

Enhanced Protection for Children Affected by AIDS: Developments in social protection



For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

Enhanced Protection for Children Affected by AIDS

A companion piece to
The Framework for the
Protection, Care and
Support of Orphans and
Vulnerable Children
Living in a World
with HIV and AIDS



Child Sensitive Social Protection Systems

Include:

- Social transfers: regular, predictable, disbursements (cash or in-kind, including fee waivers) from governments and other community entities to individuals or households
- Social insurance: e.g. health insurance
- Social services: family and community services to support families, and promote youth and adult employment; alternative care for children outside family environments; and social welfare services including family support, child protective services and assistance in accessing other services and entitlements
- Policies, legislation and regulations that protect families' access to resources, promote employment and support them in their child care role, including fee waivers for basic social services for the poor, maternity and paternity leave, inheritance rights and anti-discrimination legislation.

Child Sensitive Social Protection

Should result in:

- increased availability of time and money within the household (e.g. social pensions, child care services);
- increased parents' or caregivers' access to employment or income generation;
- reduced need for child labour
- adolescents prepared for their own livelihoods and take account of their role as current and future workers.

Building blocks of child sensitive social protection (UNICEF ESARO)

1. **Legal and judicial system** giving effect to the rights of women and children, consistent with the UNCRC, the African Charter and the CEDAW
2. **Social transfers:** cash and/or in-kind (e.g. health and education fee waivers)
3. **Early childhood care and development:** Early care and pre-school programmes can greatly reduce inequities in child survival and development
4. **Strong social welfare services,** including:
 - Family support services,
 - Support to community and other alternative care arrangements for vulnerable children, and
 - Specialized protective services for victims of exploitation and abuse
5. **Programs to develop work-related skills** amongst adolescents / school leavers - to address human capital and life-skills capacity gaps

Impacts of social transfers

Social transfers have been shown to:

- Reduce severity of child poverty
- Strengthen human capital development
- Improve school enrollment, attendance and grade progression
- Increase health service utilization and reduce incidence of illness
- Improve quality and quantity of food, and nutritional status
- Lessen the risk of child labour
- Reduce stress that contributes to domestic violence

Progress in Eastern and Southern Africa

Livingstone Call to Action (March 2006):

- Major political landmark for social protection in Africa
- Recognised that social protection is key to reducing poverty and promoting growth
- Calls for social protection to be *more utilized as an option in Africa to reach vulnerable groups, including children*
- Re-endorsement in Kampala in May 2008, including spending targets, and AU framework development

Cash Transfer programmes underway in East and Southern Africa

- South Africa's national child support grant (CSG) which reaches over 9 million children up to age 14 and which is being expanded to cover children up to age 18 over the next 4 years.
- Several countries have smaller programmes, either demonstrations (e.g. Kenya, Malawi, Zambia), or established programmes but with low coverage (e.g. Mozambique).
- Lesotho is currently designing a CT targeted to OVC
- Botswana and Namibia both have either in-kind or cash assistance programs for families that care for orphans
- Several other countries are currently considering implementing CTs on a trial basis including Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

But...transfers are just one important component of social protection for children

- Multiple deprivations of child poverty go beyond income poverty
- Cash transfer schemes may be beyond the reach of the most vulnerable e.g.
 - Children living outside of family settings or without adult care
- Transfers do not protect children from abuse – and poor children are at greater risk of abuse
- Material deprivation does not fully explain intra-household discrimination
- Psychological factors of parent/care-giver loss may be a greater predictor of risk behaviors than material deprivation
- For women (caregivers) to benefit from some income support schemes, appropriate & safe child care services are needed

Action on Social Welfare Sector

□ Social welfare services include:

- **Family support services** – Child vulnerability is increased when children are separated from their birth families
- **Support and monitoring of informal care arrangements** – where children are unable to live with their birth mothers
- **Specialized protective services** - for children who have experienced exploitation and abuse
- **Appropriate formal care system** – invest in foster care, ensure children are not placed in institutional care unless absolutely necessary, support family reunification

Then sectoral and state development essential

- ❑ Shift from piecemeal social welfare services to systemic response
- ❑ Increase budgetary allocations to responsible government agencies
- ❑ Ensure sufficient funding to non-governmental and community based organisations delivering services on behalf of the state
- ❑ Clearly define roles of state and non-governmental sectors - distinguish oversight and implementation functions
- ❑ Improve relations between welfare and other ministries (e.g. finance)
- ❑ Seek creative solutions for human resource challenges – may include broadening the scope of social service professionals
- ❑ Build evidence base to inform policy and programming on appropriate, affordable and cost effective social welfare services
- ❑ Strengthening SW ministries- esp important where ministry is responsible for both services and transfers - note experiences of SA, Swaziland, Malawi, where administration of transfers overwhelms much needed social workers
- ❑ Clearly defined roles of State and non-governmental sectors (and distinction of oversight and implementation functions)

The interface between Social Welfare Services and Cash Transfers

Several countries have demonstrated the possibility and value of linking cash transfers with social welfare services

- Linking grant beneficiaries with ECD services (Malawi)
- Referring beneficiaries to HBC services (Malawi, Uganda) and psychosocial support (Mozambique, Malawi, Chile)
- Raising awareness amongst beneficiaries on health and family-related issues (Kenya, Chile)
- Assisting with access to identity documents (El Salvador, Pakistan)
- Utilising pay days to deliver sensitization messages (Malawi)
- Referring non-qualifying applicants to alternative programmes (Jamaica)

¹Adato (forthcoming) What is the potential of cash transfers to strengthen families affected by HIV and AIDS? A review of the evidence on impacts and key policy debates. JLICA

Research questions on the links between Social welfare sector and social transfers

- Do social transfers change the demand for social welfare services and if so, how? For what services? What additional support is required to meet uptake in demand?
- a) What is the proportion of social transfer recipients that require additional social welfare services?
 - What minimum package should be available (including ECD, services for elderly) and how is this affected by targeting / size of transfer?
 - Can / does screening for social transfers identify social welfare service needs? How should social welfare be a part of the targeting mechanisms?
- Does the administration, targeting, and distribution of social transfers (negatively) impact the ability of social welfare systems to deliver non-transfer related services?

End thoughts

- Social protection cannot consolidate without social welfare sectoral development
- Connects AIDS impact mitigation agenda with poverty reduction goals
- Systems planning and costing essential
- Progression beyond the 'AIDS exceptionalism' debate