



Newsletter 8: March 2009
Migration and Social Protection

Welcome to the eighth issue of the quarterly Newsletter from the [Centre for Social Protection](#). 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. In this issue we focus on the specific social protection needs and concerns of migrants. We also feature the work of the Africa Civil Society Platform on Social Protection.

'TALKING POINT' : MIGRATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Attitudes to migration are shifting. Seen in the past as a failure of development, there is increasing recognition that in certain circumstances, migration can contribute to development and the alleviation of poverty. Migration is arguably one of the most important social risk management instruments. It is a strategy by which individuals, families and whole populations can escape exposure to risk by moving from a risk-prone region to a safer region. This may be in response to natural hazards, physical conflict or poverty, the risk of destitution and other economic shocks. At the same time migration does not eliminate the need to handle the many other risks of life (such as sickness or unemployment). On one level, then, international migration itself can be seen as a mechanism for social protection, as it often provides migrants with access to more lucrative job markets, which may in turn improve the financial security of migrants and their families. However, international migration also exposes migrants, in particular those from the Global South, to new risks that must be met by further social protection strategies.

The Migration DRC (see details below), in recent research conducted with the World Bank, has identified four essential components of social protection for international labour migrants. These include access to formal social security programmes in host countries, the portability of earned benefits (such as pensions), the existence of safe and fair labour market conditions in host countries, and migrants' access to informal social support networks. The analysis shows various examples of how different regional blocks and countries deal with formal social protection and portability. There is a clear imbalance in the nature of access to social protection for North-South migrants and South-South migrants. The policy challenge is to make South-South migration safer for migrants in order to maximize benefits from this important livelihood strategy.

Another recent Migration DRC research project, studying Malawians who migrated to the UK and South Africa - many of who fit into the category of irregular migrants at some point during their time abroad - explores whether or not legal status affects the success of temporary labour migration as a poverty reduction strategy. The study found that, although there is ambiguity between different categories of legal and irregular migrants, international migrants often have a plethora of alternative strategies to access international labour markets and to achieve positive outcomes from their overseas migration. Migrants' access to formal state services in their host countries varied, but access to transnational social networks arguably served as migrants' main 'safety net' against the risks posed by international migration.

The Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty (Migration DRC) has been investigating ways to improve social protection for international migrants. It aims "*to promote new policy approaches that will help to maximize the potential benefits of migration for poor people, whilst minimizing its risks and costs*". The DRC is managed by a core team at the University of Sussex with a partnership of eight institutions in five countries - Bangladesh, Ghana, Albania, Egypt and the UK. The Centre produces a number of different publications including a briefing paper series and a working paper series. All these papers are available to download for free from this site: <http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/index.html>

RELATED RESOURCES ON MIGRATION:

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS:

Jon Sward and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler, '[Social Protection of Migrants from the Global South: Protection gaps and strategies to 'self-insure'](#)', Migration DRC Briefing Paper No.14, October 2008

Jon Sward and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler, '[Legality, Migration and Poverty: Legal Status and Temporary Labour Migration'](#), Migration DRC Briefing Paper No.15, November 2008

Avato, J., J. Koettl and R. Sabates-Wheeler: (2009). 'Social Security Regimes, Global Estimates and Good Practices: The Status of Social Protection for International Migrants', paper available from authors

Sabates-Wheeler, R. and Ian Macauslan 2008), '[Migration and Social Protection: Exposing Problem of Access'](#), *Development* 50.4, Society for International Development

WEBSITES:

International Migration Branch, ILO (MIGRANT)

The International Migration Branch is a department of the International Labour Organization whose goal is to assist countries in policy formulation and in establishing or strengthening legislation, administrative measures, structures and practices for effective management of labour migration. The activities of MIGRANT focus on three component objectives:

- protecting the rights of migrant workers and promoting their integration in countries of destination and countries of origin
- forging an international consensus on how to manage migration
- improving the knowledge base on international migration

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM is an intergovernmental body aiming to: "assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants".

Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, University of Sussex (DRC)

The Migration DRC is a partnership between institutions in South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. It aims to promote new policy approaches that will help to maximize the potential benefits of migration for poor people, whilst minimizing its risks and costs. It examines migration flows in which poor people themselves are most represented and how migration impacts variously on their livelihoods, rights and levels of social protection. This knowledge is also shared directly with poor migrants. The DRC's research falls under three main themes:

- Impacts of migration of poverty and livelihoods
- Changing dynamics of migration
- New initiatives on international migration

South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN)

Network for advocacy and research on migration issues in South Asian countries. SAMReN's aims include:

