



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Concept Note for Technical Panel on *The State of Social Assistance in Africa* Report and Data Platform

Social Protection Week, Geneva

27 November 2019, Time: 1pm – 2pm

1. Background

UNDP in partnership with the African Union and in collaboration with, ILO, UNECA and UNICEF has developed a publication [The State of Social Assistance in Africa](#) with an accompanying [data platform](#).

Using primary and secondary data compiled for this project, the report maps and analyses the trends in social assistance growth as a tool to address poverty and vulnerability in Africa across its three foundational dimensions – legal frameworks, financing and institutions. The report furthermore contains a country profiles section with key information and data on contemporary social assistance in all 55 African countries. The *State of Social Assistance in Africa* aims to be an important reference material for policy makers and practitioners to learn of existing good practices, models, and to engage in the South-South collaboration. It also aims to serve as a research and advocacy tool.

2. Key messages of *The State of Social Assistance in Africa*

The key messages that come out of the report are:

I. More African countries than ever before are delivering social assistance to poor and vulnerable people. Not only are governments taking on steadily rising proportions of programme financing, they are publishing policies, passing laws and establishing institutions that strengthen the delivery capacity and rights basis of social assistance programmes. Coverage is still quite limited, but the number of programmes is rising with the trend across Africa towards broadening and deepening social assistance.

II. The right to social protection is mentioned in many African Constitutions, but was rarely translated into laws, policies and programmes until recently. Increasingly, legislation is being passed that makes the right to social protection legally enforceable, a form of social contract between citizens and the state. In the last 10 years about half of African countries have adopted national policies or strategies. More stable governance and organizational structures are giving broad-based support and legitimacy to the expansion of social assistance across the continent.

III. Domestic funding for social assistance in Africa is rising and now, on average, exceeds spending by development partners. The largest share of social assistance expenditure goes to older persons, children and persons with disability. Funding of social assistance programmes is still a major challenge for African nations, due to public finance deficits and because social assistance is rarely prioritized in public revenue allocations, which typically favour sectors such as defence, education and health.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

3. Objectives of the event

The objectives of the event are:

- a. Dissemination of the report and platform
- b. Providing technical insights into the state of social assistance in Africa to stakeholders and peers
- c. Promoting the commitment to rights-based social protection amongst participating agencies and governments

4. Logistics

- d. The technical panel is to be held at the Global Social Protection Week in Geneva. The envisioned date is November 27 from 1 pm to 2 pm. The event will last 1 hour and consist of a report presentation, a panel discussion and a Q&A session.
- e.

5. Participants/invitees:

Invitees will be participants of ILO's Global Social Protection Week.

6. Panel:

- a. Renata Nowak-Garmer, UNDP Specialist for Employment and Social Protection
- b. Adrian Gauci, UNECA
- c. TBC, ILO
- d. TBC, AU