

Foreword

*By Christine Guwatudde Kintu,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry
of Gender, Labour & Social
Development*



I am happy to issue this first edition of the Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Newsletter. This newsletter will subsequently be coming out quarterly and is going to be a key information channel between

the ESP Secretariat and all our various stakeholders.

The Secretariat, under the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development effectively came into operation in June 2010. Since then a lot of work has been going on, in terms of recruitment of staff, putting in place procedures and structures, among others. All of these culminated in the official launch of the programme that was presided over by the Rt. Hon. Henry Muganwa Kajura, the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Public Service.

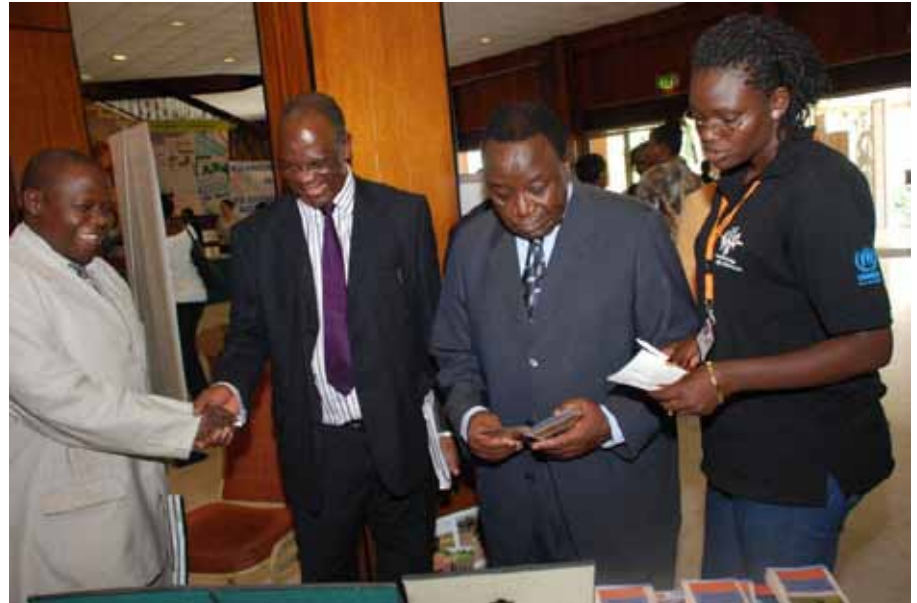
The ultimate objective of the ESP programme is to ensure that the Government of Uganda embeds social protection as a core element in national policy, planning and budgeting processes. The Programme, through the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) will pilot cash transfers in 14 districts of Uganda to demonstrate both the benefits and mechanisms for possible national adoption.

Globally, it is not any more debated whether cash transfers are an effective approach to the alleviation of poverty, vulnerability and supporting chronically poor households to get out of poverty. What remains in discourse is how to design and implement cash transfer schemes in line with local realities and how to ensure sustainability.

ESP is currently supported by the British Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid, UNICEF and Government of Uganda. We thank our development partners for the commitment and support they continue to extend to the Programme.

Good reading and please remember to give us your feedback: esp@socialprotection.go.ug. Also remember to visit our website: www.socialprotection.go.ug.

Expanding Social Protection programme Launched



Rt. Hon Henry Kajura (2nd right) inspects the pre launch exhibition at the Serena Hotel, in the company of Hon. Kisamba Mugerwa, Chairperson National Planning Authority (2nd left) and Hon. Sulaiman Madada, State Minister for Elderly and Disability Affairs (extreme left)

The Expanding Social Protection Programme was officially launched towards the end of 2010 by the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Public Service, Rt Hon. Henry Muganwa Kajura in

the Serena Hotel Kampala. The build up to the well attended launch saw various activities including, a media breakfast, a press conference and an exhibition. See pictorial on pg 6.

Uganda needs Social Protection

The Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) at Makerere, in December 2010 organised a national conference on the theme "Rethinking Uganda's Development Approach." Dr. Stephen Kidd, a Senior Advisor to the Expanding Social Protection programme made a presentation in support of social protection as a strategy for making Uganda's growth inclusive. Following are excerpts of his presentation.

