





The development needs of social protection are concretized in the *Blueprint on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication* (2016) [6] and its Implementation Road Map. These documents express strong government commitment to further development of the social protection system - especially in the context of the overarching goals of inclusive growth, reduction of inequalities and poverty eradication.

Social protection is one of the 7 elements included in the Blue print on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication. That, in turn, is an integral part of President’s Harambee Prosperity Plan. This is a good example how **social protection is fully integrated into the national development plans.**

## EU-SPS work in Namibia

The EU-SPS programme entered this scene in 2016. Namibia was selected as one of the 10 partner countries because of its specific challenges and the strong commitment by the government in developing a comprehensive social protection system.

The implementation plan assigns the responsibilities for deliverables, activities and results in each of the priority areas to various Organizations/Ministries/Agencies (OMAs) or groups of agencies and defines indicators and targets.

The above documents establish a comprehensive social policy framework for the whole of the government. The framework brings social values of human rights, equity, solidarity, non-discrimination, and full participation at the core of all sectors and pulls together the responsibilities, efforts and resources of the whole government.



*Intensive dialogue on the Draft Social Protection Policy at the Swakopmund Worksop, August 2018*

### Poverty is multidimensional

*“Definitions of poverty should be dynamic and keep up with factors such as inflations, changing economic, political and even environmental conditions. Therefore, in Namibia you are poor if you:*

- go hungry to bed or eat from the dumpsite
- share drinking water from a well with livestock
- cannot afford a decent house
- still rely on nearby bushes when nature calls
- do not have access to decent health services.”

Hon. Minister Bishop (Em.) Z. Kameeta [6]

### Harambee: “Working together”

*“HARAMBEE PROSPERITY PLAN (HPP) is constructed around the Namibian narrative. It acknowledges that we are not starting afresh, but that we must continue with the construct of an inclusive Namibian House, built on a solid foundation of peace and stability. We are unified by our national identity and stand united in Cause, to usher Namibia into the epoch of Prosperity.”*

*The Plan is built on five Pillars that are made up of sub-pillars, to form the frame/structure of a House. These Pillars are:*

- ◆ *Effective Governance;*
- ◆ *Economic Advancement;*
- ◆ *Social Progression;*
- ◆ *Infrastructure Development; and*
- ◆ *International Relations and Cooperation*

### Blue Print on wealth redistribution and poverty eradication (May 2016)

The Blue Print [6] is a comprehensive social policy framework and action plan for eradicating poverty and reducing income inequalities in Namibia. It was created through wide consultations. It has a multidimensional concept of poverty and employs a Whole of Government -approach to the six strategic priority areas and interventions:

1. Strengthening social protection
2. Ending hunger
3. Access to basic social services
4. Employment creation
5. Inclusive growth
6. Gender equality and empowerment





## Policy development

The Core Team on Social Protection in Namibia has adopted a broad view of social protection. It includes social assistance, social insurance, social welfare services and labour market policies as well as a broad range of public, and sometimes private, instruments to eradicate poverty, address vulnerability and tackle social exclusion through managing related risks. [9]

EU-SPS Initiative funded an expert to the Ministry for Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to draft a Social Protection Policy through a participatory process. The resulting Draft Policy is aligned with national and international development goals. It is rights based and gender responsive. The policy development process has been broadly participative and several workshops and dialogues have been organized.

*“The main purpose of the policy is to implement the aims for poverty eradication and reduction in inequality to enable all Namibians to be free from hunger and lack of income and enable them to utilize public services by empowering all children, young people, women, elderly persons as well as persons with disability to achieve their highest potential.” [10]*

There are 10 priority objectives or reform areas. These have specific costed outcomes in the Implementation Plan, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the policy:

1. Universal maternity grant and health coverage
2. Universal child and disability grant
3. Employment creation and empowered women and youth
4. Sustainable old age and disability income security
5. Improved food and nutrition security
6. Inclusion of marginalized people
7. Affordable housing
8. Integrated social registry and services
9. Enhanced coordination of social protection
10. Improved monitoring and evaluation of social protection

## African Social Policy framework (SPF) and African Union Social Agenda 2063 as guidance

The AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Social Development adopted the Social Policy Framework for Africa (FPA) in Windhoek, 27-31 October, 2008.

