

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE DATABASE MANUAL

for the

THE STATE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA PUBLICATION

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INTRODUCTION

The selection of social assistance variables and indicators for which timely and reliable data are available and can be produced with regular frequency is essential to measure the state, and eventually the progress, of social protection in Africa. While the variables and indicators selected in this manual are not exhaustive, they are indicative of the five categorizations of social assistance (i.e. Demand, Policies and programmes, Legal framework, Financing, and Institutionalization and governance) used in the first edition of the *State of Social Protection in Africa*. The variables can assist in analysing individual country experiences to determine the effectiveness of social assistance institutions by establishing a baseline scenario from which to monitor social protection goals.

The manual presents guidelines, where relevant, for each variable and indicator as follows:

- (1) Definition
- (2) Measurement guidelines and/or coding
- (3) Data sources

Also included in this manual are general indicators to provide macroeconomic variables related to social assistance.

Missing values are a frequent occurrence when collecting data in Africa. Multiple data sources have been used to overcome this challenge as much as is possible. However, this quickly gets complicated when the sources differ on the same data point. In this case, systematic and consistence checks were conducted, based on documents available online, to guide selection of the data from one of the available sources.

Another complication manifests itself in different operational definitions on which variables and/or indicators, used by multiple sources, are based. This applies especially to the variables with respect to the financing of social assistance. Some sources include emergency spending, such as food assistance after a crisis, as social assistance while other sources do not. The manual indicates where we have such operational differences and gives guidance on how to use the data within the context of each variable and/or indicator.

Country

The variable identifies the country in which the general indicators and the respective programmes are implemented.

National

Codes 0 and 1 are used to differentiate national from programme level data, where 0 indicates that the data is at programme level and 1 indicates that the data is at national level.

Regional

This variable indicates the region that the country is part of, as provided in the African Union classification, where:

- 1 = Central Africa
- 2 = East Africa
- 3 = North Africa
- 4 = Southern Africa
- 5 = West Africa

GENERAL INDICATORS

Indicator 1: Population

The total number of humans currently living in the reference country.

Source: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/dataquery/>.

Indicator 2: National Dependency Ratios

2.1 Child dependency ratio

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as a human being below the age of 18 years. However, for the purposes of this report, a child is a person below the age of 15; this is because children aged 15 – 17 can work without being labelled as child labour.

$$CDR = \frac{\text{Population below age 15}}{\text{Population age 15 – 64}}$$

Source: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/dataquery/>.

2.2 Old-age dependency ratio

There is no general agreement on the age at which a person is said to be old, and therefore dependent, in Africa. Some people work well beyond their 60+ years. For the purposes of this report, a person is old when they are above the age of 64; this is because old age is typically associated with the age at which a person begins to receive a pension.

$$ODR = \frac{\text{Population above age 64}}{\text{Population age 15 – 64}}$$

Source: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/dataquery/>.

2.3 Total dependency ratio (TDR)

$$TDR = \frac{\text{Population below age 15} \wedge \text{population above age 64}}{\text{Population age 15 – 64}}$$

Source: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/dataquery/>.

Indicator 3: Gross National Income per Capita

Gross national income (GNI) is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad.

$$GNIPC = \frac{GNI}{\text{Midyear Population}}$$

Source: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=NY.GNP.PCAP.PP.CD&country=>.

Indicator 4: Human Development Index

HDI is a summary measure of a long and healthy life, education and decent standard of living. The technical notes of how it is calculated can be found at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2016_technical_notes_0.pdf.

Source: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>.

Indicator 5: Tax to Gross Domestic Product Ratio

Tax is a mandatory financial charge imposed on individuals and/or legal entities by a government in order to fund public expenditures, including social assistance. GDP is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation output.

$$\text{Tax to GDP ratio} = \frac{\text{tax collected by a government}}{\text{GDP}} * 100$$

Source: [http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS&country=.](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS&country=)

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE INDICATORS AND VARIABLES

Indicators of Social Assistance Demand

Indicator 6: Poverty head count ratio - national

Definition

The poverty head count (national) is the percentage of population living below the national poverty lines.

Measurement guidelines

The poverty line is the minimum per capita monetary requirement used as a national official standard for determining the reference population considered poor. National poverty lines are typically set in the context of living conditions within the reference country and may be unique for rural, urban or different geographic areas to better reflect differences in the cost of living. Further information on methodological details of this indicator can be found at:

[http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SI.POV.NAHC&country=.](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SI.POV.NAHC&country=)

The indicator is typically calculated as follows:

$$PHCN = \frac{\text{Population below national poverty line}}{\text{Total population}} * 100$$

Data sources

World Bank: [http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SI.POV.NAHC&country=.](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SI.POV.NAHC&country=)

UN data: http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=WDI&f=Indicator_Code%3ASI.POV.NAHC.