The Expanding Social Protection programme being implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development is an innovative programme Uganda is

initiating. It will pilot cash transfers, with the idea that it will transform into a national programme at the same time supporting Uganda to develop a national policy to better



Dr. Kidd speaks at the conference

plan and coordinate a national social protection approach.

The role of cash transfers in developed countries

In history, we learn from the book by Ha Joon Chang, **"Taking the Ladder Away"** that the West used certain methods to become rich, and then denied them to developing countries. For example, trade barriers and welfare state/social protection systems such as cash transfers, pensions, child grants, disability benefits, unemployment benefits etc, have not been discussed for many years in international development. Yet, national systems of cash transfers are at the core of the West's social and economic policy. They spend up to 14% of GDP on average.

I am not suggesting that Uganda should spend 14% of GDP on social transfers! But England spent 2% of GDP on cash transfers in the 17th and 18th centuries, when it was poorer than Uganda. And it, of course, took decades for spending on cash transfers to reach levels it now has in developed countries.

Cash transfers are a prominent tool in tackling inequality and Uganda's National Development Plan takes cognisance of that. The focus needs to be on how a national system of cash transfers can be financed.

Cash transfers build human capital

A large number of young children suffer malnutrition and stunting in Uganda. Stunting in early

years reduces the cognitive development of children because it is at this time that children get most brain development. If malnutrition happens from conception to the child's first two years, a child can never fully recover; they will perform worse in school and become a much less effective labour force. Uganda has therefore not just lost a generation, but lost generations of children.

But there's a solution! The positive impact of cash transfers on children's nutrition is extensively documented. In South Africa, evidence shows that children living with a pensioner in receipt of a social pension are up to 5 cm taller than those who live with a pensioner not in receipt of a pension. There are similar observable impacts on nutrition with the child grant.

Cash transfers promote more productivity, not dependency

There is no empirical evidence to suggest that cash transfers promote dependency; whereas there is a lot of evidence to show that cash transfers actually reduce dependency. A Brazilian beneficiary in Bolsa Familia, a cash transfer scheme, said that cash gave him the chance to plan for the future and take more risks in investment. He knew that if things went wrong, he could still put food on the table for his children and keep them in school. The same is seen across Africa with cash transfers: People buy more animals, hire people to work on their land and set up small businesses. A large number of such small initiatives will build up and multiply to larger impact.

Cash transfers protect assets

In a crisis or shock, if people have a regular cash transfer, they don't have to sell assets or take children out of school. As a result, they can recover more quickly from crises and become productive once more.

Cash transfers boost consumption and demand

To generate economic growth, people need to be spending to create demand for goods. This is one impact of high levels of redistribution of cash in developed countries. Similar tools have been used to manage the recent global recession. For example, Australia gave every family a cheque of \$2,000 and asked them to spend it.

Cash transfers will inject cash into local economies, build a more dynamic economy where people will buy goods produced locally.

Cash transfers enhance social cohesion

Cash transfers – if done well – can build peace and cohesion. Mauritius in the 1950s gave a universal pension to all over-60s. At the time, Mauritius was a racially divided society. An IMF report says that helped to lay the foundation for Mauritius' economic miracle. With a more cohesive society, the country is more likely to attract foreign investment.

Can Uganda afford this?

This is a political question. Uganda needs to build programmes that are politically popular, not just focusing on the poorest. Lesotho gave a pension to everyone over-70; it became such a popular programme that, in part, government won elections because of it. When something is a political priority, government can afford it.

Finally, I would like to say that I am not saying that a system of cash transfers is the only answer; it needs to be part of a much broader package of economic and social investment. But, it is a key part of the answer.

Dr. Stephen Kidd is the ESP Senior Social Protection Advisor

ESP Sponsors government officials for training

By Dora Anyango

Over 30 individuals have been sponsored to attend international training in social protection, under the ESP programme. The majority of the trainees (22) are from ministries, departments and agencies of the Government of Uganda. The training has mainly been organised by the renowned Economic Policy Research Institute based in Cape Town, South Africa. The training is conducted in different locations around the world.

