



Newsletter 36: October 2016

Welcome to the thirty sixth 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.

'TALKING POINT'

A system's approach to social protection
Esther Schüring, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University

Organizations and countries have grown accustomed to speak of social protection system building as if this was a natural process, following a straight path and clear vision. But what does system building really mean in a low-income country context with little interventions to link up? Can fragmentation of interventions in middle-income countries be simply overcome by doing a joint assessment? And are systems, once built, irreversible and immune to external forces?

Two days are certainly not sufficient to answer all these questions but the symposium on [Social Protection Systems - Tying the Knots](#), which took place on September 5-6 2016 in Bonn, Germany, provided a platform for academics, practitioners and decision-makers from 58 different countries to exchange ideas, challenges and progress made so far. Which lessons emerged around the conference themes of system variation, system creation and system analysis?

We learned that next to money and politics, the role of civil society, the quality of institutions, the type of coalition building and power structures as well as people's preferences help to explain differences in social protection systems. We were alerted that linking up proves problematic when one programmatic component such as active labour market policy dominates less active policies such as social assistance. It is problematic when the focus from getting people into social protection shifts towards getting them universally out of social protection and when we expect that linkages will be forged by already overburdened staff. In terms of system analysis, we can count ourselves lucky to have more instruments, greater systematic reviews, new databases as well as analyses that look beyond the obvious: studying for instance the change of actors behind seemingly similar interventions as well as the symbolic and not only material implications of system changes for social cohesion.

So what does it take to move towards a system's approach? It takes an understanding that system development is not a technical linear approach, that more investment in capacity development is a must, that system-building is not only about the front but also the back-end, that system-building concerns all country-contexts and that we probably need to tie the knots across practitioners and academics, the national and international level as well as the global South and the North more often.

SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWS AND EVENTS:

NEWS AND OPINION

Uganda develops Social Protection Policy, rolls out its Senior Citizens Grants

In 2010, the Government of Uganda with support from UKAid and Irish Aid started implementing the 5-year [Expanding Social Protection Programme](#). The programme's purpose was to: (i) Pilot social grants for older persons ([the Senior Citizens Grants](#)) under which beneficiaries receive Uganda Shillings 25,000 (about US\$8) per month; and (ii) Develop Uganda's Social Protection Policy. The Government of Uganda passed the [National Social Protection Policy](#) in 2015, and also in that year decided to roll out Senior Citizens Grants to an additional [40 districts](#) (covering a total of 55 of the country's 116 districts) and invest Uganda Shillings 149 billion (approximately \$44 million). Additional support for the roll out is provided by the UK and Irish governments.

EVENTS

Forthcoming:

Graduation Model Event

25 October 2016, Brighton, UK

Concern Worldwide together with IDS are hosting a workshop which will include presentation of the findings from the Rwanda and Burundi graduation programme research between 2012 and 2015. Speakers will include Alice Simington (Concern), Stephen Devereux (IDS) and Keetie Roelen (IDS). If you are interested in attending please contact Rosaleen Martin rosaleen.martin@Concern.net.

Launch of the joint FAO-UNICEF book "From Evidence to Action: the story of cash transfers and impact evaluations in Sub-saharan Africa"

15 November 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa

FAO and UNICEF will present their new joint publication "[From Evidence to Action: The Story of Cash Transfers and Impact Evaluations in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)" during an event in Johannesburg, South Africa during a Critical Thinking Forum, a talk-show type of event, organized with UNICEF and the international outlet Mail & Guardian. The book gives an overview of the impacts of national/ government-owned cash transfer programmes on reducing rural poverty and hunger in 8 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It also discusses the key role of such evidence in scaling up national programme in these countries. On social media, follow all the book events and discussions at: #Ev2Act

Recent:

High-level Panel Discussion on Shock Responsive Social Protection in Malawi,

6 October 2016, Malawi

The Government of Malawi is undergoing a period of major policy review including its social protection framework (MNSSP), whilst concurrently addressing the effects of successive climatic shocks and most recently the strongest El Nino event in 35 years, which has left 6.5 million people requiring humanitarian food assistance during the 2016/7 lean season. In light of this, the Government of Malawi in conjunction with the World Food Programme facilitated a panel discussion on shock responsive social protection, featuring Dr. Rachel Sabates-Wheeler (IDS), Clare O'Brien (OPM), Richard Chirchir (Development Pathways), and Harry Mwamlima and James Chiusiwa (Government of Malawi). Over 90 participants from across Malawi and globally came to learn from the panellists and to discuss how to strengthen social protection systems in order to reduce chronic need and better equip Malawi to address shocks driving annual food insecurity. For more information about the event and to receive a summary report, please contact: diana.king@wfp.org

[From shock response to long-term resilience- What is the role of social protection?](#) Webinar

18 October 2016, 1:00-2:30pm (GMT+1)

Experts from ODI and the Red Cross Climate Centre discuss this question and share findings from recent BRACED research in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Shock-responsive social protection for resilience building

This FAO webinar is the 4th of the monthly series of webinars on resilience organized jointly with the EU's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) and the FAO strategic programme on resilience within the framework of the EU-funded FAO INFORMED programme. The [presentation](#) is also available.

Gender Sensitive Social Protection Design: What Works in Asia?

