United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Social protection and child nutrition

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Outline

▶ Rationale

▶ Social protection coverage and spending

▶ Social protection policies

▶ From cost of inaction to a cost of action-policy mapping (findings from Ethiopia)

▶ Policy recommendations

Rationale

- Nutrition is one of the foundations of human health and development and malnutrition is one of the major causes of childhood illness and mortality .

- Prevalence of undernourishment dropped from 30 per cent in 2000 to 22.9 per cent in 2016 in Africa (excluding North Africa). However, Africa Regional Nutrition Report shows that between 2000 and 2016, the absolute numbers of stunted children are in fact increasing: from 50.4 million in 2000 to 58.5 million in 2016.

- The impact of undernutrition is observed on social and economic development of countries in Africa (example 10.3% in Malawi, Rwanda 11.5%, 16.5 % in Ethiopia of annual GDP loss).

- Investing in nutrition is also economically sound and has been identified as a 'best' investment .-investing in nutrition can increase a country's GDP by at least 3 percent annually

- US$1 spent on reducing malnutrition has at least a US$30 return on investment

- Nutrition was an essential building block to a key aspect of the development agenda both AUC Africa 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- AUC African Nutritional Strategy (2015-2025) and its 3 year implementation plans.
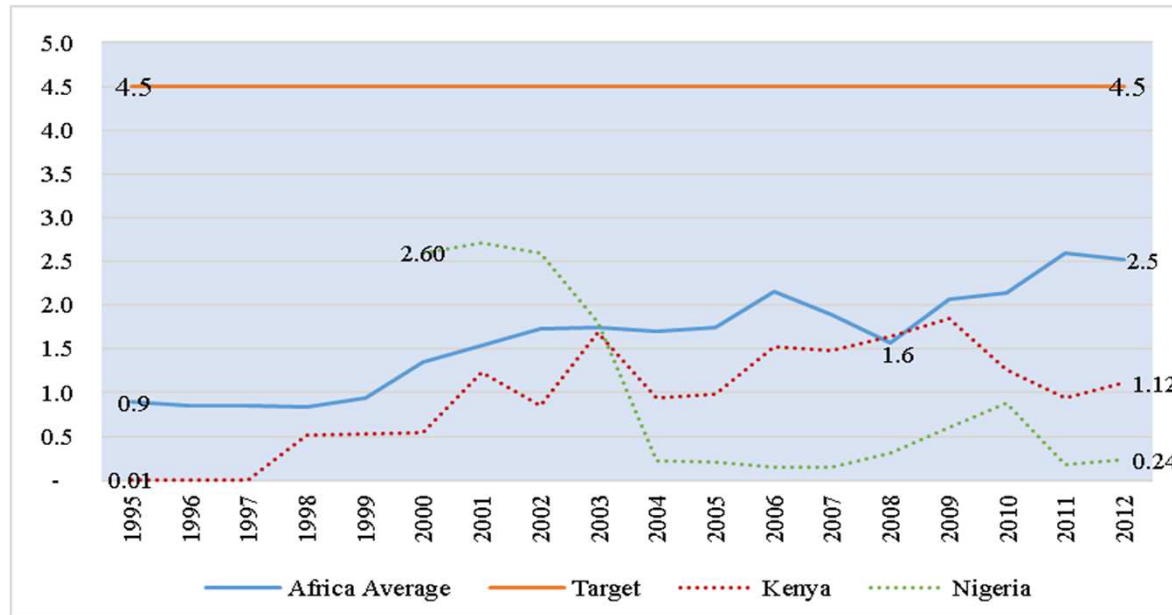
Social protection coverage…..

