

# Newsletter Research, Network and Support Facility



TVET under the spotlight at Horda Centre in Godobjiran, Somalia

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## Now on the IESF Group

### *Latest results, New opportunities*

By RNSF Team

Summer time is now behind while everybody is back to work. It is the perfect time for new resolutions, new projects and new adventures. The RNSF Team is ready to explore with you the various aspects of the informal economy and to promote with you research and networking in that field.

### Regional Workshop on Social Protection

As part of this effort, the RNSF Team is particularly glad to announce that we will organize in collaboration with the IESF Group a Regional Workshop on the theme of Social Protection in the informal economy. It should take place in East Africa in the beginning of next year. A working group involving members of our community will be established to prepare its organisation and the dissemination of its results. You will find more details in our Special Focus of this edition. If you want more information, do not hesitate to contact us on [f.barilli@arsprogetti.com](mailto:f.barilli@arsprogetti.com)

### Good practices & Lessons Learnt - Volume 2

You will also find in our Good Practices section a set of good experiences and lessons learnt on the theme of social protection extracted from *Volume 2 - Recommendations Based on Analysis of a Range of Development Agencies on Support to People Dependent on the Informal Economy*. This volume of research findings is the latest work of the RNSF and is based on the analysis of 202 projects and documents financed and implemented by agencies other than the EC. Volume 1 had covered EC projects. A range of good practices and lessons learnt were identified during the analysis which resulted in a series of core recommendations. Do you want to know more? Do not hesitate to go on the web platform of the IESF Group where you will find a list of the key recommendations. In future blog posts we will detail more of the good practices and lessons learnt.

Finally, our thoughts go to the staff and beneficiaries of RNSF implementing partner Oxfam Italia and to their families and communities in Haiti in the aftermath of the hurricane Matthew.

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## Special Focus on

### Regional Workshop on Social Protection

By Paolo Carlini, RNSF Team Leader

#### Why Social Protection matters for Informal Workers?

According to a recent study issued by the ILO taking into consideration 47 developing countries, "The proportion of people in informal employment in non-agricultural activities is significant in most of the reporting countries. In more than half of the countries, this share exceeds 50 % and in about one-third informal employment accounts for at least 67 % of non-agricultural employment" (*Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture*, Geneva: ILO, 2013, xi).

Informal workers are generally excluded by social security mechanisms and remain dependent on social assistance programme that are based on the political commitment that governments provide to poor and vulnerable groups. In this framework we ask ourselves: how could we use social protection mechanisms as a tool for promoting social inclusion of people dependent on the informal economy?

#### RNSF Regional Workshop on Social Protection

The complexity of the issue, especially in fragile, low- and middle-income countries, shows the need to contextualize social protection strategies to the different economic, social, political, and cultural environments that we want to tackle. At the same time, RNSF aims to engage a variety of stakeholders (Donors, Civil Society Organisations, Politicians, and Researchers) in this reflection in order to get different perspectives on how to improve social protection for vulnerable groups dependent on informal economy. We believe there is a need for a collective effort and that is the reason we are launching a Regional Workshop in the first quarter of 2017 in East Africa to share experience and perspectives on how to enhance economic opportunities for socially excluded groups, while improving their access to essential social services.

Starting from the perspective of Social Protection, RNSF Regional Workshop has the objective of identifying and developing innovative approaches to enhancing livelihood, inclusion and equity of people relying on informal economy.

The participants will be national and regional experts who can contribute their expertise to the identification and develop-

ment of relevant approaches; and representatives of the Implementing Partners working in East African countries being supported through the RNSF.

The Regional Workshop will use the "Write Workshop" methodology in collaboration with the KIT Royal Tropical Institute ([www.kit.nl](http://www.kit.nl)). The "Write Workshop" is an innovative methodology that allows a group of researchers, policy makers and practitioners to present their experiences to their peers, receive feedback, and write up their main results and lessons. The outcome will be a book containing recommendations, innovative ideas and approaches on Social Protection from the perspective of the Informal Economy. RNSF have identified four key dimension that will be taken into considerations:

1. Legal Frameworks;
2. Linkages between informal and formal sectors;
3. Traditional forms of safety nets;
4. Other forms of social protection (e.g. cash transfers, and cash for work).

