



# **Social Protection:**

**Addressing  
Underlying Economic  
Causes of Sexual  
Exploitation of  
Children & Adolescents**

African Technical Preparatory Meeting for the World Congress III against Sexual  
Exploitation of Children and Adolescents  
24-25 Sept. 2008 - Dakar, Senegal

# Key Issues

- ➔ Poverty is one of the key underlying factors that puts children and adolescents at increased risk of sexual exploitation.  
*prostituted children, child domestic workers, trafficked children, and children involved in transactional sex are most often addressing their own survival needs and those of their families*
- ➔ In Africa, children are among the most vulnerable in the world due to poverty, natural disasters, HIV/AIDS and armed conflict - significant strains on informal family and community coping mechanisms.
- ➔ Keeping children with families and in schools has proven to be a protective factor in many cases
- ➔ Social protection strategies are being promoted in many African countries

# Key commitments

## UN Study on Violence against Children recommendations:

Prioritize prevention: All States need to prioritize preventing violence against children by addressing its underlying causes. Just as resources devoted to intervening after violence has occurred are essential, States should allocate adequate resources to address risk factors and prevent violence before it occurs

## AU Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan Of Action Towards Africa Fit For Children (2008-2012) calls all States to:

- Allocate adequate resources to strengthen social protection measures for children, especially the most vulnerable....
- Allocate sufficient resources for structures to address children's issues.
- Develop costed plans within 3 years and to engage in capacity building and experience sharing to support this work.

## CRC Articles 20 & 26:

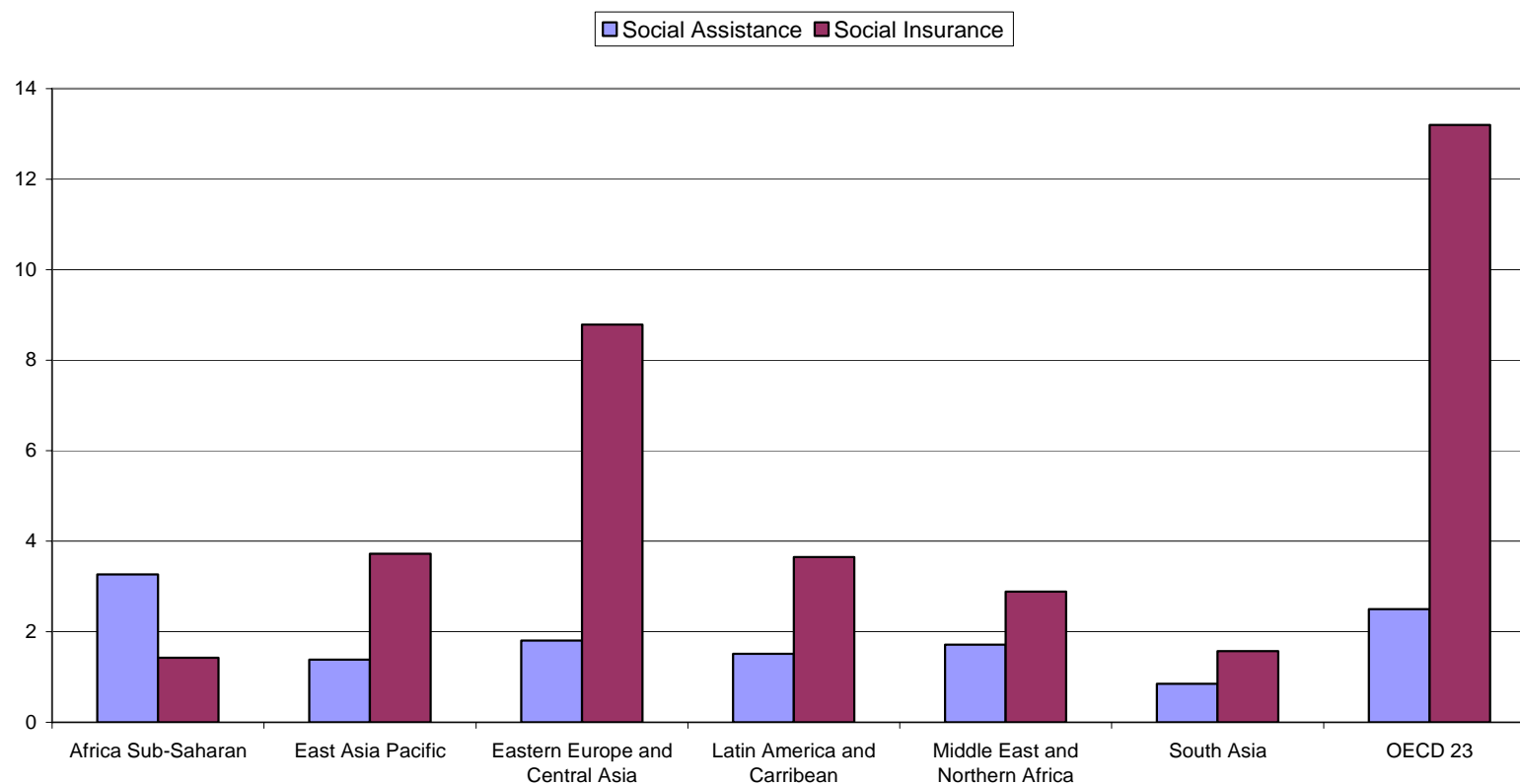
“State parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance...”

