

20–21 October 2015
Protea Parktonian Braamfontein
Johannesburg, South Africa

International Conference Sustainability of Social Protection in the SADC

Economic Returns, Political
Will and Fiscal Space



Will and Fiscal Space



SASPEN and FES
International Conference
20-21 October 2015
Protea Parktonian All Suite
Braamfontein, Johannesburg



Sustainability of Social Protection in the SADC: Economic Returns, Political Will and Fiscal Space

Concept Note

Social Protection systems are under reform, under development and overall in what may well become the largest expansion drive the region has ever seen. The declared objective is nothing less than universal coverage of the entire population, as agreed in the ILO Recommendation 202 on National Floors of Social Protection, the African Union Social Policy Framework and recent Ouagadougou +10 Declaration, the 2015 Joint Initiative and Action Plan of World Bank and ILO, the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted at the United Nations in September, the new Protocol to the SADC Treaty on Employment and Labour and various national policies, strategies and legislative bills currently under draft or recently adopted.

Universal means full coverage of the entire population with access to healthcare, income provision for children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and those unemployed. This implies inclusion of the informal economy (topic of the 2013 annual SASPEN conference), migrants (topic of the 2014 annual SASPEN conference) and ties into further branches of social security, such as employment injury and maternity protection. Social Protection is a human right and with poverty rates stubbornly high, inequality among the highest in the world and economic growth being non-inclusive, it seems that the political will in the region has accepted that there is no alternative to the provision (and, therefore, extension) of social protection.

But is there? How can social protection extension be funded, afforded? How does social protection interact with economic growth? Should social protection cover bare minimums, or comprehensively cushion all contingencies in the life-cycle? What if political tides change or economic growth enters recession? What type of social protection enhances productivity? In short, what makes social protection systems sustainable? What role does it play in sustainable development and how will Southern African governments unlock its full potential?

These are the questions we seek to explore and answer at our 2015 annual conference. SASPEN (Southern African Social Protection Experts Network) and FES (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung) will be hosting a two day international conference on "Sustainability of Social Protection" in Johannesburg, on 20 and 21 October 2015. The conference will be organized around four themes:

- 1) Macroeconomic Returns of Social Protection Investment
- 2) Productivity Gains from Social Protection
- 3) Political Sustainability of Social Protection Systems
- 4) Fiscal Space and Funding of Social Protection Programme

Ad 1) Social Protection is an investment in the economy, shown to unblock sluggish growth and sustain robust growth, increase resilience of the overall economy against shocks such as the finance crisis of 2008 when countries with greater social protection were less affected, and increase consumption and thus strengthen domestic markets. From this point of view, the question seems to be, can countries afford not to invest in social protection? Does this apply to all types of economy, or are there differences depending on scale, structural composition, grade of formalization and position in the world market?

Ad 2) Social protection causes productivity gains. Moneys spent in rural social assistance programmes have been shown to multiply local economic activism, thus immediately creating additional value, even well above the rate of sometimes locally increased inflation. How does this translate into rural pro-poor strategies, are cash transfers combined with farming inputs suitable instruments for able-bodied poor in subsistence farming? Social protection invests in human capital and thus increases the productivity of the labour production factor. How can this be channelled to work hand in hand with the transformation of low-skill informal industries? What role can social protection play in business development of SMMEs? Can social protection provide skills to unemployed youth and bridge their entry into the labour market? Are public works programmes an answer to high unemployment rates?

Ad 3) Is social protection aimed at providing minimal benefits for the poor without sustainable transformation of economies? Or is it a transformative vehicle to bring about inclusive growth? Do political elites adopt social protection programmes for short term voting benefits, or do we observe a lasting rewriting of political discourses away from the “handouts create dependency”-prejudice? Is social protection subject of political debate and citizenship or administered technocratically with little bearing on public debate? Can social protection contribute to the formalization of the economy, for example by organizing contributory schemes through rural cooperatives as in some Latin American countries?

Ad 4) Who will pay the bill? What are sustainable and efficient designs that guarantee effective universal social protection? How much is affordable? How should progressive implementation be paced and timed? How can short term funding gaps be bridged, while ensuring the gaps close in the medium term by harvesting economic returns? Should social protection extension be funded domestically from tax revenue, regionally from special levees such as duties on mineral extraction or internationally from a global social protection fund? How should contributory social insurance and non-contributory social assistance programmes relate to each other proportionally? Could taxation focus increase political and civil ownership of social protection? Are citizens both duty-holders and duty-bearers or should the state as sole duty-bearer provide unilaterally?