RNSF has a strong focus on research. The book published after the Regional Workshop will be an example of how participants coming from different backgrounds can work together to increase knowledge and to provide evidence-based recommendations to sustain the decision-making process of development actors.

Stay tuned on the IESF Group on the Cap4Dev IESF platform ([capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf](http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf)) to receive future updates on the organization and results of the workshop.



Infant patients gets a check up. India. Photo: Curt Carnemark

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## *What is social protection?*

The EC Communication 2012/446 defines Social Protection as all the policies and actions that:

1. “enhance the capacity of all people, but notably poor and vulnerable groups, to escape from poverty, or avoid falling into poverty, and better manage risks and shocks”,
2. and “aim at providing a higher level of social security through income security and access to essential services (in particular, health and education) throughout active and inactive periods and periods of need throughout the life-cycle”.

In this framework, Social Protection includes all the policies and programmes that can promote social transfers and services and can be conceptualized as a set of social guarantees that enable people to deal with life’s risks. It is important to highlight two key dimensions:

- Social security, which provides benefits to workers and their dependents. It is based on contributions that employers, their employees, and self-employed pay.
- Safety nets, which provide social assistance mainly to vulnerable groups not covered by social security. There are two types of safety nets: Safety nets provided by Governments funded by taxes; and community-based safety nets, which provide assistance through formal and informal self-help groups.

To implement it several instruments can be developed:

1. Non-contributory social assistance, such as cash-transfers, social pensions, and in-kind transfers;
2. Contributory social insurance, such as health, pensions, unemployment; an long-term care;
3. Labour market measures, such as skills promotion and public works;
4. Traditional safety nets provided by families or communities.

## *A variety of definitions and approaches*

Although there is general consensus about the importance of supporting and developing formal and informal mechanisms and tools for social protection, there is a variety of definitions adopted by different key development players. Legal frameworks, coverage and implementation mechanisms may also differ considerably from one country to another. The table next page lists the definitions adopted by major organizations.

## Available tools on Social Protection

### EU

The European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESPROSS) which provides statistics on social protection in EU Member States (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection/overview>)

The Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) which uses a set of key EU social indicators for monitoring trends in the social situation in the European Union (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=15180&langId=en>).

The Communication of 20 August 2012 *Social Protection in European Union Development Cooperation* - COM(2012)446 and the latest EU policies, projects and reports can be found on: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-development/social-protection\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-development/social-protection_en).

### OECD

The Social Expenditures (SOCX) database (<https://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm>) which provides comparable statistics on public and private social expenditure.

The Social Benefit Recipients (SOCR) database (<http://www.oecd.org/social/recipients.htm>) which includes comparable data on the number of people receiving cash transfer in most OECD countries.

### ILO

The Social Security Inquiry (<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/ilossi/ssimain.home>), including comparable statistical data on social security worldwide.

The Social Security Expenditure Database ([http://www.edac.eu/indicators\\_desc.cfm?v\\_id=116](http://www.edac.eu/indicators_desc.cfm?v_id=116)) which provides statistics concerning expenditures on social security and unemployment for 124 countries.

### World Bank

The Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) is one of the most comprehensive resource of social protection and labour estimates for 120 countries ([http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/atlas\\_social\\_protection](http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/atlas_social_protection)).

### ADB

The Asian Development Bank has developed the Social Protection Index to assess and compare government social protection programmes implemented in Asia and the Pacific (<https://www.adb.org/publications/social-protection-index-assessing-results-asia-and-pacific>).

