



**Centre for
Social Protection**

Newsletter 30: January 2015

Welcome to the thirtieth 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.

CSP NEWS

The Centre for Social Protection is looking for a new colleague!

As IDS approaches its 50th Anniversary it is embarking on an exciting new strategic research agenda focusing on reducing inequality, accelerating environmental sustainability and building inclusive and secure societies. We are seeking to appoint new Fellows to join us at this exciting time of momentum and change, who bring cutting-edge and forward looking research interests and agendas to these broad, cross-cutting IDS themes. There is a specific opening for a Research Fellow in the area of rural futures and social protection.

Candidates who can provide leadership and work related to the Centre for Social Protection are encouraged to apply. Apart from social protection, related areas of research will also be considered, including employment, food security and nutrition, rural and urban livelihoods, and the qualitative and quantitative analysis of poverty and inequality. Language abilities beyond English, especially French, Spanish and/or Portuguese, will be a particular advantage for this post.
Closing date: 2 February 2015

The Centre for Social Protection short course 'Social Protection: policies, programmes and evidence' is still open for applications!

The Centre for Social Protection (CSP) will be offering a second round of our short course 'Social Protection: policies, programmes and evidence'. This 4-day course focuses on getting you up to speed with current knowledge, evidence and practice of social protection. It offers a unique opportunity for those already working on social protection or who will be working in the field in the future to broaden their knowledge base and gain critical insight into the most recent thinking about social protection.

The course will be held at IDS in Brighton UK from **6-9 July 2015**. Further details on the course can be found on our website www.ids.ac.uk/csp-course. If you have any queries please contact us at CSPcourse@ids.ac.uk. **The deadline for application is 30 January 2015**

'TALKING POINT'

Social protection is incontrovertibly one of the success stories of development policy in the early 21st century. The rapid rise of social protection raises questions about whether its current prominence will be sustained, or whether it will turn out to be just another development fad that declines and ultimately disappears. If social protection does remain high on the agenda, what trajectory will it follow, which actors will drive it forward and what will be the main

issues and challenges it faces? A recent CSP research project - in which many of you participated - attempted to find some answers to the question: *Where next for social protection?*

Following a combination of literature review, key informant interviews, online discussion and forecasting workshops, findings include:

Social protection is likely to experience further expansion in the future. A vote at the start of the online discussion event on whether participants believe that social protection will grow, stabilise or decline in the next 5-10 years revealed that no less than 87% predicted that social protection will continue to grow, 10% thought it will stabilise at its current level, and only 3% believed that it will start to decline from its present position on the development policy agenda. This positive projection was confirmed in the interviews and workshops.

Social protection will become increasingly systems-based, especially in middle-income countries. Projects and programmes will become components of integrated systems with linkages to other social and economic sectors and (where appropriate) harmonised financial and technical support from development partners. Challenges of affordability and extending coverage will persist in low-income countries - there might even be reversals in unfavourable economic and political contexts.

Social protection will continue to be shaped by economic shocks and political crises, whether at national, regional or global level. They will motivate further investment in building systems to protect people against the consequences of these shocks or may undermine the deepening of social protection systems - this could go either way.

Social protection will increasingly become a response to income inequality and social inequities rather than being driven by poverty and demographic vulnerabilities only. It is not yet clear whether rights-based approaches towards universal provision underpinned by justiciable legislation, such as the Social Protection Floor, will gain traction globally or only in certain countries.

The governance of social protection will gain increasing attention, particularly with respect to such issues as decentralised programming, the role of civil society, and bottom-up social accountability mechanisms. Development partners will need to redefine their role, probably moving away from financing social protection projects directly and building the evidence base on impacts, towards innovative approaches to technical support and building national capacities.

But ultimately, **the direction that social protection takes will vary from country to country and will shift over time**, as capacities to deliver fluctuate and as governments and political ideologies change. Better understanding of political processes around social protection, and innovative approaches to building institutional capacity, are essential to consolidate progress and to exploit both 'progressive' periods and times of austerity as windows of opportunity for reshaping social protection, as it moves forward into its next phase.

[A policy report with all findings and policy brief will be published in March/April.]

SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWS AND EVENTS:

NEWS

DAI, IDS and HTSPE awarded grant from EC for services on social transfers

A consortium of DAI, IDS (the Centre for Social Protection) and HTSPE was awarded a contract for the provision of Technical and Advisory Services for Social Transfers (ASiST 3) by the European Commission. This 4-year project seeks increase the impact, quality, coverage and sustainability of social transfer schemes for strengthened food and nutrition security through building capacity to design sustainable and inclusive social transfers programmes, developing a body of knowledge and supporting the political dimension at country and international level. The services are demand-driven, initiated by requests that originate from EU delegations (EUDs) that have selected food and nutrition security, rural development and sustainable agriculture as one of their focal sectors in their national indicative programmes (NIPs).

RESEARCH UPDATES

European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant for 'Aiding Social Protection' Research

Andrew Fischer, Associate Professor of Development Studies at ISS, has won the European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant in the 2014 round. His grant proposal is on the Political Economy of Externally Financing Domestic Social Policy in Developing Countries ('Aiding Social Protection' for short). The research proposal explores the political economy of international development assistance directed towards social expenditures, examined through the lens of a particular financial quandary that has been ignored in the literature despite having important economic and political repercussions. The grant includes three fully funded PhD researcher positions which will be advertised in the new year.

Welfare State and Social Democracy - Video clip (3.5 minutes)

This short and innovative video clip by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's Academy for Social Democracy explains the fundamental connection between the welfare state and social democracy.

EVENTS

Recent:

Thanks Otto! 125 years of pensions

28-29 October 2014, Allianz Forum, Berlin, Germany

This two day conference brought together experts from the field of social protection and pensions to debate the relevance of the pensions in the context of demographic ageing, rising inequality and changing labour markets. Conference participants signed up to the Berlin Communiqué, which sees the progressive realization of a social protection floor including reliable pensions as a prerequisite for being able to lead a dignified life in old age. The full Communiqué, conference presentations, videos and articles are available to download.

OPPORTUNITIES

Income Security Policy Adviser - HelpAge International (closing 25th January)

HelpAge is seeking a policy adviser to guide its global and national-level policy influencing on income security in older age. This policy work will adopt an integrated approach to income security in older age, encompassing social protection, work, family support, assets and savings. It will align with and strengthen HelpAge's well-established work on social protection by deepening the evidence base on issues affecting income in older age, such as labour force discrimination, retirement policy, land and property rights and financial inclusion.

Social Protection Policy Adviser - HelpAge International (closing 1st February)

HelpAge is seeking a policy adviser (maternity cover) to support its global policy work on social protection and social pensions. Social protection has been a major area of policy influencing for HelpAge for more than a decade, and is central to HelpAge's organisational strategy to 2020. This post will support the delivery of research, learning and evidence and contribute to the development of policy positions and external influencing on social protection in older age.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Researching the linkages between social protection and children's care in Ghana

Family for Every Child, Centre for Social Protection and Challenging Heights report, October 2014, Keetie Roelen, Helen Karki Chettri

This report investigates the links between child wellbeing, children's care, family cohesion and the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme

(LEAP). The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme (LEAP), a national social protection scheme, aims to reduce extreme poverty in the country and is centred on providing cash transfers to the most vulnerable.

Do remittances and social assistance have different impacts on expenditure patterns of recipient households? The Moldovan case

UNU-MERIT working paper series 2014-072, Jennifer Waidler, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Franziska Gassmann and Melissa Siegel

Do remittances and social assistance have different impacts on household expenditure patterns? Using data from a nationally representative household survey conducted in Moldova in 2011, this paper assesses the impact both types of transfers have on household expenditure patterns. This research highlights that income source matters and that different incomes may have different poverty impacts. The fact that the two transfers are spent in different ways means that, to some extent, social assistance and remittances are complements rather than substitutes.