The training brings together different participants from all over the world but especially countries that are already implementing social protection programmes or are piloting social protection initiatives.

The key objective of the two week training, targeted at both policy makers and implementers, is to build and strengthen capacity and skills for social transfers. It is expected that the training opportunities will increase skills and capacity

across the Government while enhancing social protection leadership in Uganda.

The ESP sponsored participants are expected to champion social protection both at national and local levels. In order for both the policy makers and implementers to ensure effective and efficient delivery of social protection interventions, there is need to have a common understanding of it both at the policy and implementation levels.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Local Government and staff from various districts have so far attended the training.

Other avenues that have been used to build the capacity of policy makers are study tours and exchange visits to the countries that are already implementing cash transfer programmes. So

far, Ugandan teams comprising of mainly political leadership, have visited cash transfer programmes in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho and South Africa, within the Africa region.

Meanwhile, in order to have a coordination forum for social protection champions, all the Ugandan EPRI alumni met in December in Kampala to discuss how the skills they gained in the training can be used to support the social protection agenda in Uganda. The alumni agreed that they will work in their respective capacities to support the efforts of the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development to promote social protection initiatives in Uganda. The Permanent Secretary in the MGLSD, Ms. Christine Guwatudde Kintu is an EPRI alumna.

Dora Anyango is the ESP Training Manager

Programme Website launched

By Justus Oguna

The ESP website www.socialprotection.go.ug has been launched. It is intended to be a key information tool to; i) provide up to date, relevant and useful information to ESP partners and stakeholders on the Programme's activities and issues in a fast, user-friendly way (ii) provide knowledge and information on best practices, lessons learnt, experiences in social protection locally and globally (iv) carry any advertisements for jobs, tenders, consultancies, etc for the Programme and provide a platform for current dialogue with stakeholders with online



knowledge sharing /interactive tools (twitter, face book).

In the coming months, more work will go into improvements including blogs, online newsletters, social network sites integration and more interactive tools.

The website targets: central government partners (ministries, departments, agencies, etc), local governments, development partners, international and regional partners, local implementing partners, civil society organisations, research and academic institutions, private sector agencies, SP practitioners and researchers globally and the general public.

Justus Oguna is the ESP MIS Coordinator

How SAGE is going to work

— By Stephen Barrett —

Objectives of the SAGE cash transfer programme

The Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) is a key component of the Expanding Social Protection programme (ESP) - being implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (MGLSD) with financial support from DFID, Irish Aid and UNICEF.

The ESP programme is working to support implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) by embedding social protection within Uganda's planning and budget frameworks. The SAGE pilot is designed to generate evidence on the impact of cash transfers on a range of human, social and economic development indicators as well as evidence on how cash transfers can be effectively delivered to poor and vulnerable households. This includes generating evidence on targeting, institutional arrangements, the role of the private sector and how cash transfer programmes should be coordinated with other government services and development initiatives. This evidence will in turn inform the development of Uganda's national social protection policy framework.

Where will SAGE be implemented?

Over the next five years SAGE will be implemented across all sub-counties in 14 districts, namely; Kyenjojo, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Kaberemaido, Nebbi, Apac, Katakwi, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Amudat, Kyegegwa, Kyankwanzi, Zombo and Kole. These 14 districts were selected on the basis of available poverty rates as well as the following six indicators: proportion of children in the district population; proportion of older persons in the district population; number of orphans and vulnerable children as a proportion of the total child population; incidence of risky births; proportion of households living more than 5 kms from health facilities; and

school attendance rates amongst children aged 6-12 years.

It is therefore not surprising that a majority of the SAGE pilot districts are in the north. Poverty levels in northern Uganda are double the national average and, following years of conflict, it will take some time for northern Uganda to catch up with the rest of the country. Initiatives such as SAGE are needed over an extended period of time to support this process. However, since SAGE is intended to pilot a nationally representative programme, the selection of districts has also been done so as to incorporate all regions in Uganda.

