

# TRANSFORM NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

ISSUE NO. 8

DATE: 30.12.2022

## STATS & FACTS

**99**

Trainings in **12** countries

**5**

E-TRANSFORM courses

**2545**

Participants

**50**

Anglophone and Lusophone Master Trainers from **15** countries in Africa

**8**

In-depth Technical Modules



### Dear Members of the TRANSFORM Community,

As we are nearing the end of 2022, we are able to look back on another successful year in which TRANSFORM has expanded and evolved with your support.

We kept pushing boundaries geographically, with several trainings taking place this year in West and Central Africa (Gambia, Mauritania, Cameroon) and the Arab region (Jordan, Tunisia and Palestine (held in Jordan)). At the time of writing, a regional Training of Trainers (ToT) for the Arab region with over 30 participants will have been completed with great initial results. We have also seen the improvement of content and training development completed. Our base documents are now gender and disability inclusive, the importance of which cannot be overstated, and we have a Shock Responsive Social Protection training module tested and ready to be applied in different contexts.

Additionally, we are seeing different approaches or trends emerging within the TRANSFORM framework. National Training of Trainers were held successfully in Kenya and twice in Tunisia, with the aim for national rollouts. Similarly, institutionalization of TRANSFORM within national knowledge institutes is under discussion in several countries, including in Malawi and Zambia as another approach which aims to maximize capacity building impact.

Taking a first peek into the new year, we feel strongly that we will continue along this path of growth and increased relevance and impact at multiple levels. The TRANSFORM Strategic Meeting on 7 and 8 December in Lusaka has been a great opportunity for us to come together and explore areas of emphasis for TRANSFORM in the next three years in support of strengthening social protection systems and progressive realization of universal social protection. More details on the outcomes of this meeting will follow soon.

Lastly, we wish to thank everyone who has pushed us forward this year in terms of advocacy, funding, coordination and implementation. These champions included not only those familiar with the TRANSFORM ways and agenda but also those that became champions once they saw the value and transformative impact of the programme. All this would not have been achieved without you. We look forward to continuing this journey of achievements together with you and other partners in 2023!



Participants are excited after the completion of the Shock Responsive Social Protection course.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION SHOCK RESPONSIVE TRAINING STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION RESPONSE TO DISASTERS IN MALAWI

The proportion of the population below the national poverty line in Malawi was 50.7% in 2020, according to the World Bank. The social assistance programmes form the bigger part of the Malawi social protection system, yet they still have limited coverage and benefits are not adequate. This is worsened by the fact that Malawi is compounded by the occurrence of frequent natural disasters for example the tropical cyclones Ana and Gombe that severely hit the southern part of the country during the first quarter of 2022. The cyclone destroyed thousands of hectares of crops and forcing the displacement of thousands of households. The disaster resulted in losses of goods, damaging of cash crops and the crippling of energy production (Malawi Poverty Update – April 2022, WB), placing significant risks on sources of economic activities and livelihoods for many Malawians. This situation has necessitated the need to strengthen shock sensitive social protection programmes and hence the Malawi National Social Support Policy (MNSSP II) outlines the need to strengthen shock responsive social protection programmes to meet the needs of the population through preparing and responding to shocks in coordination with the humanitarian sector and supporting effective recovery of affected populations.

As part of strengthening government capacity to implement shock sensitive social protection programmes, the ILO in collaboration with United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP) supported the development of the TRANSFORM 3-day training programme on Shock Responsive Social Protection Programmes. The TRANSFORM Shock Responsive module was piloted through an online application conducted among officials from Malawi and Zambia in March 2021. After some slight adjustments, the training module was further rolled out in person as a 3-day course to 84 (48 male and 36 female) government officials involved in implementation of social protection and humanitarian programmes in September 2022. with the aim to empower key officials to effectively respond to shocks in Malawi. Local partners are following up with the government to ensure learnings are harnessed further through post-training interventions.



