



**INTER-AGENCY EXPERT GROUP  
MEETING  
*ON*  
IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR  
THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY (2018-2027)  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 18-20 April 2018**

# **WORKING SESSION 3 – INTER-AGENCY SYSTEM WIDE ACTION PLAN FOR POVERTY ERADICATION: CURRENT EFFORTS, ACTION AREAS**

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**Securing Women's Rights to Social Protection in Africa. Key Policy  
Messages and Recommendations**

***Ngone DIOP, Chief Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment***

## 3 MAIN POINTS

- ▶ Few insights into the ECA research on “Securing women’s rights to social protection in Africa”
- ▶ Key policy messages
- ▶ Policy recommendations

## African Women Report (AWR) on the theme “Securing Women’s Rights to Social Protection in Africa (2017)”

- ▶ Informed by the ECA’s Continent-Wide Initiative for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (CWI-GE/WE), endorsed by the 2014 Conference of Ministers.
- ▶ CWI-GE/WE 3 main interlinked components: (1) Economic Empowerment and transformation; (2) Social transformation and development; (3) Human rights

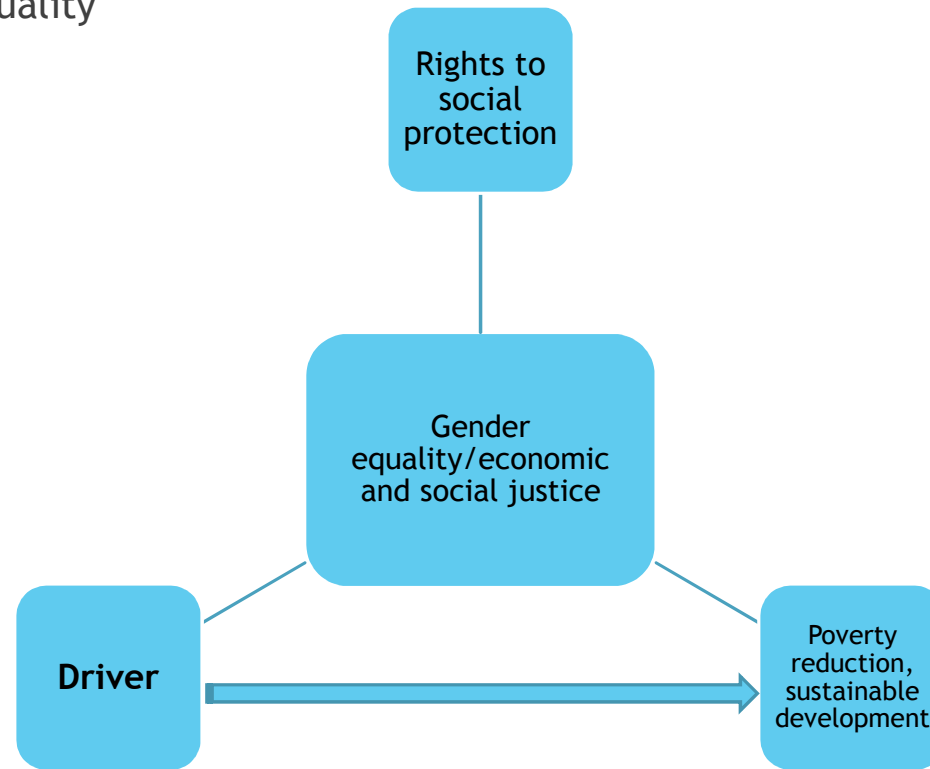
2017 AWR falls under the Women’s Human Rights component:

Key objective: use rights-based and gender equality approach

# Selected countries and approach

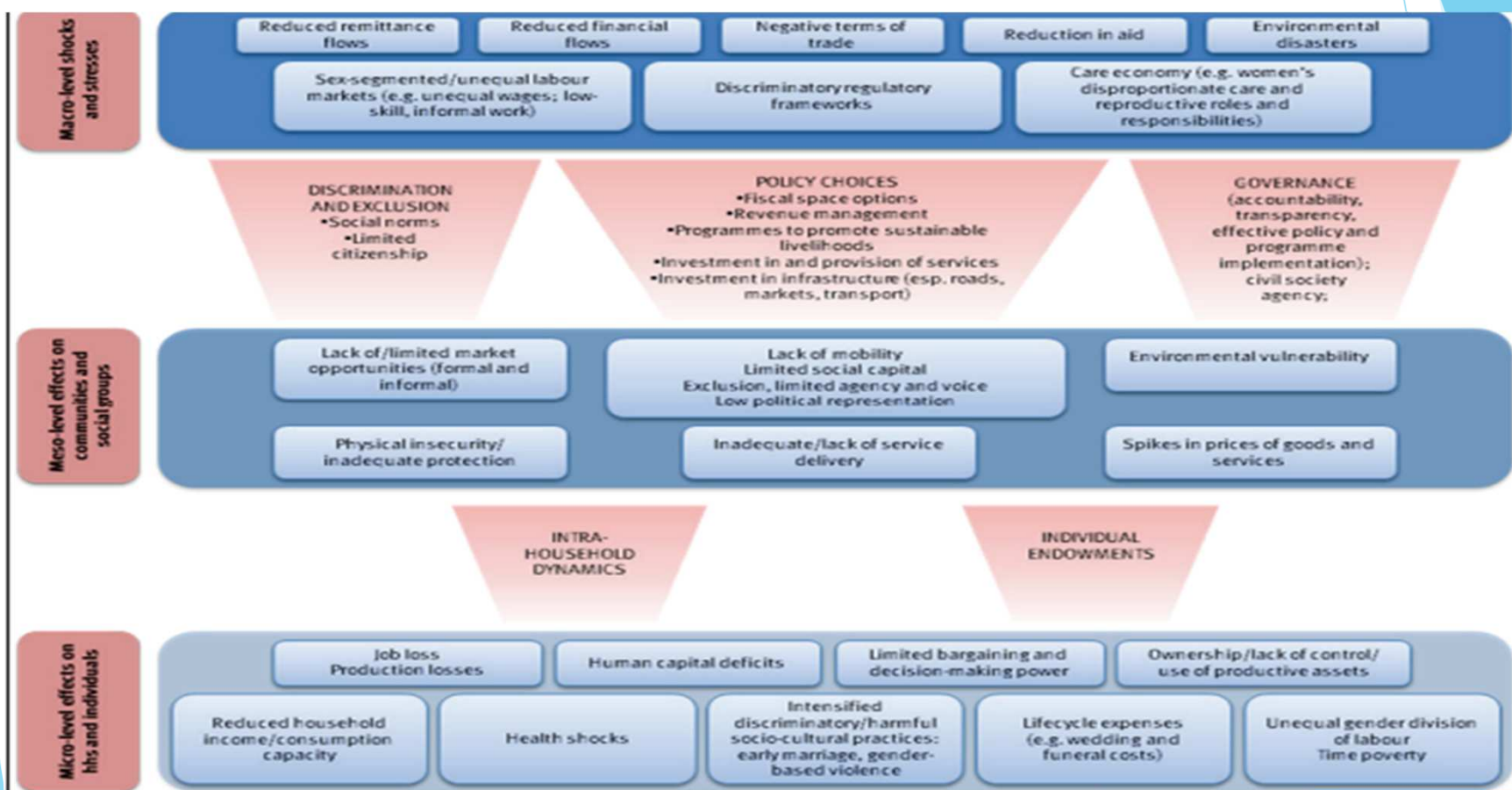
- ▶ Empirical research in 5 countries representing the ECA sub-regions: Chad, Kenya, Mauritania, Namibia and Senegal
- ▶ Secondary research covering all African countries with recent data