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## Social protection: a variety of definitions

### Multilateral Development Banks

<b>World Bank</b>	<i>Social Protection is a collection of measures to improve or protect human capital, ranging from labour market interventions and publicly mandated unemployment or old-age insurance to targeted income support. Social Protection interventions assist individual, households, and communities to better manage the risks that leave people vulnerable.</i>
<b>AfDB</b>	<i>Social protection and labour market regulation reduce the risk of becoming poor, assist those who are poor to better manage further risks, and ensure a minimal level of welfare to all people (CPIA 2008).</i>
<b>ADB</b>	<i>The set of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and interruption/loss of income. Social protection consists of five major elements: (i) labour markets, (ii) social insurance, (iii) social assistance, (iv) micro and area-based schemes to protect communities and (v) child protection.</i>
<b>IDB</b>	<i>Prevention and compensation systems to reduce the impacts of shocks on the Latin American poor.</i>

### United Nations

<b>UN</b>	<i>A set of public and private policies and programs undertaken by societies in response to various contingencies to offset the absence or substantial reduction of income from work; to provide assistance to families with children as well as provide people with basic health care and housing.</i>
<b>ILO</b>	<i>The set of public measures that a society provides for its members to protect them against economic and social distress that would be caused by the absence or a substantial reduction of income from work as a result of various contingencies (sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age, and death of the breadwinner); the provision of health care; and, the provision of benefits for families with children.</i>
<b>UNDP</b>	<i>Social protection refers to policies designed to reduce people's exposure to risks, enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and loss of income. Social protection involves interventions from public, private, voluntary organizations, and social networks, to support individuals, households and communities prevent, manage, and overcome the hazards, risks, and stresses threatening their present and future well-being.</i>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<i>A set of public actions which address not only income poverty and economic shocks, but also social vulnerability, thus taking into account the inter-relationship between exclusion and poverty.</i>
<b>WFP</b>	<i>Integrated systems of institutionalized national measures, which may include contributory pensions, insurance schemes and safety nets.</i>

### Bilateral Donors, EU and OECD

<b>DFID</b>	<i>Social protection can be broadly defined as public actions – carried out by the state or privately – that: a) enable people to deal more effectively with risk and their vulnerability to crises and changes in circumstances (such as unemployment or old age); and b) help tackle extreme and chronic poverty.</i>
<b>SIDA</b>	<i>The concept of social security systems is defined as formal systems that create security for human beings in vulnerable situations.</i>
<b>EU</b>	<i>Measures put in place to provide a minimum standard of welfare and to protect citizens against the risks of inadequate income associated with unemployment, illness, disability, old age, the cost of raising a family, or the death of a spouse or parent.</i>
<b>GTZ</b>	<i>A framework that helps people to cope with life's risks and cushion their consequences.</i>
<b>OECD</b>	<i>Social protection refers to policies and actions which enhance the capacity of poor and vulnerable people to escape from poverty and enable them to better manage risks and shocks.</i>

Source: Yemtsov, Ruslan, *The World Bank and Social Protection Overview*, World Bank, 2013  
[www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Event/safetynets/1.%20Yemtsov%20Overview SSN%20Course 2013.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Event/safetynets/1.%20Yemtsov%20Overview%20SSN%20Course%202013.pdf)

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## Reporting

### *Promoting Access to Responsive Social Services by the Poor and Marginalized Urban Women, Domestic Workers and Small Scale Traders through Better Public Participation in Public Planning and Budgeting Processes in Kenya*

By Oxfam UK, staff

#### Context

Kenya's current constitution came into force in August 2010 and has been hailed as one of the most progressive globally. It makes citizen participation in public governance processes mandatory, including planning and budgeting processes. Citizen participation is indeed one of the constitutional principles and values of governance.

The constitution transformed the country's governance system from the previously centralized system to devolution. It provides that at least 15% of the revenue collected nationally is to be shared among the 47 devolved units to facilitate service delivery. The devolved units locally known as "County Governments" started operating in April 2013 after the March 2013 General elections. The County Governments are responsible for providing key basic services such as water and sanitation, healthcare, basic education, environmental services, street lighting, markets and village polytechnics.

