Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in Zambia – an overview

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INCLUSION, AND TRANSFORMATION:
Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in the SADC
Country Context - Zambia
## Country Context - Zambia

- 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
  - 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
Country Context – Zambia

- 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
Disability and SP – policy and legal framework

• 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
Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in Zambia

• 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
Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in Zambia

• 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
Maintreaming Disability in other SP programmes

• 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
Policy Recommendations

- 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
Policy Recommendations

• 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
Thank you

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