Welcome to the twentie\textsuperscript{th} 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.

\textbf{‘TALKING POINT’}

In this month’s ‘Talking Point’, Vincent Gitz, based at FAO as HLPE Coordinator, explains how the reform of the Committee on World Food Security included establishing a ‘High Level Panel of Experts’, that has recently commissioned a report on ‘Social Protection for Food Security’.

Food insecurity is a persistent global challenge, punctuated by crises such as the 2011 famine in Somalia. It has many complex and interdependent underlying causes, from the local to international levels. However, the fragmentation of expert debates by academic disciplines and by knowledge sources is often detrimental to strong, effective policy decisions, which need an integrated approach.

The recent reform of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) represents a fundamental change in the international governance of food security and nutrition. The CFS is the central international and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, where policies can be designed, interventions can be coordinated, options and experiences can be shared and decisions at different levels can be prepared. The CFS reform included creating a new science-policy interface, the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), to provide elaboration and clarification on difficult and sometimes controversial issues among an enlarged range of knowledge-holders, including CSOs, NGOs and the private sector as well as academics and researchers.

The HLPE is intended to improve the robustness of food security policy-making by providing credible, comprehensive, evidence-based analysis and advice. Though mandated by the CFS, HLPE reports are independent and are not submitted to governmental review, nor to clearance by UN organisations. The elaboration of each report includes two open electronic consultations and an academic peer review. In its first year of work the HLPE produced two reports: ‘Price Volatility and Food Security’, and ‘Land Tenure and International Investment in Agriculture’. Currently, the 3rd and 4th HLPE reports are in preparation: ‘Food Security and Climate Change’, and ‘Social Protection for Food Security’.

The CFS request to the HLPE was to conduct a study on social protection that would assess “ways to lessen vulnerability through social and productive safety nets programs and policies with respect to food and nutritional security”. The report-writing team includes Stephen Devereux from the Institute of Development Studies and CSP, Wenche Barth Eide from the University of Oslo, John Hoddinott from IFPRI, Nora Lustig from Tulane University, and Kalanidhi Subbarao from the World Bank. The report elaborates the linkages between disaggregated sources of food insecurity and social protection responses. The authors adopt a rights-based approach, building on the right to food and the right to social security. Recommendations will highlight the need for social protection to be legislated and will advocate for good practice in implementation, especially accountability mechanisms such as social audits and grievance
procedures. The final report will be released to the CFS in July 2012.

For more on the CFS and HLPE, and to download HLPE reports, see: [www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe).

**SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWS AND EVENTS:**

**NEWS**

**Adaptive Social Protection email discussions**
The ASP Programme is inviting people working on social protection, climate change adaptation or disaster risk reduction to take part in a special series of email discussions on a range of Adaptive Social Protection topics from sharing examples of good practice to debating the potential trade-offs of integration. The discussion will take place from 23rd May to 1st June - email [asp@ids.ac.uk](mailto:asp@ids.ac.uk) to sign up for the discussion.

**CIPS newsletter on social protection in Portuguese-speaking countries**
CIPS - Information Centre on Social Protection has been launched. CIPS is a website that supports actors working on social protection in eight Portuguese-speaking countries by providing information, documentation and other relevant resources.

**End of the Consultation Phase - Communication on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation**
The public consultation process as part of the preparation of the EU Communication on social protection ended on the 18th of April. The consultation report and the individual contributions have been published in EuropeAid's public consultations webpage: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/6404_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/6404_en.htm)

**OAS and ILO: joint statement on social protection and decent work**
The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Labour Organization (ILO) released a joint statement acknowledging their role as partners in the use of the Inter-American Social Protection Network’s (IASPN) tools for the promotion of cooperation that guarantees decent work commitments in the Americas and provides effective social protection for all.

**Uganda’s Social Protection Programme Dialogue on Equality of Opportunity**
The Expanding Social Protection Programme in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Economic Policy Research Centre hosted a national dialogue on *Inclusive Socio-Economic Transformation for Uganda: The Role of Social Protection* on April 19, 2012 in Kampala. The preliminary findings of two studies, one on risk and vulnerability, and the other on equality of opportunity were released at the event. For further information please contact [The Expanding Social Protection Programme](http://www.frontier.ac.ug).

