



# Rethinking Social Assistance Programmes in Kenya: A Community-Based Approach

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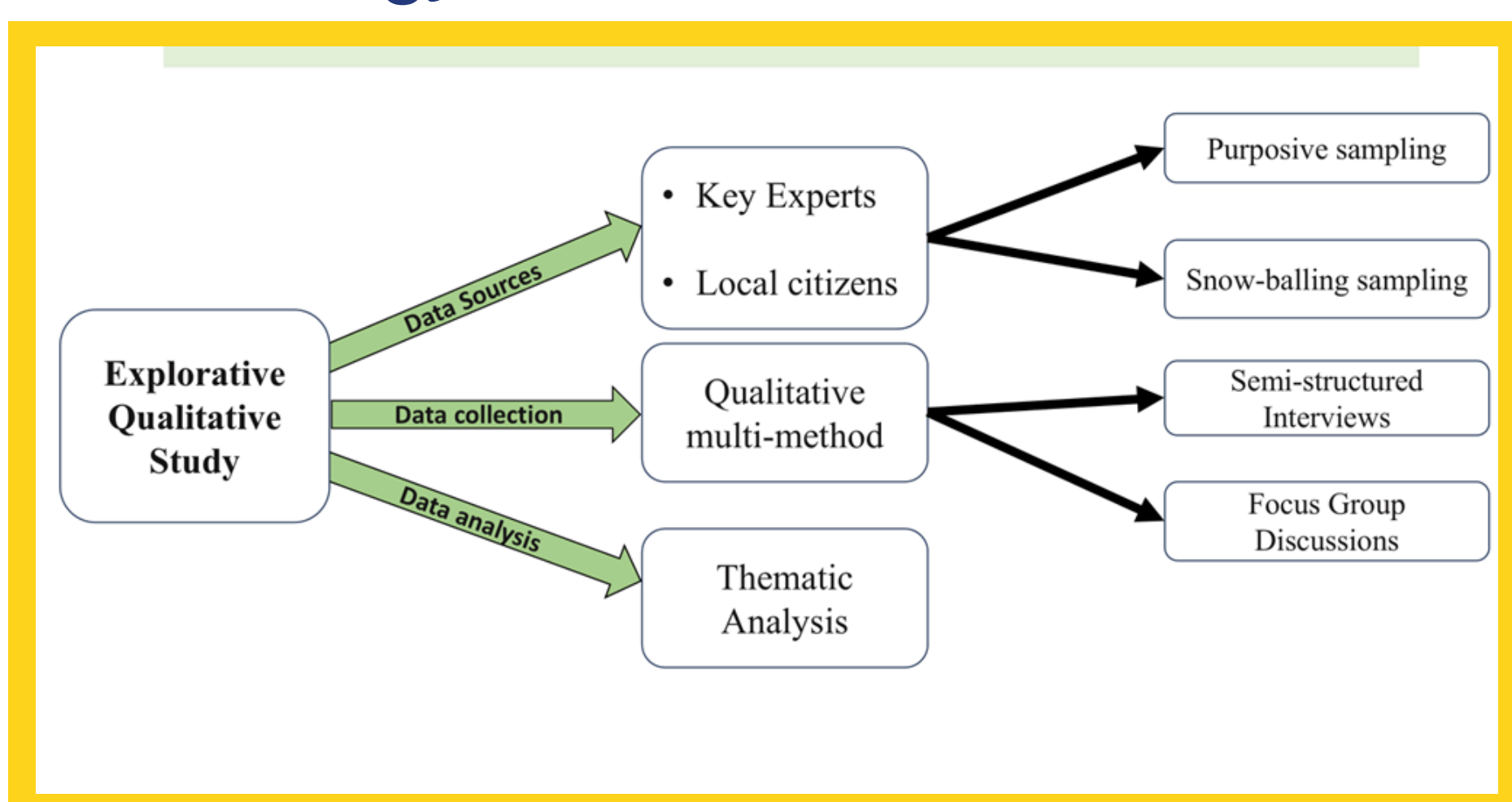


**EIMAS**  
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## Introduction

- Approx. 55 million people and a poverty rate of 42.9% in 2020 (World Bank, 2023).
- Only a small fraction of poor people have access to cash transfers.
- Social protection coverage remains low, with challenges.
- Informal social protection serves as an alternative yet underrecognized.
- Limited public participation hinders inclusive social protection.

