

services.

- **Grant – in –Aid:** Paid to a caregiver of an adult person with disability who requires full time attention of another person.
- **Foster Child Grant:** Paid to families who have been granted authority to take care of a vulnerable child.
- **Child Support Grant (CSG):** The CSG was initially targeted to poor children up to the age of seven but has been progressively and unconditionally extended to poor children under the age of 17 whose parents don't earn above a threshold.

Ethiopia: Public Works & Grants for Labour Constrained Households

One of Africa's poorest countries, Ethiopia is implementing one of the largest Direct Income Support programmes in the region, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). The PSNP is an example of an initiative that utilises a public works approach to social protection, using local labour to contribute to public works projects. It also has a smaller component of unconditional money and food transfers, targeting households that are both chronically food insecure and have no labour. The PSNP reaches approximately 9 million people, in 7 out of 10 regions, with more than 85% of beneficiaries participating in the public works component. The public works wage rate is \$0.70 or 3kg of grain per day, and each individual is entitled to 5 days work per month (hence US\$3.50 per month). Transfers are made to participants for six months of the year in a combination of food and money depending on local preferences and needs.

Mauritius: Senior Citizens, Orphans and Child Dependency Grants

Mauritius – along with South Africa – has one of the most comprehensive Direct Income Support systems in Africa. The system provides a minimal level of protection through a range of mechanisms including: (i) a non-contributory universal old age pension for all persons over the age of 60, widows and disabled persons (\$100 per person/month); (ii) all orphans under 20 years (\$50 per child/month); and (iii) a child allowance for up to three children to all recipients of widow's and invalids' pension (\$30 per child/month); and iv) social aid for all families unable to earn an income. A caregivers' allowance (\$50 per month), over and above their basic pension, is payable to older persons and disabled persons who suffer from severe disability requiring constant personal attendance.

When the government introduced a universal old age pension scheme as far back as 1958, the country had a weak stagnant mono-crop economy which relied on the production of sugar. Mauritius has clearly shown that it is possible even in such a context to pay decent pensions not only to vulnerable groups but also to all senior citizens.

Namibia: Senior Citizens and Disability Grants

The Senior Citizens Grant and Disability Grant were started in Namibia in 1949. Their purpose was to prevent poverty among older people and disabled people. For the senior citizens grant, men and women aged 60 and above, comprising 6-7% of the population, receive N\$450 (US\$ 58.44) per month. By 2008 the scheme reached 130,455 pensioners.

The Disability Grant goes to disabled people aged 16 or above and medically certified by a State doctor as being temporarily or permanently disabled (blind people included); persons with AIDS as certified by a medical doctor also receive this grant. Namibia also has a number of grants for vulnerable children.

Ghana: Vulnerable Household Grant

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) is a Direct Income Support programme targeting poor households, with monthly transfers ranging from \$6.90 to \$12.90.

Box bullet points

The "Livingstone Call for Action" noted that:

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- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights conventions establish that social security for all and social protection for the vulnerable is a basic human right.
- The guarantee of basic social protection strengthens the social contract between the state and citizens, enhancing social cohesion.
- A sustainable basic package of Direct Income Support is affordable within current resources of governments and international development partners.
- Direct Income Support is a way to directly reduce poverty and inequality.
- The provision of money directly to poor people enhances economic growth. Income Support is used for both investment and consumption; the provision of Direct Income Support transfers increases human capital by helping people to keep healthy, educate their children and support HIV/AIDS affected families.

Uganda was one of 13 countries to sign the 'Livingstone Call to Action'. Uganda is also a signatory to the AU Social Policy Framework (2008) which calls on governments to recognize that social protection should be a state obligation, with provision for it in national legislation.

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EXPANDING
SOCIAL
PROTECTION



Social Protection in Africa

A Brief Summary of Initiatives around the Region



Introduction

All over the world, there is a growing interest in how social protection and Direct Income Support in particular impacts poverty, inequality, human development, growth and social inclusion. In the last few years, a number of African countries have initiated various types of Direct Income Support programmes, providing small, regular payments of money to vulnerable citizens.

Continental Commitments on Social Protection

In March 2006, the Government of the Republic of Zambia together with the African Union co-hosted an inter-governmental conference on social protection in Livingstone, Zambia. The event brought together ministers and senior representatives from 13 African countries, together with Brazil, development partners, UN agencies and NGOs. The conference discussed measures for protecting the poorest in Africa. It noted the continuing high levels of poverty in Africa. The conference came up with what has come to be called the Livingstone Call to Action (2006), which sets out commitments to social protection and calls on countries in Africa to put in place costed plans for the implementation of Direct Income Support programmes.