The constitutional principle of citizen participation applies equally in governance at the national and county governments, however the constitution does not provide the framework and mechanisms for citizen participation in governance. The law anticipates that each of the 47 County Governments will enact laws that outline the mechanisms for structured public participation. However most, including the Nairobi City County Government which is Kenya's capital city, lacked the law until 2015. The result is that actualization of citizen participation remained largely ineffective or non-existent.

#### *What has Oxfam in Kenya and the Wezesha Jamii project achieved?*

In 2015, Oxfam in Kenya launched the Wezesha Jamii project with financial support from the European Union. One of the main areas of focus of this project is to influence the Nairobi City County Government to deliver responsive social services in the city's urban informal settlements. Such services should



**WEZESHA JAMII**  
JIELIMISHE. JIIMARISHE. JIINUE

#### WEZESHA JAMII PROJECT - PROMOTING LIVELIHOODS & INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE WOMEN DOMESTIC WORKERS & SMALL SCALE TRADERS

DURATION: 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2017

TARGET AREA: Nairobi urban area

TARGET GROUPS: Women domestic workers and small-scale traders in urban informal settlements, provincial & Nairobi City County government, police, CSOs

PARTNER: Women Empowerment Link, SITE Enterprise Promotion & National Organization for Peer Educators

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Capacity building, networking & linkages with financial, social and training institutions, research, advocacy & lobbying for social services, women's rights, women trader's and domestic workers federations.

Oxfam UK is an aid and development charity with 70 years of experience, working and campaigning with partners in over 90 countries worldwide.



#### **We want you!**

In the last newsletter we had World Vision Australia in the spotlight. This time it is Oxfam UK. Who wants to collaborate with us for the next newsletters? Please let us know!

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Members of County Assembly during the public participation capacity building meeting. Photo Credit: Kevin Wabung'o (Oxfam UK)

be responsive to the needs of the primary target groups of this project who are the women small scale traders and domestic workers, their dependants, and other residents that have been marginalized for decades. The approach is to influence the County Government to increase allocation of financial resources in its annual budgets to development projects in the informal settlements and actively involve the target women and other residents in deciding the priorities to be financed. This approach is based on Oxfam in Kenya's influencing strategy and belief that government has the primary responsibility to deliver services to all citizens and which, by having in place mechanisms that commits the government benefits to all citizens while ensuring sustainability.

The Wezesha Jamii project, under the leadership of Oxfam in Kenya and the co-applicants (SITE Enterprise Promotion and National Organization of Peer Educators), strategically prioritized influencing Nairobi City County Government to enact the law establishing the framework and mechanisms for public participation in planning, budgeting and other governance processes. In June 2015, Oxfam in Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nairobi City County Government. The MoU provides that Wezesha Jamii project would support the County Government to enact and implement the law on Public Participation. The two institutions subsequently developed a joint action plan to be followed in formulating and implementing the Act. Oxfam in Kenya's effective engagement in the action plan to enact the Nairobi City County Government Public Participation law started during the Bill development stage until the Nairobi City County Assembly passed it in December 2015. Oxfam in Kenya mobilized Kenyan Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to present their views on the Bill and actively influenced the County Assembly which took on board several recommendations presented by the CSOs.

The Bill was adopted in March 2016 and formally regulates public participation in governance of Nairobi City County. It establishes sound mechanisms for public awareness and mobilization for participation in decision making processes and places this responsibility on Nairobi City County Government. The act also outlines elaborate structures for citizen involvement in decision making processes at all administrative levels, namely Villages, Wards, Sub-Counties and County. It also commits all departments of Nairobi County Government to allocate at least 2% of their annual budgets to facilitate public participation and provides mechanisms for petitioning the County Government on matters of public participation.

### *What Next for Wezesha Jamii after the Law?*

The current critical focus of Oxfam in Kenya and Wezesha Jamii project is to translate the opportunities that the Nairobi City County Government provides into practical benefits for the project target groups and other city residents. To facilitate this important turning point, Oxfam in Kenya and Nairobi City County Government revisited and reviewed the joint action plan to suit the prevailing needs. The first priority was capacity building of the County Executive officials with responsibility for managing the county functions including the planning and budgeting, and the assembly committees with the responsibility for oversight in implementation of the law. This activity was implemented in August 2016 and involved all the County Chief Officers, Directors, Sub-County Administrators, Sub-County Finance Officers and Ward Administrators.



