

The Future of Social Protection in Africa

Infographic based on 2017-2018 ATOR on Social Protection

The Malabo Declaration emphasizes agriculture-led growth as the engine for poverty reduction in Africa. But even the most inclusive growth may not be enough to lift everyone out of poverty. To take part in and benefit from the growth process, households need to have some basic level of capital and security. Social protection programs—public or private initiatives that aid the poor and protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks—can effectively be used to assist those trapped, or at the risk of being trapped, in chronic poverty.



Social protection has three objectives – the three P's of social protection



1 Protecting households against hunger

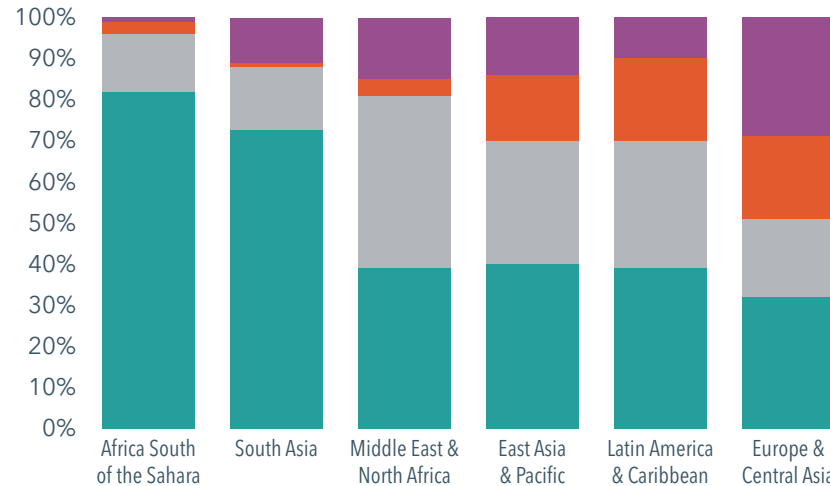


2 Preventing household asset depletion



3 Promoting livelihoods

Social Protection Across the Globe



As most Africans still make their living from the land, they are particularly vulnerable to weather related shocks and natural disasters. Food insecurity is a daily reality. Yet, in contrast to other regions, coverage of social protection is extremely low in African countries.

- No transfer
- Only social assistance programs
- Only social insurance programs
- More than one social protection and labor benefit

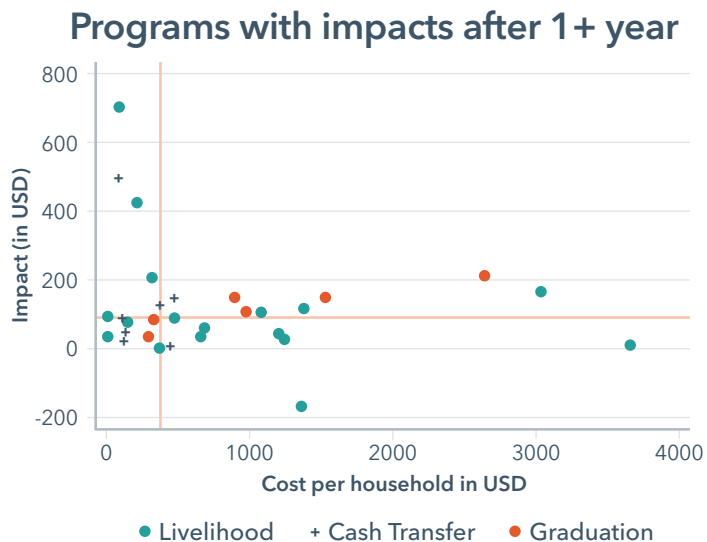
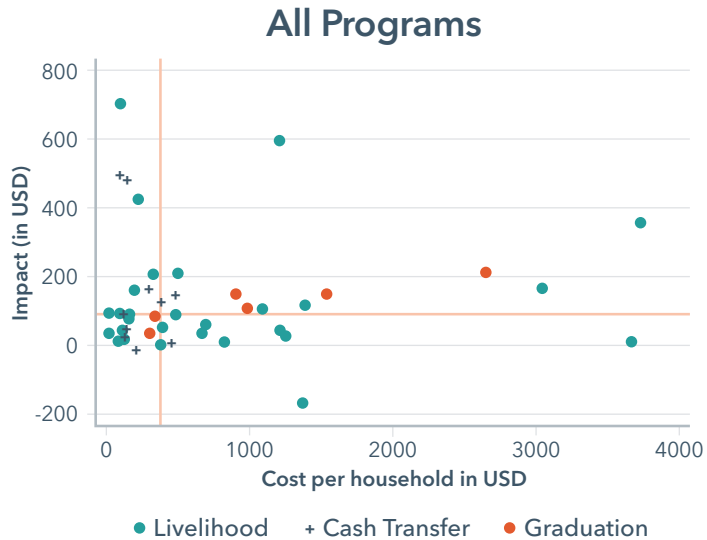
Cash Transfers by Region in Africa



