

2018
**Social
Protection
Conference**
KENYA



**USING EVIDENCE TO INFORM POLICY - Technical Assistance for
Complementary Activities towards Harmonization and Consolidation
Strategy for the National Safety Net Programme**

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Date: Tuesday, 20th March, 2018

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CHILD VULNERABILITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN KENYA

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USING EVIDENCE TO INFORM POLICY



Introduction

- Kenya has a young and fast-growing population, with nearly half of population under 18 years
- The definition of child vulnerability used in the country's social protection sector was shaped in the early 2000s, when policymakers noted an increasing number of orphans because of the AIDS pandemic
- Study re-examines the definition, effectiveness of schemes in reaching vulnerable children and issues of under-coverage and exclusion



CHILD VULNERABILITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN KENYA



FINDINGS



- More than half of children live in households below the official poverty line, and many more experience regular spells of poverty as household incomes and consumption are highly dynamic.
- Kenya's social protection system has expanded significantly, but the targeting of cash transfers to orphans is inadvertently leading to the exclusion of other children who are equally or even more vulnerable.
- Report put forward proposals for **building a more inclusive and child-sensitive lifecycle national social protection system**, in line with the vision outlined in Kenya's National Social Protection Strategy (2011)



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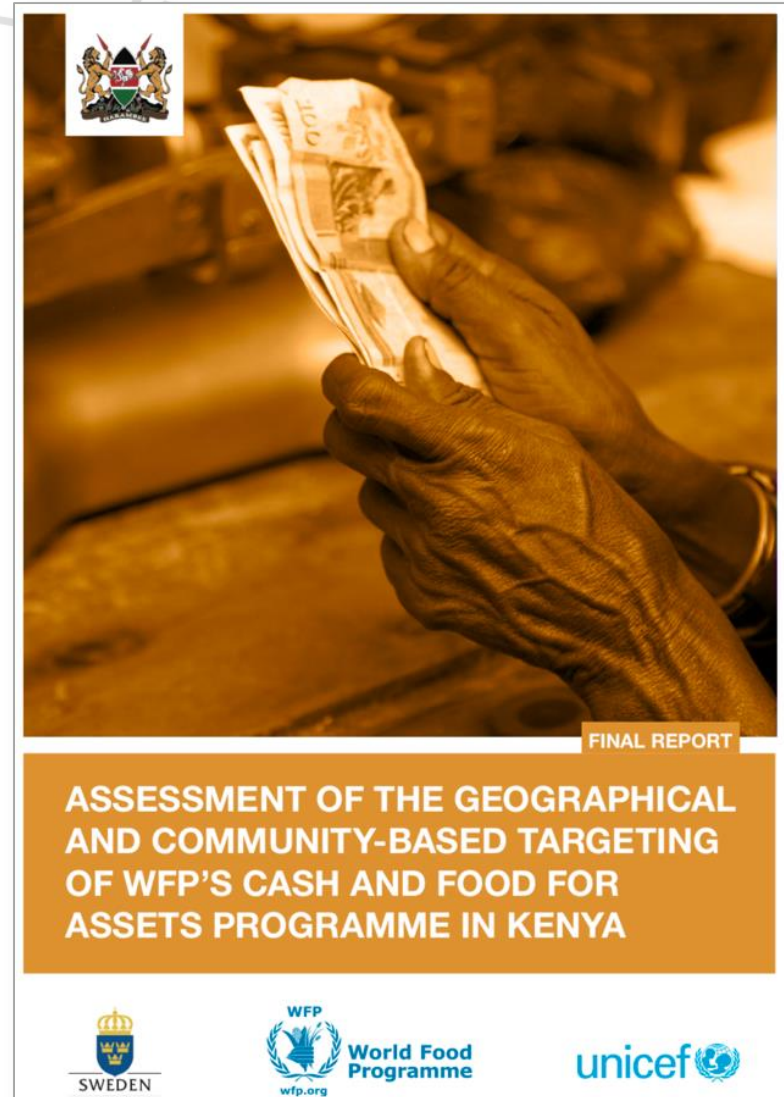
ASSESSMENT OF TARGETING OF CASH AND FOOD FOR ASSETS PROGRAMME





