

GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER **October 2010**

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Social Protection in West Africa



This edition of Global Cooperation is late. I do apologise. Last week ICSW started its regional programme to support the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI). Representatives of national councils from 15 West African countries met for three days to both learn about the SPFI and make their own plans to be involved in national social protection initiatives.

The workshop was organised jointly by the ICSW member in Senegal, Action Humaine pour le Développement Intégré au Sénégal (AHDIS) and ICSW. The funding to make the workshop possible came from the Swedish development agency Sida and the World Food Programme. Without the support of these two agencies the workshop would not have happened.

Representatives of the World Food Programme participated in the programme. An important contributor throughout the workshop was Dr Kone from the Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA – Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa). In addition during the programme there was representation from the World Bank, UNICEF and Ministère Famille Programme (Senegal)

The programme started with presentations on origins and meaning of the social protection floor initiative. This was then linked to the role of national councils (national umbrella organisations) in promoting social protection and working with national governments to develop the concept and introduce programmes. Each of the 15 national representatives outlined what was happening in their countries with regard to social protection. At the end of the programme each participant prepared a plan on the involvement of their council in social protection.

Each day the media reported on the workshop giving a high profile to the issue of social protection not only in Senegal but in the region.

Amacodou Diouf President of AHDIS and ICSW Regional President for Central and West Africa will outline the results of the workshop at the inter-agency meeting on the Social Protection Floor Initiative in Geneva in November.

Where Have All the Donors Gone? Scarce Donor Funding for Non-Communicable Diseases

Working Paper 228 Rachel Nugent and Andrea B. Feigl
From Centre for Global Development - CGD Development Update 2nd November 2010.

Health conditions in developing countries are becoming more like those in developed countries, with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) predominating and infectious diseases declining. The increased awareness of changing health needs, however, has not translated into significant shifts in resources or policy-level attention from international donors or governments in affected countries. NCDs in poor countries portend painful choices, particularly for countries with weak health systems that are struggling to manage persistent infectious disease burdens. Added to this is the need to protect the poor from excessive out-of-pocket expenses.

The authors conducted an analysis of donor spending on NCDs in developing countries from 2001 to 2008. Less than 3 percent (\$503 million out of \$22 billion) of overall global development assistance for health was dedicated to NCDs in 2007. The amount of donor assistance for health rose to \$686 million in 2008. In terms of the burden of disease, donors provided about \$0.78/DALY (DALY=disability-adjusted life year – see Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disability-adjusted_life_year) attributable to NCDs in developing countries in 2007, compared to \$23.9/DALY attributable to HIV, TB, and malaria. If donors provided just half the support to avoid NCD DALYs that they provide to the three infectious diseases, it would amount to almost \$4 billion in development assistance for health for NCDs.

The picture of donor involvement in NCDs is not entirely bleak. Donor funding to developing countries for NCDs grew by 618 percent between 2001 and 2008, with the largest increase coming from private, non-profit donors, and evidence of accelerating interest from bilateral donors. Multilateral organisations remain the largest category of funders. Nonetheless, additional donor funding is needed to support developing-country efforts to incorporate NCDs into their existing health care programs through such mechanisms as hypertension and cancer screening and prevention programs, and proven policy solutions such as tobacco taxation and salt reduction. The full report can be accessed at http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424546?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_11022010&

Prioritizing Expenditures for a Recovery for All

UNICEF has released a working paper, titled "[Prioritizing Expenditures for a Recovery for All: A Rapid Review of Public Expenditures in 126 Developing Countries](#)".

The working paper is based on IMF reports from July 2009 to July 2010. The main findings are:

1. A significant number of developing countries are expected to contract aggregate government spending in 2010-11. This is of concern both in terms of GDP (44% of the sample is tightening compared to 2008-09) and in terms of the real value of total government expenditures (25% of the sample). The overall timing and scope of projected spending contraction raise concern, in light of the still fragile and uneven recovery and the continued crisis impacts on vulnerable populations in many developing countries.
2. In this general climate of fiscal consolidation, will social spending be curtailed at a time when it is most needed? The paper assesses the risk of social spending falling short of adequately protecting poor and vulnerable households, including the implications of adjustment measures commonly considered by policymakers in the 126 developing countries during the period 2009-10, which are identified as (i) wage bill cuts or caps, (ii) limiting subsidies and (iii) further targeting social protection. The need for assessing potentially negative social impacts of adjustment measures is highlighted.
3. The paper raises a number of questions for policy makers to consider. Is the projected fiscal adjustment trajectory in a number of countries conducive to the objective of adequately protecting vulnerable children and the achievement of development goals such as the MDGs? In this context, possible financing options for social spending are briefly explored. It further encourages policy makers and development partners to evaluate the potential human and development costs of

foregone social expenditures and to consider alternative policy measures to ensure a “[Recovery for All](#)”. The paper can be downloaded from http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_56435.html

The International Day of Rural Women

The Secretary General of the UN said on 15th October 2010, “Today we recognise the important contributions of rural women, including indigenous women, to development. Rural women are farmers, fishers, herders and entrepreneurs; keepers of ethnic identities, traditional knowledge and sustainable practices; care-givers, parents and guardians. They are essential to agricultural development, food and nutrition security and the management of natural resources.”