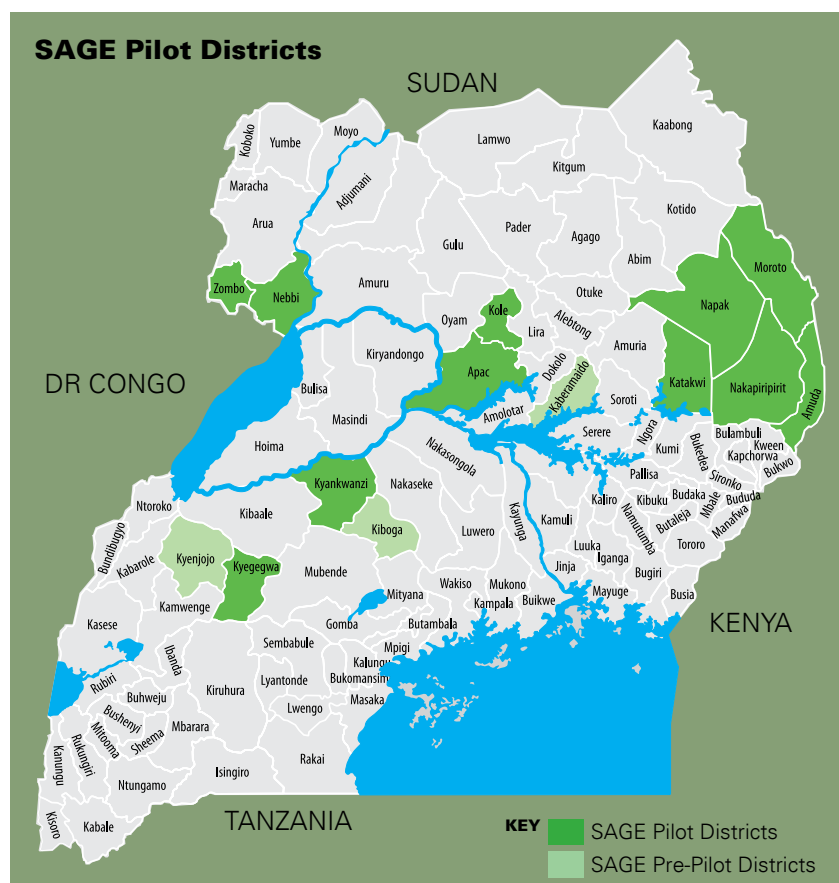
The roll-out will start in August 2011 with a pilot exercise in three districts of Kaberemaido, Kiboga and Kyenjojo. Thereafter, the programme will be rolled-out

to 5 further districts in October 2011 and the final 6 districts in April 2012.

How will SAGE select beneficiaries?

SAGE will reach approximately 95,000 households – around 600,000 people – during the 5 year pilot period. This is approximately 15 per cent of all households in the targeted districts. The programme is specifically intended to target the types of individuals and households which tend to be excluded from other development interventions and will comprise of two sub-components: the *Old Age Grant (OAG)* and the *Vulnerable Families Support Grant (VFSG)*. The Old Age Grant will target older people aged 65 years and above. The Vulnerable Families

... Continued on pg 9



ESP holds meeting with Parliamentarians

The Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development held a meeting at the Kampala Sheraton Hotel to brief Members of Parliament (MPs) on the ESP programme. The MPs said the idea of providing social protection to ensure that all Ugandans have basic decent living standards was long overdue.

Representing Hon. Gabriel Opio, the Minister of Gender, Labour & Social Development, Hon. Emmanuel Otaala, the State Minister for Labour, assured the MPs that the ESP programme had been adequately prepared using experience and knowledge available from countries that have already implemented such initiatives for some time. He said fool-proof technologies would be deployed to ensure that the right beneficiaries receive the support.

Budaka Woman Member of Parliament Hon. Pherry Kabanda said she appreciated the Social Protection intervention as complementary to existing Government of Uganda programmes. She shared her experience of a family that could not afford water from a water source that had been put in place by Government because the community charged a fee to keep its sustainability.

She said chronically poor families would not access the water because they did not have the minimal fee that was levied. She argued that cash transfers would ensure that even families like these would be enabled to access existing government services.

Hon. Elias Lukwago said there was need to speed up the process to put in place a social protection policy so that a system of cash transfers is institutionalised.

