



# **SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY AS A VEHICLE FOR PROMOTING EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

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# Introduction / Background

- The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) as advocated by the National Planning Commission aims to mitigate an increasing vulnerability of people to chronic socio--economic deprivation, insecurity, natural disasters.
- Social Protection is a life circle approach to eradicate poverty, reduce all forms of vulnerability and create social balance (equity). It set's a bench mark beyond which no individual should fall, giving government the responsibility to protect the vulnerable.

# ***Social Protection as an Emerging issue in Africa***

- Across Africa, the discourse on Social Protection known as the Social Protection Floor has gained currency.
- Social Protection was first discussed at the First session of AU Labor & Social Affairs Commission in Mauritius 2003.
- Third Extra Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Head of States and Government in Ouagadougou Burkina Faso Sept 2004 and the Livingstone conference in Malawi in 2006 gave teeth to Social Protection.

# ***Social Protection as an Emerging issue Cont'd***

- As an urgent response in addressing the increasing vulnerabilities, poverty and unemployment in the face of both chronic deprivations and new crisis in the region (Wars, insurgencies, insecurity and natural disasters)
- In the Ministerial Meeting of Oct 2008 held in Windhoek Namibia, the Minister's (Nigeria Inclusive) adopted the Social Policy Framework for Africa. Supporting the investment in Social Protection and Social Security based on a comprehensive longer term (Sustainable) national social protection action plans.

# ***Rationale for Social Protection in Nigeria***

- The Impetus/ Rationale for the NSPP is derived from the following:
  - i. The section three (3) of the 1999 (Amended) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, allude to the responsibility of the Government to provide the basic necessities of life for every Nigerian.

# ***Rationale for Social Protection(Cont'd)***

- ii. The chapter two (2) of Nigerian Vision 20:2020 reemphasised Government guaranteeing the well-being of the people.
- iii. Chapter seven (7) of the Transformation Agenda of the Administration also has the development of the human capital as a major priority.
- iv. The 2014 Federal Budget tagged “budget for growth and employment” which is also a sub set of Social Protection.
- v. The high unemployment rate.
- vi. The high poverty rate
- vii. Need to bridge the gap between the rich and poor.

# Political Economy underlying Social Protection Policy

- Social Protection as a component of political economy is reinforced in the under listed principles:
  - **The Principle of Redistribution:** Redistributing resources is necessary to avoid inequality and ensure social order and stability.
  - **The Principle of Universal Basic Needs:** SP affirms the strong right of every Nigerian to needs satisfaction (especially in the areas of education, health, food security and Job/Employment).

## Cont'd

- **The Principle of Citizenship** assumes that the purpose of the state is for the good of the citizens. All citizens without distinction of status or class should be offered some minimum standard of living in relation to an agreed range of services.
- **The Principle of Human Rights:** Social protection should be valued as much as other human rights like the right to life.

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- **The Principle of Social Control:** SP recognises the important role of social control in maintaining social stability and cohesion and recommends the use of welfare to discourage actions that could lead to social disorganization and problems.
- **Principle of Social Inclusiveness:** SP recommends wider access to services and increase participation of citizens in governance.

# Concept of Social Protection?

- The concept of Social Protection is all encompassing covering the life span of a person; from cradle to death.
- Social protection refers to a set of instruments to transfer incomes and redistribute wealth so as to address shocks and vulnerabilities of marginalised groups.
- Social Protection is a right of a citizen.

# Social Protection Floor

The SP Floor includes:

- A basic set of **essential social rights and transfers**, in cash and in kind, to provide minimum income and livelihood security for poor and vulnerable populations and to facilitate access to essential services,
- Geographical and financial **access to essential services**, such as health, water and sanitation, education, social work

# Cont'd

In other words:

- All residents have access to a nationally defined set of essential services irrespective of their financial status or/and their geographical location. (Inclusion and equity)

# The Key Components of Social Protection

- The Social Protection Policy as proposed by NPC has three main thrusts, which covers the complete life cycle of an individual and promotes equity and inclusiveness.