- exchanging information on the nature and magnitude of migration flows
- developing a database to assist governments in taking appropriate policy measures
- engaging in policy advocacy and providing information and options to policy makers at national and regional levels
- developing an information resource base of migration literature
- promoting collaborative research
- developing the capacity of young academics, professionals and NGOs through training, fellowships, and other means

Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan Washington-based think-tank devoted to the study of national and international migration and refugee policies. MPI provides analysis, development, and evaluation of migration and refugee policies at the local, national, and international levels. Working closely with researchers and policymakers, MPI aims to: 1) promote a better understanding of migration trends and their effects on the countries and communities that send or receive migrants, 2) provide a forum for exchange of information on and discussion of migration policies in the United States and abroad 3) analyse the factors that contribute to or detract from the international protection of refugees, and 4) identify, study, and evaluate ways of bringing about the fuller integration of refugees and migrants into their new communities

Asian Research Center for Migration, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (ARCM)

The Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM) at Chulalongkorn University undertakes research and documents regional migratory movements and their impact in Southeast Asia. It acts as a centralized source of migration-related information for Thailand and to a lesser degree, the South-East Asia region, and conducts research on key migration topics, including migrant workers, refugees and other trans-border movements of people.

Sussex Centre for Migration Research

Current research in the Centre includes the following externally funded projects:

Albanian migration to Italy and Greece

Transreede Project: transnational migration, return and development in West Africa

- British-Australian post-war migration project
- Transnational communities: Bosnian and Eritrean exiles
- The changing contexts of migration: the role of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean
- Gender, nation and identity in narratives of exile and return brain drain and development

Southern African Migration Project (SAMP)

Research programme designed to "facilitate the formulation and implementation" of new policy initiatives on cross-border population migration in the Southern Africa region. The Southern African Migration Project is a partnership between Queen's University in Canada, the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa), the University of Zimbabwe, Sechaba Consultants (Lesotho) and Arquivo do Património Cultural (ARPAC, Mozambique).

TRAINING:

Maastricht University: Research and training on Migration and Development

In 2009 the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG) together with a consortium of research partners and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) will implement an extensive project on Migration and Development. Migration and Development has been gaining in importance on a global, regional and national level. The Netherlands became an international forerunner in 2004, when the MFA in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice published a policy paper on 'Development and Migration'. The leading question in this policy is: how to optimize the developmental impact of migration by stimulating the positive effect of migration and mitigating the negative ones. By a targeted research programme, conferences, policy debates and roundtables, this partnership aims to contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

MGSoG offers two Master's programmes that focus on migration policies:

MSc in Public Policy and Human Development – Specialization in Migration Studies (full-time)

Master in European Migration Policies (part-time)

Training: University of London presents MSc programme in Migration, Mobility and Development, UK

The MSc in Migration, Mobility and Development will focus attention on the political economy of migration from a historical perspective, major trends in migration theories, and different forms of and approaches to the study of migration and displacement. The programme draws on the expertise of staff in development, migration and forced migration contexts from the Development Studies department, and encourages inter-disciplinary dialogue with other relevant departments and centres

within SOAS.

MIGRATION PUBLICATIONS:

Climate change and displacement M. Couldrey; M. Herson (2008) Issue 31, Refugee Studies centre

In response to growing climate change pressures on landscapes and livelihoods, people are moving and adapting. Evidence points towards climate and environmentally induced migration becoming one of the major policy challenges of this century. This review, made of 31 articles, analyses a range of climate and migration related issues which focus on case studies in Central Asia, Kenya, Kiribati, Ghana, Alaska and Bangladesh, among others.

Independent child migration: introducing children's perspectives

Much of the recent research on child migration has focused on children who face particularly dire situations, including those who are coerced into migration and face highly exploitative conditions of labour at their destinations. In response, this short policy brief highlights the views of migrant children in its work, in order to gain a better understanding of why children migrate and what difficulties they face in relation to their migrant status.

Social Protection and Migration in China: What Can Protect Migrants from Economic Uncertainty? Lina Song Simon Appleton Discussion Paper No. 3594 IZA, July 2008

Job-related welfare entitlements are common in China. Migrants who do not hold urban registration are, in principle, not entitled to job-related welfare even if they are employees in the State sector. The official explanation is that rural-urban migrants are allocated access to farm land in their rural origins, and hence their welfare rights and security are covered by this entitlement to the use of land. In this paper, the authors look at whether migrants still benefited from these opportunities.

Demographics and climate change: future trends and their policy implications for migration R. Black; D. Kniveton; R. Skeldon, Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, University of Sussex, 2008

This working paper seeks to explore the potential impact of future demographic and climate change on migration patterns in developing countries, in order to identify policy implications for international development and evidence gaps that could be plugged with appropriate new research.