**UNICEF launches its first global Social Protection Strategic Framework**
This document presents UNICEF’s approach to social protection, makes the case for child-sensitive interventions, promotes the development and strengthening of integrated social protection systems, discusses the importance of a multi-sector approach that maximizes linkages for improving sector outcomes, and discusses current debates including social protection financing, expansion of coverage, and inclusive design.

**Programme Updates:**
The [Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojana](http://www.rsb.gov.in) programme in India, has been providing health insurance to poor people since 2008. The Government pay the insurance premium which entitles beneficiaries under the programme to coverage up to Rs. 30,000 for most of the diseases that require hospitalization. To date, over 29 million people have received smartcards for the scheme and nearly 3.5 million people have received hospital care.
EVENTS

Forthcoming

Inclusive Social Protection and Decent Work in Developing Countries Seminar
7 May 2012 - Brussels
Light For the World and Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development are organizing a seminar under the End Exclusion — Let’s Enable The MDGs project to promote social protection and decent work schemes that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

All you ever wanted to know about the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative
18 May 2012 12:30-14:00 (GMT+01 (BST)) - Public event, Overseas Development Institute and screened live online
The International Labour Organisation's Michael Cichon, joins ODI for an interview and question and answer session exploring the UN Social Protection Floor (SPF) Initiative, This public event offers a unique opportunity to learn about the initiative and to question Michael, either directly at the event or through the online chatroom.

Discussion on social protection at the European Parliament in Brussels
6 June 2012, from 2:00 to 6:00pm
This event, hosted by MEP De Keyser will bring together a number of key institutions working on social protection to present their respective strategic framework and discuss the areas of convergence and coherence. The European Commission (tbc), the World Bank and UNICEF will all present their SP strategic frameworks and the event will be moderated by the ILO. Those interested in participating or receiving more information should contact Ms Jennifer Vibert jvibert@unicef.org.

Updating Social Protection Index Workshop
28-29 June 2012, Manila
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in collaboration with ILO and OECD/Korea Policy Center is organizing a final workshop on Updating the Social Protection Index.

Africa Platform for Social Protection Events
5 - 6 May 2012, Niger
Sensitization, awareness raising and advocacy event for elected local government authorities, opinion and community leaders, to be held by the Niger National Civil Society Platform on Social Protection.
24 -25 May 2012, Burkina Faso
National level coalition building event by civil society organizations.
5 - 6 June 2012, Ghana
Awareness building event by the Platform for Social - Ghana.
For further information on these or any other events, please contact the Africa Platform for Social Protection

Recent events

Social protection and low-carbon technology workshop
The event organised by the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice (MRFCJ) and supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) brought together specialists working in the areas social protection, (including members of the CSP) and energy access. They examined if social protection systems, which target the most vulnerable in society, provide a means to improve access to sustainable energy for those at the base of the economic pyramid? Participants at the meeting agreed that acting on the linkages between social protection and energy access can provide an effective mechanism for delivering clean, affordable, sustainable energy to the poor. For further details, please contact siobhain.brophy@mrfcj.org
Social Service Workforce Strengthening Webinar Series
On 3 April, Keetie Roelen from IDS presented preliminary findings from a study on referral mechanisms and case management of vulnerable children in Eastern and Southern Africa during a webinar within the ‘Social Service Workforce Strengthening Webinar Series’.

Safer motherhood for all: innovative social protection mechanisms and their contribution to MDG5 and beyond
Friday 9th March, Overseas Development Institute London
To mark International Women’s Day, ODI brought together a panel of scholars and practitioners to explore the social protection innovations increasingly being employed to tackle maternal ill-health, and to consider how to take such interventions to scale. Video and audio of this event are available.

