



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND PAPERS

### **Social Protection: Building Effective and Sustainable Systems for Equitable Growth** *Perspectives, Policies and Best Practices*

December 15-17, 2014  
Arusha, Tanzania

*Organized by Ministry of Finance and supported by UNICEF, ILO and EPRI*



A three-day international conference on **Social Protection: Building Effective and Sustainable Systems for Equitable Growth** will take place from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 in Arusha, Tanzania. The conference will gather policy-makers, researchers and practitioners directly involved in the planning, design, and implementation of social protection programmes and systems, with the objective of encouraging South-South exchange of cutting-edge knowledge and best practices. The Arusha Conference intends to specifically harness this learning and use it to support Tanzania's ongoing efforts in scaling up its Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) Programme to reach all extreme poor by mid-2015. Further, this will contribute to the strengthening of social protection systems including strong engagement of key social sectors, and inform the next steps of the social protection agenda in the country and the region.

The conference will be hosted by the Poverty Eradication Department in the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Tanzania, with support of UNICEF, ILO and the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) and other development partners that are actively involved in the social protection area within the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP)'s *Delivering as One*.

#### **Rationale and Topics**

Interest in social protection in Tanzania, as in the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, continues to grow as effective social protection programmes and systems are needed more than ever to address persistent, and in some instances deepening, poverty and vulnerability. This growing attention to social protection is confirmed by the recent commitments of the African Union Member States, which in the 'Addis Ababa Declaration on Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa (May 2014)' committed to "develop progressive programmes for scaling up and sustaining national integrated systems of social protection to benefit families as part of the post-2015 development framework in Africa".

Many Sub-Saharan African countries have enjoyed high economic growth rates in recent years, but this has all too frequently failed to translate into more productive jobs and higher incomes. Tanzania is no exception. In a country where over 28 percent of the population still lives under the basic needs poverty line and about 10 percent is considered extreme poor, integrated and child-sensitive social protection systems, which take a multi-sector approach and invest in sustainable national systems, can be effective instruments to redistribute the benefits of growth more equally, contribute to human capital accumulation as a result of better health and skills, and cushion poor and vulnerable households.

Building on the encouraging results and lessons learnt from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) I and II, the country has taken bold steps in addressing extreme poverty by planning a massive scale-up of the PSSN Programme (TASAF III), to reach over 920,000 food-insecure households by mid-2015 through a combination of conditional cash transfers, public works and support to community-driven interventions promoting savings and investments. Similarly, many countries in the region have embarked on a diverse range of social protection schemes, which have been able to effectively and efficiently support households in times of need, and a few, such as Kenya, Lesotho and Zambia, are creating nationally-owned and funded social protection systems.

Tanzania, not differently from many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, however, still faces challenges including difficulties in securing reliable long-term funding for social protection, both from national budgets and from development partners, and the lack of costed national social protection plans that are integrated with national development plans and budgets. Further, most countries are yet to put in place a robust, coordinated and comprehensive system with social protection programmes remaining largely scattered and fragmented. Investment in institutional and human resource capacity to coordinate and implement integrated social protection programmes also constitutes a challenge.

In this context, the conference intends to stimulate the debate around key topics and issues of relevance for building resilience of poor, vulnerable and food insecure people. The goal is to provide possible policy options and best-practices so as to effectively guide Tanzania and countries in the region in their choice of instruments, financing mechanisms and institutional arrangements for social protection programmes and systems.

Proposals for papers should be submitted by candidates who are directly involved in social protection around the following potential themes, outlining successful approaches in specific countries:

- **Building effective, integrated, HIV-AIDS, gender and child-sensitive social protection systems** (e.g. opportunities and constraints related to moving from single policy instruments to wider and stronger social protection policies, strategies and systems; how to ensure that integrated social protection interventions and strategies are fully embedded in national socio-economic development plans and budgets; how to institutionalize and implement national social protection strategies, frameworks and floors; how to ensure HIV-AIDS, gender and child-sensitiveness of social protection systems; emerging lessons learnt in ensuring institutional policy coherence and creating effective institutional frameworks).
- **Improving cross-sectoral linkages between social protection and key social sectors, especially health and education** (e.g. best practices and mechanisms in improving sector and inter-ministry coordination and synergies; role and opportunities for health and education sectors in the implementation of social protection programmes; how to address supply-side bottlenecks to ensure availability and quality of services).
- **Enhancing the role of local government in effectively implementing social protection** (e.g. what value-added local government can bring to social protection programmes; inversely, advantages and opportunities for local governments in being involved in the management and implementation of social protection programmes; the role of the various layers of local government in implementation and how to optimize local-level involvement towards improving performance and service delivery outcomes; coordination arrangements between national and local entities).
- **Types or combination of design issues within social protection systems that have proven to be most effective in sustainably reducing poverty** (e.g. towards universal social protection in relation to targeted social protection initiatives and conditionality: how vulnerability and marginalization are defined and assessed across the region; how to scale up existing pilots to reach all of those in poverty; opportunities and challenges of universal benefits; conditional versus non-conditional programmes; accountability; graduation and the role of complimentary livelihoods opportunities; best practices in monitoring and impact evaluation mechanisms).

- **Investment case and financing of social protection: towards nationally -owned and -funded systems** (e.g. regional social protection financing trends; challenges and opportunities involved in building sustainable political support for social protection and ensuring adequate financing; cost-benefit analysis; investment case arguments including impact on growth; managing the political economy of implementing and scaling up social protection measures; how to enhance funding for child sensitive social protection to capitalize on practical, affordable and sustainable solutions; new approaches to social protection through unorthodox avenues such as the engagement of the private sector and/or technological innovations).

## Organization

The Social Protection Conference will be built around various sessions involving presentations and discussions. Submissions are sought for papers outlining successful approaches in specific countries or programme evidence. We invite potential contributors to submit abstracts of papers (no more than 500 words) by **21<sup>st</sup> October**. Applicants will be informed about the outcome of their submissions by **25<sup>th</sup> October**. If successful, complete papers should be sent no later than **25<sup>th</sup> November**. Draft papers and presentations will be posted on the conference website/page in advance of the conference. We anticipate that a number of papers and summaries of panel discussions will be collated into a book, or a journal special issue. Limited funding for travel and accommodation costs will be available.

### Academic Directors:

- Ministry of Finance: Anna Mwashu, Director, Poverty Eradication Department
- EPRI: Dr. Michael Samson, Director of Research
- UNICEF: Usha Mishra, Chief of Social Policy, Tanzania, UNDP Social Protection Lead

### Academic Co-Directors and Review Panel:

- UNICEF: Natalia Elena Winder-Rossi, Senior Social Policy (Social Protection) Specialist, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)
- ILO: Luis Frota, Social Security Specialist, Decent Work Support Team
- UNICEF: Diego Angemi, Chief of Social Policy, Uganda
- EPRI Research Team

### Advisory Committee:

- Ministry of Finance
- UNDP/Development Partners Social Protection Working Group

### Conference Contributors and Administrators:

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Abstracts of papers and any conference-related enquiries should be addressed to the conference organizers at [tanzaniacsp@unicef.org](mailto:tanzaniacsp@unicef.org) (alternative emails for contact: [btarga@unicef.org](mailto:btarga@unicef.org) and [kiaga@ilo.org](mailto:kiaga@ilo.org)). Please register your interest by email to receive conference updates.