- ▶ Central argument: access to and benefit to social protection services is a basic human right which women and men should enjoy equitably (equality of opportunities and outcomes) - Complex relationships social protection and gender inequality/equality

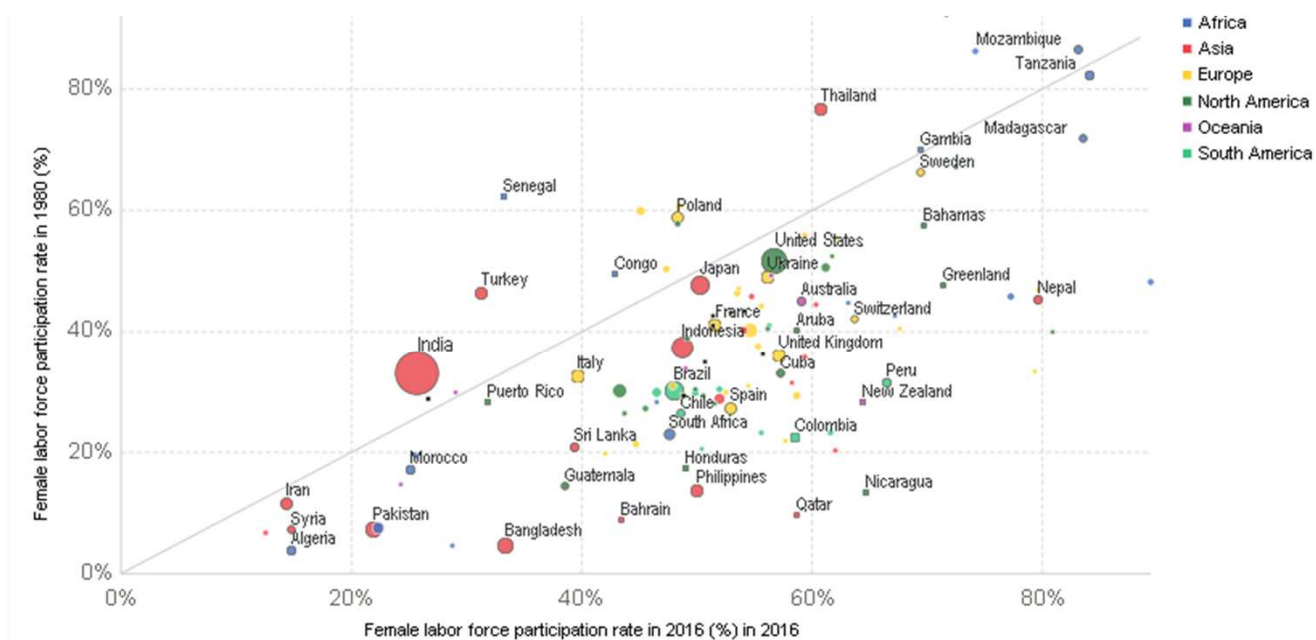


Source: Author

# Gendered economic and social risks



# Female labor force participation, key determinant but far from being enough



Source: World Bank – WDI



## Strong global and regional legal normative frameworks for both on social protection and gender equality/women's empowerment

- ▶ All African states except Comoros and South Sudan full parties to the ICCPR:
- ▶ Mauritanian reservation to Article 23 on consent to and equality in marriage
- ▶ Excluding Botswana, Comoros, Mozambique and South Sudan, all African states also full parties to the ICESCR:
- ▶ Several African state reservations reinforcing implementation by 'progressive realization'
- ▶ Kenyan reservation to Article 10 on protection of the family, pregnant women, new mothers and children
- ▶ With the exception of Somalia and the Sudan, all African states are full parties to the CEDAW:
- ▶ Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Niger have reservations on Article 2, on ending discrimination against women
- ▶ Niger has a reservation on Article 5, on ending discrimination in customary law
- ▶ Mauritania has a reservation on Article 13, on equality in economic and social life, including the right to credit
- ▶ Algeria, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia have reservations on Article 15, on equality in law
- ▶ Finally, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Niger and Tunisia have reservations on Article 16, on equality in marriage

