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Author Affiliation:

Department of Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hawassa University, Ethiopia, Email: seidahmedSOSW@gmail.com

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Impact of comprehensive social protection on building climate-resilient economic development, in Ethiopia

Seid Ahmed Muhe

ABSTRACT

Social protection is a central public policy component for countries like Ethiopia to address poverty, vulnerability and inequality, and climate crises. This significantly enhance the success intervention in agriculture, hygiene and health, education, and water, thus accelerating the country's sustainable development goals, especially for the most vulnerable members of society through building climate resilience economic development. Investing in social protection reduces the vulnerabilities of poor people to external shocks such as aggregate income shocks, and instability to the effects of climate change. Effective social protection contributes to social cohesion, accelerating socio-economic development, including improved security, sustained peace, and greater social stability. Establishing Ethiopia social protection framework is part and parcel of an integrated approach to progressively realizing social and economic rights. Indeed, equitable comprehensive social protection services significantly contribute the attainment of climate-resilient economic and social development and have an immense impact to climate change mitigation and adaptation action of the country. Therefore, integrating social protection with various aspects of the country development programs brings equitable distribution and expansion of social protection services.

Keywords: Social Protection, Climate Change, Resilience Building, Economic Development, Green Economy

1. INTRODUCTION

There is a growing recognition of the role of social protection programs in addressing various climate shocks and vulnerabilities, as many social protection schemes have targeted and contributed to efforts to reduce vulnerabilities and create more inclusive and sustainable development pathways. Thus, in recent decades, the number of developing countries that developed or strengthened their social protection systems has increased following the success of Latin American countries. Comprehensive social protection constitutes one of the efforts put in

place to deal with the multifaceted nature of poverty and vulnerability, which directly affects one of the main priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015) framework, to eradicate poverty and hunger by reducing by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in 2030.

In recent decades, social protection schemes of various types have implemented with impressive outcomes in addressing poverty. Globally, around one billion people are the beneficiaries of some or other social protection scheme. In the absence of social protection, the most vulnerable are subject to increasing risks of sinking below the poverty line or remaining in a poverty trap for generations, and multifaceted effects of the climate crisis. In Ethiopia, social protection schemes have been implementing since the early 1960s. However, the country being a signatory of the African Union's Social Policy Framework, which requires member states to improve their social protection plans of action, made social protection an essential instrument in its poverty reduction agenda in recent decades, especially following the promulgation of a comprehensive social protection policy in 2012.

The policy envisage implementing social protection with four broad areas of intervention, namely; safety nets, social security, health insurance, livelihood and employment schemes, and addressing inequality of access to essential services (MoLSA, 2012). To enable social protection to reach most parts of rural communities. Despite the expanding of social protection initiatives in the country, the primary mechanism for delivering social protection remains the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which is essentially focused on rural and agricultural communities, making social protection intimately linked to agriculture.

Moreover, Ethiopia does not yet have statutory non-contributory social grants such as old-age pensions, child grants, and disability grants, causing accessibility of social protection to be limited and a cause for concern as poverty and inequality remain persistent to the most vulnerable social groups including; children, youth, women, older adult, and persons with disabilities. For instance, the youth are still struggling with the problems of unemployment and other forms of social exclusion, and remain outside the targeting criteria applied in various social protection programs. Thus, the informal social protection already in place in rural and urban communities largely overlooked in the social protection schemes and discourse in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries.

Which serves as a vital lifeline for the majority of people who are not considered by formal social protection schemes. Moreover, employment the informal sector remains dominant, reflecting serious shortcomings of the labor market in providing formal employment. Despite the vital role played by micro and small enterprises in reducing unemployment, it is very high in the country, with the latest figures for the unemployment rate being 19.1 % in 2018. Meanwhile, the country is experiencing the impact of climate change. Besides the direct effects, such as an increase in average temperature or a change in rainfall patterns, as well as its social and economic effects, climate change also presents the necessity and opportunity to switch to a new, sustainable development model.

As result Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia initiated the Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) initiative in 2011 with the objective to protect the country from the adverse effects of climate change, and build a green economy for the realization its ambition reaching middle-income status before 2025. The government intends to limit its net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 to 145 Mt CO₂e or lower. This would constitute a 255 MtCO₂e reduction from the projected 'business-as-usual' (BAU) emissions of 400 MtCO₂e 2030 or a 64% reduction from the BAU scenario 2030. It also intends to undertake adaptation initiatives to reduce the vulnerability of its population, environment, and economy to the adverse effects of climate change. The CRGE is Ethiopia's strategy for both climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives.

The implementing of the CRGE would ensure a resilient economic development pathway while decreasing per capita emissions by 64% or more. This described under Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) according to the Paris Agreement (Article 4.2). Therefore, this article paper intend to examines the effects of comprehensive social protection in building climate-resilient economic development to illustrate the impact of social protection on the climate change mitigation and adaptation action of the country. Through analysis and synthesis, summarize, interpret, and evaluate existing literature (articles, research, books, and other publications) on social protection to Climate change Resilience economic development. Further, the paper synthesizes and establishes explicit current knowledge about the impact of social protection and Social Policy in building climate-resilient economic growth.

Purpose

This article paper intend to critically review, analyse and synthesize the existing literature (articles, books, research, etc) and debates relevant to this particular topic area of emphasis. Through enumerate, describe, summarize, and objectively evaluate existing literature, determine what gaps exist on social protection schemes towards building climate-resilient economic development in Ethiopia in the

form of a written report. This enables how well-established knowledge become an insight where future research might best emphasis and directed.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Systematic Literature Review

According to the goals of literature review depends on which type of review method need to be employed to answer specified as well as concentrated research questions. Compare to traditional, systematic literature review method can reduce of bias for literature analysis. Therefore, throughout this article, systematic literature review method were employed to identify, evaluate as well as summarize relevant studies about social protection schemes in building climate resilient communities to show a synthesis of evident on climate change mitigation and adaptation action. Suggest that systematic reviews have a clearly stated purpose, questions, a defined research approach, and appraisal. By following an explicit systemic review methodology, overcome the weaknesses of traditional approaches. These weaknesses include biases and philosophical mix-ups through heterogeneous sampling, or issues with the quality of assessment. Following this, the following steps have hander-taken.

Phase 1: Mapping the field through a scoping review. Conducted systemic literature to the extent of this article require relevant material where carried out by identifying the most often cited texts and following up on the references therein. This gave the first impression of existing knowledge gaps under this topic.

Phase 2: Comprehensive search: Here, entered into the systematic literature review by using the process described through searches in keywords, titles, abstracts, and some themes using Google Scholar with other combinations of the search term. As well identify the inclusion and exclusion criteria regarding narrative analysis of identified significant themes.

Phase 3: Quality assessment: The search was subsequently limited to specific publications related to resilience.

Phase 4: Data extraction. To identify the main categories of this literature, the strategy was first to obtain a broad understanding of these articles, and listed the keywords of all of the selected articles and summarized additional keywords by reviewing abstracts, introductions, and findings. By grouping the keywords able to identify first-order concepts. Then continued by grouping these keywords into categories. The articles analysed along with the nature empirical and conceptual data analysis method, and theoretical perspective, findings or results, definitions or propositions, and quality-related comments have been summerized.

Phase 5: Synthesis

Phase 6: Write-up and diffusion

The next section addresses the synthesis of the analysis of the review as result and discussion of this article.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Social Protection; Genesis, Types and Modes of Implementation

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country, with an estimated population of 110.1 million in 2019. Being one of the least developed countries in the world, Ethiopia has faced massive resource exhaustion and human distress due to manufactured and natural calamities. Agriculture is the mainstay of its economy, contributing 31% of its GDP and employing close to 75% of its population. Smallholders farmers who depend on rain-fed agriculture for subsistence production makes them severely exposed to climate variability and consequently to both transient and chronic food insecurity. Thus, agricultural development and social protection interventions are highly correlated in the Ethiopian context, so much so that the political discourse on social protection, for decades, explicitly reflected real-world policy interventions in the agricultural sector.

This policy intervention is primarily found in the government's food security program that seeks to protect and promote rural livelihoods in a high-risk environment. Indeed, over the past 15 years, social protection has been an essential part of poverty reduction and development strategies as an integral part of poverty reduction and development strategies in Ethiopia. The genesis of formal social protection goes back to 1963 with the establishment of a civil service pension scheme by the imperial regime. This makes Ethiopia one of the first countries in Africa to institutionalize contributory social security for its citizens. The 1963 social protection schemes covered both civil and military personnel, who were a tiny portion of the total labor force (MoLSA, 2012).

The social protection scheme, along with the private-organization employees' pension scheme, formed the formal social protection or security system in Ethiopia, which is mainly for urban public sector employees; the rural population has not been part of any formal

social protection systems until 2005. Following the significant droughts and subsequent famines in the 1960s and 1970s in the northern part of the country, the first attempt to institutionalize emergency relief have been made with the establishment of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. However, the problem of food insecurity became a concern in public policy discourse after the fall of the imperial regime in 1974.

The military regime (1974-1991) used the politics of famine to justify its seizure of power it began implementing food-for-work schemes, representing a major shift from the previous humanitarian food handouts. Beside from food-for-work schemes, the regime implemented resettlement and villagization in its disaster response strategy and institutionalized these interventions through the codification of the interventions in the 1987 constitution. Historically, this can be considered an essential milestone in the social protection system in Ethiopia, and politically, it indicated 'an evolution in government-citizen relations about social protection services. Ethiopia formulated the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) in 2014.

The policy identified four interrelated priority focus areas for its strategic directions: promotion of productive safety nets, promotion of employment opportunities and livelihoods, promotion of social insurance, and enhancement of equitable access to and use of essential services. In the year of 2016 the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) have been launched with added a fifth area of focus that deals with the provision of legal protection and support services to those vulnerable social groups. The initiation of the policy involved various stakeholders ranging from key government sectors to non-state actors including donors and international organizations. Similarly to previous strategies and interventions, the new policy and strategy view social protection as having a close link to the issue of food security and devoted 50% of its objectives – two out of four – towards ensuring food security.

However, unlike the previous strategies that focus on rehabilitative and developmental roles for social protection systems, the latest policy involves wide areas of intervention that traverse preventive, protective, promotive, and transformative activities requiring cross-cutting inter- and trans-sectoral commitments and interventions. The rise of formal social protection (delivered by governments or donor agencies) has generally overlooked a range of informal social protection (ISP) mechanisms that are offered by extended families and communities, which were already in place in rural and urban communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard, social protection in Ethiopia can be thought to be primarily the realm of the informal sector and community institutions, as the majority of social protection services to focus on persons with disabilities, vulnerable children, and the older people are provided through this informal channel social protection scheme.

Informal social protection mechanisms widespread both in rural and urban settings and act as the first line of response to shocks in Ethiopia. These mechanisms have more extended history and their contribution remains significant, especially given the limited reach of formal social protection schemes. Some estimates indicate that up to 90 % of Ethiopians belong to at least one informal group or support system (Teshome et al., 2015). In recognition of this, the government in its new National Social Protection Strategy provides a comprehensive definition of social protection as a set of formal and informal interventions that aim to reduce social and economic risks, vulnerabilities, and deprivations from all people and facilitate equitable growth'.

According to the informal social protection system guided by religious and cultural principles, as well as family and societal values. Consequently, the principles of reciprocity and exchange feature firmly in informal social protection and may be triggered during standard times or a time of shock. Considers informal social protection mechanisms to have five components in Ethiopia: the extended family, burial societies, traditional savings and credit, asset transfers, and child support. The mechanisms differ by agroecology or the livelihood, operational principles specific communities in which social protection roles fulfilled.

Social Protection Policy

Social protection central public policy component for countries addressing poverty, vulnerability, and inequality. It improves the effectiveness and efficiency of investments in agriculture, hygiene and health, education, and water thus accelerating the attainment of the development goals of the country, especially for the most vulnerable members of society. Investing in social protection reduces the vulnerabilities of poor people to external shocks such as aggregate income shocks, instability in the price of essential commodities, and the effect of climate change. Financial resources spent on social protection schemes contribute to the economic growth through re-circulating demand and supply thus these schemes. Adequate social protection contributes to social cohesion resulting in accelerated achievement of socio-economic development including improved security, sustained peace, and greater social stability.

Establishing Ethiopia social protection framework is part and parcel of an integrated approach to the progressive realization of social and economic rights noted in the article of the constitution. This policy introduces a shift from the social welfare approach of the

developmental social welfare policy to a complete framework. Leading to coordinated actions to protect citizens from economic and social deprivation through emergency interventions and targeted cash transfers, preventive actions designed to avert deprivation or to mitigate the impact of adverse shocks including health and unemployment insurance, promotive actions that aim to enhance assets and human capital and income earning capacity, and transformative actions including legal and judicial reforms, budget analysis and policy evaluations to help the nation better manage social protection (MoLSA, 2012).

The policy introduces mechanisms that address the limitations of the developmental social welfare policy whose implementation has been characterized by limited geographical coverage, inadequate intersectoral linkages and coordination, weak institutional capacity, and lack of clarity regarding accountability for delivering social protection outputs. This shift reflects increase priority being placed on social protection service provision without which reaching the targets of both the short and long-term development goals of the country for the most vulnerable will not be met. This policy defines social protection as being a set of ‘formal and informal interventions that aim to reduce social and economic risks, vulnerabilities and deprivations for all people and facilitates equitable growth’.

The definition stems from the African Union Social Policy Framework (AUSPF) emphasizes the need for development should include; building human capital, breaking of the intergenerational poverty cycle, and reduction of inequalities. The policy framework for the coordination and provision of social protection services in Ethiopia define the roles and responsibilities of Government at the federal, regional, and local level to manage a social protection system and fulfil the constitutional rights of citizens. In general, the policy primarily focuses on: Social insurance program (pension), Food security program, Provision of essential social services, National nutrition program, Support to vulnerable children, Health Insurance, Disaster risk management, Support to persons with disabilities, Support to older persons, Urban housing and grain subsidies, Employment promotion, and Community-based social support (MoLSA, 2012).

Actors in Social Protection

Social protection policy agenda involves key development actors, including multilateral and bilateral organizations, international and local NGOs, government and its agencies, and research institutes. International actors has traditionally led in advocating and supporting social protection and has been in large part responsible for the growth in social protection institutions in developing countries. Its tripartite governance system involving trade unions, employers’ associations, and governments has proved effective in gathering support for extending of social protection for organized workers. The World Bank developed a social protection strategy in the mid-1990s as a response to the impact of structural adjustment in developing countries and the failure of social dimensions and safety-net approaches.

The world Bank’s Social Protection Group initially focused on the labor market and pension reform and safety nets but more recently has started focusing on broader range of instruments including cash transfers. The world bank is now a major player in social protection, catalyzing change through technical assistance and financial support. Other agencies, including United Nations adopted social protection policies include the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Population Fund, and World Health Organization. As well, bilateral institutions such as DfID, GTZ, and the United States Agency for International Development entities become active non - state actors in supporting social protection policies.

State Actors

The state is the principal duty bearer to its citizens and expected to lead in social protection. The state often seen in the roles of a direct provider and a facilitator. Increasingly, governments are developing social protection strategies to consolidate and institutionalize cross-sectoral policies. In middle-income countries, such strategies have involved reforming social insurance schemes and a strong effort to develop practical social assistance. In the lower-income countries, strategies have developed around second-generation poverty reduction action to pro-actively integrate social protection policies. Especially in Africa, pilot programs on cash transfers are spearheading efforts to create social protection strategies and institutions arrangement.

Non-State Actors

A non-state actor is an agency that operates outside the state machinery but within the policy and regulatory environment provided by the state. Non-state social protection actors were classified as formal organizations, which have a legal identity, structure, and

recognition such, as the various NGOs, not-for-profits, and charities; and informal bodies, which have as their basis collective action, e.g. community, family, neighborhoods or traditional solidarity networks, etc., but which might have neither a legal identity nor, at least in some cases, formal governance or management structures. An emerging 'semi-formal' category encompasses community-initiated groups that gradually move towards formalization by introducing rules, regulations, and structures when they grow too big to be managed solely by informal means or if their interaction with the state or other NSAs requires some formality.

These NSAs essentially are providers of social protection and, to a limited extent, facilitators of advocacy for national social protection. To illustrate the impact of social protection on building climate resilience economic development reviewed literature indicates that, the Global Commission on Adaptation (2019) growing climate crises pose civilization-scale threats. Climate risks are already putting livelihoods, people, and ecosystems at risk. They threaten to reverse the gains of development achieved over the last few decades. According to recent estimates, climate change may treat more than 720 million people back into poverty by 2050.

It may also force 140 million people to become climate refugees. Escalating climate crises demands a concerted global response towards a transition that supports the vulnerable and strengthens their capabilities. Better alignment and integration of social protection with climate adaptation is critically vital for addressing climate change risks. The importance of social security for climate adaptation stems from its scope and scale, and substantial institutional infrastructure with the capacity to reach hundreds of millions of vulnerable households, its overlap in objectives with climate adaptation goals, and its positive outcomes for wellbeing and vulnerability reduction.

Measurement of Resilience

From a practical measurement point of view, the fundamental issue in resilience measurement involves; examining the relationship between shocks, capacities, responses, and current and future states of well-being. This implies that there is no single indicator that measures resilience. Moreover, because resilience is not directly measurable, most of the resilience analysis approaches make use of quantifiable proxies or indicators of resilience. Hence, measuring resilience is highly variable, based on the understanding and weight given to concepts such as absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacity. Likewise, the researcher has to consider the scale at which to undertake the measurement; households, villages, districts, or entirely different systems. The following sections will first outline some standard measures like socioeconomic resilience.

Socio-Economic Resilience

Socio-economic resilience is the ability of a unit to sustain the impact of a shock in terms of socio-economic outcomes. A core challenge in measuring socioeconomic resilience is that it is not directly observable. Instead, it is a latent ability of an individual, household, or community that can in principle only be approximated through comparisons of pre- and post-shock outcomes. Resilience is thus concerned with a counterfactual: if a household (or some other unit of analysis) can resist a shock, it is considered resilient. This poses some challenges to resilience researchers within development economics, as this in practice requires time series data for a household that is simultaneously shock-hit and non-shock-hit. Panel data with comparable treatment and control groups can to some extent solve this problem but is rarely readily available in a developing country setting.

Further complicating things, most households may not be hit by a shock at all during the study period. To get around this hindrance, some researchers have suggested different iterations of resilience indices, based for instance on asset holdings, that can tell us something about the likelihood of households to experience a negative outcome as a consequence of being exposed to a shock. For instance, the Household Livelihood Resilience Approach (HLRA), which builds on the sustainable livelihoods approach and its five capital assets, has been developed to measure resilience. The approach is based on creating the composite asset index by averaging the individual indicator scores for each of the five livelihood capital assets for each household. Another take on a resilience index is FAO's Resilience Index Measurement Analysis (RIMA) approach.

RIMA was developed to answer empirical questions such as: which households and what areas are most in need, which dimensions of resilience need to be supported, and to what extent policy actions have altered the resilience of target populations. RIMA is calculated by measuring resilience as a latent variable through some observable variables, identified through factor analysis. A third version of a resilience index can be found in, which proposes a resilience index for a community, the Individual Disaster Resilience Index. The index is a composite indicator of the presumed relationship between community preparedness measures and the derivation of a community vulnerability score of the area. Other examples of resilience indices constructed using principal component analysis.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Household-level resilience to climatic shocks and stressors is also to a large degree determined by the adaptive capacity. Households with greater adaptive capacity exhibit greater resilience, while those with low adaptive capacity exhibit a slow or no recovery. This capacity, in turn, depends on income, savings, social capital, and availability of water and feed for livestock. Some of the key actions that can help households build adaptive capacity and hence resilience to impacts of climate change include:

(i) Maintaining optimal/the required number of productive assets, (ii) having better access to irrigation, (iii) investing in farmland, (iii) improving soil fertility through the usage of organic inputs, (iv) use of improved production technologies and practices, (v) planting drought resistant varieties, (vi) diversifying income sources, (vii) building a stronger saving culture and social capital, and (iii) local institutional supports. For example, for farmers living in the central highlands of Ethiopia, access to and use of livelihood resources such as farmlands and livestock holdings, diversity of income sources, infrastructure, ecological stability, and social capital are the main determinants of resilience through adaptive capacity.

Social Protection and Economic Development

Social and economic development as processes is inherent to a society right from its inception. However, the emergence of the concept of development is a recent one dating back to the early nineteen fifties. The post-Second World War period and the period of decolonization witnessed the emergence and the dominance of the concept of “Development” in academic literature. The declaration of the 1960s as the Development decade by the United Nations led to a burgeoning of literature on the concept. Initially, development was conceived as an exclusive economic term referring to “growth”, “increase in per capita income” etc.

But soon it was felt, that development cannot be thought of in a one-dimensional way having economic implications. It should affect the other dimensions of the society. Since then, development has become a sociological lexicon. Simply speaking development came to be interpreted as a process that is for the benefit of the society and only economic growth minus societal progress cannot be termed as development. Development thus stands for improvement in quality of life and conditions of living.

The Climate Resilient Green Economy

In 2010, Ethiopia launched its first Growth and Transformation Plan, the first of three to five-year overarching national strategic plans to bring about economic growth and sustainable development to 2025. Unlike the previous national development plans, it referred to climate change as a cross-cutting issue. The response to climate change set out in this plan subsequently strengthened in the Climate Resilient Green Economy Vision (2011), a holistic guiding vision that outlines Ethiopia’s aspiration to become a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. Ethiopia constitution underpinned by the 1997 Environmental Policy provide the platform to drive the development of this economy-wide vision along with several other factors.

The Climate Resilient Green Economy Vision outlines a roadmap that will enable Ethiopia to attain middle-income status by 2025 while building climate resilience and achieving growth with a zero net increase in carbon emissions from 2010 levels. This makes the case for why a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient development trajectory is a priority for the country, and thus for the implementation of the Growth and Transformation Plans. The vision makes use of existing knowledge about responding to climate change by incorporating good practices from environmental policies and strategies that were developed before 2011.

The Green Economy Strategy

Building on the Climate Resilient Green Economy Vision, the strategy identified six sectors that were considered to have high carbon-abatement potential: agriculture; forests (e.g., through the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, or REDD+, initiative); transport; energy supply; green cities; and industry. These four pillars of the strategy includes: (1) the adoption of agriculture and land-use efficiency measures; (2) increased greenhouse gas sequestration in forestry, by protecting and re-establishing forests for economic and ecosystem services; (3) the deployment of renewable and clean power generation; and (4) the use of appropriate advanced technologies in industry, and the transport and building sectors. 8 One of the most important outcomes of the strategy development process was an estimate of the financial implications of Ethiopia becoming a low-carbon economy by 2030, based on the identified opportunities and benefits of such a transformation. The strategy also estimated the country’s potential future greenhouse gas emissions and the potential emission reductions that could be attained from embarking on a low-carbon development path.

Sectoral Climate Resilience Strategy

Considering the early emphasis of the Green Economy Strategy on mitigation, sector-specific climate resilience strategies were also developed during 2012–2014, which built on the National Adaptation Plan of Action (2007) and Ethiopia's Programme of Action on Climate Change (2011). Agriculture and forestry contribute 47%, on average, of the national gross domestic product through export commodities and employ 85% of the country's population. Climate-resilience strategy for these sectors was the first to be designed. Subsequently, strategies were also developed for the water and energy sectors.

Ethiopia Intended Nationally Determined Contribution Ethiopia was the first least developed country, and third African country (after Gabon and Morocco) to submit its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) occurred on 10 June 2015. This mainly based on existing climate resilience and green growth strategies and set short-term and long-term goals on adaptation and emission reductions for many sectors. The INDC explicitly highlights the need for the active participation of all citizens to achieve the planned goals, in particular farmers and pastoralists. It also aims to integrate actions to improve the status of women and young people in the country, and the welfare of children.

Social Protection and Resilience

Social protection schemes on the development agenda, and it features highly described in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the country. International organizations such as the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO) are now jointly promoting universal social protection floors for all those who need them. Debates in national and international policy circles are increasingly focused on putting in place national social protection systems rather than temporary safety nets that step in as a substitute for humanitarian assistance. Simultaneously, resilience has established itself as a dominant paradigm in international development, permeating different sectors and programs – but is increasingly linked to an agenda to respond to climate change and disasters. Climate change is understood to be one of the biggest threats to humanity, with particularly detrimental impacts on poverty and inequality.

The combination of shocks related to the climate, global financial crises, and political instability threatens any advances made on poverty reduction. A more integrated policy response, aware of the multiple risks people are exposed to and the responsibility to act, is now enshrined in the SDGs. Taking the policy processes into account, it is not surprising that the rise of social protection is increasingly linked to the resilience agenda. From the disaster risk reduction side, the possibility of using social protection programs to deliver humanitarian assistance faster and more efficiently is increasingly being explored. Labels such as 'shock-responsive', 'climate-smart', and 'adaptive' social protection are now commonly used in the policy framework.

Social Protection and Climate Change Adaptation

Better alignment of social protection with climate adaptation goals critically important for addressing climate change risks. The importance of social protection for climate adaptation stems from scope and scale, and its substantial institutional infrastructure with the capacity to reach hundreds of millions of vulnerable households, and its overlap in objectives with climate adaptation goals. Despite, nearly one-third of the population in low and middle-income countries benefits from some form of social protection, which is generally directed towards the poor and more vulnerable. And like social protection, climate adaptation instruments seek to get climate justice by supporting the well-being of the vulnerable and the poor. Few other social or climate policy instruments have the reach, resources, or policy objectives overlap that social protection and climate adaptation do.

Even the importance of social protection for climate adaptation and resilience so immense, the finding reveal that in many low and middle-income countries, social protection infrastructure is relatively new, with limited available resources. This requires due emphasis strategies that will not unreasonably burden fledgling programs, focusing instead on approaches that will strengthen social protection and climate resilience. Incorporating greater climate resilience in the design and delivery of social protection is critical of increasing climate risks (Agrawal et al., 2019). This paper identifies three shifts that could enable social protection to meet the goals of vulnerability and poverty reduction under a changing climate more effectively, even in emerging systems in poor countries:

(1) Enhancing the effectiveness of existing social protection efforts by supporting improved systems and increasing resource allocation; (2) Integrating climate risk management components into social protection provision to increase the resilience of development outcomes against climate risks; and (3) Converging and layering social protection instruments with other risk management instruments and climate and development-focused programs to deliver resilience at scale. To realize these changes,

donors and governments must allocate more resources to incentivize changes in institutional arrangements and policies. Researchers and decision-makers must provide more substantial evidence base that fills gaps in knowledge about the existing capacities of social protection systems and the effectiveness of specific social protection strategies in meeting climate goals. Policy-makers and program implementers must better integrate climate and social protection actions across sectors, networks, and actors (Agrawal et al., 2019).

4. CONCLUSION

The common notion says if there is a decline in poverty, unemployment, and inequality, there is economic development in the country, even if per capita income doubles, it cannot be termed as development. So, when there is development, there must be improvement in the quality of life. That means people must have higher incomes, better education, better health care and nutrition, less poverty, and more equality of opportunity. Social protection has a vital role in attaining sustainable development. Which has directly or indirectly contribute to the attainment of climate-resilient economic development of the country. The core centers i.e. metropolitan urban and cities have better opportunities to access the benefit of social protection services (health, education, livelihood...and infrastructural services than suburban, and rural communities across the nation.

Which significantly hinder the achievements of the main objective of national social protection policy, as well as countries' growth Transformation Plans II, including climate-resilient economic development action, NDC in climate mitigation, and adaptation action. Indeed, there has been limited research and journals established in the area which gives due emphasis on social protection climate change adaptation and mitigation, and resilient economic development. Rather focus on the mere notion of economic growth, as well as social protection. Even though the country's climate mitigation and adaptation action not significantly incorporated with social protection policy, strategies, programs, etc. As well various investments across different sectors of the country lacks an integrated approach that immensely contributes to the expansion of social protection services to reach most people who need it.

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Author Contribution

This work was carried out by authors (Seid Ahmed) designed the study, wrote the protocol, wrote the first draft of the manuscript, and managed the literature search and analysis.

Ethical Approval

Not applicable

Informed consent

Not applicable.

Conflicts of interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

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Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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