Table 3: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors across selected global regions

| Global Regions	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, distinguishing children, mothers with newborns, retirees, unemployed persons, persons with disabilities and the vulnerable					
	Children	Mothers with newborns	Older persons	Unemployed	Persons with disability	Vulnerable (social assistance)
Africa, excluding North Africa	13.1	n/a	22.7	3	n/a	7
North Africa	n/a	69.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Asia	10.8	22.5	77.3	19.5	n/a	32.5
Latin America	56	53.5	70.8	12.2	59.4	39.2

Source: UN (2017) based on ILO estimates using country data compiled through the ILO Social Security Inquiry (SSI)
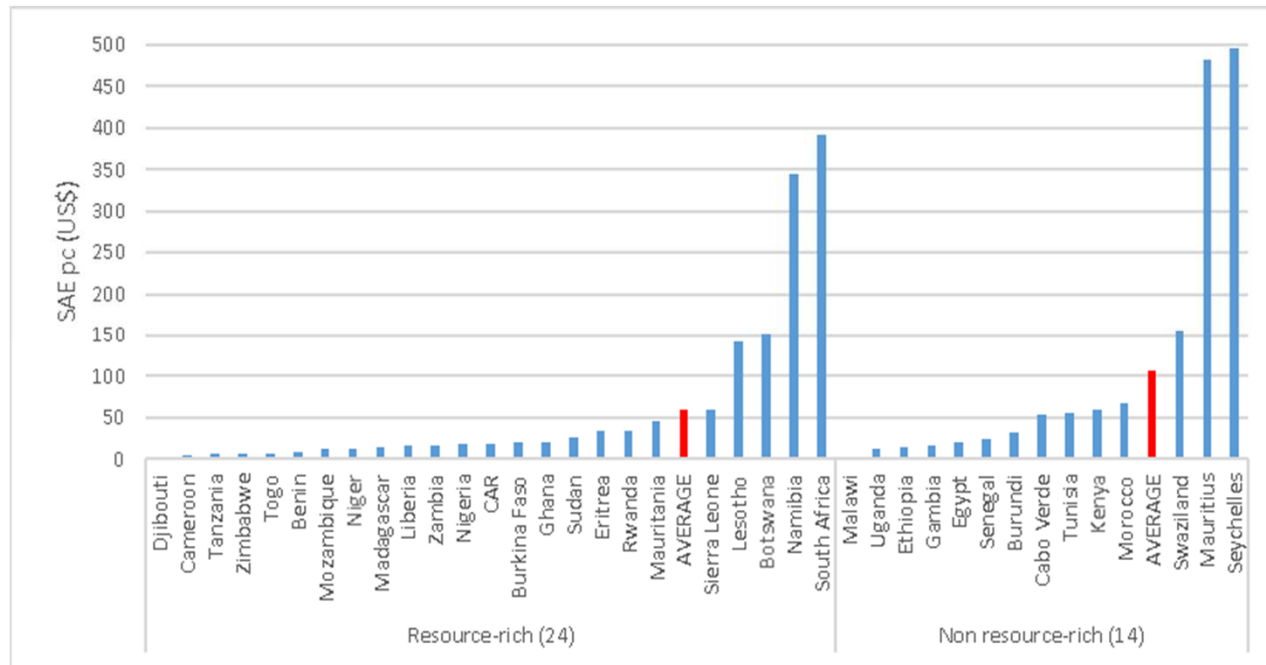
Social protection spending…