Elizabeth Mueni, Policy and Advocacy Advisor, speaking at the meeting with County Assembly Committees and County Chief Officers. Photo Credit: Kevin Wabung'o (Oxfam UK)

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On the Assembly side, the Budget and Appropriations Committee and Culture and Community Services Committee went through similar training. The two arms of the government developed an action plan to ensure effective involvement of the citizens in governance of county starting with the 2017/18 financial year budgeting. They also confirmed that the Nairobi City County Government allocated three hundred million Kenya Shillings for public participation in the current financial year (2016/17).

It became clear, however, that the fine details of how public participation would be conducted were lacking, even with the law in place. The team determined that this problem should be addressed through regulations to improve public participation. As part of the Action Plan, the County Executive Committee Member (equivalent of a Minister) for Public Service Management was tasked to draft the regulations in Oct 2016.

Other key problems that were identified during the capacity building sessions included lack of or inadequate information on complex budget information among other middle and lower level county officials. Other challenges were the limited involvement of Sub-County and Ward Administrators in budget processes and other public participation processes, inadequate skills in engendering budgets. Citizens have limited awareness regarding their rights and responsibilities and their poor participation in budgeting processes due to demoralization arising from failure of the government to implement previously identified projects.

Clear action plans were adopted to address these challenges, including for the Director of Economic Planning to share all the relevant budget documents with all county officials in September 2016. The Director of Economic Planning will simplify budget documents at the end of each budget calendar provide copies to all county officials and post them on the county website. The Sub-County and Ward Administrators will be actively involved in the budget process starting the current financial year. The Government will finance all of the processes and a framework for citizen awareness on planning and budgeting will be developed.

Partnership with the CSOs in public awareness and mobilization for active participation in the budget processes and tracking budget implementation was emphasized as a critical outcome of these engagements. The framework for engagement with the CSOs will be developed during a scheduled meeting between the County Government and CSOs on the 27th September 2016. Both the County Executive and Assembly will be represented in this forum. Once this framework is put into place, and taking into consideration that the county has allocated adequate resources for public participation, the platform will be adopted. This will enable the women domestic



*Small scale trader in Kibera market in Nairobi cleaning maize grains for sale in her small kiosk. Photo Credit: Benson Guantai*

workers and small scale traders and other citizens to see that their development priorities are considered for funding in the county budget. The County Government and CSOs will sensitise and mobilise the citizens. They will give their views during the public hearings in order to ensure that their priorities are included in the annual budgets for implementation.

The Wezesha Jamii project has mobilized 30,000 women domestic workers and small scale traders preparation for this development. The project has commissioned the development of simplified social accountability guide that will act as a reference to assist women in actively participating in county planning and budgeting processes. We will mobilize women, who reside in Nairobi City informal settlements, to take advantage of the existing spaces to advocate for inclusion of their development priorities into the budgets of Nairobi City County Government.

### *What do you see?*

The Wezesha Jamii project anticipates seeing women domestic workers and small scale traders consistently using the opportunities that the law and goodwill from Nairobi City County Government provides to influence increased financial allocations to social services. Such social services include those that meet their priorities such as water and sanitation, healthcare, baby care centres and better markets.

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Noemi, coffee producer in Bolivia

## Stories from the field: Noemi

### Coffee to study: supporting women's empowerment through education

Interview by ProgettoMondo Mlal, staff

CARANAVI, BOLIVIA. Noemi is a 25-year-old coffee farmer working in Caranavi, Bolivia. She tells us her story and about the support she has received from ProgettoMondo Mlal.

"Since I was a child I grew up in our family *cafetal* (coffee producer) helping my parents during the harvest time", she told me while she smiles looking back at her childhood.

