How to achieve universal coverage and adequate benefit levels for the protection of children, poor workers and the unemployed?

An Introduction

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### Family allowances | Existence of a statutory programme & type of programme

*Percentage of countries (on a basis of 155 countries)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage of Countries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social security provision</td>
<td>29% (Low income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer liability</td>
<td>15% (Medium income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social assistance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social insurance</td>
<td>15% (High income)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>Demogrant</td>
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</tbody>
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- **Social security provision**
  - Low income: 3%
  - Medium income: 15%
  - High income: 15%

- **Employer liability**
  - Low income: 16%
  - Medium income: 7%

- **Social assistance**
  - Low income: 10%
  - Medium income: 9%

- **Social insurance**
  - Low income: 44%
Proportion of unemployed receiving unemployment benefits from statutory unemployment schemes
Weighted average of the **number of social security unemployment benefit recipients** | Index (100 = January 2008)

- **Weighted average indexed value** for the set of countries and unemployment programmes | Weight = unemployment benefit recipients
- **Europe (selection of countries)** - Weighted average indexed value | Weight = unemployment benefit recipients
- **Eastern Europe (selection of countries)** - Weighted average indexed value | Weight = unemployment benefit recipients
- **Western Europe (selection of countries)** - Weighted average indexed value | Weight = unemployment benefit recipients
- **Without US** - Weighted average indexed value | Weight = unemployment benefit recipients

Source: ILO | SECSOC
20/08/2009
Highlights on some current practices

**Child benefits**

- Strong development of conditional cash transfers (Latin America) and unconditional cash-transfers (e.g. South Africa) in middle-income countries
- Some features of Conditional Cash Transfers (Latin America):
  - Targeting based on resources conditions / Behavioral requirements related to children’s health care and education / Large scale (47 millions people in Brazil, 25 millions in Mexico);
  - Benefit level: Transfer as a share of consumption before transfer varies from 5% to 30% in LA countries;
  - Costs: from 0.1% of GDP (Peru) to 0.6% of GDP (Ecuador) - around 0.4% GDP for Mexico and Brazil;
  - Good delivery effectiveness: targeting and administrative costs;
  - Outcomes: positive effects on school attendance, utilization of health services and child growth; good prospect on reducing child labour, positive impact on consumption, income equality/ No effect on labour supply;
  - Access to benefit is not guaranteed for all people that fulfill the criteria of eligibility.
Highlights on some current practices

**Unemployed and Working Poor**

**European Union countries**

Minimum income guarantee schemes. Include among their recipients unemployed and working poor (e.g. 50 % and 20 % of recipients of MI in France)

- Strong linkages with employment policies and services in the context of « Activation policies » (since the end of 90s);
- Increasing pressure and obligations (compulsory activation) on recipients to seek and accept jobs, to follow training programmes or to undertake work beneficial for the community (workfare);
- In addition, reforms to introduce or enforce « work availability » requirements for beneficiaries of « non-employment benefits »;
- Balance between passive and active measures, rights and duties, sanctions and incentives vary largely according to countries and local authorities;
- Introduction of measures to create financial incentives to «make work pays» (example of RSA Income of Active Solidarity France).
Highlights on some current practices

Unemployed and Working Poor

Developing countries

- Employment Guarantee Schemes: confer statutory rights on beneficiaries (household) to a number of days of employment per year (generally on public works); National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of India
- Integrated programmes targeting extreme poor with emancipatory (graduation) prospect; TUP Bangladesh, Chile Solidario;
  - Most of the mainstreams antipoverty strategies (microfinance, skills, cooperatives, entrepreneurship, etc.) bypass the extreme poor;
  - Combining transfers to overcome immediate needs of the extreme poor with active support to enable them to develop their capabilities, access productive opportunities and escape poverty in a sustainable way;
  - Remains relatively small scale/experimental in most of the cases.
Some conditions of success

- Promote employment-friendly macroeconomic frameworks, job-rich growth and transition to formal (decent) employment;
- Enhance availability of quality social services (huge gap in low-income countries);
- Strengthen efforts to cover the most in needs who are often the most difficult to reach, such as:
  - Orphan and others vulnerable children (countries affected by HIV/AIDS)
  - Chronic and extreme poor
  - Indigenous people
  - Those living and working in remote rural areas
- Improve coherence among policies and integration of interventions inside the social security system and with what is done in other social and economic areas.