“This year, the International Day of Rural Women falls at the beginning of the International Year of Youth, providing an opportunity to highlight the importance of ensuring that young rural women and girls can play an equal role in sustainable rural and national development.”

“Rural women do most of the agricultural work in developing countries, but endure the worst working conditions, with low pay and little or no social protection. Rural women produce most of the world’s food, yet they are often excluded from land tenure and the credit and business services they need to prosper. They are the primary users and custodians of local natural resources, but are seldom given a voice on national and local bodies that decide how these resources are managed. They are the care-givers and managers of households, but rarely share these responsibilities equally with men or have a say in major household decisions.”

“At the recent Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York, Member States pledged to ensure equal access for rural women to productive resources, land, financing, technologies, training and markets. They also committed to the full and equal participation of rural women in national development – not simply as equal beneficiaries, but as equal partners.”

“On this International Day, I call on governments and communities everywhere to ensure these promises are met so that rural women and girls can enjoy a full range of rights – from property and inheritance, to health, education and freedom from violence.”

Emerging Africa How 17 Countries Are Leading the Way – new book

Steven Radelet, Center For Global Development 2010 c. 125pp.

There is good news out of Africa. Seventeen emerging countries are putting behind them the conflict, stagnation, and dictatorships of the past. Since the mid-1990s, these countries have achieved steady economic growth, deepened democracy, improved governance, and decreased poverty. Five fundamental changes have made this possible: (1) more democratic and accountable governments; (2) more sensible economic policies; (3) the end of the debt crisis and changing relationships with donors; (4) the spread of new technologies; and (5) the emergence of a new generation of policymakers, activists, and business leaders.

Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries Are Leading the Way takes a fresh approach. The authors recognise the important differences between the emerging countries, the oil-exporters (where progress has been uneven and volatile), and the others (where there has been little progress) instead of treating sub-Saharan Africa as a monolithic entity. The emerging countries discussed in the book are Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

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Korea Puts Development on the Agenda for Seoul G-20 Summit

Center for Global Development CGD Development Update 5th October 2010

<http://www.cgdev.org>

Seoul hosts the G-20 in November. Development issues will be squarely on the agenda for the first time since the top steering group for the global economy was created in the midst of the 2008 financial crisis, according to Ho-young Ahn, South Korea’s Ambassador at large for the G-20.

Ambassador Ahn spoke at a CGD policy breakfast hosted by CGD president Nancy Birdsall in New York. Korea's push to make development issues a central part of the G-20 discussions, which has been agreed by other G-20 participants, was well received by those at the breakfast.



The move marks an important step in the evolution of the G-20. The G-7 (and then G-8) included a substantial development component in its deliberations, at least in terms of aid. As a more inclusive group, the G20 is well-placed as a high-level forum for leaders to seek consensus on a range of urgent development policy challenges. But the group's origins in the financial crisis—and the fact that finance ministries continue to shape the agendas—mean that until now meetings have focused almost exclusively on finance ministry type issues and coordinating responses to the crisis

These are important issues, to be sure, but just one sub-set of the many issues that matter to poor people in the developing world.

Korea is the fourth country to host a G-20 Summit and the first outside the North Atlantic, Anglo Saxon club. (Previous meetings were held in Washington, London, Pittsburgh, and Toronto). Efforts to place development policy firmly on the G-20 agenda received a boost in Toronto, when the participants agreed to create a G-20 development policy working group, which has since been co-chaired by Korea and South Africa. Korea has used that group to float ideas, including an eight-pillar development agenda and multi-year action plan.

Participants in the CGD breakfast said that France and Mexico both favour including development on the G-20 agenda, which increases the likelihood that Korea's initiative will stick. They also had plenty of ideas for inclusion in the G-20 development agenda and the multi-year action plan. Among them: coordinated action to help developing countries recover stolen-assets, that is, retrieve money looted by corrupt rulers and sent to overseas bank accounts; and a commitment to unilaterally grant low-income countries true duty-free, quota-free market access, outside of the Doha trade negotiations process, as a boost to development.

Senior Korean officials appear to be thinking carefully about strengthening the G-20's ability to follow through on whatever commitments are made.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2010/09/opening-statements-mdg-debate.html>

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has a web page dedicated to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The site contains over 20 translations of the Declaration. <http://www.iwgia.org/sw248.asp>

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