HIV and Social Protection

UNAIDS Guidance Note 2014

This note was prepared by the UNAIDS Secretariat in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Working Group on HIV and Social Protection, Care and Support. It draws upon the expertise of UNAIDS and the experience of its Cosponsors and partners on HIV and social protection. This Guidance Note provides information on the recommended investments in HIV and social protection. It also highlights the definitions, principles, evidence and practices for effective HIV and social protection programming. The guidance in this document applies to different population groups and calls for particular attention to specific groups, including key populations.

How to Stop a Disaster Becoming a Tragedy: CLP's approach to Reducing the Vulnerability of the Poorest in the Chars of North-West Bangladesh

Chars Livelihoods Programme brief, October 2014, M. Pritchard

This brief outlines the extreme vulnerability of the people who live on the *char* islands of northern Bangladesh, and how the Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) is working in these communities to create sustainable livelihoods through a holistic package of support.

Is There an 'Asian Welfare State Model'?

FES Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia, 2014, Gabrielle Koehler

This paper explores the nature of welfare states observed in Asia and draws references to commitments and practices with regard to democracy and social justice (Democratic Developmental Welfare State). Furthermore, it offers various assessment hypotheses which are useful for the post-2015 development debate.

Poverty and Vulnerability Amid Plenty: Perspectives of People in the Highland Forested Region of Odisha, India

Journal of Poverty, December 2014, Dipankar Datta, Sisir Kanta Pradhan & Dilip Chhotaray.

The dichotomy of poverty amid plenty paints a complex governance and policy framework from which to develop an inclusive growth agenda and avoid proven tensions between lagging regions and growth centers. Such tensions are often manifested in conflicts and masked poverty, which are camouflaged by macroindices of economic growth. Spatial disparity is evident in Odisha's highland forested region despite special federal policies and programs, prompting the need to find answers and address policy contradictions, implementation deficiencies, and the appropriateness of governance frameworks. This article unravels these issues by highlighting the perceptions of local communities in the discussion about lagging regions.

Promoting Social Protection Floors for All - Time for Action (leaflet)

ILO Social Protection Dept.

An ILO leaflet calling for action and promoting social protection floors for all.

Addressing the Global Health Crisis: Universal Health Protection Policies

ILO Social Protection policy papers 13, 2014, ILO Social Protection Dept.

This policy paper: (i) examines the dimensions of the global health crisis based on severe deficits in health protection and limited access to needed health care; (ii) presents the extent of the health crisis at global, regional and national level as well as rural/urban divergences within countries and their root causes; (iii) suggests policy options to address the health protection crisis using the framework of national social protection floors by focusing on inclusive legislation and

adequate financing as well as making quality services available and providing financial protection; (iv) concludes that progressing towards universal health protection is possible by developing a three step approach that yields highest rates of returns in terms of sustainability, economic growth and equity.

Social protection for older persons: Key policy trends and statistics

ILO Social Protection policy papers 11, 2014, International Labour Office Social Protection Dept.

This policy paper: (i) provides a global overview of the organization of pension systems, their coverage and benefits, as well as public expenditures on social security, in 178 countries; (ii) analyses trends and recent policies, e.g. extension of coverage in a large number of low- and middle-income countries; (iii) presents the negative impacts of fiscal consolidation and adjustment measures in a number of higher-income economies; and (iv) calls for the expansion of social protection in pursuit of crisis recovery, inclusive development and social justice.

Social Protection and an Enabling Environment for the Right to Adequate Food

FAO Right to Food thematic study 5, 2014, Shoghag Sherry Ajemian

The document is part of a [series of thematic studies](#) released by FAO's Right to Food team looking at some of the main topics in food security from the lens of the Right to Food Guidelines. The studies have fed into a synthesis report that informed the World Committee on Food Security's discussion on ten years of implementation of the Guidelines. This thematic study takes a retrospective glance at social protection related developments from 2004 to 2014 considering the recommendations of Guidelines 8, 13, 14 and measures for international cooperation and partnership for promoting the right to adequate food. It presents the trajectory of a human rights-based approach to social protection across policy spaces and food security intervention contexts.

SECRETARIAT:

The Centre for Social Protection network now has over 1000 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 look to include it in future newsletters and e-mails. If you know others who you think would want to be part of the Centre, please ask them to email socialprotection@ids.ac.uk to be added to the mailing list.

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