Role of CSO’s in the Development and Implementation of Social Protection Policies

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Defining CSO’s

• There are many definitions of CSO’s
• “Civil society is a sphere of social interaction between the household (family) and the state which is manifested in the norms of community cooperative, structures of voluntary association and networks of public communication ... norms are values of trust, reciprocity, tolerance and inclusion, which are critical to cooperation and community problem solving, structure of association refers to the full range of informal and formal organization through which citizens pursue common interests” (Veneklasen, 1994).
CSO’s

• “Civil society is composed of autonomous associations which develop a dense, diverse and pluralistic network. As it develops, civil society will consist of a range of local groups, specialized organizations and linkages between them to amplify the collective voices of civil society as a partner in governance and the market” (Connor, 1999).

• All non-market and non-state organizations and structures in which people organize to pursue shared objectives and ideals
CSO’s

• The definition of CSO’s now include small, community based groupings to large, formal organisations.

• It includes Faith based organisations, Trade Unions, NGO’s, Employers, organisations and others.

• These play a significant role in developing and implementing policies at the national and international levels
Role as mandated by international/regional instruments

- CSO’s have a role as mandated by nearly all international/regional instruments
  - “The EU explicitly recognizes CSOs as ‘an inherent part of enabling participatory democracy’ that create[s] demand for enhanced transparency, accountability and effectiveness from public institutions and facilitate[s] a greater focus on the needs of citizens in policy making."
Role as mandated in regional/international instruments....

• The African Development Bank:-
  – African societies are attaching increased importance to civil society. This social realm includes NGOs, but extends well beyond them to encompass people's organizations, trade unions, human rights bodies, religious groups, community-based organizations, policy advocacy bodies, associations of business and professional people and so forth. Operating in the domain known as ‘civil space’, this collection is collectively termed as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The African Development Bank, like its sister Multilateral Financial Institutions, has recognized the importance of such organizations in achieving sustainable development.
Role as mandated......

• CSO’s are included in the various African policies and instruments including:-
  – Various African Charters and Protocols
  – Various government policies/strategies
What CSO’s can do

• While it is generally agreed that CSO’s complement government effort, they can also initiate policy development.
  – Identifying the issues due to their linkages within and outside their territories and linking with their stakeholders, especially those at the community level
  – They can analyse issues and identify the gaps
  – They can be a bridge between citizens and the state and facilitate dialogue between the two
  – They can marshal resources faster and implement activities without much red tape
What CSO’s can do....

• CSO’s can work with the governments in the development of policies by:-
  – Mobilising the various constituencies to participate
  – Putting in resources to organise meetings, workshops, etc
  – Generating evidence required to support the arguments for the policies
  – Generate information and advocate the need and processes for the policies
What CSO’s can do..

• In the *implementation* of policies, CSO’s have been dubbed a critical pillar of governance and democracy
  – They can support government in putting policies into practice
  – They can generate their own programmes to support government in the implementation of policies
  – They play a big role in the democratic space by fostering social solidarity and cohesion
  – They provide monitoring and evaluation of government activities
Some examples

• Livingstone Call for Action
  – Initiated by Nhongo, Gorman and Schubet (then working for HelpAge and GTZ respectively) during a visit to Kalomo in Zambia
  – HelpAge wrote a proposal to DFID which was successful
  – The AU was invited as a partner
  – A conference was held in Livingstone, Lusaka which resulted in the Livingstone Call for Action

• The Livingstone Call for Action became a rallying document for Social Protection in Africa
Examples....

  – Was initiated by Nhongo (HelpAge) and Dr Maboreke (AU)
  – Funding was secured by both organisations
  – Small meeting held in Kampala, Uganda
  – Discussed in the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission
  – Approved by Heads of State and Government
Examples.....

• AU Social Policy Framework
  – Was conceived as a follow up the Livingstone and Yaoundé Calls for Action
  – AU was approached (by Nhongo) to buy into the initiative
  – Proposal developed and funded by DFID
  – 6 country and 3 Regions consultations held
  – The first conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development held in Namibia
  – The AU SPF developed (Section 2.3 is on SP)
Examples – Ghana NSPS

• Implementation Partners of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS):
  – Ministries, Departments and Agencies at National, Regional, District and Community Levels
  – NGOs / CSOs
  – Ghanaian Citizens
  – Good Political Will (MoFEP)
Examples - Kenya SP Policy

• The National Social Protection Council, to be established by an Act of Parliament, will bring together key stakeholders in the area of social protection. Its membership shall consist of representatives of the Government ministries engaged in social protection, and of organized business, employers, and workers, social security organizations, and of CSOs and FBOs.

• The Council will be a forum in which the stakeholders will jointly agree on social protection policies and actions. It will also oversee the implementation of this Policy.
Examples - Sierra Leone SP Policy

• Civil Society Organisations are central to the monitoring framework for implementing the SP Policy and Strategy and eventually evaluating the successes and impact. CSOs have a responsibility to their constituents who are mostly the beneficiaries of SP programmes so they will be included by Government as partners to ensure that programmes achieve the intended purposes.

• To ensure accountability and transparency, the Social Protection Authority will set up a grievance mechanism with participation of Civil Society, and enforce the inclusion of such mechanism in any programme intervention.
Examples - Uganda Draft SP Policy

• Civil Society and Faith Based Organisations will have the mandate and role to:-
  – Advocate for social protection policies and legislations
  – Mobilize resources and advocate for increased funding for social protection programmes
  – Participate in planning, implementation and monitoring of social protection programmes
  – Monitor the operationalisation of international instruments on social protection
  – Mobilize and sensitize the population on social protection
  – Develop and implement social protection programmes
References

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