



Harnessing the Cooperative Advantage to Build a Better  
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African Union Social Development Policies: Implementation  
Challenges and Contribution of the Cooperative System

By  
Oumar DIOP,  
Senior Policy Officer, Employment  
Department of Social Affairs  
African Union Commission



# Outline of Presentation

1. Policy Background
2. Implementation Challenges
3. Potential Contribution of the Cooperative System

# Policy Background

- **Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation (Extraordinary Summit of Heads of States, Ouagadougou, September 2004 )**
- **Africa Health Strategy: 2007-2015**
- **Continental Policy on Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights and to the Maputo POA for its implementation, as well as CARMMA**
- **Abuja Call on Universal Access to HIV-AIDS, TB and Malaria Service by 2015**
- **African Nutrition Strategy**
- **Social Policy Framework for Africa, 2008** Adopted in January 2009 by the AU Executive Council by Decision EX.CL/Dec.473(XIV)
- **Programme on Upgrading the Informal Economy, Addis Ababa Summit, January 2010**
- **Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers (SPIREWORK), Malabo Summit, July 2011**



# Social Policy Framework for Africa



## What is social policy?

**Social policy is defined as the collective public efforts aimed at affecting and protecting the social well-being of the people within a given territory. Beyond immediate protection from social destitution, social policy covers education and health care provisions, habitat, food security, sanitation, and some measure of labour market protection.**





# SOCIAL PROTECTION PLAN FOR INFORMAL ECONOMY AND RURAL WORKERS (SPIREWORK)

Ugagadougou Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation, (EXT/ASSEMBLY/AU/4 (III))

## Key Priority Area 4:

*“**Establishing, improving and strengthening** the social protection schemes and **extending** them to workers and their families currently excluded, ...”*

Key Priority Area 5: Women and Youth Empowerment, including through Cooperative development

- Key Priority Area 10:

*“Extend increased coverage of social protection to the informal sector of the economy”*



## How to extend Social Protection?

- providing affordable health care including through *community-based health insurance* schemes and strengthening viability of existing schemes;
- providing *occupational safety and health* coverage to vulnerable workers especially in agriculture and the informal economy;
- encouraging and supporting the development of *micro-insurance and innovative decentralized social security schemes* to provide social protection through *community or group support*.



# STRATEGY TOWARDS SPIREWORLD

## Three components:

**(A) Core Guiding Principles;**

**(B) Minimal Social Protection Package and**

**(C) Enablers for achieving the Minimum Package.**



# Strategy: Enablers for achieving a Minimum Social Protection Package

- Organization of informal and rural workers for their effective empowerment and participation in the policy formalization processes with a strong and effective voice,
- Organizations; this includes Cooperatives for the following
- Advocacy and Recognition
- Alignment of legal and regulatory frameworks
- Policy Dialogue and Recognition
- Statistics and data base management on SP of the informal and rural workers
- Knowledge management and experience sharing, Registration.



# Cooperative System to Extend Social Protection in the Informal Economy and Rural Sector

- Leverage on Cooperative System to accelerate the implementation of SPIREWORK
- Support youth and Women Empowerment in the African labour market through promoting youth and women cooperatives

# Health System Delivery and Cooperative System

- **Root causes of Continuous disease burden and Responses by Cooperative**

- Health systems are too weak and services too under-resourced to support targeted reduction in disease burden and achieve universal access
- Health interventions often do not match the scale of the problem
- People are not sufficiently empowered to improve their health nor adequately involved, while cultural factors play a role in health seeking behaviour.
- Inadequate community involvement and empowerment;
- The benefits of health services do not equitably reach those with the greatest disease burden
- A shortage of appropriately trained and motivated health workers;
- Poor commodity security and supply systems and unfair trade practices favouring the rich countries;
- Weak health systems operations;
- Capacity of the private sector, including NGOs is not fully mobilized;

# Principles of Health Strategy

- Health is a human right
- Health is a developmental concern requiring a multi-sectoral response
- Effectiveness and efficiency is central to realizing the maximum benefits from available resources
- New initiatives will endeavour to set standards that go beyond those set previously
- **Solidarity** is a means of facilitating access for the poor
- Respect for culture and overcoming barriers to accessing services
- Health is a productive sector

# Goals and Objectives

- a. To facilitate the development of initiatives to strengthen national health systems in member states by 2009
- b. To facilitate stronger collaboration between the health and other sectors to improve the socio-economic and political environment for improving health
- c. To facilitate the scaling up of health interventions in member states

## Health Systems Operations

- making services **widely accessible** in terms of **distance, cost** and **time**

# Participation

## Community Participation and Empowerment

- Community members are often perceived as consumers and yet are a potential resource that could be tapped into so as to strengthen health systems.
- Countries to have strategies of empowering and involving communities to ensure ownership and sustainability of programmes.
- Health ministries to create an enabling environment for responsible and constructive community involvement, facilitate the emergence of local NGOs and CBOs and provide funding to initiate and facilitate efforts in underserved areas.

## Strengthening Partnerships

- Ministries of Health must facilitate an environment that will deepen partnerships in health.

# Cooperative System to Extend Health Delivery System in Africa

- **Diversify and expand health delivery systems**
- **People Empowerment**
- **Community Participation and Empowerment**
- **Strengthening Partnerships**
- **Cost effective and more responsive health services offer**

# Way forward

- Recognize that cooperative systems have the potential to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of major AU Social Development Policies
- Develop a framework for promoting cooperative for expanding access to social services by the vulnerable groups, in particular social protection (including food/nutrition) and health services
- Address the specific social protection needs of the informal economy and rural workers through cooperative based delivery systems supporting group, community and occupational based organizations
- Develop cooperative for youth and women, and other



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