A Call for Robust Social Protection Policy for Inclusive Development: Lessons Learned from Safety Net Programme in the Afar Region of Ethiopia

Bereket Tsegay
Interim Director/Senior Researcher at PENHA and PhD Candidate at SOAS, University of London

INCLUDE Meeting
November 20th 2018
Outline

- Introduction
  SPIDA Key Activities
  An Overview of the PSNP
- SPIDA Key Findings
- Policy Implications
- Conclusion
SPIDA key activities

- Regional focus: Afar of Ethiopia
- Conduct assessment of the biggest Safety net programme in SSA - PSNP
- August 2015 - November 2017
- FGD (128 participants – 68 men and 60 women) and survey (2295)
- 10 research outputs (Working papers, policy briefs and blogs)
- Consortium: DPU – UCL UK, PENHA UK and Adigrat University of Ethiopia closely worked with the Afar regional state and Samara University
Harish Ecology of the Pastoralists
Horn of Africa Map: Cross border trade along Ethio-Eritrea
PSNP: An Overview

PSNP started in 2005 and rolled up in 2009 to Afar Region and in 2015 for the urban areas (UPSNP)

**Phase IV**
Direct and Indirect beneficiaries
Total budget: $2616 million (9 donors are involves where World Bank commitment includes $600 million; Government covers 14% of the total budget; DFID about £276 million which is 11% of the total)
Period: 2014-2020
Target population: 7.9 million [6.9 million to engage in public work and 1.3 million are elderly]

**Ethiopia launched its Social Security Policy in 2014**

**UPSNP**
Dec 2015-July 2021
Total budget: $450 million ($300 million a loan from World Bank and the rest from the government)
Implemented in 11 major cities
Targets 604,000 people (that is, 55% below the poverty line and 12% of the total population)
UPSNP is managed by Urban Food Security and Job Opportunity Agency Office

**Poverty Index of Ethiopia**
38.7% in 2005
29.6 in 2011
22% in 2016
Key Findings

- Climatically harsh environment in the Horn of Africa (mobile livelihood systems and informal social networks as coping mechanism). Effects of frequent droughts, El Niño effect affecting their resilience.
- National and Afar regional state figures of 2015/16 which are 23.5% and 23.6% respectively. There is a high incidence of poverty (47.6%) and alarming income inequality ratio of 0.592 within the sampled districts of the Afar region. Food security is better among the agro-pastoral communities than the pastoralists.
- Gender, education levels, family size, access to credit, mobility, participation in safety nets, distance to market areas and remittances were among the statistically significant variables determining the level of poverty in the Afar region.
- Impact of the informal safety net on the PSNP and its aims on food security
- The PSNP’s labour-intensive public works – seasonality, relevance and public works like schools
- The PSNP fails to incorporate well the number of unemployed youth and design an appropriate time period for the public works component.
- The PSNP has not been mapped and integrated well with other development programmes such as the HABP and other alternative income schemes.
Framing the Nexus Approach:
Pastoralism-Resilience-Social Protection

Suggested Institutional and Policy System

Growth and Transformation Plan

The missing institutional and impact link?

PSNP  HARP  Emergency Relief  School feed  Informal safety Net  Remittance

Impact on Education, health and employment

Regional Economic growth
Policy Implications

• Appreciate the significance of informal social networks
• Understand community systems and settings
• Target and update list of beneficiaries
• Emphasize alternative income-generating approaches
• Emphasize youth and gender
• Consolidate social protection measures:
• Fill in the methodological gaps
Next steps

• Produce a policy brief based on the quantitative survey
• E-book on social protection in Ethiopia
• International conference in London (celebrating #PENHA30)
• Working with Samara University on areas that create job opportunities to the young
• Continue to be a key player in the discussion of the Ethiopia social protection policy processes
New Regional Opportunities

- Ethio-Eritrea Peace Agreement and the actions followed and what does this mean to the Afars in Ethiopia (Fish-Livestock dimension; expansion of cross-border trades; Access to the Eritrean ports)
- Strengthening of IGAD and the regionalisation agenda – create a platform for sharing knowledge and policies in social protection
- Maturity of technological system – e.g. Mpesa Kenya
- UPSNP
Livestock Exports at Berbera Port: Its contribution to GDP
SPIDA Research Outputs


Thank you!

Photo credits: PENHA Somaliland Team