



## Newsletter 17: July 2011

### This Edition: “Social Protection for Social Justice” conference

Welcome to the seventeenth issue of the [Centre for Social Protection](#) Newsletter. The CSP is a global network of academics, policy-makers, NGOs and others who are working together to mainstream social protection in development policy and build social protection systems and instruments throughout the developing world that are national, comprehensive, long-term, sustainable, and benefit the poor.

This edition highlights some of the key findings of the recent Centre for Social Protection conference “Social Protection for Social Justice” held at IDS in April.

### ‘TALKING POINT’: “Social Protection for Social Justice” conference

[The Centre for Social Protection](#) hosted a conference titled ‘Social Protection for Social Justice’ at the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, from 13-15 April 2011. To access conference papers and other information click [here](#). With 100 delegates from over 20 countries, many people clearly agree that social protection is more than safety nets and cash transfers, but that insufficient attention has been paid to the politics of social protection and its relationship to social justice. The conference was organised around four themes: (1) Constructing democratic governance: social protection and new social contracts; (2) Social protection and transformation of social and economic drivers of vulnerability; (3) Social protection and sustainable adaptation to climate and environmental change; (4) Social protection, inequality and redistributive justice.

Key lessons emerging from the conference were summarised in a contribution to the Guardian’s ‘Poverty Matters’ blog [Social protection: from handouts to social justice](#). First, social protection reflects the vision that society has about itself - is it based on solidarity and interdependence, or individualism and self-reliance? Second, the social protection agenda has implications for the evolving social contract between governments and citizens - if there is no direct line of accountability between providers and ‘beneficiaries’, as when donors dominate the design and financing of social protection, the potential for mobilising civil society and building government accountability is limited. Third, social protection must be delivered in ways that do not stigmatise people - programmes need to respect the dignity of claimants and empower them to become active citizens rather than passive beneficiaries, using innovative tools like ‘social audits’. Fourth, social protection should be linked to other dimensions of social policy, such as tackling discrimination and social exclusion, since social injustice is often the root cause of poverty. Fifth, the most progressive interventions are underpinned by legislation, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in India or social pensions in several southern African countries, which transforms a charitable gesture into a justiciable right. Many presenters confirmed that, done right, social protection can be a powerful tool for strengthening citizens’ rights and achieving social justice.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWS AND EVENTS:

### NEWS

#### Extension of Social Security Moves a Decisive Step Forward

1-17<sup>th</sup> June, Geneva

**Christina Behrendt** of the ILO writes: The extension of social security to all has moved a decisive step forward. At its 100th Session, the International Labour Conference\* adopted a Resolution on social protection (social security) which reconfirms the role of social security as a human right and a social and economic necessity for countries at all levels of development. This Resolution expresses the commitment of government, employer and workers in the 183 member States of the ILO to step up their efforts to build national social protection floor as part of their national strategies to develop comprehensive social security systems.

The Resolution endorses a two-dimensional strategy to the extension of social security to all. The horizontal dimension aims to implement national Social Protection Floors that provide basic social security guarantees to ensure effective access to health care and a minimum level of income security over the life cycle. The vertical dimension of the strategy seeks to provide progressively higher levels of protection to as many people as possible as soon as possible. The two dimensions are consistent with moving towards compliance with the requirements of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and are of equal importance and should be pursued simultaneously where possible.

The conference stressed the importance of dialogue in: identifying and defining priority policy objectives; the design of the corresponding benefits, entitlements and delivery methods; the allocation of the financial burden between generations and between contributors and tax payers; and the need to find a fair balance between social expectations and financial constraints.

The Conference also noted the need for a new Recommendation complementing existing ILO international social security standards “that would provide flexible but meaningful guidance to member States in building Social Protection Floors within comprehensive social security systems tailored to national circumstances and level of development.” If adopted, this Recommendation would provide a guideline to member States on the implementation of national Social Protection Floors as a means to reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic and social development. In view of the importance of, and the need for national Social Protection Floors, the Governing Body of the ILO decided that the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference in 2012 will discuss this possible Recommendation as a follow-up to the discussion in 2011.

The Chair of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group and Executive Director of UN Women, former President of the Republic of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, stated in her address to the conference that “the extension of social protection, drawing on social protection floors, universalizing social rights and access to basic services is necessary, possible and effective.” The Executive Director of the Social Protection Sector, Mr. Assane Diop, noted that the adoption of the Resolution by the Committee marked a “day of hope ... for the five billion people around the world who do not enjoy the full range of social security benefits, whose pensions are too low, whose access to health care is not sufficient, who have no means of support in case of unemployment” and “for the about one billion people that have virtually no social security and face the risks of life and economic upheavals completely unprotected.”