EVENTS:

Migration and Social Protection: Exploring Issues of Portability and Access 5-6 November 2008, Conference

Conference Centre Bramber House, University of Sussex

The Migration DRC has been leading innovative research in the field of Migration and Social Protection. Part of this work investigates legal and physical access to social security for migrants from a number of African countries to the UK and also regional migration within SADC and ECOWAS. Other work focuses on the coping strategies of migrants at both international and country levels.

The conference in November brought together over 40 international participants, including academics and practitioners, as well as policymakers from both governmental and international bodies. The event profiled current research on migration and social protection, including Migration DRC research, reviewed good practice and explored policy options in this area.

To read the full conference report, please follow the following link:

<http://www.migrationdrc.org/news/reports/migration&socialprotection/index.html>

THIS EDITIONS FEATURED ORGANISATION: THE AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

African governments made far-reaching commitments on social protection during the Conference of Ministers in charge of social development 27-31 October 2008 Windhoek, Namibia at which they agreed the **Social Policy Framework for Africa** (SPF). The role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in promoting and implementing the commitments of the SPF are clearly spelt out. Throughout 2008 CSOs played a major role in the "Livingstone 2" process of national consultations and regional expert meetings on "Investing in Social Protection in Africa". The momentum created by the adoption of the Social Policy Framework presents an opportunity for civil society engagement that cannot be missed.

Activists from 23 African countries launched the Africa Civil Society Platform on Social Protection in Nairobi in September and their initial six month plan (October 2008 – March 2009) for activities - promoting the SPF, initiating debate on the national “minimum package”, engaging with government and parliamentarians, building coalitions and strengthening networking on social protection at national and regional level – is underway. A coordinator has been recruited and two Training of Trainers events in February (Nairobi) and March (Accra) will train more than 50 CSO representatives as trainers on social protection to help take forward the social protection agenda.

Coordinator: [Edmond Odaba](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS:

[In Memoriam: Antonina "Ka Ester" Tina, PATAMABA President](#)

It is with deep sadness that we announce the untimely death of Antonina "Ka Ester" Tina, President of PATAMABA (National Network of Informal Workers). We hope that the HomeNet, WIEGO, UNIFEM, ILO, FES, FTA, Oxfam and other networks, especially those who were fortunate enough to have met her, will also find ways to remember her and to celebrate her life, much of which was spent in the service of the working poor.

[Golden Jubilee Conference of the Indian Society for Labour Economics, 12- 15 January 2009, Lucknow.](#)

Over 200 papers were presented at the 50th Annual conference of the ISLE, including several on social protection and related issues such as migration, decent work, social security, ageing. The papers were mostly related to experience in South Asia, including one paper on migration and social protection in South Africa. Details of the conference and the papers presented can be had from isle.iile@gmail.com

[Feminist Economics Call for Papers A special issue on Gender and International Migration](#) Guest Editors Lourdes Benería, Carmen Diana Deere, and Naila Kabeer
From the last decades of the 20th century to the present, globalization and the spread of neoliberal policies across countries have resulted in an unprecedented rise in the asymmetrical mobility between capital and labour. International migration has become a topic of intense political debate due to, among other factors, the tension between the increase in the numbers of international migrants and the obstacles faced by them to enter and settle where they choose to work and live. These tensions have raised important issues - economic, social, cultural, and political - that require a gender perspective. This special issue of Feminist Economics intends to motivate both research and action, generating a discussion on the ways in which gender is an important dimension from which general and specific migration issues can be analyzed. We expect theoretical contributions as well as empirical analyses. The following themes are of particular interest:

- Rethinking theory on labour and capital mobility
- Periodization of migration and its feminization processes
- The care economy, women, and migration
- The globalization of reproduction and transnational mothering
- What happens to the children left behind?
- Remittances and development: the role of women
- Migration and "the nomad worker"
- Poverty and migration
- The challenges of social protection for migrant workers
- Internal versus international migration
- Engendering national/regional immigration policy and political debates

Deadline for abstracts: 15 September 2009. Papers will be due in May 2010. Please direct queries and abstracts (500 words maximum) to Guest Editors Lourdes Benería (lb21@cornell.edu) and Naila Kabeer (N.Kabeer@ids.ac.uk). Final papers (after approval of abstracts) should be submitted to Feminist Economics through the submissions website (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rfec>). Questions about these procedures may be sent to feministeconomics@rice.edu, +1.713.348.4083 (phone), or +1.713.348.5495 (fax). Please note that the annual conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics, being held in Boston, June 26-28, 2009, will have gender and migration as one of its themes. To submit a paper for the conference, go to <http://www.iaffe.org>.

