FOCUS OF PRESENTATION

- Contrast two types of social protection policies aimed at the *non-formally employed working age population* – extended coverage of unemployment insurance & public works
- Concern: just because it targets the poor, is it a good policy?

Questions

- Social protection policies in what way?
- How do policies enhance/restrict beneficiaries’ ability to be social citizens
‘TRADITIONAL’ SOCIAL PROTECTION
Social protection: policies that provide protection against livelihood risks and life-cycle vulnerabilities

- Three institutional components:
  - Social insurance
  - Social assistance
  - Active labour market policies

Social protection for working age population most successful when: majority on social insurance, and social assistance kept at a minimum.

‘PRO-POOR’ SOCIAL PROTECTION
Social protection denotes the combination of formal and informal initiatives that provide income or in-kind transfer in combination with other forms of support to poor and vulnerable households to:

i) act as a safety net for extremely poor people;

ii) protect people against risks and consequences of livelihood shocks;

iii) promote people out of poverty; and

iv) support social justice for more equitable outcomes for all.
CONSTRASTING PERSPECTIVES

‘Traditional’: • Near-full employment • Formal sector • Insurance for majority • Assistance + active labour market policies for rest

‘Pro-poor’: • High unemployment • Large informal sectors • Social assistance for poor and vulnerable • Public works for working-age population

Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

EVALUATING PRINCIPLES OF POLICIES

Social protection policies? In what ways?

Enhancing or restricting social citizenship?:

“poverty is the deprivation of basic capabilities stretching from elementary physical ones (food, clothes, shelter) to complex social achievements such as taking part in community life” (Hick, 2012).

“Social citizenship is not just about ‘having’ (receiving welfare benefits), but about ‘doing’, that is, about participating in social life” (Leisering & Barrientos, 2013).

i) Resources; ii) Participation; iii) Recognition
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND (UIF)

- 'Traditional' policy extended to informal sector
- Resources for beneficiaries in times of need
- Enable continued participation even with job loss
- Recognition of (certain types of) informal work by inclusion in formal social protection policy

? How to extend to other groups working informally
? Still context of limited work opportunities

"The unemployment assistance fund could be accessible to the informal sector and contract/temporary workers who have not contributed but can prove they have worked for a particular period. It could be extended to those without formal contracts who can prove they have worked for a particular period of time. It could also include labour market reactivation measures, such as training and job search assistance, which will be accessible to this group that is outside the scope of UIF" (NDP, 2012: 371).
EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM (EPWP)

- 'Pro-poor' social protection

- 'Traditional' social protection?
  - Active labour market policy?
  - Targeted social assistance

- Resources: temporary minimum income support

- Participation: working, but better-off participating in informal sector?

- Recognition: stigma? Meaningful work?

- The unemployed public worker ...
CONCLUDING REMARKS

• Use UIF to recognise more types of informal work? Linking between the formal & informal

• EPWP: return to training components & job opportunities beyond?