The conference brings together national governments, social partners, academics, the private sector (including business organisations), social security institutions, civil society (including advocacy groups), SADC, international organisations and development partners.

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Sustainability of Social Protection in the SADC: Economic Returns, Political Will and Fiscal Space

Conference Programme

Conference Master of Ceremony:

Mr Daniel Kumitz
SASPEN Coordinator and
FES Programme Manager "Social Compact"

Monday, 19 October 2015

14:00 – 19:00 Conference Registration Open Conference Secretariat Outside Protea Room

16:00 – 19:00 SASPEN Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, 20 October 2015

07:30 – 17:00 Conference Registration Open Conference Secretariat Outside Protea Room

08:00 Shuttle Leaves The Rosebank Holiday Inn
Please check out and assemble at ground lobby before 08:00 Only applies to those who have been accommodated at the Rosebank Holiday Inn

I. SESSION: Welcome Remarks

8:30 – 8:40 Performance Grupo de Canto e Dança Milorho Mozambique

8:40 – 8:50 Southern African Social Protection Experts Network SASPEN Mr Vince Chipatuka
SASPEN Steering Committee

8:50 – 9:00 Government of the Republic of South Africa Dr Maureen Mogotsi
Director Family and Child Benefits

II. SESSION:	Productive Social Protection and Funding Opportunities	Chair: Prof Marius Olivier Director Institute for Social Law and Policy Professor North-West-University
9:00 – 09:30	Keynote Address I: The Role of Cash Transfer Programmes in Building Resilience: Cross-country Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa	Dr Solomon Asfaw Protection to Production Project FAO Rome
09:30 – 10:00	Keynote Address II: Revenue from Extractive Industries: An Opportunity for Financing Sustainable Social Spending	Ms Victoire Umuhire Mr Christoph Ernst ILO Geneva
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion	
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break and Poster Session I	Hosts: Keynote Speakers Dr Solomon Asfaw Ms Victoire Umuhire
	Poster: Economic Gains from Social Pensions in Zambia (Katete Pilot)	Mr Victor Chikalanga Ministry Labour and Social Security Zambia
	Poster: Linking Social Assistance Grant (SAGE) and HIV+Orphaned for sustainable results)	Mr Jonathan Tumwebaze Uganda Christian University – Mukono
III. SESSION:	Productive Social Protection	Chair: Ms Mildred Mushunje Gender and HIV Specialist FAO Harare
11:00 – 11:20	The Transformative Potential of Social Protection Findings from Zambia	Ms Anna Wolkenhauer University Bremen
11:20 – 11:40	Productivity and Social Gains of Social Protection: The Public Works Programme in South Africa	Ms Rutendo Shylin Mudarikwa Independent Researcher Harare
11:40 – 12:00	Targeting the Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme	Ms Harshani Dharmadasa BRAC USA
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
IV. SESSION	Sustainable Cash Transfers	Chair: Ms Tessa Hochfeld Centre for Social Development in Africa University of Johannesburg
14:00 – 14:20	The (mis)use of the child protection system for poverty alleviation – a case study from South Africa	Ms Aislinn Delany Dr Stefanie Röhrs Children's Institute, University of Cape Town
14:20 – 14:40	Creating Sustainable Pathways for Beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant	Prof Ndangwa Noyoo University of Johannesburg
14:40 – 15:00	The political economy of social protection financing in Zambia – The Social Cash Transfer Scheme	Mr Nkandu David Chilombo Dr Paul Quarles van Ufford UNICEF Zambia

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 Tea Break and Poster Session II

Hosts: Keynote Speakers Mr Mario Györi
Mr Rodrigo Octávio Orair

Poster: Social Capital and Informal Social Protection In Mauritius

Mr Asrani Gopaul
University of Mauritius

Poster: Political Sustainability of Social Protection Systems – Informal Workers' Perspective

Mr Wisborn Malaya
Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations

V. SESSION Political Sustainability of Social Protection

Chair: Prof Evance Kalula
Director Confucius Institute
University of Cape Town

16:00 – 16:30 **Keynote Address III:**
Political Sustainability of Cash Transfers:
Findings from a Multi-Country Research Project

