

Eric Dalinpuo

IS SOCIAL PROTECTION A RIGHT?

AN EXAMINATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES
AND STRATEGIES FOR HIV/AIDS ORPHANS AND
VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN WA AND JIRAPA TOWNSHIPS
OF THE UPPER WEST REGION OF GHANA



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ABSTRACT

Social protection involves choices about whether the core principle behind social provisioning will be universal or selective through targeting. Extreme poverty is regarded as the world's greatest human rights issue. The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, starts from the idea that all human beings are born free and equal in status and rights. Under the international human rights law, States are legally obligated to establish social protection systems for their citizens, especially the vulnerable and at risk. Social protection in Ghana assumes three main targets for poverty reduction; the first target looks at labour market interventions in terms of employment services, job training, and direct employment generation. The second target deals with social insurance that targets mitigating risk, disability, ill health, old age, health insurance, and the third target is social assistance that provides welfare and social services, cash or in-kind transfers, and subsidies. The interventions under these targets are either universal or targeted. The study was concerned with the right base of social protection for OVC and examined the impact and challenges of some social protection interventions. Three categories of participants made up of 53 OVC, Caregivers, SP interventions and institutions as well as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) were selected across the two townships of Wa and Jirapa for the study through systematic random sampling. Close ended questionnaires were administered to the OVC and their care-givers, while open ended questionnaires were administered to managers of some selected SP interventions, SP institutions and NGOs. Cross-sectional design was used and purposive sampling technique was employed to sample out the two townships. Methodologically, the study applied qualitative and quantitative instruments of data collection. The findings revealed that OVC do not only lack basic human right needs

such as food, nutrition, education health care, water and clothing, but also face harmful cultural and traditional practices such as the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among others entrenched in the study areas. Some SP interventions such as the NYEP have no impact on the lives of OVC especially those in working class. Lack of funds and poor coordination and monitoring were identified. The study concluded on the notion that SP needs legal framework backing and support to be able to make significant impact on OVC. Therefore, the study recommended the redesigning of the NYEP to take on OVC, the need for intersectoral strengthening and linkages and proper monitoring and coordination of SP programmes.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my dear wife Noella Benongle and my lovely daughter, Ellis Zunuo Dalinpuo for their support and encouragement. And also to my late father Mr. Wilfred Dalinpuo.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquire Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
GAC	Ghana Aids Commission
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GLSS	Ghana Living Standard Survey
GNPA	Ghana National Plan of Action
GPRS	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
HIV	Human Immune Virus
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MESW	Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare
MMYE	Ministry of Manpower Youth and Employment
MOWAC	Ministry Of Women And Children
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NSPS	National Social Protection Strategy
NYP	National Youth Policy
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children

SAP	Structural Adjustment Program
SP	Social Protection
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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