We started building without even taking into account the shock. We should have kept it simple and focused on the foundation, which are the same key principles for preparedness and the importance of routine systems for social protection strengthening.  
~Ministry of Gender, Disability and Social Welfare Official



## TRANSFORM SHAPPING SOCIAL PROTECTION COORDINATION AT DISTRICT LEVEL IN ZAMBIA

The Single Window System (SWS) Initiative is a national programme in Zambia, which aims to facilitate the access to social protection through a unified service delivery approach. In past years, 17 pilot champion districts were identified, where the initiative was planned to be implemented, to be followed by a gradual scale up to cover 30 districts by 2021. In line with the 7th national development plan, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) has been spearheading the implementation of the SWS delivery of Social Protection Programmes with the support of the ILO through the Irish Aid and United Nations Joint Programme for Social Protection and Jobs Programme.

The objective of the Single Window Initiative is to have one access point for all social protection service provision, while at the same time bringing those services closer to the people. At the start of the initiative, the government of Zambia requested that the TRANSFORM training is used as the first step to support the implementation of the SW System as it gives district officials of various government ministries and other stakeholders an opportunity to be introduced to the building blocks of a functional social protection systems, specifically focusing on the importance of coordination amongst all of them.



District official during the stakeholder mapping exercise as part of the TRANSFORM District training in Samfya district.

In 2018, the Inclusive Growth, Social Protection and Jobs Programme and United Nations Joint Programme for Social Protection in Zambia facilitated a TRANSFORM training for officials in the six champion districts. The outcome of these trainings was the development of district specific Single Window work plans. Since 2018, the SWS initiative has been scaled up to a total of 43 districts, surpassing the target set in Zambia Seven National Development Plan of 30 districts by the year 2021. In 2022, additional 2 districts were trained accumulating to the total of 45 districts.

Examples of positive impact include improved coordination which has proven to be one of the major mechanisms playing a critical role in the operation of the Single Windows Delivery Initiative in Kafue District of Zambia. Different stakeholders have come on board to participate in the implementation of various interventions under the Single Window Initiative, a program being spearheaded by the Zambian government through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.



4 years post the TRANSFORM training, one of the key results proven, is improved coordination - breaking ministerial barriers. Now different line ministries providing various social protection services are planning and implementing together. Communities are now able to access information on various programmes under one window on timely manner and later enrolled onto programme based on their eligibility criteria.

~ Mr. Ngalande, Education Officer, Kafue District.



Ms Anna Mubukwanu Sibanze, Principal Information Officer from MCDSS sensitizing members of Namushakende Ward on the Single Windows Initiative at the Namushakende School in Mongu District.

## TRANSFORM INITIATIVE IN THE ARAB REGION



The TRANSFORM initiative is taking up shape in the Arab region under the guidance of the Arab region Advisory Group following a 2-track approach of 1) Adapting and developing materials for the region and 2) hosting training applications that are available in Arabic

### Key developments in 2022 were:

A Pilot training in Jordan for government officials in March with the support of ILO Jordan was overall well received and gave important insights for improvement on content and training approach. On top of this, it allowed for accreditation of Ayman Sawalha and Karima Kessaba to be formally accredited in Arabic. Congratulations! See some of the commitments of participants from the training below. A second pilot was

held for Palestinian Government officials in Jordan in June under joint support of UNICEF, ILO and WFP, and received very positive reviews from participants.

Also in June this year, a National ToT in Tunisia was supported with 26 trainers that will be training social workers using the district level course in all regions of Tunisia. The training was so successful that a second one is planned to take place in December. Lastly, a Regional ToT has just taken place at the end of November to invest in a strong regional cohort that can train across the region. A process of contextualization of main training materials was set in motion at the start of 2022 and will see a new set of Arab region-specific materials come out at the end of the year. ILO and UNICEF have joint forces in coordinating the initiative for now, with membership of UNESCWA, WFP and UNDP.