Introduction

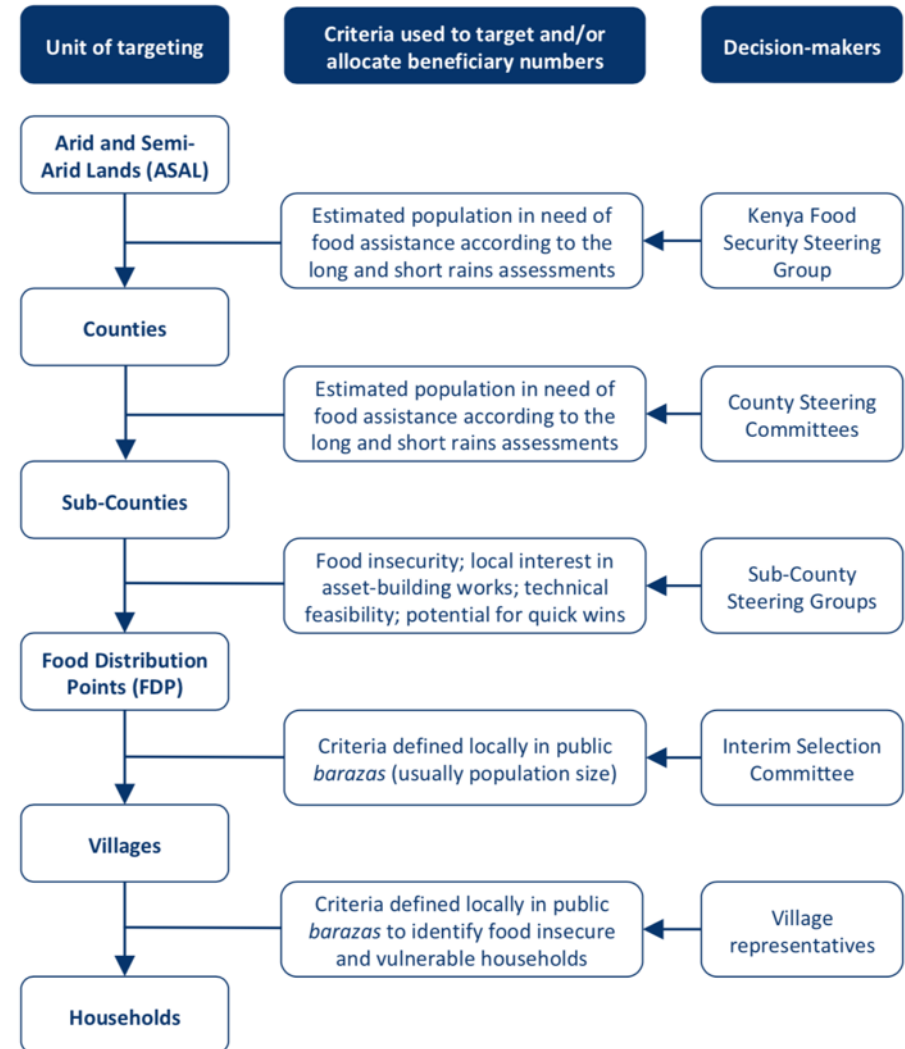
- Assessment of targeting mechanisms in Kenya's cash and food for assets programme
 - *How effective are the targeting mechanisms in reaching food insecure and vulnerable households?*
 - *What are the costs of targeting?*
 - *What systems exist for dealing with grievances and appeals, and for monitoring of targeting?*
- Based on quantitative analysis of survey data and qualitative fieldwork



TARGETING PROCESSES



1. Geographical filter by limiting programme to drought-prone arid and semi-arid lands
2. Selection of counties based on data from rains assessments
3. Intersectoral steering committees at country and sub-county level allocate quotas to locations
4. Within targeted areas, beneficiaries selected using community-based participatory processes



