Social Protection in the United Republic of Tanzania: International Frameworks and National Policies

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Towards a Transformative Social Protection System in Tanzania: Policy Reflections from South-Asian Countries

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Several SP related Policies:

- Mandatory Social Security covers only 8.1 per cent
- More than 90 percent are employed in the informal economy and almost 89 per cent of the population is engaged in vulnerable employment, with higher rates in rural areas (95 per cent).
- The agriculture sector employs almost 80 per cent of the labor force the ratio of females engaged in agriculture work is even higher.
- 2010 estimates: almost 37 per cent of Tanzanians employees are still below the poverty line (Analysis of MDG Employment Indicators: Tanzania Mainland)
A LOOK AT TRANSFORMATIVE SP

Goes beyond protective, preventive and promotive interventions

Includes measures aimed at transforming broader structural discriminatory influences

Recognizes that social change and political interventions can remove the structural barriers and trigger virtuous cycles of income generation and poverty reduction (Devereux, 2004, 2007, 2013)
A framework ...

“Transformative Social Protection”

Promotion

Economic opportunities/livelihood (microfinance)

Prevention

Insurance mechanisms (Social pens etc)

Provision/Protection

Social assistance/social services

Transformation

regulations/social empowerment/sensitization
KEY QUESTIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE SP

On both existing and new policy instruments (contributory and non-contributory)

1. Appropriate (to achieve its goals and objectives of reducing poverty and vulnerability)
2. Achievable (adequate resources, institutional capacity and services to ensure that this instrument will work)
3. Acceptable? (popular and government support for this type of social protection instrument)
4. Affordable (implications of this instrument for cost and affordability)
5. Adequate (e.g. the value of the transfer?)
6. Add value (does it complement other programmes, and are complementary programmes and services in place?)

(the 6 As‘ as developed by Rachel Slater)
South Asia is recognized for many SP innovations at the policy level which are seen to have potentially transformative features.

Four common principles (Hanlon et al. 2010:20):

- They are rights-based, with transfers funded by the government, reinstating a role for the state.
- They are longer-term transfers, with recipients confident of receiving them.
- They cover a significant proportion of the population.
- They are part of a development strategy.
1. Social protection in the form of social transfers
   - The citizenship based social pension scheme in Nepal
   - The Benazir Income Support Programme in Pakistan

2. The employment guarantees
   - The Mahatma Ghandi Rural Employment Scheme in India
   - The 100-days Employment Scheme in Bangladesh
   - The Karnali Employment Programme in Nepal
   - The employment generation scheme for rural unskilled workers in Pakistan

3. Social protection as affirmative action
   - The Bangladesh girls’ secondary education grant and girl child grants offered by some states in India
1. Social transfers to supplement income

- Nepal’s social pension scheme of 1995.
  - It is universal by category – at inception, all Nepali citizens over the age of 75 were eligible for a small monthly benefit, disbursed by district development councils on a quarterly basis.

- In Pakistan, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) of 2008.
  - A scheme to promote ‘equal opportunities and social justice’, and ‘poverty alleviation and women empowerment among the underprivileged section of Pakistani society’.
  - Initially a grant for social assistance devolved to each parliamentarian to disburse grants in his or her constituency using subjective needs assessments.
  - In 2009, this nontransparent modality was replaced by eligibility screening in the form of a poverty scorecard system – proxy means testing.
1. Social transfers cont.

- Complementary measures, in the direction of asset building,
  - The Waseela-e-Haq programme, promoting small entrepreneurship,
  - The Waseela-e-Rozgar, a free skills development and vocational training plan.
  - There is also life insurance for the breadwinner of beneficiary families.

- Women, as entitlement holders, require a citizenship card as well as a bank account in their own name. This gives women in low-income households an unprecedented degree of visibility and conceivably some status in the family (Raja 2010)
2. The Employment Guarantee Scheme

- Combination of an employment scheme linked to social protection
- The ‘revolution’ in the South is frequently associated with India’s Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), adopted in 2005 and introduced in 2006.
- Right to work, the adherence to state-level minimum wage laws and the process whereby, if a worksite is not created, the state government must provide an unemployment allowance at a rate agreed at the state level (Government of India 2008: 37)
- In Pakistan, an employment generation scheme for rural unskilled workers to guarantee employment, again for 100 days a year. The scheme is devoted to small local level works with a guaranteed daily wage equal to the minimum wage.

(Carswell, G and G De Neve 2011, 2013, Koehler, 2011)
3. Affirmative action

- Many schemes have been designed to address and overcome exclusion, especially with respect to gender and caste.

- Girl child school grants are introduced in Pakistan, Nepal, India to address gender gaps.
  - Introduced in 2006 in Madhya Pradesh, girl children registered at birth are to receive an accumulated fund of approx. 180,000 rupees (US$2,700) from the state government at the time of marriage.
  - The objective of the scheme is to improve health and educational facilities for girl children.

- A similar scheme in Tamil Nadu deposits 22,200 rupees (approximately US$500) for each girl child at birth, which she is to receive at age 20, while the interest is available to her family for educational expenses (Government of India 2007; Srinivasan and Bedi 2009).

- Moreover, and extremely important for any of these policy measures to be delivered in a transparent and equitable fashion: right to information acts have been adopted in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
Some policy lessons cont....

- **Are they transformative?** Depends on orientation
- Transformative SP should reflect among others;
  - clearly delineated categorical entitlements, special measures to ensure that women, children and socially excluded groups can claim their rights;
  - longevity and predictability of the scheme, anchored in government fiscal budgets;
  - policies triggered by citizens and programme design that build in the preferences and priorities of participants;
Some policy lessons…

- approaches that create productive assets or continuous income streams for the individual, household and community (formalization of the informal sector?)
- macro-level and sectoral economic policies in terms of domestic policies
  - They include an industrial strategy to create decent work, housing policy, land reform, progressive fiscal policy and policies for social inclusion.
What is transformative social protection for Tanzania?

- Transform the social protection system in line with economic, social and institutional transformations;
  - transformation of people to empower the poor and vulnerable to make use of opportunities available to them for improving their livelihoods in a sustainable manner: – addressing power imbalances, that create social exclusion;
  - developing new skills for decent employment and economic activity (retraining, discounted loans for education);
  - developing socially positive way of thinking (e.g. social rehabilitation courses) and thus, stimulating social and behavioral changes.

- Integrate and consolidate fragmented policies in various sectors (labor market policies, promotion of entrepreneurship, governance reformation)
What is, cont....

- Build effective employment policies, generate productive employment in industries with considerable multiplier effects = An important factor for developing a sustainable model of social protection for the long term
- Enhance national capacity for strengthening social security governance
- Research and quality data which enable informed decision making
- Address the supply side of services (in terms of quality and quantity)
- Develop an overarching social protection policy framework to provide clear institutional roles and responsibility which guides social protection design and implementation at the federal and state levels
- Strengthen governance features of social protection programmes
  - putting in place mechanisms for accountability and transparency
Thank you!