## Methodology



## Analysis

- Formal and informal social protection systems should run concurrently because integration reinforces neo liberalist ideals.
- Need for research to validate ISP.
- Transformative approaches to poverty alleviation should incorporate elements of advocacy, solidarity, and social equity.
- Citizen involvement in decision-making ensures effective policy outcomes.
- State-community partnership (Adesina, 2011)

## Conclusion

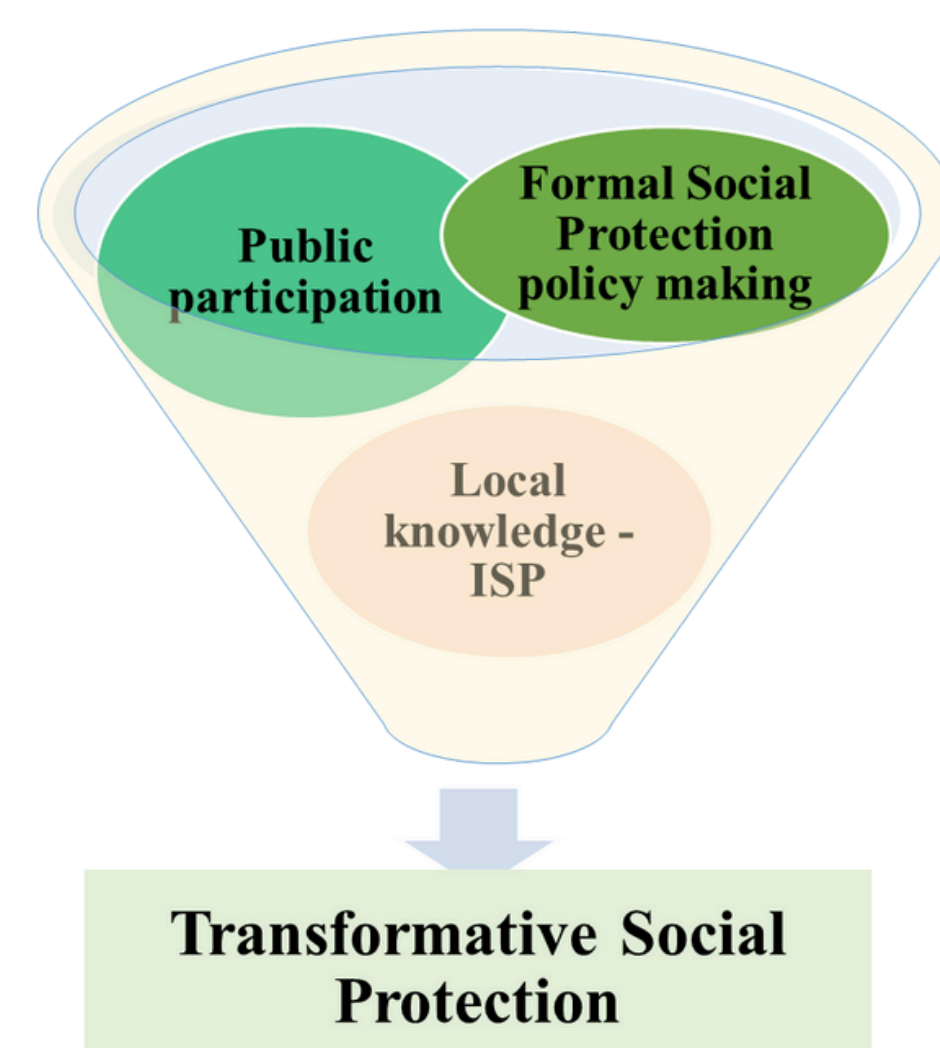
- Strengthen the effectiveness of social assistance programs.
- Ensure localized and context-based social protection via public participation
- A transformative social protection framework recognizes informal support and people-centered programming through participatory approaches, promoting inclusive and sustainable social protection.

## Objectives

- What are the perceptions of respondents on the effectiveness of social assistance programmes?
- What are the main challenges hindering effective social assistance?
- To what extent are citizens involved in shaping social assistance policies in Kenya?
- How can local practices guide policy-making for effective social protection in Kenya?

## Results

- Cash transfers have a positive but limited effect due to several changes.
- Alternatively, the public relies on informal social protection (ISP) for support.
- ISP mechanisms include: ROSCA/chamas, harambee, nyumba Kumi, and family support.
- ISP is fragile to covariate shocks and stressors, but remains relevant in Kenya.
- Limited public participation in policy-making
- Public participation is perceived as a tokenistic box-ticking exercise (Arnstein, 1969 ladder of participation).



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