Graph 3: Africa Social Protection Expenditure as % of GDP 1995-2012

Social Assistance spending….
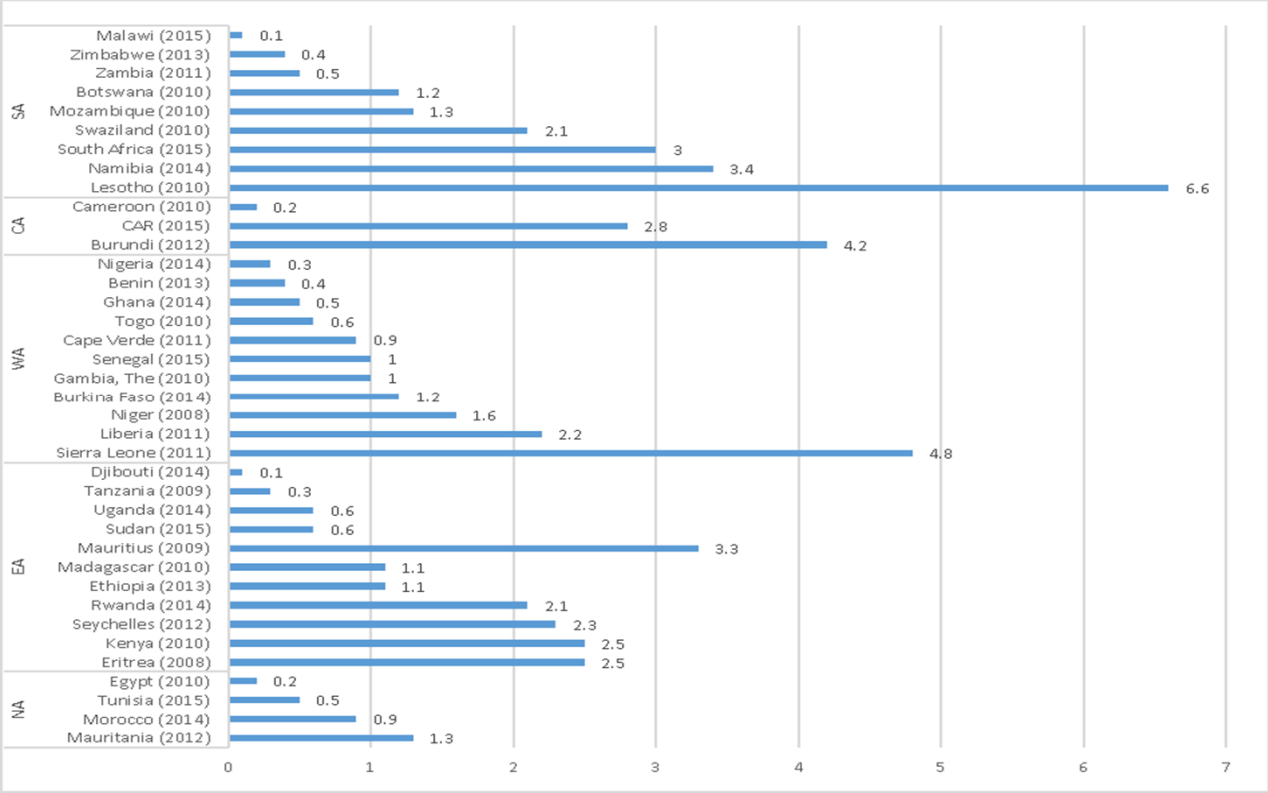
Patterns in social welfare spending…. African countries

Social Protection policies

# Challenges for policy formulation on social protection and child nutrition

- Malnutrition as a multi-sectoral problem

- Social Protection programmes- project oriented and a large part externally financed