"When I was three years old I already used to help my parents moving coffee beans and drying them under the sun so that the coffee would not get mouldy. When I got older I finally followed my parents with my *coco*, a special basket tied at the bust, that we use to gather ripe coffee beans. When I finished high school I moved from Calama to Caranavi to attend the ITC (technical institute of Caranavi) where I would like to specialize in coffee farming and transformation.

Courses cost 20Bs.- per month and the project Café Correcto has given me a scholarship which allows me to pay for my daily meals."

Suddenly, Noemi opens up about a personal experience:

"I had something that happened when I was seventeen. I got pregnant and became an unmarried mum. I wanted to study and fortunately my family helped me economically. Moreo-

ver during the week my family usually looks after my daughter and in the week end, when there aren't any courses, I can take care of my baby."

I ask her how she and her peers feel that the project will help them.

"This project is a good opportunity since it is helping us to grow and get more knowledge about coffee production. Thanks to Café Correcto fifteen young students got scholarships that allow them to continue their studies. Now I am studying hard because I would like to come back to my village and my family. I would like to change something not, only in my parcel (production area) but also in my association. Only a few women play a relevant role in the association. Most of us usually work more than men but we are not included in decision making in community life.

I ask Noemi if she wants to tell me something about the cafetaleros families' daily life. She is happy to share about the difficult conditions of cafetaleros due to the coffee plagues and small harvests, which have struck the country in the last years.

"Most of cafetaleros are owners of their parcels. They have to work night and day without being sure of earning something. At the end of the harvest period they cannot rest because they have to remove weeds and fix the *Muchch*, that is a kind of fence that is useful to keep the humus that could otherwise be washed away by the rains.

Nowadays producers do not have sufficient resources to employ day labourers and we have to help each other for free. If someone in my family becomes ill, what should I do? Who can work for us? We don't have any insurance.

Fortunately I am learning a lot at school and one day I want to cultivate my own parcel of organic coffee, which we already do anyway. I learnt that if you use an organic fertilizer, coffee grows sweeter. We usually buy manure from shepherds in tablelands or we use chicken dung. By the way, my dream is to have a diversified farm because coffee can only be harvested once per year, and I need to earn something each month!"

ProgettoMondo Mlal, established in 1966 in Italy, is a non-governmental organization operating in Latin America, Africa and Italy in the field of protection of human rights and child development.





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## Stories from the field: Gift

### *Cooking Gift: from passion to profession through vocational training*

*By Young Africa, staff*

RUSAPE TOWN, ZIMBABWE. Gift is a young man with a tough past and a bright future. He was born in the rural community of Chiendambuya, Zimbabwe. He became an orphan and was raised under the custody of his maternal grandmother. Due to the hardship of his socio-economic condition, he had to drop out of school and quickly started herding cows to earn a living for his grandmother and cousins. In 2009 his grandmother passed away. His remaining family took over his deceased grandmother's homestead and, sadly, chased him away from his home.

Desperate, Gift relocated to Rusape Town in the Makoni District where his situation kept worsening as he soon ended living on the streets without any perspective for a better life. Fortunately, he met a compassionate couple who decided to take him under their custody into their home and raise him as their own son. He is now in a much safer and friendlier environment but still with very limited perspective as his education remained scarce and he was lacking skills to access the job market.

#### *Light shines in Rusape Town*

In March 2016, Gift heard about Young Africa and their vocational skills training program provided with the support of European Union so he went to make enquiries about it. He was surprised to find out that, unlike many other institutions of vocational training, this programme did not require a prior 4 years of secondary school education to join. Immediately, Gift decided to enrol. Passionate about cooking, he joined the catering curriculum to learn more about and integrate into the food & beverage industry.

As part of the training, Gift first completed a 2-month industrial attachment. This is a work-based experience programme which gave him the opportunity to acquire very important life skills for his new profession. He then approached PanMart, a



*Gift (on the right) making cakes at Panmart*

local restaurant. The management of the restaurant was quickly impressed by what he had learnt, his hard work and his innovative business ideas and after just one month they offered him full time employment.

