STUDIES IN POVERTY AND INEQUALITY INSTITUTE

Building up knowledge to break down Poverty

SADC WIDE BASIC INCOME GRANT
Our right • Our wealth • Our share
ABOUT SADC BIG

This Campaign seeks to build a case based on empirically derived economic models and the development of a campaign strategy to introduce and institutionalise a SADC-Wide Basic Income Grant (SADC BIG) that is funded through the extractive industries to promote economic justice and reduce poverty and inequality in the region.

Improved society SADC-wide through significant and far-reaching poverty reduction.

- **Political will**
- **Transparency and monitoring**
- **Light Bulb Moment: Power to the people**
- **Extractive Tax**
- **Mining companies operating in the SADC region**
- **Higher income earners would pay Individual Solidarity Tax**
- **Funding Vehicle e.g. SWF**
Why a universal Basic Income Grant?

A basic income is an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement

**Why? Problem analysis:**
- SADC states characterised by high levels of poverty and inequality (SA + Namibia)
- In SADC social protection programs are heavily affected with governments experiencing budgetary constraints and arbitrary donor aiding
- Region endowed with mineral resources

**The Principles:**
- Universal coverage
- Relationship to existing grants
- Amount
- Delivery mechanisms
- Financing

**What is the alternative?**
- Introducing a SADC BIG to improve the lives of majority vulnerable SADC residents
- SADC BIG would provide rapid and sustained relief by:
  - Providing minimum income for all
  - Enable region’s poorest household to meet their basic needs
  - Stimulate equitable economic development
  - Promote family and community stability
  - Affirming inherent dignity for all
We at SPIII believe in Social Justice, In Equitable Redistribution in the fight towards eradicating poverty. Our commitment to the SADC BIG campaign is a recognition of social protection as a human right and an obligation that governments should fulfil.

— OUR RIGHT, OUR SHARE, OUR WEALTH
• There is a need to view social protection as a fundamental human right, as a right is justifiable and enforceable through courts. Human rights create legal obligations on states to implement social protection systems and establish standards for the design, implementation and evaluation of such systems. This is equally reflected in the SADC Social Treaty.

• The AU has set out a social policy framework with ambitions similar to the UN’s Social Protection Floor. Minimal strides have been made towards the realising the provisions of the social policy framework. Equally, the SADC region has developed and adopted the SADC Social Charter. Although positive steps have been undertaken by the regional institutions, more work needs to be done to ensure that social protection initiatives such as a universal basic income, beyond traditional measures of social protection is recognised as a human right.

• The SADC BIG Campaign aims to frame the BIG as an innovative “alternative policy, a measure of the social contract with government and a means of reintegrating the poor and unemployed back into the economy, affording them an opportunity to equally contribute to the growth of the economy.
Our RIGHT. Our WEALTH. Our SHARE

WE HAVE ENOUGH TO SHARE
Global movements in Social Protection

• Traditionally the focus of social protection had been on social security of mainly formal workers and had little inclusion of those outside the workforce. As more liberal movements arose in the late 1990s, social protection became a key awareness for poverty reduction and a paradigm shift began.

• The year 2000 saw the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and with this social protection gained more prominence in international development agendas.

• The focus of social protection has since largely been on the provision of social assistance that is aimed at reducing extreme poverty and mitigating vulnerability.

• Social assistance programs have emerged as one of the more successful mechanisms for development. From Brazil’s Bolsa Familia to Mexico’s Opportundidas to China’s DiBao to the child support grant in South Africa social assistance programmes are being implemented the world over.

• International organisations such as the Bretton Woods Institutions have tended to define the main role of social protection as that of lifting the constraints to human and economic development imposed by social risk. In this context social protection has been approached from the perspective of “safety nets”, rather than inalienable rights.

• More recently on the agenda of social protection is the international momentum that is being gained by basic income grants as a means for social protection in the developed world. In the United States, the black lives matters movement has endorsed basic income, stating that.....
"No other social or economic policy solution today would be of sufficient scale to eradicate the profound and systematic economic inequities affecting black communities."
• This statement resonates with the current approach to social protection as more than just social assistance, a feeding scheme, a health programme or education aid, but as a tool for the realisation of social justice.
• Globally social protection is being considered as a central component that encompasses not only development but a means to reduce inequality, promote a just and more equitable society and a framework to reconcile social and economic reforms in the interest of uplifting human dignity.
• As such social protection now more than ever is interlinked with human rights.
Social Protection and Human Rights: The move towards a stronger social lens
Social Protection and Human Rights: The move towards a stronger social lens

• Currently Social protection is becoming more understood as a strategy for achieving a broad-ranging social, economic and political inclusive and development objectives. Achieving development that is sustainable and inclusive requires the construction of productive, fair and democratic societies and social protection is a key role player in this process.