# Social protection strategies

- ➔ Social protection now recognized as viable in addressing poverty and vulnerability in developing countries.
- ➔ Development partners mobilizing around social protection strategies as part of the essential package of basic social services that the state ought to provide to its citizens.
- ➔ Child welfare and protection concerns are often at the heart of these social protection efforts
- ➔ Requires a new approach that goes beyond the traditional economic focus that often excludes the most vulnerable.

# Spending on social protection across regions

Social Assistance and Social Insurance as a % of GDP  
ALL REGIONS



Notes: Data on 76 countries taken from WB Public expenditure reviews or other similar work. We used OECD-23 since OECD countries such as Poland and Mexico are already accounted for in the regional averages. OECD data from the OECD Social Expenditure database (OECD, 2004).

# Transformative Social Protection

- ➔ Preventive programs to avert deprivation or to mitigate the impact of an adverse shock on families;
- ➔ Protective programs that offer relief from economic and social deprivation:
- ➔ Promotive programs that enhance assets, human capital and income earning capacity;
- ➔ Transformative interventions aimed at addressing social exclusion that include legal and judicial reform, budgetary analysis and reform, the legislative process, policy review and monitoring, and social and behavioral/attitudinal change.

# Transformative

Social and Economic Policy  
Legal Reform  
Standards/regulations  
Behavior and Attitudinal  
Change

## Promotive

Micro-credit  
Second Chance Education  
Skills Training  
Targeted School Fee  
Waivers

## Protective

Work programs  
Food Aid  
School Feeding  
Cash Transfers  
Social welfare services  
Emergency assistance

## Preventive

Pensions  
Insurance  
Universal Benefits for  
Elderly and Children  
Conditional Cash  
Transfers

Examples of instruments

# A Framework for Social Protection

# Child sensitive social protection

## Principles:

- ➔ Provides coherent legal framework to protect women & children
- ➔ Addresses age and gender specific vulnerabilities
- ➔ Does not harm children
- ➔ Special provisions to reach most vulnerable
- ➔ Helps realization of rights
- ➔ Empowers families and communities in their effort to protect and promote children
- ➔ Intervenes as early as possible to prevent irreversible damage

# UNICEF Regional Strategy for Eastern and Southern Africa

## Promote and Support:

- ▶ **Reform of the legal/policy and judicial system**  
(Equal protection to women and children; domestication of the CRC, the African Charter and CEDAW)
- ▶ **Targeted Cash Transfers to families to combat child poverty**  
(Entry point for basket of social services; non-conditional)
- ▶ **Early Child Development (ECD) to promote development among vulnerable children**  
(Package of services including nutrition, care, protection and stimulation; monitor community-based initiatives)
- ▶ **Social welfare and protective services for Most Vulnerable Children**  
(Child care programs; Child protective services)
- ▶ **Youth and adolescent development**  
(Second chance basic education; skills training; Health life-styles)

# Social Protection & Child Protection

- ➔ Legal reform
- ➔ Behavior and Attitudinal Change
- ➔ Cash transfers & Child grants
- ➔ Child Protection Services (Alternative care, family support, multi-sectoral protection)
- ➔ Community based monitoring & support

# Cross-cutting strategies

- ➔ Policy guidance and monitoring mechanisms
- ➔ Research and information
- ➔ Policy and strategy development
- ➔ Implementation pilots
- ➔ Integration into National development Plans and Poverty Reduction strategies

**AU holding 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Ministers for Social Welfare and Development in October 2008 – presenting a paper on Social Protection**



# THE CHALLENGE

How can we ensure that Social Protection Strategies impact a reduction in sexual exploitation of children and adolescents?

What is required to build evidence?