The guiding principles for the SPF:

- Social policies must encapsulate the principles of human rights, development imperatives and be embedded in the African culture of solidarity;
- It must be intimately linked to economic and political policies aiming at advancing society's well-being
- Policy for social development as a broader goal should be coordinated with, but
- not subordinate to, economic growth and political development;
- Social policy formulation must include bottom-up approaches to allow the participation of beneficiaries and recipients in decision-making;
- Social policy should have a long-term development perspective;
- The different stakeholders should work together in well-coordinated partnerships that enable them to complement and not compete with one another.

The SPF aims to provide an overarching policy structure to assist African Union Member States to strengthen and give increasing priority to their national social policies and hence promote human empowerment and development.

The process for facilitating the design of comprehensive social development policies in AU Member States has been ongoing. In April 2019 the Ministerial Meeting discussed a Draft African Social Agenda 2063. It will be reviewed by Member States and then eventually finalized later in 2019. The drafting process has been supported by EU-SPS.



## Lessons learned and guidance to development partners

The Namibia case has the specific feature that it involved intensive cooperation with the Government at rather high level. Namibia has applied a Whole-of-Government Approach to the further development of its social protection system. Additionally, **The EU-SPS agreed on a joint programming initiative with GIZ and UNICEF Namibia.** This way it was possible to combine the strengths and resources of the partners and to harmonize the support to the Government. UNICEF acted as the local partner ensuring a day-to-day communication channel of EU-SPS Initiative with the Government. UNICEF also acted as the secretariat of the SP Core Team. In such cases there are a number of lessons to be learned.

1. **Ensure high level political commitment.** Development of a social protection system is a strategic and crucial development issue with high political interests.
2. **Facilitate the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform to gather together all interested stakeholders.** In Namibia the inter-ministerial SP Core Team created a process to run the process forward across government sectors.
3. **Align with government strategies.** This secures Government ownership and helps avoid “donor push” elements in the cooperation.
4. **Harmonize donor support through joint programming and pooling of resources.** Establish a commitment for joint programming among the donors. Involve high level managers to ensure that joint programming is fully authorized and budgeted for.
5. **Establish a single channel communication for the partner Government.**
6. **Ensure the main local partner has the resources required to deliver its part.** This can be done e.g. by funding expert posts locally. Over time this strengthens the partner’s capacity too.
7. **Ensure the involvement and visibility of the European Union Delegation (EUD)** in order to make clear the high level political interest of EU in the cooperation.
8. **Use primarily local expertise.** This strengthens local capacities and promotes the sustainability of SP collaboration between local experts and other stakeholders.
9. **Arrange for speedy payments to local suppliers.** as Often they are small, have little cash reserves and cannot wait for payments for long.
10. **Budget for and appoint a resident coordinating agency or expert person.** This can be either either at country or regional level.
11. **The European Union should continue supporting Social Development, Social Policies and Social Protection systems in African countries.** These are necessary building blocks for the materialization of human rights, for peace and broad-based security and socially sustainable development in the neighboring region.
12. **The EU should partner with and provide support to the African Union in building coherence and sustainability of social protection systems.** This would encompass continental dialogues and guidance.



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## EU-SPS: CO-OPERATION WITH 11 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.

### Partner countries:

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

### Funding:

the EU, OECD and Government of Finland.

### Implementation:

OECD Development Centre and Government of Finland's National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). The four-year initiative was launched in 2015. Germany joined the initiative in 2016, with parallel funding through GIZ on behalf of BMZ.

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## Sources

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- [2] Namibia Statistics Agency 2016
- [3] [At the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa \(2015\)](#)
- [4] [President's Harambee Prosperity Plan \(2015\)](#)
- [5] [Fifth National Development Plan NDP5 \(2017\)](#)
- [6] [Blue Print on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication \(May 2016\)](#)
- [7] [Namibia Social Protection Floor Assessment Report](#)
- [8] CODI is a social protection assessment tool developed jointly by a group of development partners. More information [here](#).
- [9] [Universal Social Protection: The Basic Social Grant to All Older Persons in Namibia \(ILO 2016\)](#)
- [10] The Draft SP Policy, December 2018, to-be published

## EU Social Protection Systems Initiative

