



Systematization of Capacity Development for Social Protection in Africa and Asia:

THL-Finland work under the EU-Social Protection Systems Programme

www.thl.fi/eu-sps

Co-operation with low-income countries and regional organizations in Africa and Asia

The EU Social Protection Systems (EU-SPS) Initiative supports national, regional and international expert institutions in 11 mainly low income countries in their efforts to develop inclusive and sustainable social protection (SP) systems. Country ownership, sustainability and wide participation of national and regional experts are the core principles for the EU-SPS work.

Partner countries

Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kyrgyz Republic, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Togo, Vietnam and Zambia.

Funding: EU-DEVCO, OECD and the Governments of Finland and Germany.

Implementation: Government of Finland's National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has managed the EU-SPS work on Social Protection Capacity Development, which is the focus of this summary paper. OECD Development Centre has produced several pieces of related research. Germany joined the initiative in 2016 with parallel funding and activities. The 4 year initiative was launched in 2015.

Key national partners have been Ministries of Social Development, Labour, Finance, etc. and Social Protection Coordinating Bodies as well national universities, think tanks and trade unions. Regional partners include African Union, East and Central Africa Social Security

Association (ECASSA), TRANSFORM (Regional African Social Protection Leadership Training Programme), UN-Women Africa, and Southern African Social Protection Experts' Network SASPEN).

Among international partners are EU-delegations, Finnish embassies and UN agencies such as UNICEF, ILO, UN-Women, UN-DESA, www.socialprotection.org @ IPC-IG/ UNDP and FAO, SPIAC-B, Abilis Disability Foundation, Universities of Tampere, Helsinki and Bonn.

Capacity development and strengthening

THL-Finland's support has been focused on strengthening management capacities in social protection (SP) through the systematization of pre-service and in-service capacity development through national universities, colleges, TVETs and regional peer-to-peer learning networks and systems.

Capacity development starts with the assessment of existing capacities, assets, strengths and weaknesses. Based on a gap analysis additional contents and curricula have been developed for civil servants' in-service training and pre-service education at universities, colleges and TVET-institutions. The Initiative mobilizes and shares local, regional and global expertise to build sustainable capacities at the local level.

Guidance and development

The THL/EU-SPS has distilled evidence-based guidance from its country and regional experiences to guide the EU-Commission, EU Member States and other partners in the future programming of ODA for social protection.



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Highlights at the country, regional and global level

Cambodia

- Assessment of organizational capacities for delivering social assistance;
- Pension policy training course for senior policy-makers led to a rethinking and freezing of a plan to move to an individual account defined contribution scheme;
- Situation analysis, training materials and video on opportunities to extend occupational accident insurance for informal construction and domestic workers and tuk-tuk drivers ('SPIREWORK')
- Mobile video training for national partners

Ethiopia

- Social workforce capacity development for local government social workers in cooperation with UNICEF, incl. definition of occupational standards and curricula
- Piloting (in Amhara region) of cross-sectoral team work among new local (woreda and kebele level) social workers together with health and agriculture/food security staff.
- Three Ethiopian Master Trainers trained at the ToT of the African Regional SP Leadership Curriculum TRANSFORM. National ToT for 40 new TRANSFORM Trainers. Unicef staff training on TRANSFORM, using a blended approach (e-learning and face-to-face).
- Video highlighting EU-SPS/Finland capacity development support, including to Ethiopia
- Mobile video training for national partners



Kyrgyzstan

- University curriculum development and Training of Trainers on Disability Inclusion in the training of local social workers and national SP professionals;
- Disability expert' inputs into EU-TA work.
- Piloting of a disability specific 'Baby Box' for families with children or parents with disabilities.
- Mobile video training for national partners

Malawi

- Regional ISPA Training in Malawi on Inter-Agency SP Assessments.
- Regional African Union Experts' Meeting on SPIREWORK (SP for Informal and Rural Economy Workers).
- Video on opportunities to extend social protection to informal and rural economy workers ('SPIREWORK') in Malawi
- Three Malawian Master Trainers trained at the ToT of the African Regional SP Leadership Curriculum TRANSFORM. Several national TRANSFORM trainings.
- Malawi linked to universities in Zambia and Tanzania, working on SP Curriculum Development.