Ms Mia Granvik
Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR),
University of Cape Town

16:30 – 17:00 **Keynote Address IV:**
Reflections on the Legal Mandate for Sustainable Social Protection in SADC

Prof Marius Olivier
Institute for Social Law and Policy
North-West-University Potchefstroom

17:00 – 17:30 Discussion

18:00 – 18:30 Book Launch

18:30 – 21:30 **SASPEN Annual General Meeting (AGM) including Dinner**
Dresscode: Smart Casual

Chair: Ms Isobel Frye
SASPEN Advisory Council
Director Studies in Poverty and Inequality
Institute Johannesburg, South Africa

Keynote Address V:
South-South Learning –
The New Platform socialprotection.org

Mr Mario Györi
UNDP IPC-IG Brasilia

Wednesday, 21 October 2015

08:30 – 12:30 Conference Registration Open

Conference Secretariat Outside Protea Room

VI. SESSION Funding Social Protection and Economic Gains

Chair: Mr Victor Chikalanga
Principal Social Security Officer
Ministry for Labour & Social Security
Zambia

9:00 – 9:30 **Keynote Address VI:**
Expenditure Review, Costing, Funding and Fiscal Space for Social Protection

Mr Kagisanyo Kelobang
Social Security Specialist ILO Pretoria

9:30 – 10:00 **Keynote Address VII:**
Macroeconomic Returns of Social Protection

Prof Alexander van den Heever
University of the Witwatersrand

10:00 – 10:30 Discussion

10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break and Poster Session III	Host: Keynote Speaker Mr Kagisanyo Kelobang
	Poster: Social Protection in Zambia - The search for relevance or identity	Mr Jairous Joseph Miti University of Zambia
	Poster: Social Protection as an Approach to Addressing Poverty and Vulnerability among Women Domestic Workers in Zambia	Mr Patrick Chanda University of Zambia
VII. SESSION	Sustainable Social Protection Design I	Chair: Ms Mutale Wakunuma Country Coordinator Platform for Social Protection Zambia
11:00 – 11:20	Rethinking the Conditions in Conditional Cash Transfers in Africa	Mr Olabanji Akinola University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
11:20 – 11:40	The sustainability of Short Term Social Security Funds (mix between Contributory and Non-Contributory Social Insurance Schemes): A Case Study for the Namibian SSC	Mr David Keendjele Social Security Commission Namibia
11:40 – 12:00	Philosophical Foundations of Botswana's Social Protection System - Charity or Social Justice	Prof Rodreck Mupedziswa University of Botswana
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
VIII. SESSION	Sustainable Social Protection Design II	Chair: Dr Mathias Nyenti Centre for International & Comparative Labour and Social Security Law University of Johannesburg
14:00 – 14:20	The new Social Protection Framework in Madagascar	Dr Maminirinha Ralaivelo Madagascar
14:20 – 14:40	Sustainability of Social Protection in Mauritius	Mr Nikhil Treebhoohun Oxford International Consultants Mauritius
14:40 – 15:00	Social Protection through Cash Transfers – a Three Country Analysis of the Impact of Universal Cash Transfers on Poverty and Income	Mr Taku Fundira Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute Johannesburg South Africa
15:00 – 15:30	Discussion	
15:30 – 16:00	Tea Break	
	Distribution of Conference USB Sticks	

IX. SESSION		Sustainable Social Protection and Inclusive Growth	Chair: Dr Ngeyi Ruth Kanyongolo University of Malawi, Lilongwe
16:00 – 16:30	Keynote Address VIII: How Brazil has Cut its Inequality through Fiscal Policy: Redistributive Role of Social Protection, Main Trends and Challenges for Fiscal Sustainability		Mr Rodrigo Octávio Orair UNDP IPC-IG Brasília
16:30 – 16:50	Discussion		
16:50	Vote of Thanks		
16:55	Closing Remarks and Farewell		Mr Helmut Elischer Resident Director Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Zambia
17:00 – 17:15	Performance		Grupo de Canto e Dança Milorho Mozambique
17:15	End of Conference		
19:00	Debriefing Dinner for SASPEN Steering Committee, Advisory Council and LOC		

Conference Rapporteur: Mr Naaman Kipumbu

Conference Secretariat: Ms Thamar Huber
Ms Tshegofatso Monanna
Ms Miriam Schirmer