need to realign social protection with the recently launched foreign trade and aid policy of the Dutch government.

Looking at the situation in Africa, Baud said that since 2012, social protection has gained more attention in the region. A recent review by the Issue Based Coalition for Social Protection (IBC) shows that there are 127 social protection programmes in 37 African countries. Seventeen of the programmes are unconditional cash transfers. Citing the 2008 World Bank State of Social Protection Report, Baud said that it shows that Africa has highest net spending on social protection after Europe and Central Asia that rate at 1.5 % of GDP. Comparatively, South Asia spends less than 1%, while Central Asia spends less than 2%. In SSA Africa, expenditure was predominantly on pension and cash transfer at 20% against that for Europe at 15%.

She emphasised the need to broaden the range of schemes covered by social protection in Africa, however, the challenge is to determine which schemes are more effective and how to redistribute resources to them. The other concern was how to link formal programs to the informal social protection programmes that already exist in Africa today. She also raised other challenging questions that ought to be considered. These are: Does social protection reduce poverty and inequality? How should policymakers identify and establish social protection priorities and at what cost? How can such programmes work for Africa to ensure effective development, particularly at the household level?



### 2.1.3. Remarks by H.E. Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador, Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala



Henk Jan Bakker

The Netherlands Ambassador to Uganda H.E. Henk Jan Bakker, officiated the opening ceremony. In his remarks, he briefly defined social protection as a method of wealth redistribution with the aim of leaving no one behind. He further explained that social protection is aimed at preventing and managing situations that grossly affect human life. Henk noted that the scope of social protection includes addressing issues of labour markets, market efficiency, and social insurance to mitigate the risks associated with employment, health, disability, work related injury and old age. It also includes social assistance advanced to households or individuals both in kind or cash.

Ambassador Henk alluded to evidence that shows that societies that are more equal have better social indicators, like in health and education, citing the Netherlands that championed social protection and social equality reforms in the 1960s, after squandering her oil revenues, the so-called “Dutch Disease”. He said the Netherlands government encourages people to work hard, so that no one is left behind and that wealth is shared equally-making sure that those who have the ability, get a chance to move up in society.

He noted that social indicators, such as violence, illiteracy, mental health, are not a reflection of the wealth of society, rather a reflection of how equal a society is. Henk said that Uganda had a wide inequality index scoring of 41% and a lot of Uganda’s richest were poor when compared with other countries, although the most unequal country was South Africa at 63% and the most equal country in Africa was Algeria at 28%. He attributed the low impact of Uganda’s social protection programmes to the high population growth rate of 3.1 % annually and corruption.

Ambassador Henk advised that for Uganda to effectively carry out social protection she needs to widen and deepen her revenues, manage population growth and combat corruption. The primary issue for Uganda is that, in order for wealth to be redistributed, there must be political willingness for redistribution and wealth to re- distribute.

He noted that Uganda’s political economy suggested that this is unlikely, considering that Uganda’s tax-to-GDP ratio is low, at 14 percent. He said this was largely because there are far too many concessions allowing many people who do not pay or pay very little in taxes, and as a result a narrow tax base.

He emphasised that the Government of Uganda needs to broaden and increase its tax revenues if it must attain social protection and bridge inequality gaps. He reasoned, that even by just implementing the current narrow tax regime, Uganda could expand her tax-to-GDP ratio by two percent, if corruption is addressed, and have additional revenues that could be used to boost the social protection sector, without having to peg its hopes on oil production to raise funds.

#### 2.1.4. Opening Address by Mr. James Ebitu, Director of Social Development, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development



Mr. James Ebitu represented the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Janet Mukwaya, who was unable to attend the conference.

He remarked that social protection is an effective strategy for reducing poverty and inequality. It is a human right and protecting human rights is an obligation of the state. He noted however that social protection progress in Sub-Saharan Africa has been slow, with most countries performing below 2% of GDP investment in social protection. He explained the reason for slow progress as, informal community support being adequate in earlier years to constitute social protection. However, he noted that in Uganda social structures are changing and this requires more formal social protection policies to be established and implemented.

He also noted that social protection policies are often considered to be expensive and as contributing little to the economy but he pointed out that this is where this conference was particularly useful, as it discussed the business case for social protection and how social protection policies can be cost-effective.

He also pointed out that it is not possible to talk about economic growth without talking about social protection and said that he is an advocate for social protection, not only based on human rights and moral concerns but also because it is crucial for economic growth in both the short and long-term.

In Uganda, he said, the ministry initiated the first year of its social protection policy in 2015, largely as a result of donors' agitation and support, following a comprehensive review by actors such as the World Bank, DfID, and ILO, among others. However, since 2010 the government had been implementing a Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), first as a pilot in 15 districts, and now in 47 out of the 122 districts in the country.

Ebitu said the grant was largely funded by donors until 2016 when the donor contribution reduced and government increasingly funded the gap created. Nonetheless, the programme is facing challenges due to focus on infrastructure development, disjointedness of interventions by stakeholders, challenges of corruption, narrow tax base, and high population growth, among others. He was however, optimistic about government's increased funding and concluded by saying that he looked forward to continuous improvement in the performance of social protection in Uganda.

## 2.2 Interactive Session

During the conference, an interactive session on 'The Business Case for Social Protection: Who knows most about social protection?' was facilitated by Frank van Kesteren, Knowledge Manager, INCLUDE Secretariat and Sara Ruto, Coordinator of the People's Action for Learning (PAL) network, to test the participants knowledge on INCLUDE's research on social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa through a quiz.



This session aimed to dispel many myths surrounding social protection by using recent data (facts and figures) on social protection, redistribution of wealth and promotion of inclusive growth. The overall intention was to manifest the relationship between social protection, poverty reduction and inequality.

Each participant answered all the 15 questions basing on objective answers provided. The session's proceedings are presented in (Annex 3- Quiz on Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa).

## 2.3 Keynote Presentations

### 2.3.1. Social protection to reduce poverty and inequality: Policies by Stephen Kidd, Senior Social Policy Specialist, Development Pathways



Kidd set the scene for the day's discussion by presenting to the participants the different paradigms in approach to social protection that have been used to yield positive results to poor households in Africa. These included the citizen paradigm and the charity paradigm as described below:

**Citizenship paradigms:** This, he said, recognizes social protection as a right for all citizens, with all programmes being inclusive but he observed that such programmes are very expensive and require higher tax compliance. Policies that stem from a citizenship paradigm aim to tackle inequality. The model has been adopted by many developed countries.

**Charity paradigm:** This model he explained, is meant to offer relief or social assistance to the poorest of the poor. The model has been adopted by many under-developed countries considering that they have a small tax base and thus low taxes. The policies that stem from a charity paradigm aim to tackle poverty (but do so ineffectively), since they target only a small cluster of the poor for example through child benefits, disability benefit, survivors' benefit or old age pension. However, most of the social assistance programs that directly target the poorest of the poor offer inadequate benefits and, in general, experience some leakages to people who are not living in poverty.

He told participants that when a program is being developed with a target on specific population, it is important that the expected result is clearly defined. For example, it is important to distinguish between the objective of targeting the poor and reaching the poor so that the program does not only benefit a small cluster among the poor but reaches out to all those living in poverty.