Minister of State for Disability & Elderly, Hon. Sulaiman Madada who closed the breakfast meeting said although



State Minister for Labour, Hon. Emmanuel Otaala, welcomes Hon. Margaret Babadiri to the meeting.



Hon. Pherry Kabanda, Hon. Nekorach listen as Hon. Mariam Nalubega makes her submission.

Uganda had made progress in bringing down poverty levels, there remains a section of the country's population that finds it difficult to access existing government programmes.

He said the only way to reach out to this category of people is by empowering them to be able to consume existing services; through cash transfers. He said experience from other

countries in the region that have implemented cash transfers shows that they are effective in tackling chronic poverty.



a - Mr. Herbert Baryayebwa (2nd right) takes Hon. Kajura on tour of exhibition stalls at the launch.

b - H.E. Martin Shearman British High Commissioner in Uganda makes a speech on behalf of DFID, Irish Aid and UNICEF.

c - Journalists attend the ESP launch press conference at the Media Centre.

d - Dr. Kisamba Mugerwa chats with Jane Mpagi, Director Gender, MGLSD.

e - MGLSD staff take Hon. Kajura around the stall

See page 7.

f - DFID's Rita Kyomukama (L) and Irish Aid's Carol Kego Laker at the launch.

g - ESP staff

h - Dr. Kisamba Mugerwa shows participants the ESP information kit.



i - (L-R) The Omukama of Bunyoro Solomon Gafabusa Iguru and Ssabaruli Wilberforce attended the launch.

j - (L-R) Carol Kego, Jane Rintoul (DFID Head in Uganda) and Rachel Waterhouse (DFID Social Development Advisor) chat at the launch.

k - Invited guests at the launch.



l - (R-L) ESP's Beatrice Okillan, Martin Pittman, Emrys Shoemaker and a guest, Naome Kabarungi.

Social Protection Sub-Committee holds orientation meeting

By Beatrice Okillan

The Social Protection Sub-committee has held two meetings to orient members to be able to effectively carry out the Sub-committee's leadership role in social protection policy in Uganda.

The Sub-committee, chaired by the Director Social Protection in the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development, is the main leadership structure within the Government of Uganda on all social protection policy related issues. This includes responsibility for initiating and leading on all policy development, reform and coordination on behalf of the Government.

Membership of the Sub-committee includes individuals representing relevant Government line ministries, department & agencies, development partners with interest in social protection, civil society organisations and research institutions.

The objectives of the two-day retreat were to: (a) build a common understanding of social protection amongst Sub-committee members;

(b) build a common, in depth, understanding of the Expanding Social Protection programme; (c) establish the optimum institutional arrangements to enable the Social Protection Sub-committee to effectively carry out its role; and (d) agree on the Sub-committee's 12 month work-plan.

The Sub-committee subsequently met again from 1-3 March 2011, among other things, to approve membership and chairmanship of the various working thematic groups that the Sub-committee earlier constituted from its membership. The members also discussed and agreed on the key areas where the Secretariat supports the Sub-committee.

The following chairs were approved for the various thematic groups: Policy- Mr. Stephen Kasaija, Head of ESP Secretariat, Capacity Building- Ms Dora Anyango, Training Manager ESP, Programming- Mr. Edward Mugyimba, Acting Commissioner Equity & Rights, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development and Communication- Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Acting Commissioner



Beatrice Okillan

Youth & Children, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development.

The Sub-committee also reviewed the draft of the Social Development Investment Plan (SDIP II) and reviewed the proposed programme, resource mobilization and communication strategies for the Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children Programme of the Ministry.

It was noted that social protection was a major focus in the coming five years in the Social Development Sector Investment Plan (SDIP II).

Beatrice Okillan is the ESP Policy and Learning Manager

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How SAGE works

Support Grant will use a scoring mechanism which allocates different scores to household members based on their age, sex and disability status. The highest scoring (i.e. most vulnerable) 15% of households will be enrolled in the programme. VFSG beneficiary households will be reassessed for eligibility every three years.

The Old Age Grant (OAG) and Vulnerable Family Support Grant (VFSG) approaches have been specifically chosen as they are more resistant to fraud and manipulation than other forms of targeting. Both mechanisms will be implemented in a transparent fashion with clear eligibility criteria.