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- **Social Security**: This deals with pensions, gratuity, loss of job and permanent injuries in the course of job, and other work place vulnerability.
- **Social Safety Nets**: This covers the provision of skills for job, employment opportunity, seed funds to establish businesses, skills acquisition for self-employment and Conditional Cash Transfers

## Cont'd

- **Social inclusion and Equity:** This addresses all forms of vulnerability that are not captured in the initial two mentioned components. It includes, but not limited to Foetus, Newborn, Infant, children, Adolescent, Youth, Worker, People who are limited physically, loss of income, retirement and old age, vulnerable groups, gender mainstreaming, disasters and ill health.

# ***Concept of Equity and Inclusion***

- **Equity** is based on the idea of moral equality. **Equity** looks at the distribution of capital ,goods and access to services in an economy.
- It refers to equal life opportunities to provide all citizens with a basic and equal minimum of income, goods and services.

## Cont'd

- Low levels of equity are associated with social exclusion, poor access to basic services and intergenerational poverty.
- This results in negative effect on growth, financial instability, insecurity and social vices.

# Benefits to Nigeria

- Bridge the gap between the have's and have not's
- Increase the purchasing power of the poor
- Create a sense of inclusion and belonging.
- Reduce security challenges in the country
- Empowerment of the vulnerable
- Increase the demand side of Govt. services, especially for the CCT in health and education sectors.
- Provide a coordinated and evidence based platform for Interventions

# Suggested Funding Mechanism for NSPP

- 2% of Annual Federal Budget
- Oil company SP taxes
- Flight tickets SP taxes
- Telephone call SP taxes
- Foreign Exchange SP tax (Social remittances)

# ***Conclusion:***

- National Social Protection Policy as a Vehicle for Promoting Equity and Inclusion is imperative for growth and sustainable development.
- Government should play a central role in the necessary wealth redistribution required for **equity** between all citizens.(SP is the platform for wealth redistribution)
- In attaining equity these three cardinal issues most be addressed:
  - Equal Life opportunities
  - Equal concern for people's needs
  - Meritocracy-Positions in society and rewards should be based on fair competition

# Selected Interventions

- **GLOBAL EXPERIENCES**
- The Brazilian “Bolsa Familia” programme which was a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) intervention that reduced the poverty gap in Brazil by 15%.
- Mexican child cash transfer known as “Oportunidades”.
- In Ethiopia, the “Productive Safety Nets programme” was designed to discouraged beneficiaries from selling their assets to buy food during food scarcity.
- In Indonesia, half of the fuel subsidy removal fund was reinvested directly into cash transfer, health and education fee waivers for the poor.

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## **NIGERIAN EXPERIENCES:**

- Varying degrees of the Federal and States interventions:
- National Programme on the Eradication of Poverty (NAPEP) was the first Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) in Nigeria. It started in 2006 with the intervention known as in Care of Poverty Eradication (COPE).
- CCT programmes by various State Government in Bauchi, Katsine, Kano and some other States. These interventions usually tend to address issues pertaining to health, girl child education, poor school enrollment or maternally and child mortality.
- The Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs) Office provide funding support for NAPEP interventions but with counterpart funding from benefitting States.
- The Federal Govt intervention through Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programmes (SURE-P), The focus of SURE-P are in areas of Maternal and Child Health, Women and Youth Empowerment, Public works, Infrastructure, Transport, Education and Niger Delta Development.
- Osun State O-YES programme on employment of 20,000 youths for public works and menial jobs.
- Ondo State “Abiye” Maternal and Child health waivers.
- Jigawa State CCT to disabled persons.
- Ekiti State CCT to the aged of 65years and above.
- Imo State free education programme for all indigenes and bursary to tertiary education students.
- Osun State school feeding programme.



• **THANK YOU**