

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (SSA)

Social Protection



REGIONAL CONTEXT

Many Sub-Saharan African countries are characterized by a **informal economy**:

- ≈80% of jobs are in the informal economic sector (World Bank, 2020)
- A need to strengthen governance and administrations
- Migration flows and refugees
- Political fragility
- Natural disasters

Countries established social protection mechanisms for different groups, providing cash transfers for the most vulnerable groups, social pensions, public works, voucher programmes (World Bank, n.d.)

Positive impacts of Social Protection (SP) programmes on health, education, nutrition, economic well-being and productivity (FAO, 2017)

Social protection programmes are increasingly blended and complemented with measures aimed at increasing resilient livelihoods and employability (e.g. PSNPs in Tanzania)

Challenges:

- Coverage gap - ≈17.8% of the total population is covered by at least one SP benefit
- Limited fiscal space - social protection expenditure is less than 5% of GDP
- Weak administrative and legal systems.

One of the most mobile regions in the world (within- and cross-country migration, refugees)

Regional economic communities: SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, the African Union.

Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 for Sub-Saharan Africa

GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANT SDGS



Agenda 2030
Agenda 2063

Universal Social Protection 2030 partnership (USP 2030)

The Social Protection Floors (SPFs) Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
Conventions:

- CERD¹
- CRPD²
- CRC³
- CMW⁴

Synergies with other regional TEIs on:

- One health
- SRHR
- MAV+

TEAM EUROPE PROPOSAL

SO: Effectively influence regional and national social protection policies and systems in SSA through enhanced regional coordination

- Coherence, coordination and communication on selected social protection issues
- Increased regional engagement (innovation, exchange, and learning) on national social protection systems

1. Policy/Programme, support to:

- National social protection policies and strategies development
- Individual programmes (e.g. cash transfer programmes)
- Expansion of coverage to specific groups: informal workers, refugees; gender-sensitive social protection, nutrition-sensitive social protection.

2. Reliable and up-to-date data and information for social protection effective design and implementation:

- Social registries
- Early warning efforts
- MIS / Digitalisation of public services
- Data protection

3. Finance:

- Secure long-term financing
- Operational planning & budget programming
- Domestic resource mobilization
- Cost estimations
- Pre-planned risk financing and risk layering
- Public Finance Management

Geographical coverage: all countries in SSA, including those affected by conflict.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Whole of Delegation approach
- Consolidation of financial resources
- Communication specialists
- Continuous skills and capacity development
- Communication and visibility guidelines
- Multiannual strategic plans

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MODALITIES/TOOLS

Policy dialogue

Technical assistance (networking, exchange, and learning)

Grants, loans, guarantees

COMMON AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Human development

Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs

Migration, mobility and forced displacement

Social justice and protection

TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL

The focus of the TEI is on universal social protection and proposes to follow a systems approach:

To jointly support and strengthen national social protection systems in Sub-Saharan Africa via the regional level.

To strengthen the dialogue between countries that are sharing many conditions, situations, and values.

#TEAMEUROPE

*This Team Europe Initiative is work in progress

**SDGs included based on a new JRC electronic text mining tool, which identifies SDGs (targets)