SOCIAL PROTECTION TRAINING AND COURSES

Forthcoming:

Transforming Nutrition Ideas, Policy and Outcomes Short Course
23 July 2012 - 27 July 2012, IDS Brighton UK
This five day course takes participants through new ways of thinking about under-nutrition and what to do about it including: the difference between under-nutrition, malnutrition, food insecurity, hunger and hidden hunger; the distribution, causes and consequences of under-nutrition; what works in addressing under-nutrition and why. For further information please contact nutrition2012@ids.ac.uk

Academy on Social Security
Residential phase 24 September - 5 October 2012 (Pre-course e-learning 3 - 23 September 2012) Turin, Italy
The Academy offers participants a diversified and tailored training package on governance & financing, reforms and extension. For further information please contact the International Training Centre of the ILO

Recent:

World Bank Core Course on Safety Nets 2011
5-16 December 2011 - Washington DC, USA
The presentations and multimedia clips are now available from the World Bank’s annual course “For Protection and Promotion: The Design and Implementation of Effective Social Safety Nets”.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) invites African researchers to submit concept notes on “Features, Governance Characteristics and Policy Implications of Non-State Social Protection in Africa”. The deadline for submission of concept notes and relevant documents is 12pm, Kenya Time, Monday the 14th May, 2012. Further details are available at http://www.pasgr.org/social-protection and any inquiries should be sent to research@pasgr.org.
NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Cash transfers for maternal health: design opportunities and challenges in low-resource settings
ODI Project Briefings 68, December 2011, Fiona Samuels and Nicola Jones
Based on a review of best practice, this Project Briefing outlines the components that were taken into consideration during the cash transfer design process for an operations research project on Cash Transfers (CT) for Safe Motherhood (SM) led by Interact Worldwide and supported by ODI.


HIV-Sensitive Social Protection for Impact Mitigation in Asia and the Pacific: Report on the High-level Technical Consultation, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 27-29 April 2011. This is a report of the regional consultation held in Cambodia in mid-2011 organized by UNDP together with ILO and UNICEF. Participating countries unanimously agreed to five principles for HIV and social protection in the region: aim for HIV-sensitive social protection rather than HIV-specific; involve multiple actors and partners; engage affected individuals, networks, and communities – especially key populations; protect and enhance human rights; take into account sustainability.

How does access to social protection programmes affect the decision to migrate?
ODI Background Notes, April 2012, Jessica Hagen-Zanker and Carmen Leon Himmelstine.
This background note reviews current evidence on how access to social protection programmes influences decisions to migrate internally or internationally.

Innovative Features in Conditional Cash Transfers: An impact evaluation of Chile Solidario on households and children.
The paper is an impact evaluation of Chile Solidario, measuring the effects of the programme on households and on children.

Productive Safety Nets for Women in Extreme Poverty: Lessons from Pilot Projects in India and Pakistan
Institute of Development Studies, January 2012 Naila Kabeer, Karishma Huda, Sandeep Kaur et al.
This report examines the use of BRACs graduation model in other contexts.

Rethinking cash transfers to promote maternal health: good practice from developing countries
ODI Background Notes, November 2011, Nicola Jones, Fiona Samuels, Laura Gisby and Elizabeth Presler-Marshall.
This Background Note reviews the evidence on conditional cash transfers (CCTs) to promote safe motherhood - a concept that spans not only care during pregnancy and childbirth, but access to family planning and equitable health services - comparing them to other approaches to maternal health programming in developing countries.

Social Cash Transfers and Financial Inclusion: Evidence from Four Countries
CGAP Focus Note No. 77 February, 2012 Chris Bold, David Porteous, and Sarah Rotman.
This Focus Note analyzes the profitability, affordability and use of electronic social cash transfers in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and South Africa.

Social Protection Diagnostic and Forward Agenda UNICEF Nigeria
ODI, with support from UNICEF, has published a number of new reports looking at the social protection sector Nigeria and its links to issues relating to women and children.

The Case for an Integrated Model of Growth, Employment and Social Protection
This paper is a call to action from the Global Agenda Council on Employment and Social Protection for greater effort to be placed on tackling the global jobs
crisis. It calls for a new social contract based on a new economic model, which places equal emphasis on growth, employment and social protection.

**The Gendered Dynamics and Impact of the Child Support Grant in Doornkop, Soweto**


The study found that not only does the Child Support Grant (CSG) contribute to reducing income poverty and vulnerability, it also has other multiplier effects that are not always taken into account when evaluating the CSG. Although the CSG was not designed to promote gender equality, its potential to contribute to social transformation should not be overlooked.

**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 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 to be added to the mailing list.

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