- Scaling-up to programmes on child nutrition

- Financial resources and competing prioritization

From cost of inaction to features of action

Policy mapping

Ethiopia Current and Required Progress to Achieve Goal Scenario for 10% and 5% for 2025
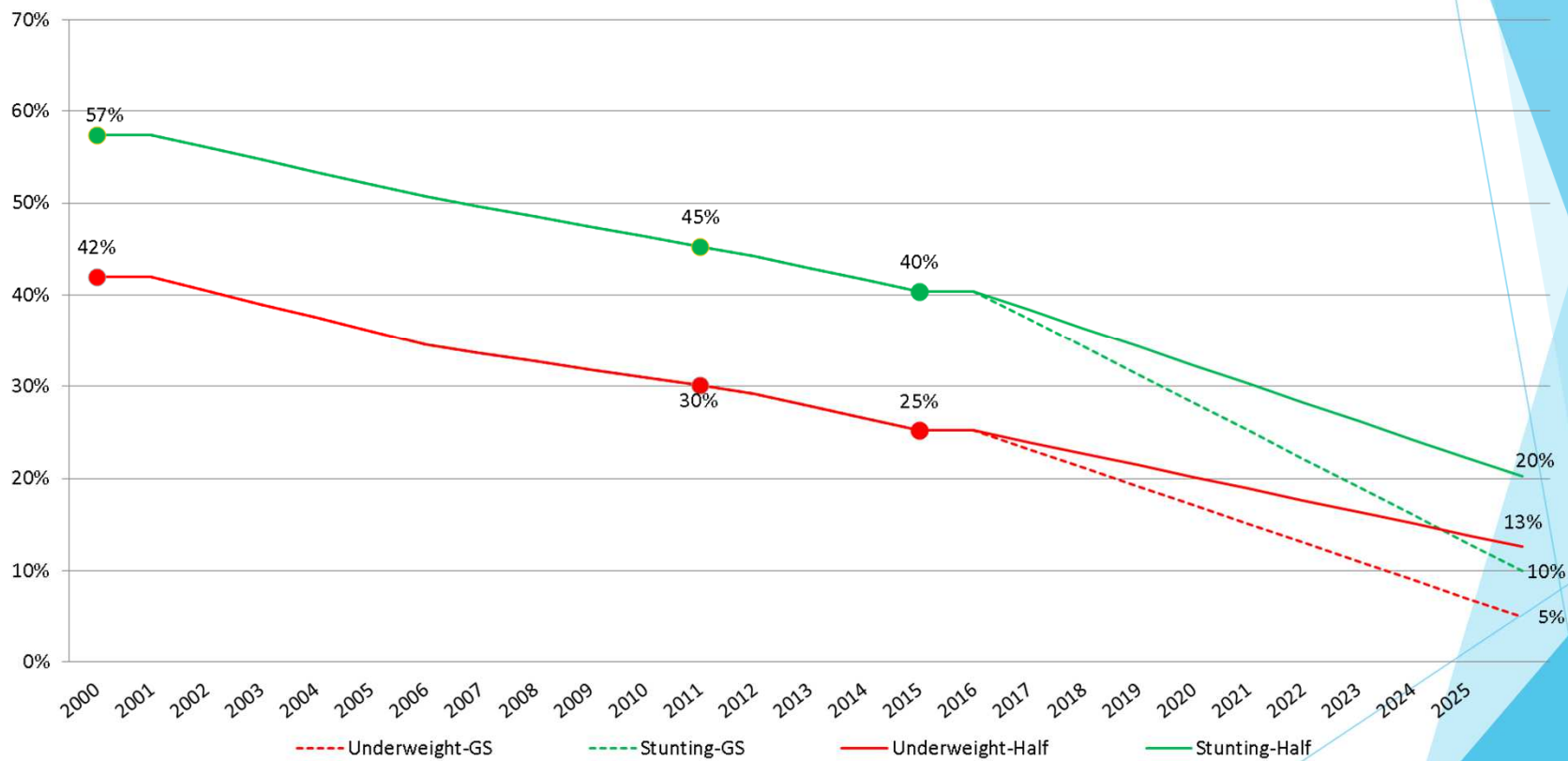
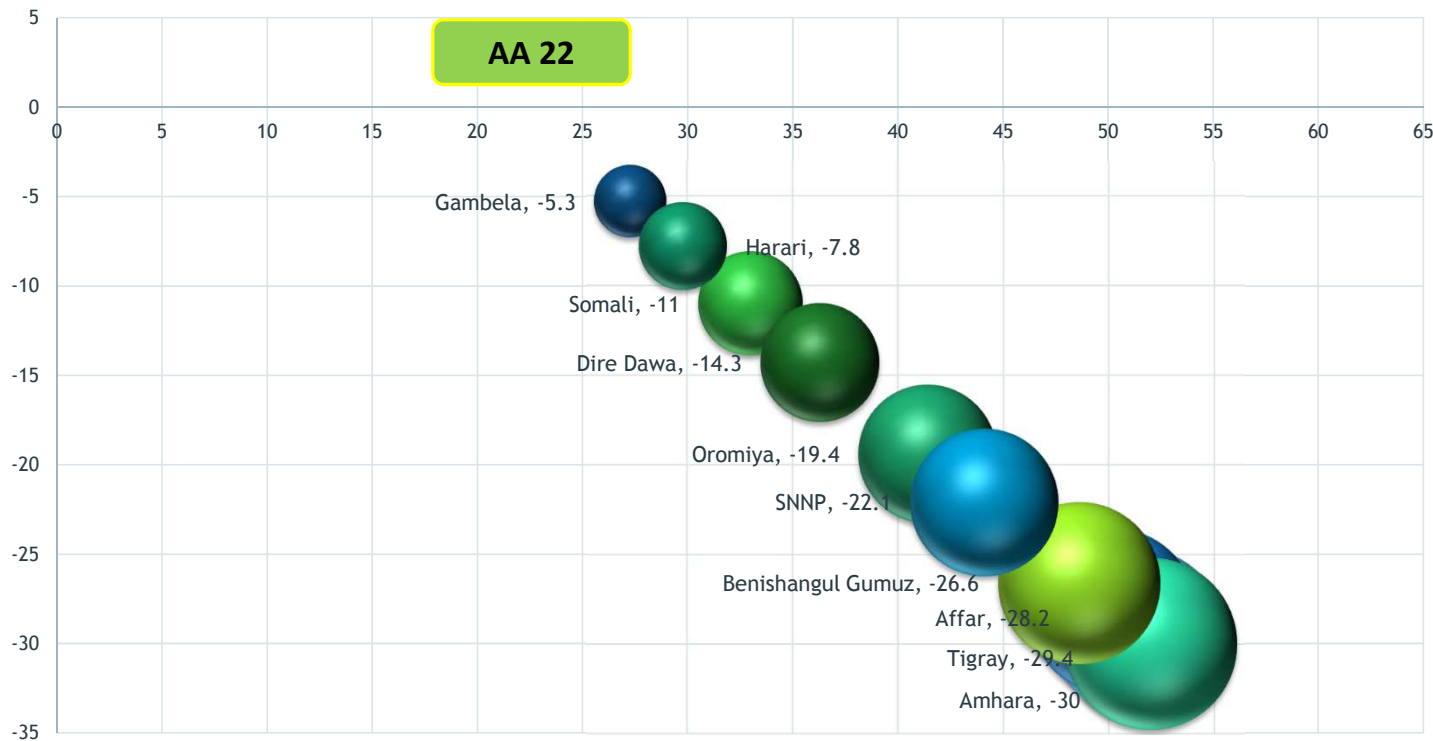Child stunting differs substantially across wealth quintile, location and gender…..

Table1: National and sub-national stunting prevalence and actual number of children, 2016

Year	Under five Children in 2015	Prevalence of Stunting in 2016 %	Number of under five Children who were Stunted	Percentage of stunted # of Children by region
National	**10,797,022**	**38.4**	**4,146,057**	**100**
Tigray	630,862	39.3	247,929	5.98
Affar	142,377	**41.1**	58,517	1.41
Amhara	2,337,923	**46.3**	**1,082,458**	**26.11**
Oromiya	4,451,317	36.5	**1,624,731**	**39.19**
Somalia	449,699	27.4	123,218	2.97
Bensihangul-Gumuz	126,430	**42.7**	53,986	1.30
SNNP	2,341,255	**38.6**	**903,724**	**21.80**
Gambela	42,044	23.5	9,880	0.24
Harari	23,736	32.0	7,596	0.18
Addis Ababa	197,976	14.6	28,905	0.70
Dire Dawa	41,767	**40.2**	16,790	0.40

Source: CSA population data (2015) and DHS 2016

Use of policy mapping:
Distance from the best performing region
Inefficiency Scores in 2011

AA 22

Gambela, -5.3
Harari, -7.8
Somali, -11
Dire Dawa, -14.3
Oromiya, -19.4
SNNP, -22.1
Benishangul Gumuz, -26.6
Affar, -28.2
Tigray, -29.4
Amhara, -30

- Efficiency gaps from the best performing region are large-denoting policy mapping and scaling up interventions adopting from the best performers

- It can be applied to different types of impact indicators either by gender, location and sub-regions

Note: the size of the bubbles represent the size of the Efficiency Scores from the Best Performing Region (Addis Ababa) in 2011