## Strong global and regional legal normative frameworks for both on social protection and gender equality/women's empowerment

- ▶ Conformity with national family codes and, in turn, with Islamic law:
- ▶ Algeria references the Algerian Family Code while Morocco and Tunisia reference their Personal Status Codes
- ▶ Niger references customary law
- ▶ Excluding Morocco and South Sudan, all remaining 53 African states have signed and ratified the ACHPR:
- ▶ Only Egypt has a reservation on the ACHPR's Article 18, on protection of the family and vulnerable groups
- ▶ The majority of African states—36—have also signed and ratified the Protocol to the ACHPR on the Rights of Women in Africa
- ▶ Thus implementation challenged by:
- ▶ Lack of universal ratification; Persistence of reservation Persistent dualism as concerns gender equality
- ▶ Only recent evolution of social protection towards being not only rights-based, but also gender-responsive and transformative

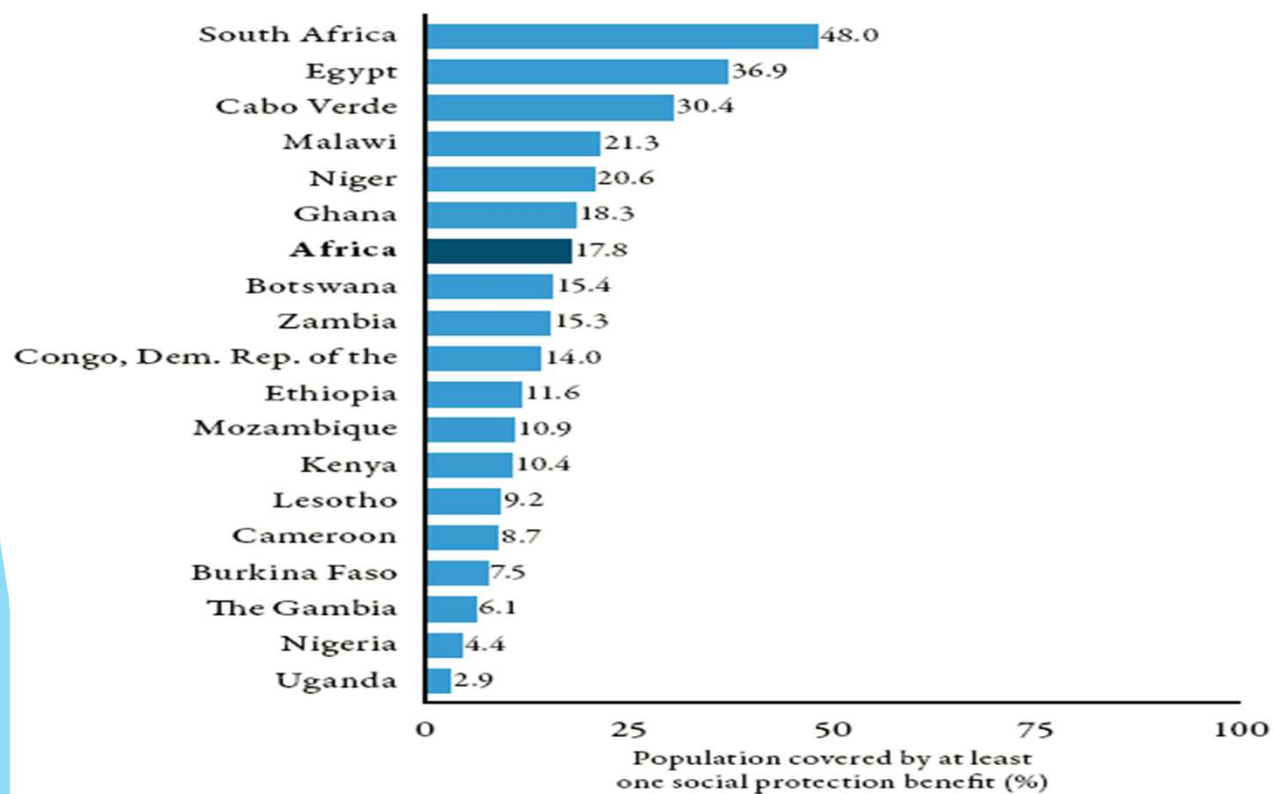
## National constitutional, legislative, policies and institutional arrangements