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\* The 183 member States of the ILO meet annually at the International Labour Conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland. Each member State is represented by a delegation consisting of two government delegates, an employer delegate, a worker delegate and their respective advisers.

#### Declaration of Brasilia on the Social Protection Floor

Representatives of the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico sign a declaration in favour of the Social Protection Floor during the G20 meeting in Brasilia in May 2011.

#### Asia-Pacific governments agree on the need for universal basic social protection as a ‘staircase’ out of poverty and exclusion

Providing universal basic social protection is not only affordable for most developing countries but also makes good economic sense, says an assessment by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) which forms the core of discussions at the 67th ESCAP Commission Session for Asia-Pacific governments being held in Bangkok from 19 to 25 May.

### [Report of the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona](#)

On 31 May, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights submitted her annual report to the Human Rights Council. The report concerns the human rights-based approach to recovery from the global economic and financial crises, with a particular focus on the need for investments in comprehensive rights-based social protection systems during times of austerity and recovery.

The report sets out the human rights framework with which States must comply when designing measures to recover from the crises, and analyses a number of concerning austerity measures, including cuts in funding to social protection systems. It also recommends measures that States should consider taking to facilitate a human rights-based recovery from the crisis. In this regard, the report focuses heavily on the importance of devoting resources to social protection systems, in order to ensure a more equitable and sustainable recovery and protect the poorest and most vulnerable from future crises.

The report is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese via link above. The Independent Expert has also recently completed reports on her country missions to [Ireland](#) and [Vietnam](#), and both reports have a strong focus on the role of social protection in the respective countries.

### [Social Protection: PASGR's Selects Social Protection for Research Theme](#)

The Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR) has selected Social Protection as its initial social policy research theme and will be offering between 7-9 *Policy Research Grants* in the fourth quarter of 2011. According to PASGR, social protection, widely acknowledged as a critical area for policy attention and research priority in Africa, is an extremely broad policy area which provides considerable opportunity to define researchable governance issues. The programme will identify researchable governance issues and specific research projects to be completed by African researchers. A call for *Concept Notes* to identify possible grantees will be issued in September, for further information please click on link above.

### [From Protection to Production: the economic impacts of cash transfers in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

DFID is supporting a new 3-year research programme implemented by FAO/UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO): *From Protection to Production: the economic impacts of cash transfers*. The purpose of this research is to generate evidence on the potential economic development impacts of cash transfers on the rural poor in sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to help fill evidence gaps on how cash transfers can contribute to sustainable poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth at the household and local economy levels. This research will generate robust evidence on economic impacts from cash transfer programmes currently being rolled out in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project is part of the wider *Transfer Project* 'community of practice' which fosters south-to-south learning between researchers, policy-makers and programme managers. For more details click link above to transfer project website or contact Dr Benjamin Davies, FAO: [Benjamin.Davis@fao.org](mailto:Benjamin.Davis@fao.org) or Katie Chapman, DFID Research and Evidence Division: [k-chapman@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:k-chapman@dfid.gov.uk)

## EVENTS

### *Forthcoming:*

### [Social Protection Conference for Central Africa](#)

12-13<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Yaoundé, Cameroon organised by The Africa Platform for Social Protection

The Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP), in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, RECEWAPEC and the Civil Society Platform for Social Protection, Cameroon is convening a conference to discuss and chart a way forward regarding the design and implementation of social protection programmes in Central Africa.

### 'Reforming Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries - Determinants and Strategies of Institutional Change' International Conference

20 - 21 October 2011 Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany

The Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) at the Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany, together with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is convening the International Conference "Reforming Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries". The conference, to be held from 20-21 October 2011 in Bochum, Germany, will provide an international platform for academics, policy-makers, and experts from public and private bodies. It aims at analyzing ongoing reforms of social protection systems in developing countries from both a political economy and legal point of view.

### Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies - A new Good Practice Review

8 July 2011 14:00-16:00 - Overseas Development Institute

This event will launch [Good Practice Review \(GPR\) 11](#) 'Cash transfer programming in emergencies'

### *Recent events*

#### MDGs beyond 2015

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and the development NGO LAPAS, around the Baltic World Talks 2011 were convened as an introduction to (re)thinking the MDGs beyond 2015 with a focus on Human Security - Towards Empowering Development. The conference looked at conceptual innovations such as securitability, security constellations and thresholds which are akin to notions such as human wellbeing and human development, and lend themselves to holistic policy interventions, including for social protection. For more information please click link above and [here](#) or visit [www.gabrielekoehler.net](http://www.gabrielekoehler.net).

#### Global Partners Forum (GPF) on Children affected by HIV and AIDS

3-4 June 2011 - Hosted by UNICEF, New York

The GPF serves as a platform for organisations playing part in the global response to HIV and AIDS to discuss and advance its agenda, particularly with respect to children.

#### South-South Learning Forum 2011: Building Resilient Safety Nets

May 30-June 3, 2011 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

From May 30- June 3rd the World Bank hosted a Social Protection South South Learning Forum focussed on Building Resilient Safety Nets in Low Income Countries and Fragile States. The event attracted over 260 participants from 54 countries and covered a range of design and implementation issues through case studies, key note interventions, field trips and interactive session. Click link above for background materials, including presentations and a specially commissioned '[How To](#)' toolkit, or for more information visit [www.worldbank.org/safetynets](http://www.worldbank.org/safetynets)

#### Financing the cost of social protection

26 - 27 May 2011, Overseas Development Institute, London

The objective of this conference was to promote dialogue between key research and policy agencies working on issues relating to the financing of social protection in Low Income Countries, and to contribute to effective policy responses to the challenge of the provision of large scale social protection provision in the 2010s in a rapidly changing political and economic climate. The link above includes an event report and presentations.

#### Symposium on social protection in Southern Africa: new opportunities for social development

23-25 May 2011 - University of Johannesburg

The Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) hosted an International Symposium themed *Social Protection in Southern Africa: New Opportunities for Social Development*. The symposium brought together specialists from the ILO and other UN and donor agencies, Northern scholars and experts as well as African researchers and practitioners. The programme and brief, which outlines the main findings and concerns coming out of this event, are available via the link above.

### The social and transformative impacts of cash transfers and social protection

6 May 2011 - Overseas Development Institute, London

This event explored findings from recent research by Oxfam GB, Concern, HelpAge International and Save the Children UK that examines the transformative impact of social transfers on gender relations, intra-household dynamics and the state-citizen relations in fragile contexts. The link above includes a video and report of this event.

### Making Social Protection Work for Pro-Poor Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

March 2011 Addis Ababa

In March IDS, together with the World Bank and UK DFID and the Economic Commission for Africa, organised an international workshop in Addis Ababa on 'Making Social Protection Work for Pro-Poor Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation'. The workshop brought together over 100 policy makers and practitioners from the fields of Social Protection, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction to explore synergies between the three different fields for reducing poverty and vulnerability. To find out more about the workshop, including the background paper, presentations and a special video address from Andrew Steer, please visit the conference website via link above. A Synthesis Report of the workshop will be available on the website shortly.

The Adaptive Social Protection in programme (ASP) is hosted by the Centre of Social Protection and funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). For further information, please visit the new ASP [website](#).

### TRAINING

#### Designing and Implementing Social Protection Programmes in Africa

17-30 July ~ Mombasa, Kenya

The Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), together with the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD), is offering a two-week course aimed at providing participants with an in-depth understanding of the conceptual and practical issues involved in the development of social protection programmes in Africa.

#### Designing & Implementing Social Transfer Programmes

23 October - 5 November 2011 ~ Chiang Mai, Thailand

The Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) and the HelpAge East Asia Pacific Regional Development Centre (EAPRDC), together with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance offer a course for policymakers, government officials and practitioners around the world.

#### Social Security Summer School

Turin, Italy, 26 September - 7 October 2011

The International Training Centre of the ILO is holding its first "Social Security Summer School" and will offer its participants a unique opportunity to benefit from a top-class, diversified training package on governance, financing, pension reforms and extension of social protection. Participants will tailor-make their own two-week course by choosing from 16 elective courses on relevant social security topics as well as benefit from the possibility of extensive networking and a dynamic, international learning environment. Participation in this Summer School will enhance the capacity of key actors involved in the social security sector to better advise, design, manage, administer and supervise social security programmes.