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Inefficency Scores in 2015
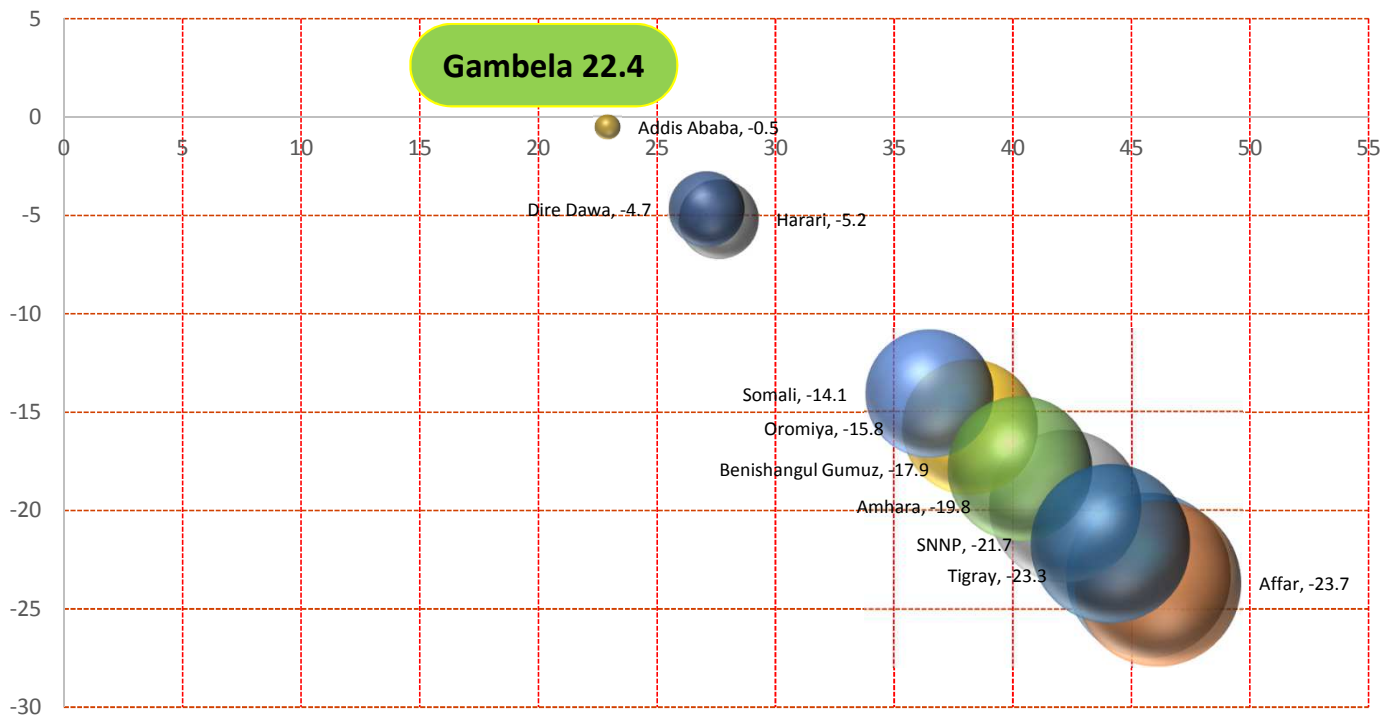
Gambela 22.4

Addis Ababa, -0.5

Dire Dawa, -4.7   Harari, -5.2

Somali, -14.1

Oromiya, -15.8

Benishangul Gumuz, -17.9

Amhara, -19.8

SNNP, -21.7

Tigray, -23.3   Affar, -23.7

Note: the size of the bubbles represent the size of the Efficiency Scores from the Best Performing Region (Gambela) in 2015

- The size of the bubbles and the distance from the best performing regions is changing across time. AA-G
- Inclusion regarding nutrition is increasing among regions in 2015 than in 2011
- the policies and programmes that have contributed to reduce child undernutrition is working, as measured by the stunting rate

Policy recommendations

- Policy coherence across education, health, nutrition and social protection is key

- Ensuring homogenous development in tackling malnutrition across sub-regions (policy mapping is a useful technique)

- Ensure varying frameworks Africa (2015-2025) and 2030 Agenda and Africa 2063 are aligned for optimizing financial and human resources

Policy recommendations contd

- Scale-up financial allocation to match targets set

- Ensure political buy-in and advocacy

► Thank you for your attention