- ▶ Constitutional protections realised either through legislation or policy:
  - ▶ Chad's Constitution guarantees the right to social security, supported by subsidiary legislation, and it has adopted the ILO recommendation 202 of 2012 on social protection floors
  - ▶ Namibia's Constitution includes an obligation for the state to promote the people's welfare, backed legislatively by the Social Security Act, which establishes the Social Security Commission
  - ▶ Senegal's Constitution contains provisions on social security, supported not by subsidiary legislation, but a National Social Protection Strategy, now in its second cycle, 2016-35
  - ▶ Similarly, Mauritania has a National Social Protection Policy, 2014, implemented by the Directorate of Social Affairs and National Solidarity in the relevant parent Ministry
  - ▶ Kenya's Constitution provides that all international treaties ratified are part of Kenyan law, and includes justiciable Bills of Rights including on: equality and anti-discrimination; and ESCR (including right to social protection and security), supported by a National Social Protection Policy, 2011, implemented by the National Social Protection Secretariat in the relevant parent Ministry

**TO WHAT EXTENT AFRICAN WOMEN ARE COVERED  
CURRENT BY NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION  
SCHEMES?**



## SDG Indicator 1.3.1- % of population in Africa covered by at least one social protection benefit or less (effective coverage), 2015 or latest available data



Source: DHS 2013-2015

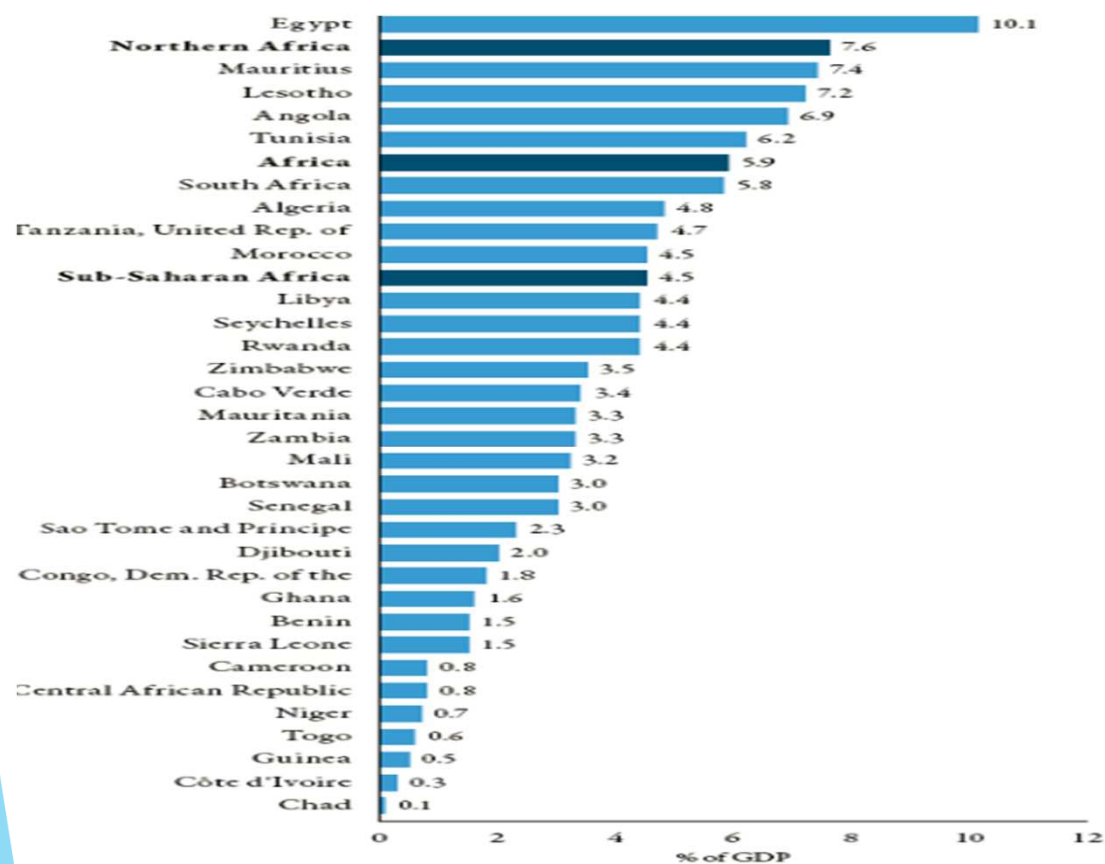
SDG indicator 1.3.1 on effective coverage for unemployed persons. % of unemployed in Africa receiving unemployment cash benefits, latest available year