He noted that targeted social protection (which stems from a charity paradigm) entails a 'missing middle', i.e. where those who are not considered the poorest do not receive any assistance, despite still requiring it. The 'missing middle' represents a big number of vulnerable people who do not qualify as extremely poor and employed in the informal sector. They do not have access to social assistance programs such as cash transfers directed at the extreme poor, and are also not benefiting from any social security system—including pension funds—that are so far limited to workers who are in public service or at least formally employed in



the private sector. This situation he said, creates large gaps in social protection coverage for those working in the informal sector and among the transient poor.

He noted that it is important to consider implications of social protection policy and hidden costs of targeted programmes, on the ‘missing middle’ For instance, public works programmes may increase labour participation of women, but in turn increase child labour. He also highlighted how a programme developed in the Philippines which targeted 22% of the impoverished people, resulted in an increase in stunting due to malnutrition and this was attributed to the recipients’ buying more high protein food after receiving their money.

However, he said that in the African context, donors may be holding back development by using models of social protection used in the 1970s that are not suited to the 21st century, but most importantly he underscored that Africa’s challenges stem from accountability. For instance, in government-funded schemes, governments are accountable to the citizens while in the donor-funded schemes the governments are accountable to the donors. So, if a scheme includes only the ‘poor,’ the beneficiaries are weak politically however, if the beneficiaries include a broader group, they become more powerful.

Kidd noted that higher levels of investment lead to higher quality schemes and a broader alliance across the recipients. He said that the choice however lies with governments in respect to what kind of social protection their citizens deserve and they should be ready to meet the cost.

He concluded by urging countries to design social protection systems that are inclusive and incorporate the ‘missing middle’. He stressed that universal programmes do not only lead to smaller inclusion and exclusion errors, but reach a larger correctly selected population as well. In addition, they deliver the popularity that is necessary to persuade governments to invest more in social protection.

### 2.3.2. Social protection to reduce multi-dimensional poverty and inequality: Outcomes by Michael Samson, Director of Research, Economic Policy Research Institute, South Africa.



Michael Samson

Samson said that social protection is the fastest growing policy sector in the world and it has a lot of advantages that include economic growth and development. The main message of his presentation was that integrating social protection with other social and economic policies will deliver the greatest impact.

*“It is important to integrate social protection with other sectoral interventions and it is growing all over the world in the past decades. This is because there is compelling evidence to show that social protection helps achieve 14 of the 17 SDGs.” – Michael Samson*

In South Africa the implementation of social programmes on destitution reduced poverty by 2/3. This is because social protection enables households to invest in their children and to mitigate social risks, in turn empowering them to generate social economic returns.





He noted that in Ethiopia, social protection is used to rebuild cultural infrastructure and in South Africa, it is used for building social service delivery. Generally, social protection investments boost world labor markets and increase the demand for employment.

He further noted that where cash vouchers were given households improved the livelihoods and education of their children. Cash transfers impacted on the labor market in two ways. There was a reduction in child labor and increased employment opportunities.

*“Farmers were more likely to stay in business as long as there is support for their children.”* he said.

He highlighted how social protection can contribute to significant economic growth and development, citing the case of Mauritius, which 50 years ago had poverty levels similar to any African country but today has the lowest poverty rates on the continent and some of the highest growth rates over the past several decades, because social protection enabled a restructuring of the economy into an export-led high growth path.

A survey conducted in selected districts and households in 2013, in Uganda, concerning social pension’s showed that the disbursement of pensions led to increased school attendance for children. On the other hand, households obtained liquidity and were able to invest in their own livelihoods.

*“Being a young nation in the world, Uganda should invest in social pensions because the nation is growing and so is the number of older people,”* – Michael Samson

Recent research published in the British Medical Journal showed that investment in early childhood and pregnant women enabled children to develop better cognitive capital and become better suited for the labor market. Today the source of wealth of a nation is cognitive capital.

Therefore, investment in early childhood development is likely to be the most productive pathway to long-term economic prosperity.

Samson advised that social protection works best when integrated in a framework of social economic policy, such as in the National Development Plan (NDP) of Uganda. Social protection helps governments prevent social risks, however it has to be properly designed, implemented and integrated with other sectors and can spur equitable economic growth, he said.

In conclusion, Samson said that social protection’s main impacts are to effectively reduce poverty and vulnerability. However, it also generates a wide range of developmental impacts in terms of human capital development and social risk management. These impacts promote inclusive social development and equitable economic growth. An integrated response can multiply these impacts, particularly when social protection is delivered universally.

### 2.3.3. Q and A following from the keynote presentations.

The session attracted diverse and wide sets of questions from the participants, who reflected on why was the potential of social protection not fully recognized, yet there was extensive evidence that showed the social protection had the potential to contribute to inclusive growth, poverty alleviation, and reduction in inequality. The participants held the view that there was need to explore how best policy makers can improve on investments in social protection. Among the questions raised was how do we fine-tune the existing interventions? How do we select the best interventions in scenarios where there is a shortage of funding? How do we ensure the effectiveness and accountability of programmes that are implemented in various sectors? What role do the international organizations play in framing the social protection issues so that they are palatable for the targeted people? And finally what else can be added to the cash voucher programmes to increase their impact?

The Keynote speakers responded by clarifying that integrated or universal social protection interventions yield more positive outcomes, however for these outcomes to be realised, there is need for governments to increase tax revenues for investment in social protection. Kidd illustrated this point citing Uganda. He said, “Imagine if Uganda was spending 3% of GDP on distributing cash vouchers, there would be a lot more spending and that would have a trickle-down effect to all sectors of the economy giving it a boost”. He further explained that improvements in wellbeing can result in higher expenses, which in turn can increase indirect tax revenues such as VAT. He also emphasised, that for social protection interventions to be effective, they should also include a larger percentage of the population, especially the middle class, and not just a small cluster of the population. Kidd opined that policy makers are more likely to support such universal programmes, because they benefit more people within society, and governments can win votes by introducing them.

On the role of international organizations, Samson explained that the civil society is so powerful and government listens to them. Therefore it is important for the civil society to form strong alliances through which they can conduct regular advocacy and consistent lobbying for social protection programmes. “Through such alliances we can get governments to consider adopting social security programs, and even increase funding to the already existing programmes,” he emphasised.

Samson also re-echoed the need to move away from small ‘targeted schemes’ that give poor and marginalized people some income, but do not tackle inequality, promote inclusiveness, reduce vulnerability, and end abject poverty. He argued, that all the simple solutions have been utilised, but the challenges remain because they are complex and multi-faceted and therefore require more complex and comprehensive responses. He suggested that efficient social protection systems will be achieved through improvements in reducing leakages in program delivery given the already limited financing resources available to social protection; this can be done through improved targeting and payment delivery mechanisms. Finally, he said, the adopted systems should be equitable to provide social protection for all, encompassing the groups that are not yet covered by any social protection program (the ‘missing middle’) and include informal sector workers and older people.



## 2.4 Key Policy Presentation And Parallel Sessions

### 2.4.1. Introduction to key policy questions by Prof. Paschal B. Mihyo, Senior Visiting Research Fellow, REPOA Tanzania.