How much will SAGE beneficiaries receive?

In 2011, SAGE grants will be UGX 22,000 per month. Thereafter payments will be increased by 5% on an annual basis to account for inflation and maintain the purchasing power of the grant. This benefit level is based on the criteria of long-term affordability, acceptability and adequacy. The value of the grant is in line with similar cash transfers in Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme evaluation will consider whether the benefit level is appropriate before national scale-up. Similar initiatives in other countries have shown that small amounts of money paid reliably and regularly, can make an enormous positive

impact on people's lives. Finally, in terms of poverty reduction, it is far more efficient and effective to provide smaller grants to more beneficiaries than larger grants to fewer beneficiaries.

How will payments be delivered?

Payments will be delivered by either a mobile money service or a commercial bank. The contractor will establish networks in all the beneficiary areas to ensure that distance does not inhibit beneficiaries from receiving their grants. The beneficiaries and the communities will be widely informed on how the technology will work.

Stephen Barrett is the SAGE Programme Manager

Development Partners support Government on Social Protection

Between December 15-16, 2010 the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development convened the 5th Social Development Sector Review. Development partners made a statement in which they supported Government initiatives on Social Protection. Below is an edited version of the statement presented by Rachel Waterhouse, DFID Social Development Advisor and Chair, Local Development Partners Group Social Protection Task Force.

While recent statistics show encouraging reductions in poverty, we are all too aware of vulnerabilities that remain among the poorest in Ugandan society; that over 7 million people still live in poverty and that many of those people are trapped in chronic poverty. As Development Partners we therefore welcome the theme of this review on **“Enhancing social protection for socio-economic transformation”**. This theme highlights the central importance of the Social Development Sector to addressing and reducing vulnerability and chronic poverty – not only through a traditional approach of welfare services

and care but also through a new and emerging approach to social protection.

We warmly welcome the draft SDIP II. More specifically, there are three key points we would like to make, regarding: (a) The important step forward on social protection signaled by SDIP II; (b) The need, however, to reach consensus on a clearer, more focused vision of what the Government and its partners aim to achieve in developing a national social protection programme; and (c) In order to turn that vision into reality, the need to think more thoroughly about how the Government can

gradually institutionalize Social Protection over the coming years.

On the first point, we would like to congratulate the Ministry for including a chapter on social protection for vulnerable groups in the SDIP II and for outlining the intended areas of work; including the plan to develop a ‘comprehensive social protection framework’. We further congratulate the Ministry for including clear indicators and target results. This is an important step in ensuring that social protection will receive the attention it deserves over the next 5 years and beyond.

The National Development Plan aims at building Uganda's human and other capital to achieve sustainable growth. We share the conviction that social protection has a critical role to play, in realizing this ambition. The experience of developed countries in the West shows just how important it is to invest in human capital, and the role that social protection interventions can play. For instance, these countries on average spend some 14% of GDP in the form of social transfers, including pensions, child grants and a wide range of other social transfers. This has enabled high levels of education, skills, employment and growth.

In Uganda and elsewhere in Africa, Governments are only just beginning to see the potential benefits of social protection, including social transfers among other instruments. There are short term benefits, through ensuring that vulnerable people can meet their immediate needs. There are also critical medium and long term benefits. In the medium term, for example, cash transfers can stimulate the local economy bringing wider benefits of equitable growth. In the longer term, social protection helps to break the cycle of chronic poverty passed down from one generation to the next, through deprived childhoods. Through social protection programming, the Government can ensure that today's children have an adequate diet, health care and education – by putting enough money in people's hands to access these basic requirements.

While the SDIP II places important emphasis on social protection, however, we feel that this is not yet well enough defined. There is a tendency, at conceptual level, to conflate social protection with social development more broadly. A clearer focus on social protection would help to ensure a clear, coherent and robust strategy for developing a national, social protection system in Uganda



A comprehensive approach to social protection enables the poor to get an education



The poorest in Uganda remain highly vulnerable

– as a critical contribution to achievement of the NDP.

