DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Social Protection Frameworks

DusitD2 Hotel
Chiang Mai
22 October 2019

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3 Frameworks
(1) Life-cycle approach
(2) Transformative social protection
(3) Social protection floor

3 Agencies
(1) UNICEF
(2) European Union
(3) World Bank
Social protection: a brief history

1980s: Social safety nets

2001: “Social Risk Management”

2004: “Transformative Social Protection”

2012: 4 agency strategies: EU, ILO, UNICEF, WB

2015: SDGs

Goal 1. End poverty
Goal 5. Gender equality & empowerment
Goal 10. Reduce inequality
3 conceptual frameworks
(1) Life–cycle approach

Vulnerability through the life–cycle

- Pre-school children
- School-age children
- Adolescents
- Pregnant and lactating women
- Older persons
- Working-age adults

Employment Opportunities
(2) Transformative social protection

**Promotion**

**Prevention**

**Protection**

- **Social assistance**: Income transfers (cash) or consumption transfers (food or vouchers or subsidies) to the poor.
- **Social insurance**: Security against life–cycle risks and livelihood shocks (e.g. social security, pensions).
- **Livelihood promotion**: Linkages to graduate the poor out of poverty (e.g. school feeding, public works).
Protection

Social assistance: Income transfers (cash) or consumption transfers (food or vouchers or subsidies) to the poor

Prevention

Social insurance: Security against life–cycle risks and livelihood shocks (e.g. social security, pensions)

Promotion

Livelihood promotion: Linkages to graduate the poor out of poverty (e.g. school feeding, public works).

Transformation

Social justice: Address structural drivers of poverty and vulnerability with policies of social inclusion
“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”
Four guarantees

“The guarantees should ensure at a minimum that, over the life cycle, all in need have access to essential health care and to basic income security.”

- Access to a set of goods and services constituting essential health care including maternity care
- Basic income security for children
- Basic income security for persons in active age unable to earn sufficient income
- Basic income security for persons in old age
3 agency approaches
‘Integrated Social Protection Systems: Enhancing equity for children’

[UNICEF 2012]

3 principles for “integrated social protection systems”:

- Progressive realization of universal coverage
- Nationally owned systems and national leadership
- Inclusive social protection – tackling social exclusion
4 social protection components:

- **Social transfers:** Predictable direct transfers to individuals or households, both in-kind and in cash, to protect against shocks and support accumulation of human, financial and productive assets.

- **Ensuring access to services:** Interventions that reduce economic and social barriers to basic social services.

- **Social support and care services:** Human resource-intensive services that identify and reduce vulnerability and exclusion.

- **Legislation and policy reform:** Changing policies and legislation to remove inequalities in access to services and/or economic opportunities, addressing issues of discrimination and exclusion.
EU policy on development cooperation in future calls for “a more comprehensive approach to human development, supporting increased access to quality health and education services, and enhanced social protection in support of inclusive growth”.

[EC 2012]
(2) European Union

Social protection in High–Income Countries (HICs)
Member States are committed to providing universal access to social protection against major lifecycle risks, but: (1) population ageing, and (2) financial crisis, raises questions about affordability and efficiency.

Social protection in Middle–Income Countries (MICs)
Systems are emerging. Challenges are: (1) to broaden coverage of contributory social security schemes beyond the formal economy; (2) to improve efficiency of social assistance programmes.

Social protection in Low–Income Countries (LICs)
Challenges include: (1) high degree of informality; (2) limited fiscal resources; (3) weak public institutions; (4) dominance of fragmented, donor-funded social protection projects.

[World Bank 2012]

“social protection and labor systems ... help people and families find jobs, improve their productivity, cope with shocks, and invest in the health, education, and well-being of their children”
Three Overarching Goals

1. “improve **resilience** by helping people insure against drops in well-being from different types of shocks”

2. “improve **equity** by reducing poverty and destitution and promoting equality of opportunity”

3. “promote **opportunity** by building human capital, assets, and access to jobs and by freeing families to make productive investments because of their greater sense of security.”
“The strategic direction is to help developing countries move from fragmented approaches to more harmonized systems for social protection and labor”
Where next for social transfers?

Five challenges for 2015–2025:

1. **Build national systems:** capacity and coordination

2. **Extend coverage:** scale-up, urban areas, informal sector

3. **Labour market linkages:** reduce youth unemployment

4. **Overcome fiscal affordability constraints:** build the tax base

5. **Build resilience:** contingency financing for ‘surge capacity’.