Gift is now a 29-year-old man with a job he likes and hopes and dreams for his future. During the closing ceremony Young Africa training programme which took place a few weeks ago, he declared with teary eyes in his graduation speech: "In my life I had never dreamt of wearing an ironed shirt and a polished pair of shoes. Young Africa and EU have transformed my life and everyone who knew me in this town is surprised at my transformation. I even have my own place to live".

Young Africa empowers young people in southern Africa through vocational training & entrepreneurship.



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## 17 Good practices you should know on *Social Protection*

*RNSF recommendations extracted from Volume 2 - Recommendations Based on Analysis of a Range of Development Agencies on Support to People Dependent on the Informal Economy (IE)*

The following good practices are extracted from *Volume 2 - Recommendations Based on Analysis of a Range of Development Agencies on Support to People Dependent on the IE*. This volume of research findings is the latest work of the RNSF and is based on the analysis of 202 projects and documents financed and implemented by agencies other than the EC.

### *Who should be involved in a social protection project?*

1. Include a range of stakeholders related to the IE in capacity strengthening and decision-making on social protection issues as it helps raise their awareness and strengthens their ownership of related processes. This should include government, employers and workers' organisations, and other civil society groups and may include other non-state actors such as experts from academia.
2. Promote discussion in project steering committees or other coordinating bodies on social protection as a mean to enhance the capacities of members and address social protection in addressing the IE.
3. Facilitate the fostering of dialogue and coordination between organizations of formal and informal workers, governments, and the corporate sector.

### *What are some best practices in projects promoting social protection with people dependent on the IE?*

4. Promote the registration of informal economy workers in social security systems by working directly with IE operators and their workers.
5. Ensure that project beneficiaries are provided with the best available insurance solutions in line with their needs. Emphasise the dissemination of information to people dependent on the IE on the social protection resources that may be available to them. Provide support for establishing linkages of IE operators and workers with social protection service through exchanges and meetings. Such events can help foster information sharing on good practices and lessons learned.
6. Keep in mind that Workers dependent on the IE face different vulnerabilities at different periods of their lives, and thus need different mechanisms of social protection at different times. Take a life cycle approach to developing social protection support for people dependent on the IE.

7. Design projects taking into account that targeted social protection (including safety nets) may offer extremely vulnerable people better alternatives than support for micro-credit. A broad analysis of experience targeting destitute and extremely vulnerable people indicates that social safety net programs and investments in infrastructure and production technology may offer better alternatives than microcredit.

8. Ensure that there is clarity with regard to conditions under which cash or food is provided in projects that include livelihoods support in emergency situations. That is, ensure that the conditionality criteria and extent to which they are being met are clear to all stakeholders.

9. Have a comprehensive approach taking into account issues related to life, assets and health insurance.

### *Which linkages with other topics of the IE?*

10. Ensure that design of activities to support people dependent on the IE are well coordinated with government social protection programmes.
11. Promote and facilitate the use of multi-stakeholder approaches to develop social protection approaches for people dependent on the IE.
12. Support the clear articulation of access to social protection in employment policies for people dependent on the IE.
13. Facilitate the strengthening of capacities and understanding of the linkages between social protection and employment. That includes the importance of social protection as an element that contributes to the protection of workers who are dependent on the IE.

14. In project design when carrying out livelihood projects with people dependent on the IE in post-emergency contexts, prefer cash grants to direct distribution of commodities. Cash grants allow beneficiaries to purchase high quality, highly specific products, and avoid the delays experienced in commodity procurement and distribution. Note that those in authority may be suspicious of cash grants, suggesting that people could not be trusted to spend them appropriately.

### *What about the methodology?*

15. Donors should take into consideration the length of time that is needed to build capacity and/or influence policy, particularly in the lesser known components linked to social protection and workers' rights.
16. Donors have a special role to play in exploring the potential of mainstreaming social protection for informal workers into existing formal institutions, while continuing to support innovative ways of building independent institutions where appropriate.
17. The design of projects directed to people dependent on the IE needs to analyse past and current policies that include attention to issues such as social protection even if these are not included in the explicitly stated outputs and activities.

