

Regional workshop on cash transfer activities in southern Africa
9th and 10th October 2006, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Introduction

The Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN), Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP) and Oxfam GB will be co-hosting a southern African regional workshop on cash transfers as an instrument of social protection. The purpose of the workshop is to bring decision makers and implementers together to explore strategies for using experience and evidence to influence social protection policy and practice for effective mitigation of crises, and for poverty reduction.

Discussion in the workshop will focus on cash transfers as a mechanism for realising social protection, considering causes of vulnerability, cost effectiveness of interventions, targeting and exclusion issues, co-ordination and coverage, asset protection and building, market effects, and the institutional and policy contexts of interventions, with the aim of drawing lessons from these for future policy and practice.

The workshop will be the first in a series of workshops highlighting aspects of social protection, with the aim of linking evidence with tools for vulnerability analysis to realise improved social protection programming. Follow-up workshops are tentatively planned for Feb 2007, Apr 2007 and Jun 2007, and these will culminate in an RHVP Regional Evidence Building Agenda conference in Sept or Oct 2007.

The next in the series may involve consideration of the causes of vulnerability, and institutional and policy contexts of interventions, coupled with some technical consideration of new and existing tools and mechanisms for refining vulnerability analysis.

Workshop objectives

- Share and consolidate emerging results and trends from cash transfer programmes and initiatives across the region, and draw out their implications on social protection policy and practice on the national, regional and international development agenda.
- Develop mechanisms and strategies to strengthen collaboration and learning among regional stakeholders involved in social protection.
- Identify information needs and dissemination strategies for the development of effective social protection policy and practice.

Target group

The workshop is targeted at researchers, practitioners, policy makers and policy influencers. These will be drawn from civil society, local and international NGOs, national and regional networks, governments, VACs, donors and other stakeholders working in the fields of social protection, livelihoods, food security and HIV/AIDS. About fifty participants from these various groups are anticipated.