FINDINGS



- Resources are distributed equitably between programme counties, but mechanisms used for targeting of sub-counties and villages not well documented
- On average, households selected by community-based processes have somewhat higher levels of food insecurity
- Quality of community-based targeting could be strengthened by investing more in training and capacity building, communications, and efforts to reduce negative attitudes towards certain groups
- Large numbers of food insecure households are excluded from the programme due to resource availability and exclusive arid and semi-arid lands
- Assessment offers 12 recommendations to address challenges and further strengthen quality

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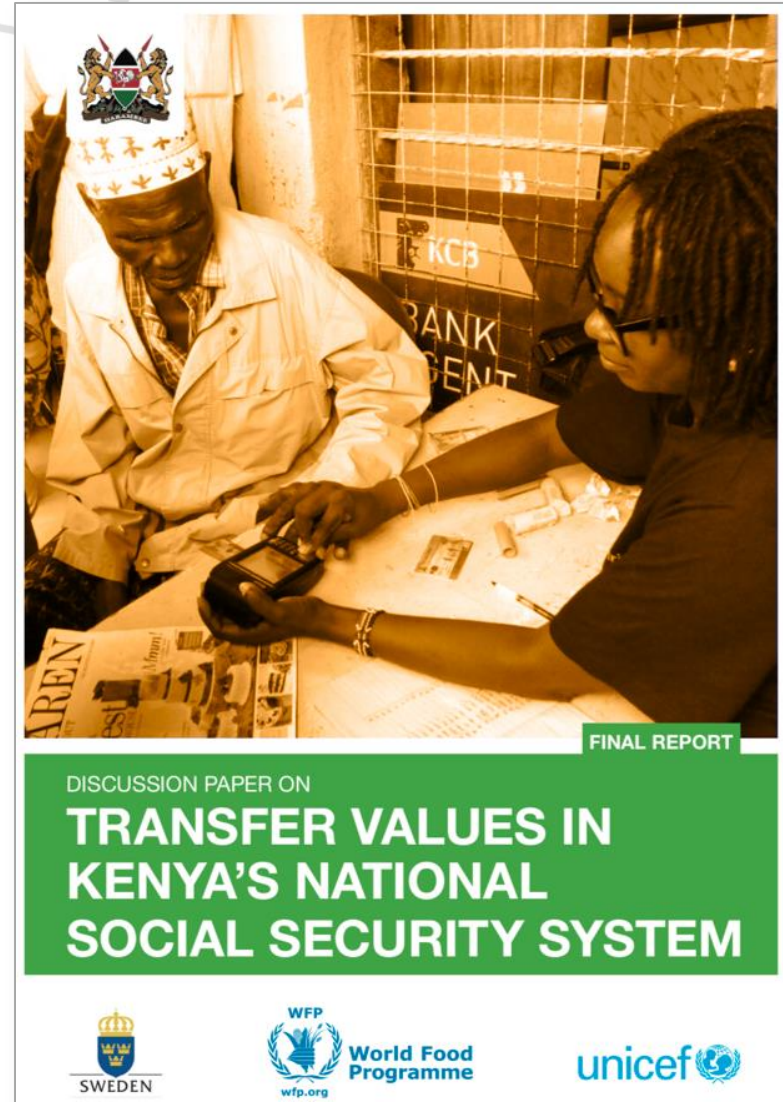
TRANSFER VALUES IN KENYA'S NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM





Introduction

- Discussion paper on transfer values used by different programmes in Kenya
- Range of issues to consider: purpose of programmes; cost of minimum standard of living; potential work (dis-)incentives; costs for complying with any conditions; overall cost and fiscal sustainability of the programme
- Balancing act:
 - High enough to help realise the right to an adequate standard of living
 - Low enough to keep fiscally affordable and realise, for as many people as possible, the right to access social security



FINDINGS



- Benefit levels of Kenya's main social assistance cash transfer programmes are modest, representing between 29% to 40% of the cost of a minimum healthy food basket on average.
- All programmes provide a flat transfer to households, without adjusting for household size or composition, and only one protects against the risk of inflation.
- But, **transfer values in Kenya are broadly in line with – or higher than – those offered in other countries** when the size of the economy and domestic capacity to fund social protection is taken into account.
- Approaches to setting transfer levels and indexation, to maintain purchasing power, need to be more coordinated and coherent as the social protection system evolves further.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME