Social exclusion and access to social protection programmes

Expert Group meeting:

Report on the World Social Situation 2017

Promoting inclusion through social protection

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What is social protection?

> ## RWSS definition
>
> "The definition of social protection provided here and used in the forthcoming report is in accordance with the definition used by the ILO. Guaranteeing income security requires benefits to protect individuals against lack of work-related income (e.g. due to unemployment, old age or a disability, among other reasons), insufficient family support and lack of access to health care, for instance. The definition provided is interchangeable with that of social security."
>
> *[RWSS 2017 Annotated Outline, footnote #1]*

A 'devil's advocate' question: Is this definition appropriate for this report?

- "RWSS 2017 will discuss the contribution of <u>social protection</u> to <u>social inclusion</u>"
- The ILO definition of social protection is a narrow definition of social security.
- Social inclusion is not achieved only by "guaranteeing income security".
- Social exclusion is more than exclusion from social protection programmes.

What is social protection?

'Transformative social protection' definition

"Social protection is the set of all initiatives that provide:

❖ **social assistance** to extremely poor individuals and households;

❖ **social insurance** to protect people against the risks and consequences of livelihood shocks;

Income Security
(SPF-1)

❖ **social services** to groups who need special care or would otherwise be denied access to basic services; and

Access to Services
(SPF-2)

❖ **social equity** to protect people against social risks such as discrimination or abuse."

Social inclusion

[Devereux & Sabates–Wheeler, 2004]

What is social exclusion?

Social exclusion "precludes full participation in the normatively prescribed activities of a given society and denies access to information, resources, sociability, recognition, and identity, eroding self-respect and reducing capabilities to achieve personal goals"

[Silver, 2007: 1]

Social exclusion: "the processes through which individuals or categories of the population are wholly or partially excluded from full participation in the society in which they live"

[Kidd, 2014: 4]

We should not define social exclusion as exclusion from social protection programmes.

We should define exclusion from social protection programmes as one outcome of social exclusion.

What is social inclusion?

1. **Valued recognition:** acknowledging and respecting individuals and groups as well as supporting a common worth through universal programs like health care.

2. **Human development:** fostering the skills, capacities and choices of individuals to live a life they value and one in which they are able to contribute in a manner they and others find meaningful.

3. **Involvement and engagement:** having and being able to exercise the right to be involved in decision making and other activities that directly affect oneself, one's family and community.

4. **Proximity:** reducing social distances between people by sharing physical and social spaces that facilitate interactions.

5. **Material well-being:** having the necessary material resources in order to participate fully in community life.

[Mitchell & Shillington, 2002: ix]

How can social exclusion be reduced?

- Guaranteeing <u>income security</u> for all

- Guaranteeing access to <u>health care</u> for all

- Improving access to <u>social protection</u> schemes

- Eliminating access barriers to <u>social services</u>

- Reducing <u>economic marginalisation</u>

- Facilitating <u>social integration</u>

- Promoting <u>political participation</u>

[Babajanian, 2013]

What is the role for social protection in each of these?

How can social protection reduce social exclusion?

- Guaranteeing income security for all

- Guaranteeing access to health care for all

Social protection floor

- Improving access to social protection schemes

- Eliminating access barriers to social services

Rights-based approach
Fee–free services
Respect and dignity

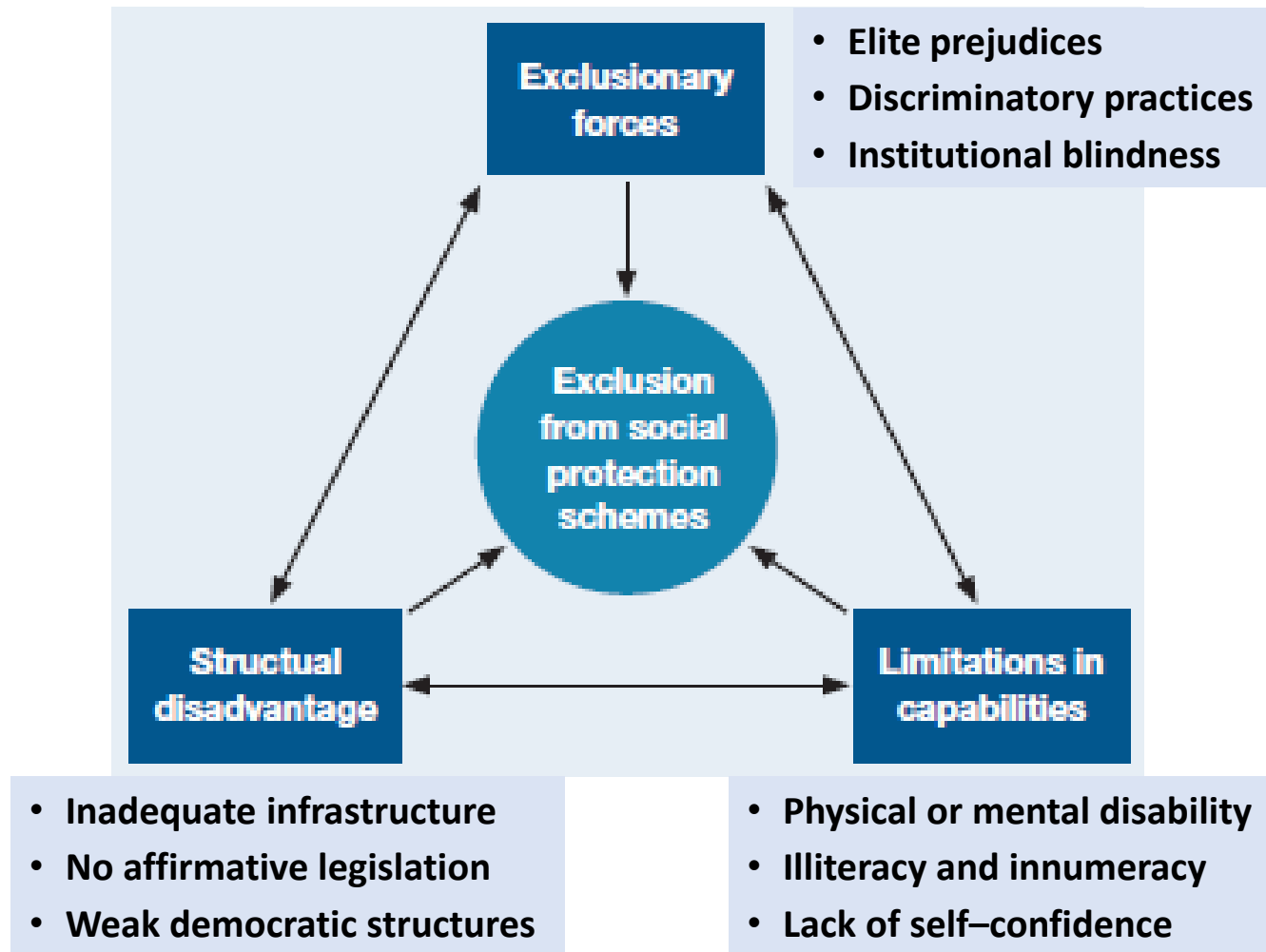- Reducing economic marginalisation

Pro-poor financial inclusion

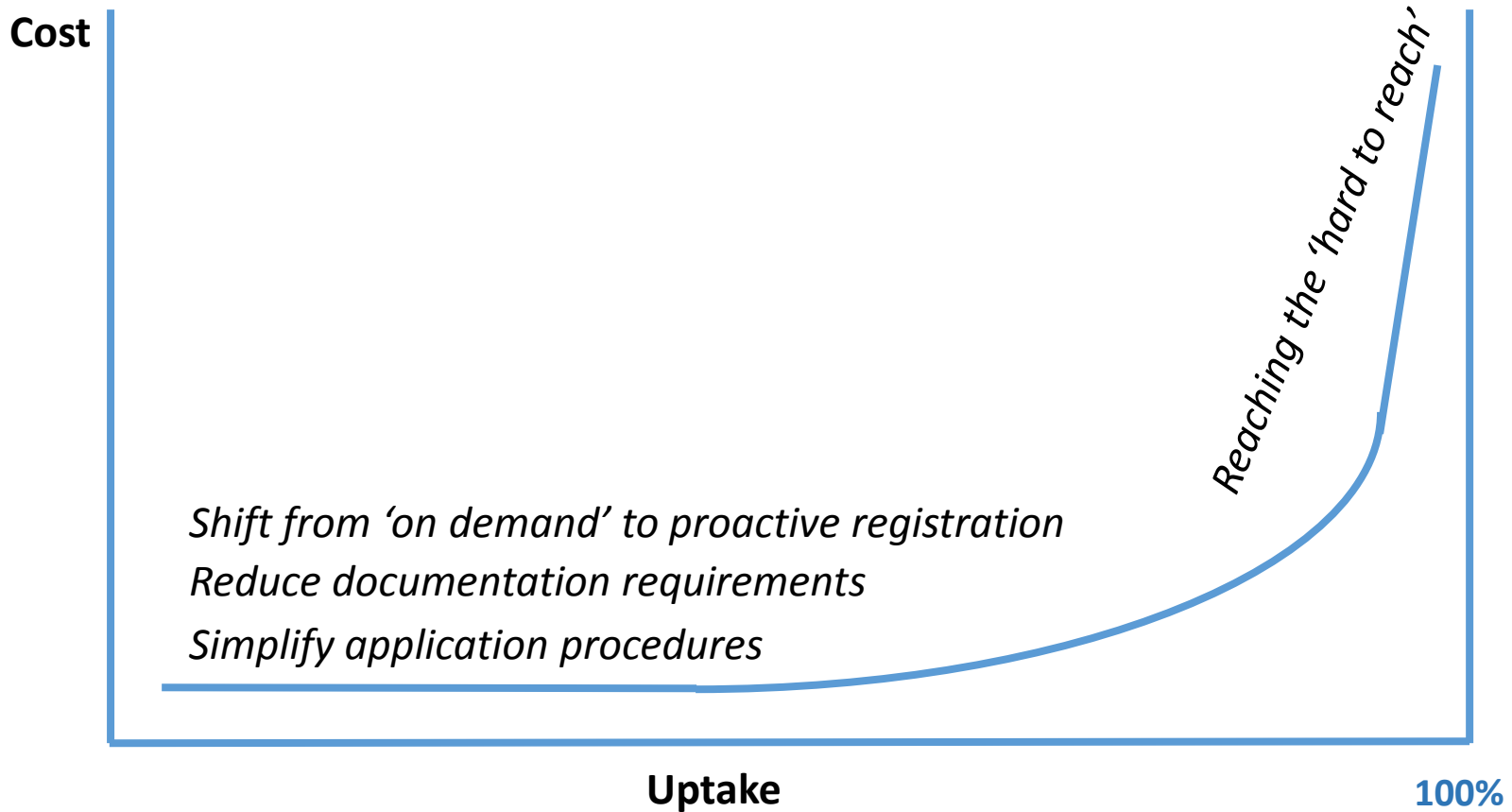- Facilitating social integration

Eradicating discrimination

- Promoting political participation

Accountability mechanisms

Social exclusion and exclusion from social protection

- Elite prejudices
- Discriminatory practices
- Institutional blindness

Exclusionary forces

Exclusion from social protection schemes

Structual disadvantage

Limitations in capabilities

- Inadequate infrastructure
- No affirmative legislation
- Weak democratic structures

- Physical or mental disability
- Illiteracy and innumeracy
- Lack of self–confidence

[Kidd, 2014]

The "last mile" problem:
'Low-hanging fruit' vs. 'hard to reach'

Cost

Reaching the 'hard to reach'

Shift from 'on demand' to proactive registration
Reduce documentation requirements
Simplify application procedures

Uptake

100%

*[Inspired by Wong et al. 2016,
also Besley & Kanbur, 1993]*

Reducing the gap between eligibility and uptake:
Social grants in South Africa

SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS

- Documents required are much less: no ID or birth certificate needed.

- Information about grant registration procedures is well publicised.

- Registration is done proactively by SASSA and DSD.

- Application process is much faster.

- Grant payments can start even before all documents are submitted.

- Computer databases have improved efficiency and reduced corruption.

SIMPLIFIED PAYMENTS

Fixed pay-points

- SASSA offices

- Post Offices

- Local institutions *(civic centres, hospitals)*

- Mobile SASSA pay-points

Flexible pay-points

- Banks or ATMs (swipe–cards)

- Supermarkets / retail stores

[DSD, SASSA and UNICEF, 2012]

Is access to social protection enough?
Limitations of the neoliberal approach

CCT theory of change

Making cash transfers conditional will enhance access to education

More poor children will go to school

This investment in human capital will enhance their employability

When they leave school they will get better-paid jobs than their parents

The intergenerational transmission of poverty will be broken.

Oportunidades in practice

Oportunidades included sending children to school as one condition

90% of indigenous children reached

But quality of education provided in these communities is sub-standard

Discrimination against indigenous people persists in the labour market

Despite inclusion in Oportunidades, structural poverty persists.

[Ulrichs & Roelen, 2012]

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