



About: Joint UN SDG Fund Programme

Towards Universal Social Protection System in Kenya

Leaving No One Behind

What is Joint UN SDG Fund Programme for Social Protection?

This is a 2-year (2020-2022), \$2 million programme that supports the government of Kenya to move from poverty targeted approach to social protection and accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals through universal social protection system. The Joint Programme aims at:

1. **Strengthening the existing policy and legislation framework** by generating evidence to advocate for sustainable and inclusive design models for a universal social protection system
2. **Strengthening systems development of MIS, enhanced service delivery and coordination** for gender responsive, scalable and shock responsive social protection delivery mechanism linked to complimentary services.
3. **Enhancing coordination, inter-sectoral linkages** between the UN agencies and Government both National and County level in the delivery of social protection interventions.

The Joint UN SDG Programme supports the achievement of the Mid-Term Plan III of Kenya's Vision 2030 and the Big Four agenda.

What's the current status of Social Protection in Kenya?

Kenya has over the years achieved big milestones in the delivery of social protection interventions across the three arms of social assistance (cash transfers), social security (income protection, pension) and national health insurance. As of April 2020, Kenya delivered regular, poverty targeted **cash transfers** to over 2.2 million households through five National cash transfer programmes including **Orphans and Vulnerable Children** (353,000 beneficiaries), **Older Persons** (833,000), **Persons with severe disabilities** (47,000), Inua Jamii 70 years and above (1,094,372) and **Hunger Safety Net Programme** (101,600).

As of 2018, **NHIF** coverage of contributory members was at 7 million members (formal) and 3.1 million (informal) whereas **social security** coverage was at 10% (formal) and 15% (informal) workers. Only about 12% of the rural workers are covered by any form of social protection leaving many vulnerable especially women, youth and those with disabilities and long-term illnesses. Further, studies show that poverty targeted social protection intervention exclude 78% of eligible population.

How will Kenya realize a Universal Social Protection System?

The Joint UN SDG Programme through the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) results area 2.6 aims at implementing below outputs to build a business case for a USP system in Kenya. Some of the proposed interventions include:

Output 1: Strengthen Policy & Legislation framework support	Output 2: Strengthen systems, development of MIS, service delivery & coordination	Output 3: Enhance coordination and inter-sectoral linkages
<p>Conduct Feasibility, assessments and surveys studies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generate evidence for advocating for gender responsive, better coverage and inclusive USP e.g. social security services for informal and rural economy ▪ Propose SP design options for productive activities of beneficiaries ▪ Propose cost effective design options ▪ Propose options for expanding fiscal space for financing USP 	<p>Enhance the single registry to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand and link cash transfer coverage to the life cycle e.g. Universal child benefit ▪ Link existing cash transfer programmes to complementary social services e.g. Maternal benefits, disability benefits, Nutrition education, HIV/AIDs services, work-injury benefits ▪ Linkage to NSNP MIS and other external databases ▪ Link USP with economic service ▪ Include grievance and case management components for beneficiaries ▪ Gender responsive, scalable and responsive delivery system for shocks e.g. drought, floods, pandemics ▪ Strengthen monitoring and evaluation framework 	<p>Strengthen linkages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Between UN agencies and county governments to support development of tailor made social protection policies and legal frameworks

How will a USP be funded with the shrinking national budget?

JP work streams are aimed at building a business case for a USP system with options for expanding the fiscal space. The feasibility and assessment studies aimed at strengthening SP policy and legislation frameworks will provide findings and recommendations on the cost implication of the different design options.

What will be the effect of USP on SDGs?

It is envisioned that USP will enable the Government achieve 5 of the SDGs as follows:

SDGs	Indicators	Baseline 2018/19	2022
1 NO POVERTY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population living below national poverty line by sex and age Population covered by social protection systems by sex, disabilities, life cycle, long term illnesses, work-injury victims, poor and vulnerable. 	32% 12%	29% 25%
2 ZERO HUNGER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people requiring food assistance as a result of drought 	2.4 million	2.2 million
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment rate by sex, age and persons with disabilities 	Unemployment rate 7.4% Underemployment rate 20.4%	Tbd
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers 	29.2% (by 2018)	Tbd
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Government revenue as a proportion of GDP by source Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget 	21.2% 5.4% FDI as a proportion of total budget	Tbd Tbd

Who are the key stakeholders in the Joint Programme? PUNOs

Through the UNDAF Strategic results area 2.6, the Government of Kenya and the Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs) built a strategic collaboration to implement the Joint UNSDG programme on SP to build a business case for a USP system in Kenya.

Organisation	Contribution	Organisation	Contribution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic leadership of the JP Strongly involved in the design and advocacy of USP system 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical lead and overall coordination of JP Evidence generation across existing and planned sectoral interventions Lead review and strengthening of delivery infrastructure for SP Design options and implementation plans for complementary interventions for food security Support the National and County governments on social protection policy coherence agenda and integrated programming
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the development of Universal child grant and Universal health coverage Lead linkages of SP to social services (health & nutrition) 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote expansion of SP coverage to rural households Sex and gender disaggregated data to strengthen food security in SP Lead in linking SP with Agriculture and livelihoods 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead on complementarity between contributory and non-contributory social security Lead in enhancing dialogue between government, employers and workers on USP Lead work on expansion of SP to informal economies and rural workers Conduct feasibility studies to inform reform processes for social insurance and social security Propose inclusive SP and social-economic designs for people with disabilities and people with HIV/AIDs