Towards an Inclusive Social Protection System: Full and Effective Participation of People with Disabilities

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INCLUSION, AND TRANSFORMATION:
Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in the SADC
WHY the need for a statement on inclusive Social Protection?

- 15% of world’s population has a disability
- More and more countries are developing SP systems
- Many do not address disability, or address it in a manner antithetical to inclusion
- SP very important for People with Disabilities
Efforts to create a joint statement

- Series of meetings of wide range of stakeholders in 2015-2016
  - Exchanged info on current research
  - Consensus building on key issues
  - Consultation with UN special rapporteur on rights of persons with disabilities report on social protection
  - Generating ideas for studies and research

- Development of core document to outline key issues and move towards inclusive social protection systems

- Current draft circulating and open for comment
Importance of SP for People with Disabilities

- Greater exposure to risks and vulnerability
  - Poverty and unemployment
  - Lack of access to services
  - Higher risk of violence, abuse and neglect
  - Combines with other characteristics like gender and age to create greater disadvantage

- People with disabilities have additional, specific needs
  - Inaccessibility of existing services
    - Physical and Informational
  - Assistive devices and/or personal assistance
  - Rehabilitation services
Towards Rights Based SP for People with Disabilities

- Moving from charity model to rights based model, as consistent with the CRPD
- Social Protection as a way to promote inclusion, not just as a safety net
Disability vs. Work Disability

Disability determination should not be linked to ability to work.

Social Protection programmes for people with disabilities should cover the **extra costs** of disability and address specific **barriers** to participation in order to **augment** general Social Protection programs that provide income security for all people who are not able to secure their livelihoods.
Building inclusive Social Protection systems

- Ensure income security and provide for basic needs;
- Ensure coverage of disability-related extra cost and needs;
- Ensure effective access to needed health care; and
- Improve access to services, such as education, public transportation, support to employment and livelihood generation, as well as child care and child protection services.
Twin Track Approach

Track 1: All SP programmes designed, implemented and monitored to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities

Track 2: Develop adequate disability-specific programmes that may be necessary to provide the support and benefits required by persons with disabilities that are not met through a mainstream programme
Key Principles

- Rights-based approach to full and effective participation
- Non-discrimination
- Accessibility (Physical and Informational)
- Respect for dignity and personal autonomy
- Adequacy of benefits and supports
- Monitoring and evaluation
Next Steps

- Finalization of the joint statement and endorsement

- International technical meeting with social protection experts from different agencies to review how to go forward.

- Need to engage further with WB, OECD, regional development banks

- Identify countries in which we can have joint involvement to support development or reform of social protection system

- Discuss how best to support disability inclusion in the currently ongoing processes and how to gather the lessons from this
Social protection is not charity, it is a societal commitment to full inclusion as a member of society for everyone.
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