Mozambique

- Curriculum development and piloting of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) training program for the SP sector.
- TRANSFORM Curriculum translated into Portuguese. TRANSFORM ToT for Mozambican and other Lusophone African Master Trainers.



Namibia

- Support to the creation and work of the Inter-ministerial SP Core Team to consolidate Namibia's fragmented SP systems;
- Assessment of Universal SP in Namibia;
- Inter-sectoral institutional assessment supporting the SP policy development process
- [Video](#) about opportunities to extend social protection to informal sector workers in Namibia.
- TRANSFORM training organized for National social protection policy makers and experts

Tanzania

- ISPA Public Works Assessment of TASAF, and [Webinar](#) on its results, including the nationwide extension of the public works and production of a series of design guidelines for various kinds of public works.
- SP Curriculum assessment and development for multi-professional SP learning in a network of Tanzanian universities; New MA and Professional Proficiency Curricula have been completed. [Videos](#) about University Curriculum Development [here](#).
- Cooperation with FAO, TASAF, ILO, NSSF and Finnish funded PFP on social protection for informal workers. [Video](#) produced on tailoring of SP for workers in the forestry sector value chains.
- SP Policy review and capacity development with key authorities and ILO, incl. Zanzibar Universal Pension Scheme, with EU-SOCIEUX.
- Five Tanzanian Master Trainers trained at the ToT of the African Regional SP Leadership Curriculum TRANSFORM.



Togo

- Support to national policy assessment and dialogue, using the Inter-Agency Social Protection Policy Options Tool (ISPA-SPPOT) with ILO;
- Inclusion of Togo in the open source insurance management information system initiative.



Viet Nam

- Analytical work on options for extending social insurance coverage;
- Creation of Vietnamese curricula and institutional and financing structures for previously imported SP courses .
- Series of SP trainings for members of the National Assembly, party leaders and senior civil servants.

Zambia

- SP Curriculum assessment in Zambian universities;
- Development of multi-professional MA and BA Curricula;
- [Videos](#) about the SP Curriculum Development project
- Design and leveraging of a [new project on SP for Informal and Rural Economy Workers \(SPIREWORK\)](#) with Finland, NAPSA and ILO;
- Five Zambian Master Trainers trained at the ToT of the African Regional SP Leadership Curriculum TRANSFORM.
- Over 200 Zambian SP professionals trained on TRANSFORM at central and local government levels, [EU-delegation](#), [Embassy of Finland](#), [CSOs](#) and [the media](#).
- Mobile video training for national partners



Africa Regional

- Support to an African Union Experts' Groups working on AU Protocol on the Right to SP, African Social Agenda 2063 and SPIREWORK.
- Support to ECASSA (East and Central Africa Social Security Association), including their SP Data dashboard, and SASPEN (Southern African SP Expert Network).
- Creation and systematization of an African Regional SP Leadership Curriculum TRANSFORM, at the request of AU, with ILO, Unicef, UNDP and African SP-experts.
- Development of an E-learning version of the TRANSFORM Curriculum, with www.socialprotection.org
- Find TRANSFORM training modules here.



Sharing lessons learned and influencing global policy processes, UN, etc.

The THL EU-SPS Team has played an active role in several UN-level processes, including:

- CSocD = UN Commission for Social Development, where THL facilitated expert inputs by Finnish, Zambian and Kyrgyz SP-experts, a preparatory webinar on Inequality Reduction through SP, with UN-Women and UN-DESA,

and a side event with UN-OSAA (Office of the Special Adviser for Africa)

- CSW = UN Commission on the Status of Women, where THL facilitated the participation of a Tanzanian expert in the CSW Expert meeting, facilitated a Pre-CSW webinar, and co-sponsored 4 side events.
- Global USP-2030 Conference on Universal Social Protection
- Global USG Conference on Universal Child Grants
- EU/AU SP Experts meeting
- AU Conference of Ministers of Social and Labour Affairs, and a parallel African 'Post-CSW' event together with UN-Women Africa.

Want to know more?

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The views expressed in this briefing note reflect the lessons learned during the 4 years of the EU-SPS Programme, but they are not official positions of the partnering institutions (EU-Commission, OECD, MFA-Finland, THL).



EU Social Protection Systems Programme