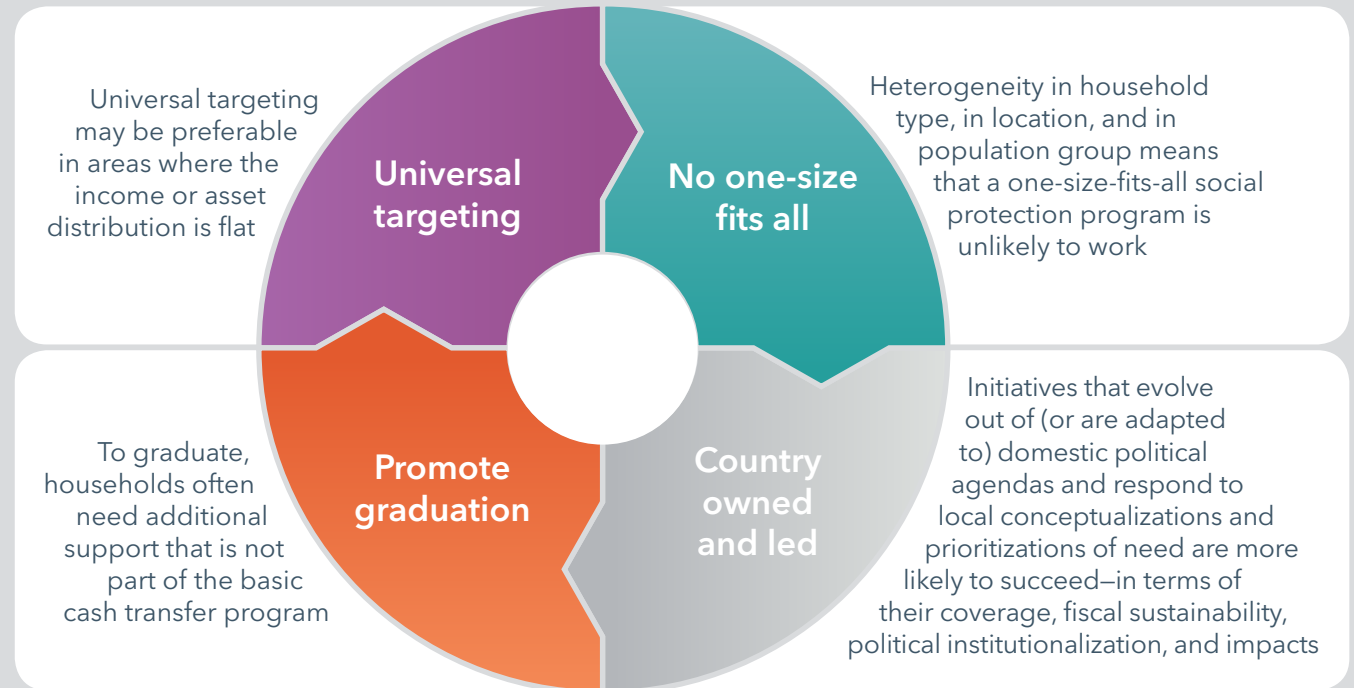
Cash transfers are the most important form of social protection in Africa, but important differences exist in terms of types of social protection offered across regions.

- Conditional cash transfers
- Unconditional cash transfers
- Social pension
- School feeding
- Public works
- Food and in-kind
- Fee waivers
- Other social assistance

Social protection programs typically target the poorest households or individuals. Graduation programs are the most consistent in making significant positive impacts on the extreme poor across sites and in the longer-term.



An emerging trend in many countries on the African continent is the progressive move from fragmented programs to nationally-owned social protection systems. For these systems to be successful some design features should be considered.



KEY LESSONS

- 1 African countries can and must make substantial progress in developing functional social protection schemes in the coming decade; the stability and growth of their economies depend directly upon it.
- 2 Social protection systems that are well-designed and implemented can powerfully shape countries, enhance human capital and productivity, reduce inequalities, build resilience and end inter-generational cycles of poverty.

For more information, please read *ReSAKSS' 2017-2018 Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR): Boosting Growth to End Hunger by 2025: The Role of Social Protection.*