

# **Coping Strategies of Feminine Peasant Networks and Social Protection (SP) in Tanzania: The case of Village Community Networks (VCONEs)**

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- Developed communities are the ones which can attain and sustain a better standard of living for every community member
- **Proponents of community development:** increased role of the community and minimized role of the market to attain development.
- **Opponents of community development:** increased role of the market to attain development; minimized role of community and government.
- **Evidence:** networking addresses the shortfalls of the market and provides some social protection. Community is important.
- **Practical Problem:** TZ top-down SP strategies, not sustainable.

# Introduction

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- **Objective:** exploratory research design and, an embedded multiple-case study research method, **to explore the coping strategies of Village Community Networks (VCONEs), as self-created women's networks, in the provision of SP and the promotion of community development in Tanzania.**

# **Introduction** *cont.*

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- **Community development (CD)** is a planned effort to produce physical, human, social, financial and environmental assets that increase the capacity of community members to improve their quality of life
- **Social Protection (SP)** refers to policies and actions aims at improving the capacities of marginalized communities for them to cope with difficulties and better manage risks and shocks.
- **VCONEs** are feminine, voluntarily and self-created networks of female peasants who have been brought together for the common collective good to access a variety of services including microloans, simple savings, self-social assistance and self-social insurance. The services are fully managed and owned by the members themselves.

## **Key terms**

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- **Welfare scholars**

Social assistance  
(*non-contributory cash transfer and social welfare*) e.g. Productive and Social Safety Net (PSSN)

Social insurance  
(*contributory schemes*) e.g. Improved Community Health Fund (iCHF)

Labour and livelihood enhancement interventions (to interventions self-employment) e.g. legal framework to register CBOs

## **Literature on social protection**

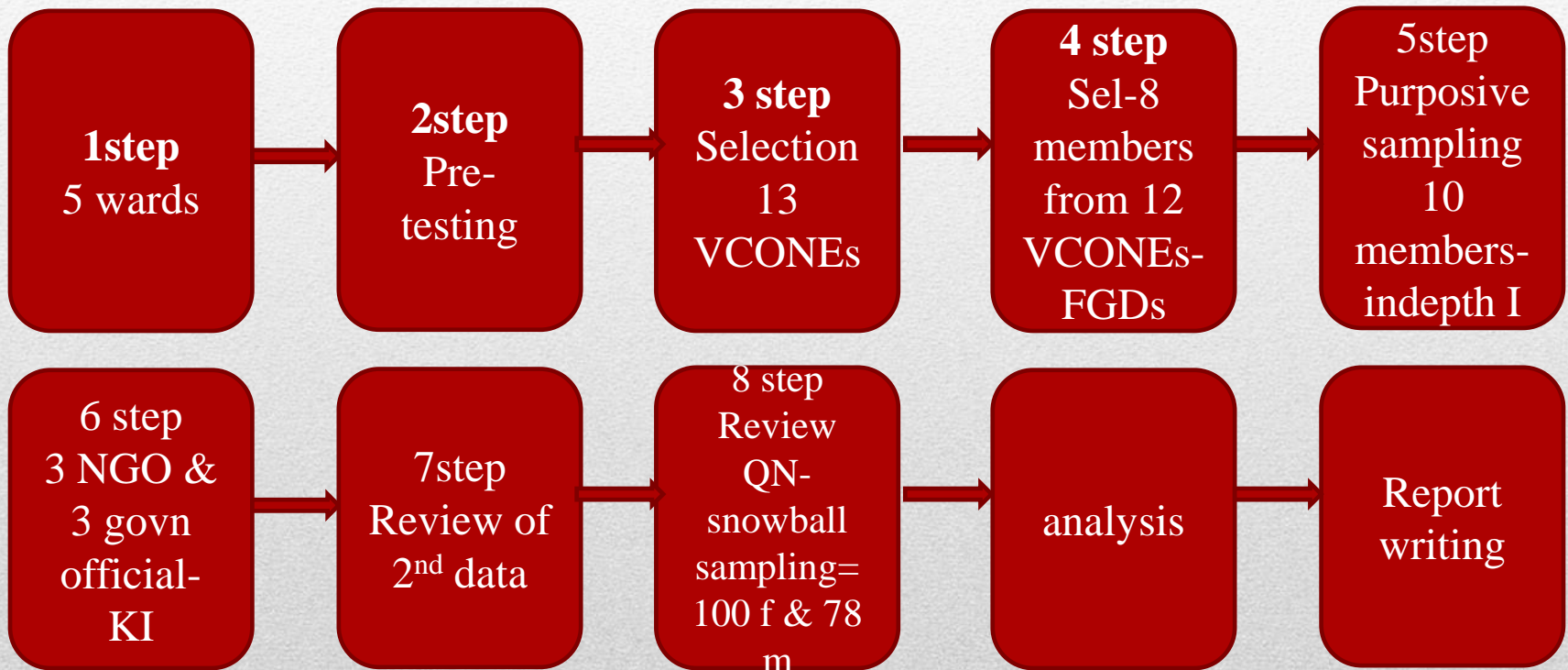
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- Networking among community members helps offset the challenges of neoliberalism-disempower the poor (Gilchrist, 2009; Flora and Flora, 1993; Kabeer, 2007; Bauman, 2001; Narayan, 2000; Patterson, 1994; Cook-Craig, 2010).
- **Gap:** not adequately examined the role of informal networking in the provision of sustainable social protection services.