• The international community is rethinking its approach to development and has drafted a new set of objectives for 2030, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This agenda is aimed at considering development in a balanced way that considers all elements of economic and social progression.

• In this agenda social protection is identified under the goals on poverty reduction (Goal 1), universal health coverage (Goal 3), gender equality (Goal 5) and reducing inequality (Goal 10).

• One of the key areas emphasised in the SDGs is the importance of guaranteeing social protection as a human right. Social protection policies generally aim to guarantee the basic conditions for development and provide a minimum level of protection to all vulnerable people. By reinforcing a human rights approach social protection becomes a fundamental entitlement.
Social Protection and Human Rights: The move towards a stronger social lens
• As human rights are non-negotiable, social protection framed from a human rights approach becomes a pillar of inclusion and equity. For social protection to contribute towards equity and sustainability, it must be grounded in human rights and on the idea that all human beings are born free and equal in status and rights.

• The notion of social protection systems as an obligation is very well established under human rights law. It flows directly from the right to social security and a decent standard of living, which is recognized by articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

• Social protection is not only a tool for risk management but a transformative agent that can help tackle entrenched inequalities, make societies more inclusive and contribute to social justice.

“Human rights are those rights which are essential for us to live as human beings. Without human rights, we cannot fully develop ourselves and use our human qualities, our intelligence, our talent and our spirituality.” -United Nations
Delivering Social Protection in the African Context

• In Africa social protection is a critical strategy for social and economic transformation.
• Some recent regional instruments and initiatives that have worked towards consolidating social protection in Africa include:
  - SADC Social Treaty
  - Strategy for Africa
  - The African Civil Society Platform for Social Protection
  - The African Union Vision 2063 and

• In the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, containing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), includes for instance goal 10 to “adopt policies especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality”.

• The global and national consultations on this agenda supported by the UN system in several countries in Africa have called for protecting and promoting the right to social protection.

• The move towards a human rights approach in social protection is needed in Africa to redress the generational poverty and inequalities that are deeply rooted in a history of slavery, colonisation and imperialism in the African continent. Social protection should provide a means to focus resources on universalising economic and social rights for all.
Social protection as a human right and its implication on agenda setting

• There is no magic formula or one size fits all solution to implementing social protection programmes. Social protection needs to be grounded in the realities of regional, national and local contexts. The coordination of government, communities, and civil society actors affects the development of social protection frameworks. People affected by vulnerabilities MUST be included in the process even pre-planning.

• Social protection must be incorporated into legal frameworks. Governments must recognise that minimum levels of social protection are not a policy option but a legal obligation under international human rights law.

• In this context the right to social protection should be incorporated into domestic laws.

• A rights based focus will also include legislation to ensure equity and access to services without discrimination of any kind, and proactive actions to ensure access to those who suffer from structural discrimination.

• As such social protection policies can be designed to address the rights of those who have been marginalised and disenfranchised and groups that are regularly exposed to adversities.

• Another consideration for policy is the implementation of social protection floors. Social protection floors are a good way to provide basic access to social protection for all. It provides a grounded policy framework that integrates issues of basic income security, vulnerability and access to essential social and health services.
Other policy considerations include:

• Local appropriation can be useful for policy considerations in that it can help design social protection systems that suit the context and prioritise what pressing issues require urgent attention.

• Intensifying South-South cooperation in order to harmonise social protection programmes across developing countries. Exchanges between South-South countries can be advantageous in policy implementation because they are rooted in similar perspectives and contexts. It can afford countries the opportunity to leap frog through challenges through mutual solidarity based cooperation.

• Enhancing social participation in the formulation of social policies and social programme development.

**In conclusion social protection should first and foremost be derived from a human rights perspective. In order to effectively make it easier for those living in vulnerability to break their cycles of poverty and increase their economic and social capital, thus living attain a decent standard of living and human dignity.**
The End

Asante sana!

Contact us at:
nkateko@spii.org.za
www.spii.org.za

Follow us on social media:
Twitter @SADCBIGCampaign
Facebook.com/sadcbigcampaign