## THE NEW IRISHAID-ILO PROGRAMME

The final independent evaluation of the Irishaid-ILO programme 2017-2022 was finalised in September 2022. TRANSFORM is highlighted as a strategic good practice for capacity building as it creates a common understanding and knowledge base of social protection for practitioners at country level, enhance governance and coordination of social protection systems and prepares stakeholders to better understand, debate and monitor social protection schemes. In terms of sustainability, the progressive institutionalisation and recognition of the TRANSFORM brand is a positive indication, as countries acknowledge the usefulness of TRANSFORM. This means that they also see the need to improve the training of national technical staff and may consider institutionalising it. Following these very positive findings (the evaluation is available on the ILO website), the new IrishAid multi-country programme (2023-2025) plans to continue its support to the TRANSFORM initiative, both in the implementing countries (Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Viet Nam) and at the global level through a Coordination and Learning Hub, based in Lusaka.

## WHATS NEW!

1

We are excited to announce our new TRANSFORM Coordinator; Nienke Raap who has been appointed as part of the continuity of the ILO's support to the initiative in the context of the partnership with IrishAid. Nienke has been with the ILO for 3.5 years and has worked as a Social Protection officer in the Abuja (Nigeria) office and most recently in the Regional office for Arab States in Beirut, where she support the set-up of TRANSFORM in the Arab region.

2

ALL 8 base and summary documents of the TRANSFORM Curriculum including Shock Responsive Social Protection have been revised to ensure gender and disability mainstreaming. The publications will be available in the first quarter of 2023.

3

TRANSFORM is growing exponentially in the Arab region. From 21 to 29 November, a regional Training of Trainers took place in which 31 participants were training to become part of the Arabic-speaking cohort. The group was trained to apply the 5-day package adapted to the Arab region context. A More in-depth update will follow in the next newsletter issue.

## TRANSFORM REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING

The TRANSFORM strategy meeting brought together about 40 participants (30 physical and 13 online) from all parts of the world. Participants included include Steering committee and Advisory Group members, Master Trainer representatives, social protection and learning experts, donors and representatives from national and regional institutions with a social protection agenda.

The first day focused on the progressed made in the past 2-3 years and its impact with inclusions of a brainstorm session on strengths, weaknesses, and strategic positioning of TRANSFORM. The second day delved into more focused analysis followed by identifying strategic priorities and plans.



Discussions served to recall the core values and open up new perspectives for the TRANSFORM initiative based on a re-invigorated inter-agency partnership. Stakeholders present stressed that TRANSFORM is increasingly acknowledged as a tool for institutional and individual capacity building with a particular vocation to raise awareness and mobilize decentralized and localized levels of social protection. From this point of view, its role is recognized as an essential lever to achieve the acceleration of the extension of coverage aimed by most African social protection strategies and endorsed as such by the African Union and other regional bodies. All efforts in the next 3 years will tend to confirm this positioning, while strengthening the technical and financial aspects of the knowledge and training offer. Outcomes of the meeting will be used to create a TRANSFORM 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. More details, including a report on the outcomes of the meeting will be shared in the new year.

## TRANSFORM

A Leadership and Transformation Learning Initiative on building and managing social protection floors in Africa.

### What is TRANSFORM?

TRANSFORM is an innovative learning initiative on the implementation of national social protection floors in Africa. TRANSFORM promotes critical thinking and builds capacity at national and subnational levels to improve the design, effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems. It focuses on non-contributory social protection schemes and programmes.

### Why TRANSFORM?

TRANSFORM empowers learners to handle the complexities of their own social protection systems, appreciate diversity and uniqueness, own and implement creative solutions suitable for their contexts. All these elements are as important as the technical knowledge itself.

### Target Audience

TRANSFORM targets social protection practitioners seeking to enrich their knowledge base and embark on a leadership and transformation process. Specifically, TRANSFORM is targeted at African government officials, at national and sub-national levels (e.g. provincial, district), who engage with social protection policy and programme oversight, formulation and implementation.

## Contact us:



[transform\\_socialprotection@ilo.org](mailto:transform_socialprotection@ilo.org)

Learn more about the TRANSFORM Initiative on:

<https://transformsp.org/> and <https://socialprotection.org/connect/stakeholders/transform>

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