Investing in Social Protection in Uganda: The case for the Disability Grant

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Presentation Outline

- Why the Investment case
- Progress so far:
- Program's eligibility and Expected Cost
- Investment Case Financing
- Policy Recommendations
### WHY Investment in Disability Now?

- 12.5% of the Population in Uganda has at least one disability (NHPC, 2014)
- 13%-est. 2.5 million Children live with disabilities (UNICEF-Uganda, 2015)

**Children With Disability (CWD)**

- 9% attend primary education compared with the national average of 92%
- 6% of them continue to Secondary Education against national average of 25%
- Only 10-20% of CWD benefit from rehabilitation services

- Adults with disability are excluded from or discriminated at the workplace, social service centres, and in society.

- Household poverty incidence with at least one member severely or partially disabled member is very high at 29.7% - ten percentage points higher than the national average. 92.3% of people with severe disability are either poor or extremely vulnerable to poverty compared to the national average of 67.5%
Policy Context and Current Initiatives

The National Policy on Disability – 2006
- It calls for the provision of support and legal protection of PWDs. However, there has been a lack of comprehensive disability-oriented programs established and a large implementation gap remains.

National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) – 2016
- Defines social protection as “Public and private interventions to address risks and vulnerabilities that expose individuals to income insecurity and social deprivation, leading to undignified lives”.
- The Policy provides a framework for a comprehensive social protection system that caters for vulnerable and marginalized categories of the population including PWDs.
The government provides a few programs but these are grossly limited in terms of reach and social protection qualities.

- Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)
  - It provides PWDs with increased access and mobility, as well as assistance with income generating opportunities and improved rights, community empowerment.

- Special Grant for People with Disabilities (SGPWD)
  - Aims to provide a social safety net for PWDs and boost their income-generating opportunities and employment generation. The grants are provided to groups of PWDs meeting certain criteria and having submitted a project proposal.
  - Challenged by the group based criteria, only a few can benefit and less common disabilities are often neglected.
Proposed Disability Grant

Based on the Social Protection: Investment Case developed by the Government of Uganda and UNICEF.

**Eligibility** - Those with a type of physical or mental limitation which interferes with both working activities and daily tasks. Those who express difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking, concentrating and self care.

The following three scenarios are considered;

- A universal programme in which the Grant is addressed to all PWDs in the population
- A programme in which only poor PWD are eligible
- A programme targeting disabled individuals labelled as vulnerable
Targeted population and Expected Benefits

Table 1: Disability Grant – low benefit level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Whole Population</th>
<th>Vulnerable Population</th>
<th>Poor Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>1,699,379</td>
<td>1,221,594</td>
<td>492,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in the Poverty Gap</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in the Poverty Headcount</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Disability Grant – high benefit level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Whole Population</th>
<th>Vulnerable Population</th>
<th>Poor Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>1,699,379</td>
<td>1,221,594</td>
<td>492,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in the Poverty Gap</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in the Poverty Headcount</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Social Protection: Investment Case, (GoU, 2016)
The larger the number of eligible individuals and the higher the grant amount, the higher the cost of the programme.

The long run costs are lower than 1% of the GDP in any of the scenarios considered. Even disbursing a high benefit level and implementing a universal program leads to a long term cost of only 0.6% of the GDP. Therefore, the disability Grant is affordable in Uganda.

Considering a gradual rollout of the proposed Disability Grant, costs will rise gradually from 2017 and reach a maximum in 2022 when perfect take up is expected to be reached. Costs could then start to decrease as illustrated in the figure (see next slide).
Figures

Figure 1: Disability Grant - Long-Run Costs and Fiscal Space
Potential Sources for Financing Disability Grant

- Reallocating public expenditures
- Increasing tax revenue
- Using fiscal and central bank foreign exchange reserves
- Increased aid and transfers
- Borrowing or restructuring the existing debt
- Adopting a more accommodating macroeconomic framework.

Recommendations

- A universal disability grant is affordable and sustainable.
- There is a need for increased data on disability.
- A complementary approach is required whereby basic social services are also enhanced.
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