

Centre for Social Protection International Conference – *Reimagining social protection in a time of global uncertainty*
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Pastoralism and social protection
From the margins: findings and avenues for reflection
on social protection policies in Africa

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Outline

Literary review on SP schemes' in pastoral settings, SSA African drylands

- Social studies on SP &/or pastoralism
- Institutional literature on development
- Research & institutional experience
- A recent research fieldwork in Burkina Faso

Part 1. SP programs within International development

- Narratives, assessments, models of intervention

Part 2. SP intervention in pastoral settings

- Endogenous redistributive institutions : dynamic socially-embedded systems
- Diversity, practical norms, local dynamics

Part 3. Proposals for an alternative agenda

Part 1. SP programs within International development: broadening the discussion and analysis

Ideological positions

Universal

- ILO
- Universal right in national laws
- Social insurance schemes & social assistance – life cycle
- Critics : out of step



Shortcomings

- A decontextualised model of welfare state (XXth ≠ social claims)
- Resource alienation, precarious work, unemployment, informality
- Challenge : redistributive arrangements beyond wage labour

Targeted / “Pro-poor”

- IFI institutions
- Contingent / transitional support
- “Pro-poor” social assistance
- Targeting methods
- Critics : effectiveness & ethicality



- A narrow conceptual frame to understand social change in rural Africa (linear, technicist approach)
- Pastoralism illustrative of gaps between public policy, production systems, environments

Part 2. Social protection in pastoralist settings

Pastoralists as “unsuitable recipients”

- Mobility, socio-political organisation, adapted to:
 - Shared access to resources
 - Exploit environmental variability

Idealization of endogenous institutions

- Enforcement and sanctions
- Work to maintain claims
- Structural changes, broader transformations / beyond formal, informal dichotomy

SP schemes implementation in pastoralist environments

- Cash transfers adjustments (targeting, conditionalities)
- Livestock Insurances (estimates, agency, accessibility)
- Health and education services (overlooked, alternative approaches still marginal)

Part 3.1 Extend universal coverage as a part of a renewed social contract

Stakes

- Escape the “trap” of crisis response
- Full range of social protection tools, enshrined in law, large coverage

Different but not exclusive approaches

- **Mongolia**
 - Access national contributory social insurance scheme
 - Professional status
 - Subsidies, adapted, decentralised system
- **Southern Africa**
 - Cash transfer, life-cycle
 - Low conditionalities
 - Simple procedures, exclude the “haves”

Part 3.2 SP systems consistent with food and agricultural and fiscal policies

Put political processes at the center of the stage

- Understanding, visibility and support of processes and claims

Break deadlock in public debates

- Funding and forms that public policies should assume

Improve coherence between social protection and other policies

- Agricultural, trade, land, environmental policies
- Protect the livelihoods of peasant societies

Part 3.3 Looking at the endogenous side of a social contract

Avoid reproducing ahistorical, static, instrumental conceptual frameworks

Capacity of public institutions and practitioners to preserve the potential for social cohesion and protection

- Articulate socio-economic changes, political processes, inequality and redistributive dynamics
- Change the epistemology underlying intervention (from individuals as recipients of aid to societies and political subjects)
- Understand how social protection tools enroot in local context