Indicator 7: Poverty head count ratio - international

Definition

The poverty head count (international) is the percentage of population living below the international poverty line, currently set by the World Bank at US\$1.90 a day at 2011 international prices (PPP).

Measurement guidelines

The international poverty line attempts to account for differences in purchasing power across countries and therefore can provide a basis for comparing poverty across countries. A common standard in measuring extreme poverty as applied by the World Bank is based on the mean of the poverty lines found in the poorest 15 countries ranked by per capita consumption. Further details can be found on: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SI.POV.DDAY&country=>.

The indicator is typically calculated as follows:

$$PHCR = \frac{\text{Population below international poverty line}}{\text{Total population}}$$

Data sources

World Bank: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SI.POV.DDAY&country=>;
<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/povOnDemand.aspx>.

Indicator 8: Disability ratio

Definition

Disability ratio is the proportion of the population with a disability; where disability is defined as an umbrella term that cover impairments, participation restrictions and activity limitation.

Measurement guidelines

WHO's definition provides a fundamental base for which to identify persons with disability and the ratio is calculated as follows,

$$\text{Disability ratio} = \frac{\text{Disabled population}}{\text{Total population}}$$

Data Source

WHO: http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/.

Indicator 9: Stunting rate

Definition

Stunting reflects failure to reach linear growth potential as a result of suboptimal nutritional conditions in early life.

Measurement guidelines

The height-for-age Z-score is widely recognised as the most appropriate method for calculating stunting rates and for presenting anthropometric data. The formula is as follows

$$Z \text{ score} = \frac{\text{observed value} - \text{mean value of the reference population}}{\text{standard deviation value of the reference population}}$$

Stunted growth, is observed if the child aged 0 to 1,800 days is below minus two standard deviations from the median height of the age of reference population. The formula for the stunting ratio is then given by

$$\text{Stunting ratio} = \frac{\text{Population of stunted children}}{\text{Total population of children}}$$

Data sources

UNICEF: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>.

WHO: <http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/database/countries/en/>.

Variables of social assistance policies and programmes

Variable 1: Social protection policy/plan/strategy

Definition

SPP indicates whether a country has a social protection policy/plan/strategy in place.

Coding

0 – None exists

1 – Country has social protection policy

2 – Country has social protection strategy

3 – Country has a social protection plan

4 – Combined

5 – Other

Data sources

Country policies/plans/strategies downloaded from websites.

Variable 2: Social Assistance detailed in social protection policy/plan/strategy

Definition

SAP indicates whether a country has social assistance detailed in the social protection policy/plan/strategy in place.

Coding

0 – No

1 – Yes

Data sources

Country policies/plans/strategies downloaded from websites.

Variable 3: Name of the programme

Definition

Name of the programme provides the programme title in original language, and also translated to English, where possible.

Data sources

Barrientos, A. (2018). Social Assistance in Low and Middle Income Countries Dataset (SALMIC). Beta version Africa Region. Manchester: Global Development Institute at the University of Manchester. Available at: <http://www.social-assistance.manchester.ac.uk>

Crillo C, and R. Tebaldi (2016).) Social Protection in Africa: Inventory of Non-contributory Programmes. IPC-UNDP. Available at: http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/eng/Social_Protection_in_Africa.pdf.

ILO (2017). Social Security Inquiry Database. Available at: <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/ilossi/ssimain.home>.

Watson, C., S. Devereux, and B. Na-guer (2016) Labour-intensive Public Works in Chad: Overview of Experiences and Case Study of ‘N’Djamena Nadif”. Centre for Social Protection, Institute of Development Studies and Bureau for Economic and Social Research and Study Available at: https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13343/Public_Works_in_Chad_IDS_final.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y.

Variable 4: Start date

Definition

Start date indicates the year the programme began operations.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

ILO, 2017.

Variable 5: Pilot

Definition

Pilot variable identifies whether a programme is a test project. These are usually small-scale, time limited and typically introduced by governments and/or donor agencies with the aim of evaluating the feasibility, cost, and impacts of programmes before full-scale implementation.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

Variable 6: Target group

Definition

Target group identifies the main target population of the programme.

Coding

1 – Children

2 – Youth

3 – Adults

4 – Old age

5 – Persons living with disability

6 - Other

Several groups can be selected because some countries have programmes that target several groups. A programme that targets children and adults is indicated in the dataset set as code 14. “Other” indicates some categories which are not reflective of the identified groups from codes 1 to 5. For example, if a programme targets households in poverty, this is reflected in the data as code 6.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

Variable 7: Number of participants at individual level

Definition

This variable enumerates the participants who receive social assistance from a programme at an individual level.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

ILO, 2017.

Variable 8: Number of participants at household level

Definition

This variable enumerates the households that receive social assistance from a programme.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

ILO, 2017.

Variable 9: Targeting approach

Definition

Targeting approach is the method used by the programme to identify participants.

Coding

- 1 – Universal
- 2 – Geographical targeting
- 3 – Categorical (demographic) targeting
- 4 – Community-based targeting
- 5 – Self-targeting
- 6 – Means test
- 7 – Proxy means test
- 8 – Mixed (at least two of codes 1 to 7, where a programme has more than one targeting method)
- 9 – Other

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

Variable 10: Type of transfer

Definition

Type of transfer identifies the type of programme based on their function.

Coding

- 1 – Cash transfer
- 2 – Food transfer (excluding school feeding and food supplements)
- 3 – Public works

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

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Variable 11: Conditions

Definition

While the conditions indicator could be thought of as a spectrum from implicit to explicit conditions, this report only considers explicit conditions through a human development lens, i.e., conditionality implies measures aimed at enhancing human development.

Coding

- 1 – No human development conditions attached
- 2 – Human development conditions attached

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

Variable 12: Transfer amount in local currency

Definition

This indicator shows the value of the cash transfer a programme participant receives.

Measurement guideline

The value of the cash transfer is usually indicated in domestic currencies at current prices. The transfer amount may vary depending on many factors, including a minimum given to a recipient, plus additions for dependents or labour supplied. Programmes also provide a maximum they can transfer. Therefore, a transfer amount is recorded under minimum to indicate the minimum amount that a programme participant may receive, and is recorded under maximum to indicate the maximum amount a programme participant may receive. In the event that there are neither minimum nor maximum transfer amounts, the amount is recorded under average. Average in this instance gives the typical amount received by programme participants.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

Variable 13: Transfer amount in PPP

Definition

This indicator shows the value of the cash transfer a programme participant or household receives in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms expressed in US\$.

Measurement guideline

PPP measures the total amount of goods and services that a single unit of a country's currency can buy in another country. The market exchange rate does not accurately measure the large difference across economies, as attested by the World Bank's International Comparison Program (ICP). PPPs can thus be used to convert the cost of a basket of goods and service into a common currency while eliminating price level differences across countries.

There are many ways in which PPPs may be used to convert a currency to another. This variable converts all currencies to the US dollar, based on the corresponding PPP of the year that the amount is reported as provided by World Development Indicators. In the event that the amount reported has no corresponding year, the national currencies are converted using 2011 as the base year and uses the PPP based on the *Actual Individual Consumption* as given by the ICP data.

Data sources

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp>.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updates-world-development-indicators-purchasing-power-parities-and-maternal-mortality-ratios>.

Variable 14: Transfer frequency

Definition

Transfer frequency with which payment is made.

Coding

- 1 – Daily
- 2 – Weekly
- 3 – Biweekly
- 4 – Monthly
- 5 – Bimonthly
- 6 – Quarterly
- 7 – Every 6 months
- 8 – Yearly

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

Variable 15: Programme expenditure - budget

Definition

This variable measures the budget assigned to the programme in the corresponding year.

Measurement guideline

The amount is reported in local currency.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.

Variable 16: Programme expenditure – budget in PPP

Definition

This variable provides the budget assigned to the programme in the corresponding year in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms expressed in US\$.

Data sources

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp>.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updates-world-development-indicators-purchasing-power-parities-and-maternal-mortality-ratios>.

Variables of social assistance legal frameworks

Variable 17: Constitutional provision for social protection

Definition

The variable tracks the constitutional provision for social protection in Africa.

Coding

0 – No

1 – Yes (noting that the terminology used is not uniform, as the reference in constitutions could be to social security, social welfare, or social protection)

Data sources

ILO Working Document: Social Security provisions in African Constitutions, 2017.

Constitutions downloaded from websites.

Variable 18: Social protection objectives contained in constitutions

Definition

The variable tracks specific objectives to be attained through social protection interventions in the African constitutions.

Coding

1 – Health coverage

2 – Reasonable standard of living

3 – Food security

4 – Health coverage and reasonable standard of living

5 – Health coverage and food security

6 – Reasonable standard of living and food security

7 – Health coverage, reasonable standard of living and food security

8 - Other

Data sources

Constitutions downloaded from websites.

ILO Working Document: Social Security provisions in African Constitutions, 2017

Variable 19: Appeals

Definition

Appeals variable specifies whether applicants can appeal against programme selection decisions.

Coding

0 – No appeals are allowed.

1 – Appeals are allowed.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Variables of social assistance financing

Variable 20: Government expenditure on a programme

Definition

This variable provides governments' actual contribution to a social assistance programme in the corresponding year.

Measurement guidelines

The amount spent by the governments is in local currency at current prices.

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Variable 21: Government expenditure on a programme in PPP

Definition

This variable provides the government expenditure assigned to the programme in the corresponding year in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms expressed in US\$.

Measurement guideline

As provided in the measurement guideline for variable 13.

Data sources

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp>.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updates-world-development-indicators-purchasing-power-parities-and-maternal-mortality-ratios>.

Variable 22: Sources of government finance

Definition

The sources of government finance variable identifies where the government gets money to finance social assistance.

Coding

1 – General government revenues

2 – Income taxes

3 – Consumption taxes or VAT

4 – Natural resource revenues

5 – Social security funds

6 – Other

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Variable 23: Donor expenditure on social assistance

Definition

This variable provides the donors' executed contribution to social assistance in the corresponding year.

Measurement guidelines

The amount spent by the donors is in local currency at current prices. A derived indicator could be measured from the amount spent by the donors, expressed as a percentage share of expenditure on social assistance contributed by donors.

Data source

Barrientos, 2018.

Variable 24: Donor expenditure on social assistance in PPP

Definition

This variable provides the donors' executed contribution to social assistance in the corresponding year in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms expressed in US\$.

Measurement guidelines

As provided in the measurement guideline for variable 13.

Data sources

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp>.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updates-world-development-indicators-purchasing-power-parities-and-maternal-mortality-ratios>.

Variable 25: Social assistance expenditure as a percent of gross domestic product

Definition

This variable is the total spending on social assistance expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product.

Measurement guidelines

It is calculated as follows:

$$SAEGDP = \frac{SA \text{ expenditure}}{GDP} * 100$$

where SA expenditure = spending on safety nets – emergency assistance expenditure.

Data sources

<http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=1229>.

Variable 26: Social assistance expenditure per capita

Definition

Social assistance expenditure per capita (SAEPC) is the amount of social assistance spent per person per year.

Measurement guidelines

It is calculated as follows:

$$SAEPC = \frac{SA \text{ expenditure}}{\text{Total population}}$$

Data sources

Derived variable.

Variable 27: Social assistance expenditure per poor person

Definition

Social assistance per poor person (SAEPPC) is the amount of social assistance spent per poor person per year.

Measurement guidelines

$$SAEPPC = \frac{SA \text{ expenditure}}{\text{Population} \in \text{poverty}}$$

Where $\text{Population} \in \text{poverty} = (PHC - I) * \text{Total population}$

In calculating this variable, it is assumed that the targeting methods used in SA programmes are perfect, that is, SA is aimed at improving the poor and the poor are successfully identified.

Data sources

Derived indicator.

Variables of social assistance institutionalization and governance

Variable 28: Level of centralization

Definition

Level of centralization shows the degree of centralization of the social assistance programme decision- making.

Coding

- 1 – None
- 2 – Low centralization (programme design and/or implemented at the local or community level)
- 3 – Medium centralization (social assistance programme where local government can modify or complement design by central government when implementing programmes; i.e. mixed)
- 4 – High centralization (social assistance programmes implemented by central government)

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Variable 29: Executing agency

Definition

Executing agency describes the type of the executing agency.

Coding

- 1 – Government Ministry
- 2 – Donor agency
- 3 – Private:
- 4 – Non-profit organisation
- 5 – Hybrid

Data sources

Barrientos, 2018.

Variable 30: Level of integration of programmes

Definition

Level of integration of programmes is given by the availability of integrated measures (*1-National coordination; 2-access to a social worker; 3-unified registry*) in the social assistance programmes.

Measurement guidelines

A Z-score is used as follows:

$$Z_{score} = \frac{\text{number of available intergrated measures} - \text{mean value of integrated measures}}{\text{standard deviation value of the intergrated measures}}$$

Coding

- 0 – No LIP (none of the integration measures exist)

- 1 – Limited integration (if z-score is less or equal to -1 standard deviation from mean value of integrated measures in Africa)
- 2 – Integrated (if z-score is between -1 and 1 standard deviation away from the mean value of integrated measures in Africa)
- 3 – High integration (if z-score is at least 1 standard deviation from the mean value of integrated measures in Africa)

Data sources

Adapted from Barrientos, 2018.

Variable 31: Delivery method

Definition

Delivery method is the delivery mechanism used in the social assistance programme.

Coding

- 1 – Cash
- 2 – Prepaid card
- 3 – Magnetic bank card
- 4 – Voucher
- 5 – Microfinance or Bank transfer
- 6 – Mobile (van) payments
- 7 – Cell phone payment
- 8 – Hybrid
- 9 – Other (food at clinic)

Data source

Barrientos, 2018.

Variable 32: Agency type at delivery level

Definition

Agency type at delivery level indicates the agent that disburses the transfer to the beneficiaries.

Coding

- 1 – Post office
- 2 – Donor agency
- 3 – Private: bank or microfinance
- 4 – Private: telecoms
- 5 – Private: shop

6 – Non-profit organization

7 – Hybrid

8 – Other

Data source

Crillo and Tebaldi, 2016.