

Strengthening Community Based Social Protection Practices for Child Protection

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Abstract:

Much attention is paid to social protection at macro-level, using a variety of centralized instruments to deliver a range of benefits to poor and vulnerable people. However, less attention has been paid to the role of communities in social protection, and in particular the role of traditional systemsⁱ. Such mechanisms are known to exist in Myanmarⁱⁱ, but to date few studies have documented their range, impact and potential utility for social protection. Data was collected by community volunteers from 39 villages representing eight of the 14 States and Regions of Myanmar. All communities studied had evidence of community led social protection systems, and the average fund distributed per year amounted to \$2,650 per village. Community based programmes to enable poor children to access to primary education were practiced in all eight respective States/ Regions funded by primarily by the contributions of the community .These typically delivered a cash grant to children of school age in poor households. In terms of health, several villages had schemes to enable access to vaccination and health care for poor children, providing either a cash grant or volunteer help. Community based systems are estimated to meet around 30% of reported social protection needs for children. Community systems were limited in approach, and by relatively small capital funds. Limited data exists to demonstrate the evidence of efficacy of scaling up of community led systems.

Keywords: Child protection, Community based social protection

ⁱ Habtom, G. M. K., and Ruys, P.,(2006) 'Traditional Risk-sharing Arrangements and Informal Social Insurance in Eritrea', Health Policy, vol. 80, no. 1, pp. 218-235

ⁱⁱ ActionAid "Thadar Consortium" project documentation. Internal