Box 1: Examples of Social Protection Programmes in Africa

Senior Citizens Grants / Social Pensions	Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Mauritius, Cape Verde, Seychelles, Zambia and South Africa
Grants for Vulnerable Children	Kenya, Mauritius, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa
Cash and food for work for vulnerable families	Ethiopia and Rwanda
Vulnerable Family Grants	Rwanda, Malawi, Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia and Ethiopia
Disability Grants	Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa

Country-Specific Initiatives in East Africa

Kenya: Senior Citizens, Orphans & Vulnerable Children and Disability Grants

The government of Kenya has been implementing various Direct Income Support programmes for a number of years. In the budget speech 2011/12, the Kenya Minister of Finance announced significant increases in financing for Direct Income Support Programmes to vulnerable groups, amounting to doubling of budgets for such initia-



tives. The Government of Kenya provided Kshs1billion (Ugx 27billion) towards extending Direct Income Support to older persons- extending the grants of Kshs 2,000 (about Ugx55,000) to all persons aged 60 and above in 72 districts around the country, Kshs 2.8billion (Ugx75.5 billion) to orphans and other vulnerable children and Kshs 667million (Ugx 180 billion) for disabled persons.

In June 2011, the Kenyan Parliament passed a private motion by a Member of Parliament John Mbadi, which requires and commits the Government of Kenya to pay Kshs 2,000 (about Ugx55,000) monthly allowances to Kenyans aged 60 years and above. The motion was overwhelmingly passed by the Kenyan Parliament. Article 57(d) of Kenya's recently promulgated Constitution requires the family and State to provide reasonable care and assistance to senior citizens.

The Government of Kenya started implementing Direct Income Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in 2004. The overall objective of the OVC Programme was to encourage fostering and retention of OVC through provision of small, regular and predictable Direct Income Support to households living with OVC. The Programme plans to reach 100,000 households by 2012 and 125,000 households by 2015.

Rwanda: Public Works and Grants for Labour-Constrained Households

The Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP) program is one of three flagship programmes under Rwanda's Economic Development & Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS). The programme aims to promote pro-poor growth and accelerate the reduction of extreme poverty in Rwanda. The VUP has three components:

- a public works programme, providing regular, small payments in return for work on public infrastructure;
- a direct support programme providing Direct Income Support to the extreme poor who cannot work, in particular the elderly and people with disabilities; and,
- a financial services programme designed to provide loans and promote savings especially among (but not limited to) beneficiaries of the first two components. VUP was launched in 2008. By the end of the FY2009/10, 61,000 households had participated in public works, 9,700 had received direct income support transfers and 55,000 had received loans.

Tanzania: Senior Citizens Grant

In recent years, the Government of The United Republic of Tanzania (GOURT) has sought to embed social protection within its national development strategy and policy frameworks. In 2008 The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development, in partnership with the ILO, undertook a Social Protection Expenditure Review (SPER) which highlighted the need to investigate the feasibility of a universal non-contributory pension in Tanzania. The Government of Tanzania is now aiming to achieve old age income security for all Tanzanians. In May 2010, the Ministry finalised a study into the feasibility of a universal Senior Citizens Grant which concluded that it was affordable and implementable. Parliament has recently committed to launch the pension in the financial year 2012/2013.

Other Notable African Initiatives

Lesotho: Senior Citizens Grant

The main motivations for the Senior Citizens Grant in Lesotho was the fact that the traditional extended family system – whereby older persons were taken care of by their children – was eroding, and yet traditionally older persons are held in high esteem. This was coupled with the fact that due to the high HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country, there were many orphans left in the care of older persons. The initial grant was 150 Maluti (about US\$ 20) per person per month and the eligibility age was put at 70 years. The amount was later raised to 300 maluti (about US\$ 37) per month.

Other Direct Income Support programmes that the Government of Lesotho is implementing include child grants to orphans to cater for their scholastic needs.

South Africa: Senior Citizens, Disability and Child Dependency Grants

Direct Income Support schemes in South Africa have a long history but have mainly been used to address the country's social and economic inequalities. In 1992, the government of South Africa initiated the Social Assistance Act, 1992 (amended 2004). Today South Africa arguably has one of the most comprehensive Direct Income Support systems in Africa, which includes the following grants:

- Senior Citizen's Grants:** Given to older persons above 60 years of age. It is an affluence tested grant which is given to older persons who earn less than 3,740 Rand (US\$490) per month, and reaches around 67% of older people.
- Disability grant:** Paid to those aged between 18-59 years whose income is below 3,740 Rand (US\$490) per month. Eligibility is confirmed with a medical report.
- Care Dependency Grant:** Given to natural parents or foster parents of children (0-18years) with severe disabilities. To benefit from the grant one requires a medical report indicating need for permanent care or support