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Social Protection – Concepts, Actors and Current Developments

Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2018
“Strengthening Social Protection in Africa. National, regional and international strategies”
Social Protection – Social Security – Social Insurance

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**Article 22**: Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security …

**Article 25**: (1) Everyone has … the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

**Article 9**: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.
“Social protection, or social security, is a human right and is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability throughout the life cycle. Social protection includes benefits for children and families, maternity, unemployment, employment injury, sickness, old age, disability, survivors, as well as health protection. Social protection systems address all these policy areas by a mix of contributory schemes (social insurance) and non-contributory tax-financed benefits, including social assistance.” (ILO 2017, p. xxix)
Contributory Schemes (Social Insurance)

- participation is (as a general rule) compulsory
- financed by contributions which are (as a general rule) shared between employers and employees / exceptions:
  - costs for comprehensive insurance coverage are solely borne by the employers (e.g. German Statutory Accident Insurance)
  - state participation: supplementary contribution or other subsidies → important in countries with many workers in the informal sector
  - compulsory inclusion of private insurance companies → obligation to contract and to offer a basic tariff

Non-contributory Schemes  (World Bank: „social safety nets“)

- financed through tax or other state revenues
- types of interventions: conditional or non-conditional cash transfers / employment guarantee schemes (cash for work) / in-kind transfers / social services
- coverage: universal or categorical schemes / schemes targeted towards the poor (means-tested schemes)
Non-contributory programmes in Africa

International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth / UNDP (2016), p. 10
I. Social Protection – Concepts

Informal and Formal Social Protection Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

Editors
S. Devereux M. Getu

Fountain Publishers (Uganda), 2013
I. Social Protection – Concepts

Social Protection Floor

[Diagram showing the Social Protection Floor with levels of protection and income security for different groups.]
II. Social Protection – Actors

Actors at the national level

- **governments** → adopting SP strategies and establishing SP authorities
- **parliaments** → adopting SP laws
- **courts** → controlling compliance of governmental activities with statutory provisions and with the Constitution

- **beneficiaries** → SP rights holders
- **non-governmental organizations** → providing services and benefits, but also assisting people in claiming their rights / NGO-networks (e.g. Africa Platform for Social Protection)
Actors at the international level: Internat’l Organizations
Actors at the international level: Bilateral cooperation
II. Social Protection – Actors

Actors at the international level: International NGOs
Actors at the international level: SPIAC-B

- inter-agency coordination mechanism to enhance global coordination and advocacy on social protection issues and to coordinate international cooperation in country demand-driven actions
- responds to a request from the G20 Development Working Group
II. Social Protection – Actors

Actors at the international level: African Organizations
Knowledge generation and knowledge exchange

- academic institutions / training centres / think-tanks, e.g.:
  - Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
  - Institute of Development Studies (IDS) – Centre for Social Protection (CSP)
  - Maastricht University/UNU-MERIT
  - Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg
  - Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)
  - United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
  - ILO International Training Centre (ITC)

- expert networks / South-South-learning, e.g.:
  - socialprotection.org
  - Southern African Social Protection Experts Network (SASPEN)
  - International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG)
  - GIZ – Global Alliances for Social Protection
  - UNDP – South-South Global Thinkers
  - ILO – South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of gender sensitive social protection floors at country level
Social Protection on the International Agenda

- Social Protection Floor Recommendation
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection
- Global USP2030 Forum
Global Funding Proposals

- **UN Joint Fund Window for Social Protection Floors**
  - first window of the “UN Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda” (UNDG)
  - collects funds from bilateral donors and the private sector
  - funding focuses on core activities that UN agencies cannot do alone, but do better by joining forces

- **Global Fund for Social Protection I** (proposed by the Global Coalition for SPFs)
  - provides technical support for national SPFs / co-finances SPF transfers in exceptional cases (LICs)
  - financed from a combination of different sources (e.g. ODA / financial transaction taxes)

- **Global Fund for Social Protection II** (proposed by de Schutter & Sepulveda)
  - mandate and financing similar to GFSP I
  - in addition: reinsurance branch, which would provide temporary funding to cover emergencies – such as a natural disaster or a global economic crisis – which could overwhelm developing countries’ national SPFs
III. Social Protection – Current Developments

Current Issues and Ongoing Debates

SP in Fragile and Conflict-affected Areas
- managing the shift from emergency aid to SP
- SP-system building

SP and Climate Change
„Adaptive SP“ → linking SP, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management

SP and Migration
- role of SP in reducing push factors for migration
- SP for refugees

SP and Graduation
- supporting the poor to permanently exit poverty
- facilitating broader rights realization

„Perennial issues“
- fiscal space for SP
- rights-based approach (legislation, good governance in SP-systems, accountability)
- vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, children, older persons)