The price of the entire workshop including tuition fee, food and accommodation on our campus (excluding travel to/from Turin) amounts to 3,250 EUR. Special discounts are available for participants from developing countries. For further information and applications please click link above or contact the Social Protection Programme of the ITC-ILO [socpro@itcilo.org](mailto:socpro@itcilo.org) for further queries.

### OPPORTUNITIES

#### Call for Expression of Interest 'New Technologies in cash transfer programming'

Cash Learning Partnership(CaLP)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS:

### [Cash transfers, social protection and poverty reduction](#)

Rachel Slater, ODI, International Journal of Social Welfare, Special Issue: Social policy and poverty. Volume 20, Issue 3 (2011). Page 250-259

### [DFID Cash Transfers Evidence Paper, April 2011](#)

This paper by the Department for International Development (DFID), provides a synthesis of current global evidence on the impact of cash transfers in developing countries, and of what works in different contexts, or for different development objectives.

### [Frontiers of Social Protection Brief Number 9: Social Protection in Botswana - a model for Africa?](#)

Philip White and Stephen Devereux, Wahenga.net

### [Healthcare Deserts - Severe healthcare deprivation among children in developing countries](#)

Maricar Garde, Save The Children, UK - see also [blog](#)

### [Human Well-being at the Heart of Economics](#)

A briefing paper from the Global Women's Project written by Julia Wartenberg

### [Migration and Social Protection](#)

This book edited by Rachel Sabates-Wheeler and Rayah Feldman, Palgrave uses conceptual frameworks, policy analysis and empirical studies of migrants to explore the tensions between migrants' need for protection and the practices and policies which may lead to such protection being denied.

### [Social Cash Transfers: a useful Instrument in Development Cooperation?](#)

Susan Javad, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

### [Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa: Getting the Politics Right](#)

Miguel Niño-Zarazúa, Armando Barrientos, Samuel Hickey and David Hulme, University of Manchester, UK

### [Social transfers and chronic poverty: Objectives, design reach and impact](#)

A new report from the [Chronic Poverty Research Centre](#) finds that emerging social assistance programmes in developing countries directly or indirectly aim to tackle chronic poverty, for instance, by strengthening the productive capacity of households in poverty.

### [Tackling chronic poverty: The policy implications of research on chronic poverty and poverty dynamics](#)

A major new report by the [Chronic Poverty Research Centre](#) identifies social protection as an entry-point to address more difficult policy agendas of making growth work for the chronically poor and advancing a process of progressive social change.

### [The role of social protection programmes in supporting education in conflict-affected situations](#)

R. Holmes, ODI, PROSPECTS: Volume 41, Issue 2 (2011), Page 223-236

### [Walking the Talk: Cash Transfers and Gender Dynamics](#)

A new report by Concern Worldwide and Oxfam GB, looks at the impacts of cash transfers (CTs) on gender dynamics both within households and communities

## New Pension Watch Briefing Series

From HelpAge International

### The price of income security in older age: Cost of a universal pension in 50 low- and middle-income countries

This briefing by Charles Knox-Vydmanov, HelpAge International considers the cost of universal social pensions in 50 low- and middle- income countries under a range of scenarios.

### Strengthening state-citizen relations in fragile contexts: The role of cash transfers

Dr Wale Osofisan, HelpAge International examines the role of cash transfers in strengthening state-citizen relations in the context of long-term development in fragile states and situations.

### Financing social pensions in low- and middle-income countries

Lara Newson and Astrid Walker Bourne, HelpAge International present an overview of the different options available to finance new social pension schemes or to scale up existing ones.

### Good practice in the development of management information systems for social protection

This briefing by Richard Chirchir with the support of Stephen Kidd, Development Pathways, aims to fill a gap in the literature on management information systems (MISs) by examining good practice in their design for social protection.

### Challenges and opportunities for age verification in low- and middle-income countries

Andrea McPherson, HelpAge International, focuses on practical considerations for the design and implementation of new registration systems.

## **SECRETARIAT:**

The secretariat would like to wish Saul Butters good luck in his new role with Concern Worldwide in the DRC. Thank you Saul for all your hard work and dedication provided to the Centre for Social Protection and newsletter over the past two years. Liz O'Brien has taken over from Saul in coordinating the newsletter.

The Centre for Social Protection network now has over 900 members. If you have events, research, or publications to promote, or are looking for partners or people with particular skills, send us an email and we will include it in future newsletters and post it on the Centre website. If you know others who you think would want to be part of the Centre, please ask them to email [socialprotection@ids.ac.uk](mailto:socialprotection@ids.ac.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

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