Thirdly, the need to develop a strategy to institutionalize social protection within government plans and budgets; social protection, is about establishing an institutionalized system, to support people in their efforts to prevent, manage and overcome risks and vulnerability. This makes it quite different from ad hoc or emergency

aid. Social protection is about establishing a system to provide vulnerable people with more security. Embedding a social protection system in Uganda will be about much more than simply implementing a pilot cash transfer programme in a few pilot districts. It will mean developing the institutions, fiscal arrangements and management capacity to deliver on social protection for the most vulnerable people, throughout the country.

Regional/International News

European Development Report 2010 makes case for Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa

The 2010 European Report on Development examines the need and potential for expanding social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as its feasibility and likely development impact. The report notes that in contrast with the view that Sub-Saharan Africa cannot afford social protection; innovative approaches to building broad-based social protection schemes and systems have been promoted by African countries, and implemented with success across the region.

The report entitled **“Social Protection for Inclusive Development: A New Perspective in EU Cooperation with Africa”** is



timely. In the 2010 G20 'Seoul Development Consensus' growth with resilience was identified as a key pillar, with specific

emphasis on Social Protection mechanisms that support resilient and inclusive growth. More broadly, a consensus is emerging that Social Protection is not only a right, but also an indispensable instrument in supporting progress towards achieving inclusive growth and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This momentum stems largely from the growing recognition that Social Protection is a crucial piece of the development puzzle, as affirmed in the 2008 African Union's "Social Policy Framework for Africa" and 2010 "Khartoum Declaration on Social Policy Action towards Social Inclusion".

The report argues that, Social Protection, at the very heart of the European social model, should become an integral part of EU development policies and its commitment to the social dimension of globalisation. The full report is available here: http://erd.eui.eu/media/2010/Social_Protection_for_Inclusive_Development.pdf

The World Bank to develop new 10 year strategy on Social Protection and labour

The World Bank Group is beginning consultations on a renewed social protection and labour strategy that will guide its work for the next decade, the Bank announced recently. The Bank said, with the recent food, fuel and financial crises, and an overwhelming demand for effective, efficient and equitable social protection programs that reduce poverty and inequality, and build resilience by helping individuals and families smooth their consumption, it is an ideal time for the Bank to roll out a reinvigorated 10-year plan.

“The next decade promises to be fast-changing, challenging and demanding of social protection,” said Arup Banerji, Director of Social Protection & Labor at the Bank. “During the next 10 years, social protection policies and programs will be strongly shaped by emerging global challenges, especially deepening demographic trends, increasing volatility and integration brought about by globalization, and persistent poverty and inequality.” For more information: <http://web.worldbank.org/>

Swazi elderly eat more meals a day from cash transfer-Report

Swaziland's high HIV/AIDS prevalence is leading to a society of the very young and the very old. Both these groups are highly vulnerable and are in need of social protection. Cash transfers are increasingly seen as a popular form of social protection, representing a multi-benefit solution to reducing absolute poverty and food insecurity for vulnerable groups.

The Swaziland Old Age Grant (OAG) was introduced in 2005 as a universal grant to all Swazi citizens over 60 years of age, many of whom are caring for orphaned children in their households. Although the evaluation was done only 5 years after the introduction of the OAG, results show that the OAG has impacted many aspects of beneficiaries' lives as well as their household characteristics.

One of the most visible outcomes of vulnerability amongst the elderly is hunger and food insecurity, and receipt of the OAG undoubtedly seems to reduce these conditions in terms of meal frequency, meal quality, ability to purchase food (directly or indirectly), and benefiting from economies of scale by buying in bulk. The assessment shows that 24 per cent of beneficiaries cite eating more meals per day since receiving the OAG, and 28 per cent observed an increase in meal quality. It was also observed that 29 per cent of beneficiaries purchase more food, 19 per cent are able to afford the inputs necessary to grow their own food crops, and 27 per cent buy food in greater quantities since receiving the OAG.

For full report: <http://www.wahenga.net/sites/default/files/library/>

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Feedback:

For any views and feedback on this newsletter or social protection in general, please write to

The Editor, P.O Box 28240, Kampala; E-mail: esp@socialprotection.go.ug

www.socialprotection.go.ug