Paschal B. Mihyo

Prof. Mihyo set the tone for the parallel sessions in the afternoon and ensuing discussions by presenting an overview on the type of social protection interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa, their effectiveness, financing modalities and trends in financing, including the roles of different actors like the private sector. The presentation also focused on the political will for social protection including coordination and the role of policy frameworks and legislation. In addition, Mihyo gave the participants a series of points on the growth and coverage of social protection in Africa on which to deliberate during the parallel sessions.

In relation to financing of social protection, he said that overall spending on social protection in Africa is low by international standards, and the expenditures are lower than those of any other region in the world. The regional average for Africa, he said, is approximately 2.8% of GDP, but with a wide range of variations in different countries. For instance, Seychelles and South Africa have highs of 12% and 8%, respectively. On the other hand the low funding countries with an average of 0.5% of GDP include Chad, Sudan, Guinea, Niger, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Prof. Mihyo, described this low level of spending as an indicator of limited coverage social protection programmes in Africa, a fact that is documented in the World Bank's Social Protection Atlas that indicated that only 20% of Africans benefit from social protection. However, he said the trend was changing, with improvements in economic growth, more African countries were experiencing an increase in social protection financing, through their own domestic budgets. He cited South Africa, and Rwanda's universal health programme that was being supported through domestic financing. In addition, he mentioned Kenya and Uganda as countries that were making progress in domestic financing. He however, noted that most social protection programmes in SSA are largely donor dependent which makes the programmes unsustainable.

Prof. Mihyo was concerned that countries that are endowed with natural resources like oil and gold do not necessarily have a good record when it comes to financing social protection, yet natural resource revenues can promote higher social protection spending, if the political will is there. He cited the case of Zambia's Mining Tax Revenue and Bolivia's Hydro-carbon revenue. He argued that there are many more taxes which can be pegged to social protection. He invited participants to explore formalizing the informal sector through introduction of contributory programmes for social protection, citing that such innovations have worked in many countries like Lesotho, DRC and Kenya.

As regards policies and legislation, Prof. Mihyo observed that many countries have anchored their social protection policies in their Constitutions. In addition, he said social protection policies are also being viewed as an extension of anti-poverty policies. He said national governments are supporting social protection policies through macro-economic policies, public expenditure and tax policies. He also noted that on the flip



side, effective social protection policies can also help to achieve macroeconomic goals, by increasing the incomes and the purchasing power of the population, which in turn increase revenue for the state.

He underscored the importance of strengthening the legal framework, for example labor standards, employee benefits, financial regulations and price regulations which are often sidelined or not effectively implemented. He called for a critical examination of the international regulations to establish how much the SSA governments have implemented or domesticated them. Pointing out that the Yaoundé Declaration on Social Protection – may not have been implemented fully. He also called for enforcement of existing policies and regulations, especially those that cushion particularly social assistance programmes. He cited, the case of Zanzibar where it took two years later to implement the social protection policy, particularly the pension scheme for the elderly aged 70 years and above. He emphasised that it is not the level of the resources or growth of GDP, which enables a country to introduce social protection programmes, but it is a question of whether the poor are part of national priority and how political and national policies address issues related to the vulnerable and elderly.

In relation to coordination, Mihyo noted that there is no clear ownership and management of social protection programmes as they are scattered across different government departments and are implemented at different levels of government, and as a result each government entity ends up doing its own thing, oblivious of what the other arms of government are doing. He pointed out that this reduces the efficacy and efficiency of managing the social protection programmes. He therefore, urged for improved management and coordination of social protection programmes at all levels by adopting a variety of methods, including the establishment of single registries, social protection units and coordination bodies. In addition, he reiterated the need for sound governance structures, legal and institutional frameworks that allow for sound investment, auditing and risk management. For example, Kenya has a social protection council, which has a secretariat that coordinates the social protection programmes in the country.

#### 2.4.2. Parallel Session I on Financing Social Protection: Challenges and Opportunities.



Witness Simbanegavi

**Mr. Witness Simbanegavi, Knowledge Manager, INCLUDE Secretariat**, moderated the session. The session aimed at encouraging participants and panelists to share country specific experiences and modalities used to finance social protection. The intention was to obtain information on the potential alternative sources of funding, deliberate on how to increase domestic resources for social protection and identify which areas of financing require more research evidence for effective decision making at policy and implementation levels.



Samuel Waterberg

**Mr. Sam Waterberg Bediako, CEO of People’s Pension Trust Ltd, Ghana**— one of the panelists shared Ghana’s experience of initiating and managing a two-tier pension scheme that is public and private. He informed the participants that before 2010, there was only one state owned pension company in Ghana which focused only on the formal workers. However, following the demand from workers within the informal sector for inclusion, coupled with the fast growing population, increased life expectancy and rural urban migration that led the elderly people to be left alone in the villages, a commission was set up to prepare a report on how to restructure the pension scheme in Ghana.

The commission came up with a two-tier system— comprising state-owned and privately-owned pension schemes, that was adopted by the government. He explained that the private sector was invited to manage the pension scheme for the informal sector, which is funded through contributors and the private scheme which is voluntary and managed by trustees. He explained that under the voluntary pension scheme people can save daily or weekly, or whenever they have money. Thus far, he said, the scheme had been a success. He however, cautioned, that it takes between 5-10 years for a private social security company to break even because of the voluntary nature of membership. He said it was a challenge to ensure funding in the period prior to breaking even, and therefore, NGOs and donors had to come in to give financial support.

In addition, he raised building trust as another big challenge, because people wanted to be sure that private individuals had the capacity to manage their funds, considering the past experiences where governments had embezzled and mismanaged the pension funds. He further explained, that state-owned pensions had been in place in Ghana for more than 50 years but had raised only \$2.5 billion, while the private pension that had been around for only five years had been able to raise \$3 billion, because of the trust established.

**Mr. Benson K. Kimani, Director Economic Planning, Economic Development Coordination Directorate, State Department for Economic Planning, The National Treasury and Ministry of Planning, Kenya**



Benson K Kimani

explained that his office supports the country’s long term planning for example, the National Development Plan (NDP) is a five- year programme, but it incorporates medium term plans for socio and economic pillars. Kimani said that the plans are targeted at meeting Kenyan’s visions of attaining a middle-income status.

In terms of social protection programming, he said that Kenya specifically supports Free Primary Education and Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVC) interventions. He however, reported that in the medium term, Kenya plans to launch the D4 agenda, which will support manufacturing, agriculture and nutrition, universal health care targeting every Kenyan to have insurance cover. Another intervention that is already in place is ‘Linda Mama’ —where every pregnant woman is entitled to free maternal health care. He said that the government also does monitoring and evaluation to see how funds are being spent.



**Ms. Margaret Kakande, Head Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda;**



Margaret Mary Kakande

enumerated and explained the different types of social protection schemes that exist in the country. Top on the list was the public service pension scheme, which covers workers in the formal sector only. The second was the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) which targets firms that employed five people and more and gives lump sum to beneficiaries upon retirement. She however, pointed out that NSSF, had the potential to finance social protection interventions in the country, if all employer bodies and institutions get on board. Kakande also said that government offers other kinds of support to youth through the youth venture Capital Fund and the Youth Livelihood Programmes.

The fourth programme that the government is implementing is the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) programme that initially provided two types of direct income support grants to the senior citizens and the vulnerable families, but after the pilot phase the grant to the vulnerable households that lacked labour capacity was stopped.