Source: DHS: 2013-2015



## Public expenditures on social protection in Africa excluding health, latest available year (% of GDP)





# Findings with a focus on the 5 countries

- ▶ Key finding: review of pre- and post-transfer poverty rates in 27 high-income and ten middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa) showed that, in South Africa, transfers brought poverty rates down by 37 per cent.
- ▶ Targeted SPS yield positive outcomes for women and girls: family planning, cash transfer, etc, (more to confirm such positive linkage for more countries)
- ▶ All five countries have long-standing, national medical and pension funds.
- ▶ Gradual introduction of reform to expand coverage
- ▶ Chad, Kenya, Mauritania and Senegal: traditional assistance : subsidies and tax waivers. Introduction of cash transfers in all countries
- ▶ Namibia, (illustrative of Southern Africa model), provide universal grants legislatively-backed, tax-financed and non-contributory for vulnerable children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and veterans
- ▶ Free health care especially maternal/reproductive health care but access difficult in absence of policy basis
- ▶ Kenya has three key cash transfer schemes, covering the food insecure, orphans and vulnerable children and people with disabilities (PWD): low coverage, donor-funded and thus not sustainable in the long-term

# Policy messages

- ▶ Access to and benefit from social protection (SP) services is a basic human right which women/girls, men/boys must enjoy fully and equitably ;
- ▶ SPS: potential to address critical gender issues i.e. women's burden of unpaid care work. However, conventional SP schemes (SPS) may perpetuate gender stereotypes and women's unrecognised, un-der value unpaid care work
- ▶ Conventional SPS exclude de facto women, girls, the youth and the poor because of the conventional conceptualisation of labour participation and gender issues in the latter
- ▶ Progress made by African MS but need more to translate their political commitment into greater actions/equitable results;
- ▶ Failing to understand and recognise that : (1) women/girls and men/boys are affected differently by risks and vulnerability and have differential resilience and scoping strategies; (2) that they are exposed to different types of risks will drastically limit the effectiveness of SP interventions and results.

# Policy recommendations

- ▶ Reconceptualization of work, labor force
- ▶ Unpacked current SPS, cost their gender differential impacts and country economic growth impact
- ▶ More transformative SPS i.e. schemes that include capacity building and awareness raising for women and men on their social constructed roles, responsibilities and the implication of the latter on their respective risks and vulnerability
- ▶ Move a way from a piece meal approach to a more holistic once i.e. macro-meso, sectoral approach that brings the gender issues related to social protection needs into the macroeconomic frameworks and policies including public finances. Use information in the poverty social impact assessment; etc.
- ▶ Harness domestic resources including by addressing the paradox of the plenty, illicit finance and reallocate resources accordingly. Currently good momentum that need to be seized fully.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION

