Unpaid care work and empowerment of women and girls

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What is care?

 'Care' includes direct care of people, housework that facilitates caring for people (indirect care) and volunteer community care of people, and paid carers, cleaners, health and education workers

Care is a social good, underpins all development progress

Care sustains and reproduces society

Markets depend on care for their functioning

Unpaid care work



Significance of UCW in women's and girls' lives

- ➤ Occupies large amounts of women's and girls' time -- restricting participation in civil, economic and social spheres
- Lack of leisure time -- reduction in women and girl's well being
- > Drudgeryadverse health outcomes
- ➤Income from paid work....eroded with costs of care substitution
- Who cares when women work in paid jobsreduction of care, adverse outcomes for care recipients
- A chain of paid work and unpaid care work...care deficit and social injustice, discrimination

Political Economy analysis of Care in Social Policy

- Research Question: where, why, when and how unpaid care concerns becomes more visible on domestic policy agendas?
- Success' in incorporating unpaid care into the national public policy agenda implies that policies
 - (1) signal recognition of women's contributions through unpaid care work;
 - (2) reduce the drudgery associated with performing care; and
 - (3) redistribute responsibilities for care (e.g. towards the state, community, men.

Choice of Sectors: ECD and Social Protection

Care in Social Policy: Why ECD?

- Women carry out most of the childcare responsibilities (existing gender norms and patterns of division of labour within families and communities)
- Additional demands because of financial, environmental and social crisis- means women need to participate in the labour market; + there is an increase in levels of care required.
- Balance between paid work and unpaid care work responsibilities
- Imbalance towards paid work can affect children adversely
- ECD programmes rely on mothers for programme participation

Why is Care relevant in Social Protection Policy?

- Women's and girls' uptake of social protection provisions are affected by their unpaid care work responsibilities
- Social protection provision can alleviate drudgery (for example through improved access to fuel and water, or increased support)
- Social policy cannot achieve gender equality without considering women's unpaid care work and its impacts on their right to health, education, decent work and leisure
- Additional demands on families because of changes such as urbanisation, demographic changes etc. may lead to a care deficit

A review of two sectors: Invisibility of Care

	No of policies reviewed	No. of policies which have a care intent	No. of countries that these policies were from
Social Protection	107	23 (21%)	16 (out of 53) - SSA and LA
Early childhood development	270	41 (15%)	33 (out of 142) - LA and SSA

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