To-date, it is only the Senior Citizens Grant that is being supported. She explained that the Senior Citizens Grant only provides monthly cash transfers to senior citizens aged 65 years and above, except for the more vulnerable Karamoja region where the age was reduced to 60 years.

However, she noted that SAGE is donor funded, and as funding reduces, the sustainability of the programme comes into question. In addition, there are competing demands and government often gets into budget cuts.

She also noted that the country faces a big challenge of minimum wage because there is no legislation to enforce it. As a result, she said many people are exploited. Finally, Kakande observed that there is also a challenge of balancing short-term and long-term budgets for infrastructure and social security.

**Ms. Mary Koki Kimanzi, Makueni County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Socio-economic Planning, Kenya**

—Kimanzi explained that Kenya functions under a devolved system of government with two levels of government, the national and the county government. The county government plays an oversight



Mary Koki Kimanzi

role, and is also responsible for budgeting and approval of projects to be carried out at the county level.

She said that in 2015, her county came up with a vision to have pro-people development in the region. The vision was anchored on the Sustainable Development Goals and other national policies. She further said, that the vision was anchored on three pillars— economic, which seeks to improve incomes of the people, social amenities and services which ensures inclusivity of the entire society; and the political pillar which is intended to ensure that all development is people centered.

The programmes implemented under this vision include: health, water,



education and trade development. She expounded that a budget of KSh 7million had been allocated for these interventions in the past two years. She said the county had registered positive developments through these efforts. For example many people could now access health care services and immunization had increased by 20%. To ensure sustainability, households pay KSh 500 to access the health care, she added.

There is also a bursary and a scholarship for needy students. It has already benefitted 35,000 students. There is also financial access programme code-named in the local language Tereka (meaning get help). She said that this is a preferred model to giving people cash handouts. She said that the programme has reached 1,700 groups and 100 individuals.

Under agriculture subsidies, Koki said the county carried artificial insemination to help improve quality of livestock. Besides that, seeds and fertilizers were provided to farmers. Farmers are now being encouraged to have seed banks for future use.

For assistance to the elderly, people with disability and the vulnerable children, the county provided them with items like tents, chairs, plates that they hire out. It is also a practice that whenever the county has functions, it hires from these groups. The groups have also been trained with skills to earn a living. Further, the youth groups have been supported with capital in form of motorcycles that they use for commercial purposes.

To cater for other eventualities, Koki said the county has an emergency account that is used for example, in cases of drought, the funds are used to buy food that is supplied to the affected population .She added, that the county has dedicated 5% of its budget to social support.

#### Discussions and recommendations following the panel session

The discussions focused on what can be done to improve the efficiency of existing social protection programmes and how to strengthen the institutional structures of accountability, as well as monitoring and evaluation of expenditure both at the national and local government levels. At the end of the session the group agreed on the following summary recommendations.

#### Panel Recommendations

- Enlighten key ministries for example, the Ministries of Finance that allocate resources at government level.
- Involve the private sector in social protection, especially where there is space for expansion.
- Introduce new taxes to expand revenue bases, which can eventually support social protection schemes and programmes.
- Improve tax administration to enable more effective tax collection.
- Allocate some percentage from the revenues from minerals and other natural resources to fund social protection.



### 2.4.3. Parallel Session II on Coordination, Policy Frameworks, and Legislation



Abubakar M. Moki

**Dr. Abubakar M. Moki, Commissioner Policy Development and Capacity Building, Office of the President-Cabinet Secretariat, Uganda**, moderated the session. The session aimed at stimulating participants to deliberate on what strategies are employed to overcome the fragmentation and the poor coordination of social protection programmes, and how to enhance the coordination of social protection programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa. The panelists were also expected to share their experiences in developing policies, regulatory frameworks and building partnerships between different agencies involved in implementation of social protection programmes in their respective countries.



Lydia Nabiryo

**Ms. Lydia Nabiryo, Senior Program Officer – Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development, Uganda**— Nabiryo briefly spoke about Uganda’s social protection policy. She said that the policy looks at both public and private interventions and it is built along two pillars:

*Social security:* Consists of social insurance that is contributory, direct income support and programs like Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF).

*Social care and support services:* This is centrally coordinated by the MGLSD as the lead while other ministries are implementing some interventions.

For example, MoH handles health insurance, Ministry of Public service handles the public service pension scheme and Ministry of Finance handles retirement benefits, through the Uganda Retirement Benefits Authority (URBA) and civil society organizations.

Nabiryo explained that, at higher levels, there is a technical team comprising of a Permanent Secretary, CEOs of government departments and executive directors of CSOs. At the lower level, there is a social protection thematic committee composed of technical officers, ministries, and agencies of government implementing social protection as well as representation of CSOs working in the areas of social protection.



Richard N. Rori

Finally, she said that four other committees exist, each handling different aspects namely: direct income support, social insurance, health insurance and social care and support services.

**Mr. Richard N. Rori— Social Protection Policy and Research Analyst, State Department of Social Protection-NSSF, Kenya**— pointed out that there is no proper coordination of social protection programmes and many institutions operating in silence with no proper information concerning what is going on elsewhere. This has resulted in duplication of efforts and cases where some families benefit from multiple transfers, while other families with





the same predicament receive nothing, adding that this is all because of poor coordination.

Another issue of concern, highlighted by Rori, related to the contributions made by members of the different schemes. He explained that the contributions made by members in the various schemes is not the same and this leads to a disparity in the amount of money the beneficiary receives. He therefore, emphasized the need to coordinate social security and social care and suggested centralizing the listing so that amounts received by beneficiaries are known, in order to improve accountability.



Richard Obiga

**Mr. Richard Obiga— Senior Programme Officer, Policy and Coordination Unit, National Social protection Secretariat, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya**— Mr. Obiga reiterated the lack of institutional alignment in spite of a social protection policy that was drafted in 2011 and existence of social security, social assistance and health insurance schemes all of which fall within two levels of government.

Obiga acknowledged that Kenya is not yet strong on accountability, but the government is working to ensure that mechanisms are in place to plug the loopholes. He said, Kenya had adopted a new Management Information System (MIS) that created a central depository of names, to which all institutions were required to link up, to avoid duplication of payment when making cash transfers.

As regards monitoring and evaluation, he said Kenya was developing a national thematic format of reporting that will ensure a standard way of reporting and in turn synchronize and ease monitoring and enhance evidence based reporting.

In conclusion he said that policies must be implemented so as to identify which aspects of social protection programs are not being implemented and stressed the need for inclusiveness and legislation, besides more public awareness and capacity building of institutions.



Chico Francisco Almajane

**Mr. Chico Alimajane, Director Planning and Cooperation at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, Mozambique** - informed the group that the implementation of social security in Mozambique started without a policy and coordination framework. However, he said in 1990 the Social Action Policy was approved, but progress was slow with the legislation. The legislation on social action he said was approved later in 2007, after which a comprehensive social action framework was formulated.

He explained that in Mozambique, the implementation of Social security was based on three pillars:

- Basic social security: a non-contributory scheme for mainly the poor. It is under the Ministry of Gender,



#### Children and Social Action.

- Contributory social security: For the employed both in the formal and the informal sector. It is under the Ministry of Labor.
- Complementary social security: This is for individuals who fall within the second pillar, but want to complement their contribution.

Besides the law, Alimajane also said, that there is a national statute for social security that defines the priorities of the programs. He noted that the scheme is facing funding challenges that have affected scaling up of the programmes. He summarized by saying that in Mozambique, they are focusing on increasing inclusion, improving management and implementation of their programs; as well as promoting accountability.

## Discussions and recommendations following the panel session

The group participants raised pertinent questions and concerns on what are the best approaches for building or strengthening the capacities of government agencies both at the national and lower levels to plan for, implement and evaluate social protection programmes. Of particular importance, was how can governments establish monitoring and evaluation policies, action plans and strategies that are entrenched in social protection programmes? At the end of the session the participants agreed that there was urgent need to:

- Clearly define social protection.
- Improve coordination of social protection interventions by having a single registry for planning and evaluation.
- Improve management of payment systems.
- Promote accountability and transparency in the implementation of social protection policies.
- Identify and establish roles of each stakeholder' groupings so as to address any existing gaps.
- Coordinate policies between various government agencies.
- Include the informal sector who are the majority of the working population.
- Invest in capacity building and sensitization of the public on the various social protection modalities and programmes.
- Engage in information exchange between countries to share knowledge on best practices.
- Strengthen the capacity of CSO and the public to demand for social protection services and ensure greater accountability.

### 2.4.5. Closing Panel

**Prof. Dr. Isa Baud, Chair of the Steering Group, INCLUDE**, moderated the session. The session was intended to share and brainstorm on the key messages from the two breakaway sessions. The aim was to identify the commonalities and differences that would be further synthesized into takeaway priority issues for action and policy recommendation from the Conference. The priority issues raised from each of the two parallel sessions were presented by the groups' chairpersons. Mr. Witness Simbanegavi presented the summary issues for the group that discussed financing social protection and Dr. Abubakar Moki presented the recommendations for the group that deliberated on Coordination, Policy Frameworks, and Legislation. They were thereafter joined

in a closing plenary discussion by Dr. Nicholas Awortwi Steering Group Member, INCLUDE and Eleásara Marole Antunes, Policy Officer, Gender, Social Protection and HIV/Aids, Netherlands Embassy in Mozambique to thresh out and synthesize the key messages from the conference.

Awortwi began by asking a rhetorical question, “In many African countries donors are still financing social security and even the same donors write the policies. Should this continue? He also observed that social protection has many stakeholders and all these have their own interests that do not necessarily coincide with government’s policies. He therefore advised that politicians should be ready to support social protection because overwhelming evidence shows that the majority of the populations need it.

Awortwi also questioned, what takes priority between expansion of programmes and monitoring in light of limited funds? This is because of the importance to assess progress. Similarly, he raised concern about coordination, where on one side there is the donor and another government, especially in relation to cash transfers.

On the other hand, Antunes illustrated the disconnect between policy makers and politicians, using an example from Mozambique. She said that in her country structures of coordination social protection programmes exist from top down (involving government officials up to district authorities) yet the local administration officials’ remains largely unaware of their roles in improving social protection.

In relation, to financing, she reiterated that it is the political commitment that matters more than the resource envelope, alluding to Nigeria that has the largest economy in Africa, but with minimal commitments to social protection in comparison to Botswana that is a smaller economy. She further argued that politically, Botswana is a one-party state with no pressures from the opposition to execute social protection programmes, but it does so because it has political will. She thus concluded by stressing political will good leadership as essential factors for effective institutions and programmes.

#### 2.4.6. Conference Outputs

The following priority issues were raised in the closing plenary as warranting action:

##### Improving Investments in and Financing of Social Protection

1. Deeper engagement between research and policy on the efficacy of social protection to poverty reduction, inequality and inclusive development, is still required to convince and obtain more buy in from the policy makers to invest in social protection.
2. Private sector participation and involvement, as well as initiatives in social protection need to be considered. Although not all types of social protection can be deemed profitable for the private sector (especially those targeting vulnerable groups), governments can consider ‘outsourcing’ interventions such as pensions and (contributory) insurances to private actors.
3. Governments need to improve tax collection and administration, in order to increase revenues to support social protection. In turn, the returns accruing from improved wellbeing can result in higher expenses, which can create returns that increase tax revenues, e.g. indirect tax revenues such as VAT.
4. Formation of civil society coalitions and alliances is critical for advocating and convincing key policy actors to invest in social protection.



### Coordination, Policies and Legislation

1. Social protection should no longer be considered as a single intervention, but should be integrated into other social policies (such as food and nutrition policies) since evidence shows that integration yields substantially higher results than the stand alone social policies.
2. Effective implementation of social protection policies requires extensive political will and strong institutions both at the national and lower levels of governance. In addition, the institutions require to be supported to improve their monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and reporting procedures to guarantee full accountability to the beneficiaries and funders.
3. The coordination between the social protection institutions and agencies across the different levels of government and other non-state actors needs to be improved to avoid duplication of efforts, improve accountability and harmonization of interventions.





## 3. THE CLOSING SESSION

### 3.1. Closing remarks by Prof. Dr. Isa Baud, Chair of the Steering Group, INCLUDE,

Baud thanked the participants and panelists for delving into social protection issues for inclusive growth in Africa and reiterated that social protection is not just about cash transfers. It must cover a much wider range of benefits, ideally integrated across the different sectors of public policy including health, employment, education, housing and other basic services.

The challenge she observed is to convince other stakeholders, particularly policy makers and politicians on the significance and contribution of social protection to inclusive growth in sub Saharan Africa.

Importantly also is the need for continuous research and dialogue with other African countries as well as the international community to find the essential ingredients that suit the communities. She said that we cannot think in a linear fashion especially in situations of conflict or competition, because the circumstances are diverse and warrant new ideas and ideology.

### 3.2. Closing remarks by Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana, Executive Director, EPRC

Ssewanyana thanked the participants for honoring the invitation to the conference, which she said signaled their dedication and commitment to social protection. She also thanked the participants for their active involvement in the discussions and sharing of experiences from different countries that may not be part of the INCLUDE Platform. She was optimistic that all the participants had left with a greater understanding of social protection and its vital importance to inclusive development.

She pledged EPRC's commitment to continue informing policy processes around Africa, especially on social protection. However, she noted it is also a civic responsibility for all Africans to continue shaping the policy processes around social protection in order to make a difference in people's lives in our respective countries. Ssewanyana observed that it is a big achievement to see how dialogue changes the mindset of our policymakers and donors, as evidenced by the pledge made by H.E. Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador, Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala, to continue supporting social protection in some countries in Africa.

She appealed to fellow Africans, to put a lot more emphasis on the quality of institutions, which implement and supervise the social protection programmes. This, she said calls for integrated planning and budgeting, that is supported by well-coordinated government agencies and departments.

She observed, that currently most East African countries have prioritized infrastructure development as opposed to social and human development sectors; and there was need to provide the governments with evidence-based advice and policy recommendations that will help them balance between social protection and infrastructure.



Finally, Ssewanyana thanked H.E. Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador, Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala and Mr. James Ebitu, Director Social Protection, Ministry of Gender, Uganda for accepting to officiate and participate in the conference. She also acknowledged the keynote speakers Stephen Kidd, and Michael Samson, and all the panelists for their thought provoking discussions. She thanked all the conference organizers from both INCLUDE and EPRC, for putting together a successful conference and finally thanked everyone for sharing their experiences and expressed her hope that they all keep in touch.





# ANNEX 1: CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Social Protection and Inclusive Growth in Africa**  
 21 June 2018, Skyz Hotel, Kampala

**08:45 – 09:15**    **Registration**  
**Opening Session**

**Morning chair:** Sarah Ssewanyana, Executive Director (EPRC)

**09:15 – 09:45**    Welcome remarks by Isa Baud, Chair of the Steering Group, INCLUDE  
 Official Welcome by H.E. Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador,  
 Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala

**09:45 – 10:00**    **Opening address by Mr. James Ebitu, Director Social Protection, Ministry of Gender representing Hon. Janat Mukwaya, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda**

**10:00 – 10:45**    ‘The Business Case for Social Protection: Who knows most about social protection?’  
 An interactive session, Facilitated by Frank van Kesteren, Knowledge Manager, INCLUDE Secretariat and Sara Ruto, Coordinator of the People’s Action for Learning (PAL) Network,

**10:45-11:15**    **Break and group photo**

**11:15 – 12:30**    **Keynote presentations**

1.        Social protection to reduce poverty and inequality: policies  
           Stephen Kidd, Senior Social Policy Specialist at Development Pathways
2.        Social protection to reduce multi-dimensional poverty and inequality: Outcomes  
           Michael Samson, director of research Economic Policy Research Institute, South Africa.
3.        Q and A after the presentations

**12:30 – 13:30**    **Lunch**

**Afternoon chair:** Isa Baud, Chair of the Steering Group, INCLUDE

**13:30 – 14:00**    **Introduction to key policy questions by Prof. Paschal B. Mihyo, Senior Visiting Research Fellow, REPOA Tanzania**

**14.00 - 15.30**    Parallel sessions

- a)        **Financing Social Protection: Challenges and opportunities** (Conference Room 1)  
**Moderation:** Witness Simbanegavi Knowledge Manger, Include Secretariat and Director of Research at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)



**Speakers:**

- i. Samuel Waterberg Bediako, CEO of People’s Pension Trust Ltd, Ghana  
*Providing pensions to the informal sector workers in Ghana.*
- ii. Benson K. Kimani, Director Economic Planning, Economic Development Coordination Directorate, State Department for Planning, The National Treasury and Ministry of Planning, Kenya
- iii. Margaret Kakande, Head, Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda
- iv. Mary Koki Kimanzi, Makueni County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Socio-economic Planning, Kenya

b) **Coordination, policy frameworks and legislation** (Conference Room 2)

**Moderation:** Dr. Abubakar M. Moki, Commissioner Policy Development and Capacity Building, Office of the President-Cabinet Secretariat, Uganda,

**Speakers:**

- i. Richard N. Rori– Social Protection Policy and Research Analyst, State Department of Social Protection–NSSF, Kenya
- ii. Richard Obiga– Senior Programme Officer, Policy and Coordination Unit, National Social protection Secretariat, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya
- iii. Chico Almajane, Director Planning and Cooperation at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, Mozambique
- iv. Lydia Nabiryo, Senior Program Officer – Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development, Uganda,

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**15:30 – 16:00 Break**

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**16:00 – 17:00** Closing panel: The moderators from the breakout sessions will deliver messages from the two sessions, covering communalities and differences that will be discussed in the closing panel

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**Moderation:** Isa Baud, Chair of the Steering Group, INCLUDE

**Speakers:**

- Witness Simbanegavi Knowledge Manger, Include Secretariat and Director of Research at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)
  - Eleasara Antunes, Netherlands Embassy in Mozambique
  - Nicholas Awortwi, Steering Group Member, INCLUDE Platform member
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**17:00 – 17:15** Closing remarks by Isa Baud, Chair of the Steering Group, INCLUDE

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Closing remarks by Sarah Ssewanyana, Executive Director, EPRC





## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Designation	Organisation
Isa Baud,	Chair of the Steering Group	INCLUDE
Marleen Dekker	Coordinator	INCLUDE Secretariat
Frank van Kesteren	Knowledge Manager	INCLUDE Secretariat
Witness Simbanegavi	Knowledge Manager	INCLUDE Secretariat
Nijenhuis Catharina Theodora	Knowledge Manager	INCLUDE Secretariat
Kim van Wijk	Knowledge Manager	INCLUDE Secretariat
Martin Mepa	RM	PASGR
Denis Arends	Independent Consultant	Dennis Arends Consulting, Netherlands
Harm Jan (Harrie) Oostingh	Program Manager	OXFAM, Netherlands
Nele Blommestein	Lead Evaluator	Into Outcome Consulting, Netherlands
Jean Bossuyt	Head of Strategy,	ECDPM, Netherlands
Maria Verschoor	Policy Officer	NWO-WOTRO, Netherlands
Stephen Kidd	Senior Social Policy Specialist	Development Pathways, United Kingdom
Michael Samson	Director of Research	Economic Policy Research Institute, South Africa.
Richard Obiga Ochieng	Senior Programme Officer – Policy & Coordination	National Social Protection Secretariat, Kenya
Richard Nyakundi Rori	Social Protection Policy Advisor and Research Analyst	State Department of Social Protection-NSSF, Kenya
Mary Koki Kimanzi	County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Socio-economic Planning	County Government of Makeni
Eliud N. Munyao	Chief Officer Planning	County Government of Makeni
Faith Mwendu	Principle Gender Officer	County Government of Makeni
Obadia Okinda Miroro	Knowledge Manager	African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya
Sara Ruto Jerop	Chief Executive Officer	PAL Network, Kenya
Benson Kimani Kinyanjui	Director Economic Planning	State Department for Planning, National Treasury and Ministry of Planning, Kenya
Dr. Martin Atela	Manager, Research and Policy Engagement	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research, Kenya
Mawutor Kwaku Ablo	Director, Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana
Nicholas Awortwi	Director	African Governance Institute, Ghana
Waterberg Samuel Bediako	Chief Executive Officer	People's Pension Trust Ghana Ltd.



Name	Designation	Organisation
Eleásara Marole Antunes	Policy Officer for Gender, Social Protection and HIV/AIDS	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Maputo, Mozambique
Chico Francisco Almajane	National Director of Planning and Cooperation	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, Mozambique
Borges Joaquim Faduco Nhamire	Researcher	Centro De Integridade Publica Mozambique
Paschal B. Mihyo	Senior Visiting Research Fellow	REPOA, Tanzania
Kabishanga R. Shaka	The Country Liaison Manager/CEO	New Horizons Women's Education Centre, Uganda
Okello Opok Peter Fred	Program Management Specialists, Orphans and Vulnerable Children	United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Uganda
Akumu Patience	Research & Policy Coordinator	OXFAM, Uganda
Jeanette Winie	Research Assistant	College of Business and Management Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda
Margaret Kakande	Head Budget Monitoring and Accountability MAU	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda
Kizza James	Lecturer	Kyambogo University, Uganda
Livingstone Mukasa	Chief Executive Officer	Mazima Retirement Plan, Uganda
Anthony Kagoro	Lecturer	Kyambogo University, Uganda
Lukwago Ismail	Lecturer	International University of East Africa, Uganda
Nicholas Kilimani	Lecturer	College of Business and Management Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda
Kwagala Betty	Senior Lecturer / Researcher	Makerere University, Uganda
Emily Kemigisha	Program Coordinator	Help Age International, Uganda
Bitature Mugisha Joseph	Social Protection and Advocacy Officer	Help Age International, Uganda
Fredrick Ouma Bwire	Chief Executive Officer	Uganda Reach the Aged Association
Opio David	Head Policy and research	Federation of Uganda Employer's Association, Uganda
Douglas Opio	Executive Director	Federation of Uganda Employer's Association, Uganda
Ebitu James	Director Social Protection	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
Jane Namuddu	Social Protection Officer-Research and Knowledge Management	Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) – Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
Lydia Nabiryo	Senior Program Officer	Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development, Uganda



Name	Designation	Organisation
David Lambert Tumwesigye	Policy Advocacy Advisor	Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) – Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Uganda
Simon Omoding	Communications Advisor	Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) – Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Uganda
Patrick L Lewelin	Technical Coordinator	Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) – Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Uganda
Amu Eliz	Senior Labour Officer	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Uganda
Beatrice Okillan	Policy and Advocacy Coordinator	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Uganda
Swaleh Sebina	Economist	Ministry of Health, Uganda
Ahimbisibwe Expeditus	Principal Health Educator	Ministry of Health, Uganda
Asio Jennifer Rose	Planner	National Planning Authority, Uganda
Dr. Abubakar M. Moki	Commissioner Policy Development and Capacity Building	Office of The President, Cabinet Secretariat, Uganda
Ssanyu Rebecca Ntongo	Senior Program Officer	Development Research and Training (DRT), Uganda
Emmanuel Ocheing	Program Officer	ActionAid, Uganda
John Bosco Mubiru	Programme Manager	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Uganda
Diego Angemi	Chief of Social Policy and Evaluation	UNICEF-Uganda
Nathalie Meyer	Social Policy Specialist	UNICEF-Uganda
Christine Wright	Head of Resilience and Social Protection	World Food Program, Uganda
Sarah Ssewanyana	Executive Director	Economic Policy Research Centre
Ibrahim Kasirye	Principal Research Fellow	Economic Policy Research Centre
Mildred Barungi	Research Fellow	Economic Policy Research Centre
Martin Luther Munu	Research Analyst	Economic Policy Research Centre
Venugopal Gayathry	Research Analyst	Economic Policy Research Centre
Florence Nakkazi	Research Analyst	Economic Policy Research Centre
Mary Tusaba Kivunike	Finance Manager	Economic Policy Research Centre
Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro	Program Manager	Economic Policy Research Centre
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Carol Kasoke	Administrative Assistant	Economic Policy Research Centre
Peace Nagawa	Knowledge Management Specialist	Economic Policy Research Centre
Aminah Balunywa	Front Desk Officer	Economic Policy Research Centre
Douglas Ssettumba	Journalist	UBC TV
Joel Vubya	Journalist	UBC TV



Name	Designation	Organisation
Petra Amito	Writer	New Vision
Mary Kansime	Photographer	New Vision
Sebulibba Sam	Reporter	KFM / Dembe
Sam Paul Nahayima	Reporter	NBS TV
Stephen Wandera	Journalist	Daily Monitor
Sebunya Wycliffe	Journalist	Radio One
David Rupiny	Journalist	Uganda Radio Network
John Odyek	Journalist	New Vision
Frank Kisakye	Social Media Coverage	Observer
Ivan Ortega	Social Media Coverage	Big Eye Uganda
Moses Kaketo	Social Media Coverage	News Post
Elliot Bagenda	Rapporteur	
Halima Abdallah	Rapporteur	





## ANNEX 3: QUIZ SESSION

### Questions and Answers

#### Moderators:

Frank Van Kesteren Knowledge Manager INCLUDE Sara Ruto  
PAL Network and INCLUDE

**The “Business Case” for Social Protection:** Who knows most about social protection?

- There are 15 questions with 4 multiple choice options, you need to guess the correct answer
- The questions will be read twice in English, then you have 20 seconds to record the correct answer
- Hold up the correct answer, every option A-B-C-D is written on a colored card
- You will keep your own score of correct answers and we expect you to keep your score truthfully
- The person(s) with the best score will gather for a final question which will determine the winner of the quiz

#### Question 1:

**There is a fear among policy makers that cash transfers, particularly targeted towards young children, will increase fertility of families trying to gain eligibility for programs. This is:**

- True, however most evidence is from Latin America where programs are conditional
- Mostly false in the context of SSA, with the exception of South Africa
- False, in fact early pregnancy declines among female youth in several countries
- False, but only in cases where there is good access to health services

#### Answer:

There is a fear among policy makers that cash transfers, particularly targeted towards young children, will increase fertility of families trying to gain eligibility for programs. This is false: in fact early pregnancy declines among female youth in several countries

#### Question 2:

**In 2013, the Kenyan government introduced free maternity care and free primary care (FMC-FPC). According to INCLUDE’s research, which of the following improvements in the use of maternal health care facilities in Kenya can be attributed to this policy?**

- An increase in women who had 4+ antenatal care visits (to 68% in urban areas and 51% in rural areas)
- An increase in women who had deliveries in skilled health care facilities (to 83% in urban areas and 51% in rural areas)
- A decrease in households making catastrophic out-of-pocket payments for health services (from 4% to 1%)
- An increase in the number of visits to health services for babies (from 3 visits per child per year to 7 per year)

**Answer:**

In 2013, the Kenyan government introduced free maternity care and free primary care (FMC-FPC). According to INCLUDE's research, which of the following improvements in the use of maternal health care facilities in Kenya can be attributed to this policy? An increase in women who had 4+ antenatal care visits (to 68% in urban areas and 51% in rural areas)

**Question 3:**

**A common critique of cash transfers is that they will cause “dependency”—beneficiaries will become lazy and stop working. 8 countries were examined and results showed:**

- A. No change in labor participation
- B. Increases in labor participation across all countries
- C. No change for most countries, however increases in own farm work and decreases in casual labor for the remaining
- D. Increases in labor participation, however only for households with able bodied members

**Answer:**

A common critique of cash transfers is that they will cause “dependency”—beneficiaries will become lazy and stop working. 8 countries were examined and results showed that no change for most countries, however increases in own farm work and decreases in casual labor for the remaining

**Question 4:**

**Social protection programmes not only have a direct economic impact, indirect effects are substantial. For instance, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda found that as a result of the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment programme, the percentage of households eating fewer than two meals a day decreased by 11%. For every 1% reduction, this led to:**

- A. An increase in the number of students attending school and in the employment rate
- B. A decrease in the number of students attending school and an increase in the employment rate
- C. An increase in the number of students attending school and a decrease in the employment rate
- D. A decrease in the number of students attending school and a decrease in the employment rate

**Answer:**

Social protection programmes not only have a direct economic impact, indirect effects are substantial. For instance, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda found that as a result of the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment programme, the percentage of households eating fewer than two meals a day decreased by 11%. For every 1% reduction, this led to: an increase in the number of students attending school and in the employment rate

**Question**

**5: Studies measuring the impact of social protection on local economies often use the Local Economy-Wide Impact Evaluation Model (LEWIE). The evaluations found that the returns on investment for each dollar invested were:**

- A. An additional \$0.27–1.52 generated in the local economy (through multiplier effects)



- B. A loss of \$0.27–1.52 in the local economy (as a result of inflation)
- C. No clear impact (positive and negative spill overs even out)
- D. Spillovers are too hard to measure: no results available

**Answer:**

Studies measuring the impact of social protection on local economies often use the Local Economy-Wide Impact Evaluation Model (LEWIE). The evaluations found that the returns on investment for each dollar invested were: an additional \$0.27–1.52 generated in the local economy (through multiplier effects)

**Question 6:**

**Research on the impact of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) in Ghana showed different results for the extreme poor compared to other recipients. This difference was:**

- A. A significant increase in per capita food consumption and the size of land possessed
- B. A significant increase in per capita food consumption, but no increase in the size of land possessed
- C. A significant increase in the size of land possessed, but no increase in per capita food consumption
- D. No improvement at all

**Answer:**

Research on the impact of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) in Ghana showed different results for the extreme poor compared to other recipients. This difference was a significant increase in the size of land possessed, but no increase in per capita food consumption.

