

STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE INCLUSIVE AND INTERGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION



The Case of Universal Child Benefit in Kenya *Richard Obiga*

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DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS



Republic of Kenya





Outline

- UCB meaning
- Rationale for UCB in Kenya
- UCB as an accelerator to I & ISP
- Conclusion

Meaning

Is an unconditional **cash payment** paid on a **regular basis** to the **whole population of children** (paid to caregivers)

Why
UCB for
Kenya?

High child poverty rate : 42% are monetary poor, 52.5% multi-dimensionally poor

Low SP coverage . about 12% population covered vs 25% in other LMICs

The right to Social Protection: International & Local Instruments on the Rights of the Child

The move to more inclusive schemes: due to the targeting challenges

Rational
e Contd'

High inequality rate: Gini coefficient at around 40

Higher Return on Investment:
Investing in children has very high economic returns

Volatility of incomes: leaving families & HH vulnerable to shocks (e.g. Covid-19)

Most families are on low incomes:
87% of the population is living on less than **KES 245**

UCB as
an
accelerant
to I &
ISP

- Support increase in SP coverage
- Promotes realization of children rights
- Reduces inequality for inclusive growth
- Promotes Complementary SP programming – plus components
- Promotes Human Capital Investment & demographic dividend

Conclu- sion

- **While the UCB will reach all children, it will also provide direct or indirect support to a high proportion of the national population**
- **The complementary programmes under UCB support in broader SP outcomes across sectors**
- **Increased financing will support fiscal space priority for SP**
- **Implementation of the UCB is likely to support improved policy and legal environment for SP in Kenya**

THANK YOU!

ANY QUESTIONS?

YOU CAN FIND ME AT

