

Foreword

The African Union's Agenda 2063 framework reaffirms the centrality of social protection in Africa's strategy for eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable and equitable development. Yet a number of emerging demographic, economic and environmental trends jeopardise human well-being and challenge Africa's vision for social protection. The genesis of this report lies in the growing realisation that the considerable livelihood threats which lie ahead are unique opportunities for policy makers to shape the future of social protection in the continent in a way that will also foster Africa's broader development.

This study identifies possible futures and explores new paths for action in six countries in East Africa – Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. It highlights seven grand challenges that confront social protection policy makers in the region and discusses which policy directions are most appropriate for tackling today's social protection needs and preparing for those of tomorrow. A number of these challenges, such as rapid population growth and urbanisation, persistent informality, low domestic resource mobilisation and climate change, are common to sub-Saharan Africa as a whole; the methodology and approach used here will be applicable to many other countries across the region.

This work contributes to the work of the Development Centre on inclusive societies and its objective to help partner countries identify emerging issues, to find innovative solutions to social challenges and build more cohesive societies. This work was undertaken as part of the EU Social Protection Systems Programme, co-funded by the European Union and implemented by the Development Centre and the Government of Finland to support developing countries in building sustainable and inclusive social protection systems.

We hope this exploration will offer new ideas for ways in which all segments of society in the six countries of East Africa covered in the report could work together to promote a long-term perspective on social protection development in the region and, as such, help countries realise their shared vision as spelled out in Agenda 2063.

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