**Question 7:**

**Insurance programmes are increasingly recognized as promising social protection programmes for inclusive growth. One example is weather index insurance (WII) for poor farmers in areas that experience drought. Research has shown mixed results: in Ghana, WII contributed to increased agricultural production, while in Ethiopia there were little to no results. Why is this the case?**

- A. In Ethiopia, WII interfered with the Productive Safety Net Programme
- B. In Ethiopia, WII did not seem to be useful (sufficient rainfall)
- C. In Ethiopia, farmers are more constrained by a lack of cash/credit than by the risk of drought
- D. In Ethiopia, farmers possessed insufficient knowledge about WII for it to function well

**Answer:**

Insurance programmes are increasingly recognized as promising social protection programmes for inclusive growth. One example is weather index insurance (WII) for farmers in areas that experience drought. Research has shown mixed results: in Ghana, WII contributed to increased agricultural production, while in Ethiopia there were little to no results. Why is this the case? In Ethiopia, farmers are more constrained by a lack of cash/credit than by the risk of drought.

**Question 8:**

Research on cash transfers has shown mixed results on its impact in the long term. While some indicate that positive impacts increase over time, others have found that these impacts dissipate over time. Which factor(s) explains the difference?

- A. Political stability in the country of implementation
- B. Predictability, duration and the regularity of cash transfers
- C. Inadequate microsimulation models to measure long-term impacts
- D. All of the above

**Answer:**

Research on cash transfers has shown mixed results on its impact in the long term. While some indicate that positive impacts increase over time, others have found that these impacts dissipate over time. Which factor(s) explains the difference? Predictability, duration and the regularity of cash transfers.

**Question 9:**

Some studies make use of microsimulation models to measure long-term impact. How did the rate of return (RoR) on education develop over time for grants under the SAGE programme in Uganda?

- A. Positive RoR in the short term, negative RoR in the long term (after 10 years)
- B. Negative RoR in the short term, positive RoR in the long term (after 10 years)
- C. Positive RoR in the short term, negative RoR in the midterm (3–10 years), positive RoR in the long term (after 10 years)
- D. No clear direction, RoR fluctuated over time

**Answer:**

Some studies make use of microsimulation models to measure long-term impact. How did the rate of return (RoR) on education develop over time for grants under the SAGE programme in Uganda: Negative RoR in the short term, positive RoR in the long term (after 10 years)

**Question 10:**

Cash+ programmes or graduation programmes integrate cash transfers with complementary programmes and services (such as asset transfers, education and mentoring) in different stages of the intervention. Data collected in Ghana, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Peru after the introduction of an intervention have shown an increase in:

- A. Household consumption + household assets
- B. Household assets + food security
- C. Household consumption + food security
- D. All of the above + income, access to finance, labour, mental health and women's decision making

**Answer:**

Cash+ programmes or graduation programmes integrate cash transfers with complementary programmes and services (such as asset transfers, education and mentoring) in different stages of





the intervention. Data collected in Ghana, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Peru after the introduction of an intervention have shown an increase in all of the above + income, access to finance, labour, mental health and women's decision making

**Question 11:**

**Apart from which type of programme is most effective, it is also important to ask if the programme is worth the costs incurred. In a review of three types of programmes, which was most cost-effective?**

- A. Lump-sum unconditional cash transfers
- B. Livelihood development programmes
- C. Graduation programmes
- D. None were cost-effective

**Answer:**

Apart from which type of programme is most effective, it is also important to ask if the programme is worth the costs incurred. In a review of three types of programmes, which was most cost-effective: Graduation programmes

**Question 12:**

**The 'Crowding out-theory' suggests that increased public spending (such as on social protection) decreases private sector spending, including in the informal sector. INCLUDE's research in Uganda and Ghana found:**

- A. No clear evidence: results were mixed in the different countries
- B. Evidence: cash transfers were not used for investments in informal settings
- C. Evidence: due to lack of access to formal financial savings, households were not able to access the grants under SAGE
- D. Counter-evidence: grants increased productive assets and participation in informal village saving groups

**Answer:**

The 'Crowding out-theory' suggests that increased public spending (such as on social protection) decreases private sector spending, including in the informal sector. INCLUDE's research in Uganda and Ghana found: counter-evidence, grants increased productive assets and participation in informal village saving groups

**Question 13:**

**Considering the efficient allocation of resources, which of the following types of transfers was considered most efficient in implementation?**

- A. Cash transfers
- B. In-kind food transfers
- C. Food vouchers
- D. Depends on the objectives of the programme



**Answer:**

Considering the efficient allocation of re- sources, which of the following types of transfers was considered most efficient in implementation: cash transfers, but it also depends on the objectives of the programme

**Question 14:**

**INCLUDE** research on the SAGE pro- gramme in Uganda shows that additional interventions are required to optimize the economic impact of social cash transfers (SCTs) in remote areas. What is consid- ered the most promising policy area to focus on?

- A. Extending the senior citizen grant (SCG) to remote areas
- B. Investing in rural infrastructure
- C. Improving access to credit/markets
- D. Investing in increasing demand for rural products

**Answer:**

INCLUDE research on the SAGE programme in Uganda shows that additional interventions are re- quired to optimize the economic impact of social cash transfers (SCTs) in remote areas. What is considered the most promising policy area to focus on: Investing in rural infrastructure

**Question 15:**

**Combining cash transfers and psycho- logical support is considered promising for traumatized women in fragile and (post-) conflict areas. INCLUDE** research measuring the perceived impact of a combi- nation of cash and therapy on women empowerment showed:

- A. That the impact of the interventions diminished when they were combined, compared to when they were implemented separately
- B. That they had the highest overall impact, but with no complementarity between the two
- C. Better results than the sum of the two separate interventions (high complementarity)
- D. High results in the short term, which dissipated over time

**Answer:**

Combining cash transfers and psychologi- cal support is considered promising for traumatized women in fragile and (post-) conflict areas. INCLUDE research measuring the perceived impact of a combi- nation of cash and therapy on women empowerment showed: that they had the highest overall impact, but with no complementarity between the two

**Bonus question 16: By estimation**

**What percentage of the extreme poor in Africa (defined as those in the lowest income quintile) are covered by social protection programmes?**

**Answer:**

29 percent

# Conference in Pictures