UPDATE FROM THE SPA PROGRAMME

Studies on Migration under the Social Protection in Asia programme

Issues of social protection of migrant populations have been one of the important themes of SPA Research supported by Ford Foundation and IDRC Canada. This three year research programme has identified research organisations in China and Vietnam to undertake research on the theme of migration.

“Social Protection for Rural-Urban Migrants in An Era of Increasing Population Mobility and Socioeconomic Transformation: Experiences of Vietnam and China Compared” is being carried out by the Institute for Social Development Studies in Vietnam and Center for Population and Development Research, Fujian Normal University, China. The project focuses on three core themes in Vietnam and China: (i) the needs of migrants for social protection in the context of increasing population mobility caused by the market reforms; (ii) policies and practices of social protection – from ad hoc intervention to institutional response; and (iii) policy and theoretical implications. Research teams are carrying out literature review, and gathering existing data sets for analysis and sample survey in various provinces of Vietnam and China

Another research project in China titled “**Moving Ahead: Social Protection in the Era of Mobility**” by the Institute for Social Development and Public Policy, Beijing Normal University attempts to understand how mobility affects traditional, formal and individual social protection policies. The research team has completed a review of literature paper and has gathered one round of data from the field.

Research on Migration in India by Institute for Human Development

Researchers at IHD have initiated two research projects with migrants in the city of Delhi. The first one , “**Impact of Migrants in Promoting MDGs at the Place of Origin – A Gender Perspective**” looks at the role played by migrants on the overall development of families and communities in their places of origin. The study, through sample survey and case studies, identifies the contribution of migrant informal sector workers living in the slums of the city of Delhi to the place of their origin. The second study on the “**Work and Livelihoods of the Poor in National Capital Region of Delhi**” attempts to map the livelihood profile of migrants in the city of Delhi and the national capital region, and identifies the scope for social protection mechanisms and strategies for enhancing livelihoods and decent work in the identified sector.

[More information can be found on the SPA website](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Social Protection in Africa

The Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP) is pleased to announce the publication by Edward Elgar Publishing of ***Social Protection in Africa*** by Frank Ellis, Stephen Devereux and Philip White.

[Bailing out the World's Poorest](#) *Martin Ravallion* Policy Research Working Paper 4763

While the 2008 financial crisis is global in nature, it is likely to have heterogeneous welfare impacts within the developing world, with some countries, and some people, more vulnerable than others. The paper points out some mistakes in past crisis responses and identifies key design features for safety net programs that can help compensate for the likely welfare losses in the short-term while also promoting longer-term recovery.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

[Climate Change, adaptation and migration](#) 24th April 2009

Royal Geographical Society's Climate Change Research Group Easter meeting Geography Resource Centre, Department of Geography, University of Sussex

[Workshop on Shelter Security and Social Protection for the Urban Poor and the Migrants in Asia](#) February 11-13, 2009 - at Ahmedabad, India

The thematic workshop titled will be held at CEPT University and organized by CEPT University and the MHT SEWA under the SPA programme. The papers presented and discussions at this workshop would explore the links of the Shelter security with access to various urban services, namely water supply, sanitation,

transport, health care, education, social security, social assistance and livelihood security. Besides the research partners from India, China, and Vietnam, participants from the South Asian region will be attending the workshop.

[Third Annual Poverty and Social Protection Conference](#), 11-13 March 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

The Tomorrow People Organization is organizing their Third Annual Poverty and Social Protection Conference in Bangkok on 11-13 March 2009. The conference will focus on issues of poverty and its eradication, social inequality, race relations and policy management and mismanagement with an international perspective.

[Future Agricultures Consortium International Conference on Seasonality](#) 8-10 July, 2009 Institute of Development Studies Brighton, UK

The Future Agricultures Consortium, together with the Centre for Social Protection, is convening a 3-day conference on Seasonality, to be held on Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th July 2009 at IDS Sussex. Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the Future Agricultures Consortium operates as an international partnership of research institutions, working together to encourage critical debate and policy dialogue on the challenges of establishing and sustaining pro-poor agricultural growth in Africa, through stakeholder-led policy dialogues on future scenarios for agriculture, informed by in-depth field research. Call for Papers: Abstracts of proposed papers (500 words) are due by April 1st, 2009. Applicants will be notified by April 31st. Complete papers are due by May 31st 2009. **Abstracts and papers should be sent to:**

Stephen Devereux at s.devereux@ids.ac.uk and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler at r.sabates-wheeler@ids.ac.uk All other enquiries should be addressed to Deborah Shenton: seasonality@ids.ac.uk;

NEXT EDITION:

The next newsletter will focus on Social Protection and Seasonality .If you have events, research, or publications to promote on this subject or any other related to Social Protection, or are looking for partners or people with particular skills, send me an email and I will include it in future newsletters and post it on the Centre website.

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