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Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in Zambia – an overview



International
Labour
Organization



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INCLUSION, INTEGRATION AND TRANSFORMATION:

Social Protection for Persons with
Disabilities in the SADC

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Protea Parktonian Braamfontein
Johannesburg, South Africa



Country Context - Zambia

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- UNCRPD ratified 2010 – optional protocol signed
- Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
- Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD)
- National Disability Survey 2015 – 7.2% including children, 10.9% > 18
14.5%
 - WG 6 questions - also 2006 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey
 - census in 2010 1.92%
 - less formal education, health, social participation
- Disability higher on agenda than before – reflected in legal framework, discussions, increased technical knowledge MCDSS, targeting in SCT
- However implementation is far from what is required
- Poverty line USD 0.61 – poverty rate 60% in 2015



Legal and Policy Framework - Zambia

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- The Persons with Disability Act (2012)
- Social Protection Policy (2014)
- The National Policy on Disability (2013)
- Seventh National Development Plan (2017)
- Constitution (amended 2016) – disability as grounds for discrimination
- Lack of harmonisation in legislation in education, health, accessibility and employment with the CRPD



- **Persons with Disability Act**
 - ensure policy measures on optimal human potential, independent living - specifically equal access to services, devices and other assistance, public housing, retirement benefits and programmes (Article 36)
- **National Policy on Disability**
 - defines disability as deficiency (any restriction resulting from..)
 - Safeguard and promote adequate standard of living and social protection, ensuring access to services, protection, expenses, retirement, public housing, health insurance
- **National Social Protection Policy**
 - Social Assistance, Social Insurance, Livelihoods and Empowerment, Protection, Disability
 - Safeguard and promote adequate standard of living, ensure equitable access to opportunities (services, devices, poverty reduction programmes, gender, training, access to finance, participation in governance)
- **Act, Disability Policy, SP policy almost verbatim with UNCRPD**



Social protection for persons with
disabilities in Zambia

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- **Workman's Compensation Fund**
 - SI scheme to cover work related injuries, invalidities and death
 - Formal sector, contributions employer's liability
 - benefits range from 1K to 800K month
 - return to work component enrolled 33 clients in 2014
- **Social Cash Transfer Scheme**
 - Severe Disability one of the main targeting criteria (medically certified)
 - Households including member with severe disability receive double grant (80K + 80K monthly)
 - All 106 districts by end 2017, current caseload 280.000 HH
- **National Trust Fund for Persons with Disability**
- **National Vocational Rehabilitation Centre**
- **Assistive Devices** – no special fund established but stipulated in Act

- Budgets – on the rise, however depending on SCT weight
 - Social assistance to incapacitated households, supports for persons with disabilities, vulnerable children and youth, functional literacy and skills training, women development programme (grants)
 - ZAPD, NVRC, NTFPD
 - Expenditure on social protection has been growing but the 2017 budget commitment for SCT still only 0.12% of GDP
 - Irregular disbursements, underfunding, far from expected cost of providing full realisation of human potential/full inclusion in society, patchy coverage

Mainstreaming Disability in other social protection programmes - Zambia

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- Medical care – user fee removal policy 2006 – free first level health care for all, including persons with disabilities. No further benefits
- Public Welfare Assistance Scheme – one-off grants, 9.8% persons with disabilities
- Micro Bankers’ Trust – loans – no disaggregated data
- Food Security Pack - disability as one of possible vulnerability criteria for eligibility but no disaggregated data
- Farmers Input Support Programme (FISP) – E-voucher programme – approx 600.000 farmers 2016/17 - no disability targeting, no data
- Coordination of the disability sector
 - several policies disability aware, but lack of systematic coordination
 - Integrated management information systems - discussed



Policy Recommendations

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- Disability Management Information System – although challenges
- Rehabilitation and Return to Work
 - regular in policies, but widely underutilized
 - NVRC, NTFPD, WCF return to work component 33 clients in 2014
 - recommendation on comprehensive return to work and disability management information system combining prevention, provision of reasonable accommodation, and return through work through training and/or medical rehabilitation
- Micro Finance and Graduation
 - Farming input aim at graduation, however no data – recommendation to mainstream
 - Microfinance and empowerment grants – CEEF, WEF – recommended 10% quota



- **Disability Benefit**
 - Need to disentangle disability benefit from SCT and make it a categorical disability allowance as stipulated in the Act. Could be collapsed with existing disability tax discount
- **Improve Disability Mainstreaming**
 - Sector poorly coordinated, recommendation ZAPD capacity strengthened to ensure coordination and monitoring
- **Resolve funding and capacity constraints**
 - Increased funding, balance stronger/wider impact, ZAPD, awareness campaigns
- **Recommended further research**
 - NVRC, NTFPD, FSP, FISP/E-voucher
 - Exclusion of children with disabilities in the SCT
 - Depth of poverty compounded in relation to type of disability





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