# Newsletter Research, Network and Support Facility

## News from the projects



One man's trash is another man's treasure - Credit : Oxfam Italia

### Haiti: OXFAM ITALIA

#### *From trash to cash: sensitization of informal workers on urban waste management*

Taking care of your trash is good for your health, your community and your wallet: it is the point that the actors of the company Croix des Bouquets with the support of Oxfam Italia make.

They presented a theater play at a workshop last July in Ouaniminthe aimed at sensitising informal workers on the issues of urban waste management. They are starting a tour this month to present their entertaining and energizing show engaging every member of the communities they visit in livelihood enhancement through a safer and cleaner environment and better health and income-generating activities.

If you want to know more, you can watch the presentation of the workshop (in French, 4 minutes) by clicking on the following link:

<https://fwontyesanfoskote.wordpress.com/2016/09/01/les-dechets-cest-largent-video>

A video of a theatre-based activity implemented by RNSF implementing partner Aide au Développement - Gembloux may also be found on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUKIEHQ5mq4>

### Ivory Coast: AVSI

#### *Healthcare becomes a reality for craftsmen with the support of AVSI*

Craftspeople working in the informal economy are often excluded from health coverage, although it is a major factor influencing resilience and social inclusion. With the support of AVSI project, 1035 craftspeople and their families in Yamoussoukro now have better and more affordable access to healthcare since July 2016. The coverage will soon be extended to the same target groups in Bouaké and Abidjan.



Yamoussoukro Craftmanship Association registration ceremony

### Peru-Bolivia: CAPACHICA MUNICIPALITY

#### *EU visit SAYWA project*

To assess the progress of activities of the Saywa Project, the EU advisor met this month with the beneficiaries, the partners, and the local authorities in Capachica, Pucara, Lampa and Uros Chulluni in the region of Puno in Peru and in Tiwanaku in Bolivia.

This visit was an opportunity for the project partners such as the Mallku Institute of Technology, the NGO ACOFAPE which supports the returnees, and the Municipality of Capachica represented by its mayor Zahúl Escalante Gutierrez to discuss and strengthen their coordination in the implementation of the project.

# Newsletter Research, Network and Support Facility



Training closing ceremony

## Somalia: WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA

### Training at full pace

Despite a brief temporary suspension of activities in Eyl, Dangorayo and Godobjiran districts as a result of insecurity, when a group of Al-Shabaab militia invaded the coastal districts of Puntland in March 2016, the majority of activities continued as planned in the first half of 2016. Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Non Formal Education (NFE) and Business Facilitation (BF) trainings are running smoothly. Community based committees are all in place and the working relationship with project line ministries Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports and Ministry of Education and Higher Education has been strengthened and is cordial and increasingly effective.

Two groups of 350 trainees graduated from Vocational Skills and Non-Formal Education in March 2016 and the second batch of 500 completed classes in August 2016. As a result of seeing the benefits of vocational skills training, a number of NFE graduates transitioned to either TVET or BF training. The action developed criteria to refer them to the course of their choice in the ongoing TVET centres in the five target districts. The first round of 170 Business Facilitation trainees graduated in March 2016 and was linked to financial service providers like the local banks to access start-up capital. Currently, training is in progress for the second batch of 170 business facilitation trainees.



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Paolo Carlini

Team Leader

[p.carlini@arsprogetti.com](mailto:p.carlini@arsprogetti.com)

Jacques Charmes

Research Expert

[j.charmes@arsprogetti.com](mailto:j.charmes@arsprogetti.com)

Alessio Lupi

Project Officer

[a.lupi@arsprogetti.com](mailto:a.lupi@arsprogetti.com)

Francesco Barilli

Animation/Moderator Expert

[f.barilli@arsprogetti.com](mailto:f.barilli@arsprogetti.com)

Mei Zegers

Senior Advisor

[m.zegers@arsprogetti.com](mailto:m.zegers@arsprogetti.com)

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<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf>

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