



INCLUDE, the Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies, is one of five knowledge platforms established by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote research for policy.

INCLUDE supports research and brings the results (and existing knowledge on the same topic) to policymakers and practitioners. The aim is to promote evidence-based policymaking for inclusive development in Africa. Seven international research groups have been selected by NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development and INCLUDE to carry out research on social protection.

Selected interim findings

Social protection in the Afar region

Organisations: Adigrat University, Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa, University College London (lead)

Ethiopia

- The Afar's traditional social assistance schemes, such as the support of disadvantaged groups in the Afar region, and survival strategies in adapting to disasters in a climatically harsh environment, can exist next to formal social protection programmes. Policymakers should seek complementarities and avoid interferences between schemes.
- Public works that are suitable in highland areas are not necessarily suitable in pastoral areas. Adaptation to the local context, in terms of design and practical organisation, is necessary.

Maternity fee waiver in Kenya

Organisations: African Population and Health Research Center, Amsterdam Institute for International Development (lead), Health Policy Project, PharmAccess Foundation

Kenya

- Kenya's national (non-contributory) Free Primary Care (FMC-FPC) decreased the interest to pay for the (contributory) Tanykina Community Healthcare Plan (TCHP), because part of the insurance package is already available at no cost by the FMC-FPC.
- Therefore, policymakers should consider the possible interference with existing programmes before introducing new programmes such as a national free health care policy, and aim for a full understanding of the impact at different levels and the implementation on the ground before implementation.

Social and health policies for inclusive growth

Organisations: EADI, Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University for Development Studies, University of Amsterdam (lead), University of Ghana, University of Nairobi

Ghana

Kenya

- Cash transfers are often used to pay for health care services, thereby reducing the potential impact of the transfers on other areas. Using cash transfers as a substitute for imperfect health care policies cannot be considered cost-effective.
- The implementation of cash transfer policies is defined by local and regional power relations and institutional histories. Seeking the support of local street-level bureaucrats and informal institutions can help to optimize the impact of cash transfers on the poorest.

Weather insurance for Ethiopian farmers

Organisations: Columbia University, Lingnan University (lead), Mekelle University, Nyala Insurance Share Company, Relief Society of Tigray, Wageningen University and Research Centre

Ethiopia

- The impact of weather index insurance (WII) on purchases of agricultural input is insignificant, which can be explained by lack of prior knowledge of WII and the fact that farmers in Ethiopia are more cash/credit-constrained than risk-constrained.
- Carefully consider the levels of poverty before introducing risk management strategies such as WII. For poor, rural farmers, investing in capital to alleviate their cash/credit constraints may be more effective.

Social protection through maternal health programmes

Organisations: Maseno University, Ministry of Health Kenya, Swiss Tropical Institute (lead), University of Bern

Kenya

- Free maternity services are often not 'free': livestock or land are sold to use the services.
- Although maternity services are considered more accessible, they are often of poor quality in public health services. Policymakers should consider not only the cost and accessibility of the service, but also the general quality of private and public health facilities. If public facilities are of poor quality, free services may lead to little improvement.

Post trauma services for women's empowerment

Organisations: Isis-WICCE, Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Tilburg University (lead)

Uganda

- The results of cash transfer programmes are diminished in areas of lacking empowerment of women in Uganda.
- The combination of cash transfers and trauma support has the most significant impact on economic empowerment.

Social protection in Uganda

Organisations: Maastricht University (lead), Makerere University, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda, University of Manchester

Uganda

- Most income effects of investments in social protection in Uganda have been indirect effects, through health and education, which increased exponentially over the years of implementation.
- Apart from general returns to investment, social preferences should be considered in evaluating cost-effectiveness: for instance, the welfare effect of an additional shilling invested is higher for poor households than richer households.