# Literature on social protection *cont.*

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- embedded multiple-case study research design: study of more than one case with two units of analysis for each case
- **Steps:**



# Methodology

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Ward's Name	Women's Network Name	Number of Members	Questionnaire Respondents	Male spouse
Iguguno	Upendo Care	30	9	6
	Family Care	30	8	7
	Upendo	30	8	7
Kinyangiri	Nzalilya	30	10	8
	Jikomboe	23	9	9
	Juhudi	31	6	4
Msingi	Uchumi-Msingi	22	7	7
	Tumaini	11	10	5
	Nguna	22	8	6
Kikhonda	Jitume	40	12	10
	Tupendane	30	8	5
	Faidika	30	5	4
Nduguti	Mwanzo Mgumu KIKOBA Namba Moja	36	0	0
<b>Total of Participants</b>		<b>363</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>

# Methodology *cont.*

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## Political Coping strategies

Coping Strategy	Ward	Members of VCONEs		Spouses	
		Freq.	Perc. (%)	Freq.	%
<b>Gender Preferences in Leadership</b> (Brenner, 2014; Calkin, 2015)	Ig.	25	100	18	85
	Kiny.	25	100	17	85
	Kikh.	25	100	17	89
	Ms	25	100	0	100
<b>Political Clientele</b>	All	100	100	78	100
<b>Diverging funds from profit making institutions</b> (Giddens, 2007)	Ig.	11	44	7	33
	Kiny.	2	8	4	20
	Kikh.	4	16	3	15
	Ms	3	12	1	5

# Findings & Discussion

## Economic coping strategies

Coping Strategy	Ward	Members of VCONEs		Spouses	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Joint Marketing for members' agricultural produce	Ig	0	0	2	10
	Kiny	0	0	4	19
	Kikh	0	0	0	0
	Ms	25	100	18	100
Providing members with soft loans	All	100	100	78	100
Providing members with entrepreneurship Training	All	100	100	78	100

# Findings & Discussion cont

## Social Coping Strategies

Coping Strategy	Frequency	Percent of 178
Provision of moral support	100F, 78M	100
Provision social security - <i>community fund to assist member and the public (children &amp; elderly)</i>	100F, 78M	100

## Findings & Discussion cont

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The Village Community Networks (VCONEs), as self-created women's networks, have managed to come cope with the contingencies emanating from neoliberalism by providing context specific social protection to marginalised rural communities. They have developed a three dimensional framework by coming up with political, social, and economic coping strategies to sustain social provision to their members without depending on external support.

## **Conclusion**

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**THANK YOU**