The webinar is the third webinar of the Gender-Sensitive Social Protection Webinar Series, which is a joint initiative of the IPC-IG and FAO and it presented how a gender perspective can be considered and integrated into the design phase of social protection interventions. Drawing on existing examples from the Asian region, the webinar illustrates what gender-sensitive social protection design entails practically and what opportunities and challenges exist for programmers while designing gender-sensitive programmes. The [presentation](#) is also available.

SHORT COURSES

Forthcoming:

CSP short course 'Social Protection: Policies, programmes and evidence'

The fourth round of the Centre for Social Protection's annual short course 'Social Protection: Policies, programmes and evidence' is planned to take place from 19 June to 22 June 2017 (to be confirmed). More information will be available on the IDS website soon.

Recent:

Linking social protection with agriculture and food security

To strengthen human capacities to bring together agriculture and social protection for improving food security and nutrition outcomes and enhancing resilience, FAO partnered with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization to deliver a course on "Linking social protection with agriculture and food security" within the Academy on Social Security, which was held in Turin, Italy from 19 to 30 September 2016. The Academy brought together 97 people from 34 different countries representing government agencies, international organizations and civil society organizations. The course included presentations on the benefits of and approaches to bringing together agricultural and social protection interventions and group work on a case study to reinforce learning.

OPPORTUNITIES

Climate Change and Social Protection Policy Consultant.

FAO is currently looking for a climate change and social protection consultant. Further details are available on their website.

Project Manager, Laterite, Rwanda

The Kigali office of Laterite is looking for a Project Manager who will be responsible for co-managing all of Laterite's Rwandan operations, including managing research studies, the office, and engaging in business development for the company. The position provides a mix of leading large socio-economic studies and managing a growing office.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Delivering Social Protection that Nourishes: Lessons from the Food Price Crisis

IDS Policy Brief 124, September 2016, Naomi Hossain

The global food crisis of 2007-11 brought about lasting changes to the relationship between the work people do and the food they eat. Real-time research conducted by IDS, Oxfam and research partners in ten focus countries has found the cost of these changes has gone uncounted. Higher food prices have led to more precarious work and changing diets, with variable developmental and nutritional impacts. Social protection policies and programmes should protect the social aspects of life - the unpaid care work of nourishing families that is mainly shouldered by women, and the non-monetary value of traditional crops and cuisines - against market uncertainties. They need to ensure a balance between the work people do and the subsistence it affords them. To help them do this, better data are needed on informal economies, changing food habits and how unpaid care work is being affected by women's changing economic roles.

Global Social Policy

August 2016; Vol. 16, No. 2

- The principles and practice of social protection - Marianne S Ulriksen and Sophie Plagerson
- Recent philosophical approaches to social protection: From capability to *Ubuntu* - Thaddeus Metz
- Justice-based social assistance - Armando Barrientos
- Is targeting ethical? - Stephen Devereux
- Can social protection address both poverty and inequality in principle and practice? - Sophie Plagerson and Marianne S Ulriksen
- Role of constitutional principles and values in the development of social protection in South Africa - MAT Nyenti
- 'From protection to production': Do social cash transfer programmes promote agricultural activities and livelihoods? - Solomon Asfaw
- Attaching conditionality to cash transfers: Doubtful in principle, but necessary in practice? - Flora Myamba and Marianne S Ulriksen
- The developmental paradox: Examples from the child support grant in South Africa - Pathamavathy Naicker
- Nothing about us without us: Self-representation in Social Protection in Southern Africa - Daniel Kumitz

Can Cash Transfers have 'Transformative' Effects?

Special Issue of the Journal of Development Studies Vol 52 Issue 8 2016

- Can Cash Transfer Programmes Have 'Transformative' Effects? - Maxine Molyneux, With Nicola Jones & Fiona Samuels
- 'Being Able to Breathe Again': The Effects of Cash Transfer Programmes on Psychosocial Wellbeing - Fiona Samuels & Maria Stavropoulou
- Can Social Protection Affect Psychosocial Wellbeing and Why Does This Matter? Lessons from Cash Transfers in Sub-Saharan Africa - Ramlatu Attah, Valentina Barca, Andrew Kardan, Ian MacAuslan, Fred Merttens & Luca Pellerano
- Accessing the 'Right' Kinds of Material and Symbolic Capital: the Role of Cash Transfers in Reducing Adolescent School Absence and Risky Behaviour in South Africa - Michelle Adato, Stephen Devereux & Rachel Sabates-Wheeler
- Effects of Cash Transfers on Community Interactions: Emerging Evidence - Sara Pavanello, Carol Watson, W. Onyango-Ouma & Paul Bukuluki
- From Social Accountability to a New Social Contract? The Role of NGOs in Protecting and Empowering PLHIV in Uganda - Badru Bukenya
- Programming for Citizenship: The Conditional Cash Transfer Programme in El Salvador - Michelle Adato, Oscar Morales Barahona & Terence Roopnaraine
- Pathways to Citizen Accountability: Brazil's Bolsa Família - Natasha Borges Sugiyama
- Transforming Cash Transfers: Citizens' Perspectives on the Politics of Programme Implementation - Nicola Jones, Bassam Abu-Hamad, Paola Pereznieto & Kerry Sylvester
- Understanding Social Accountability: Politics, Power and Building New Social Contracts - Sam Hickey & Sophie King

Cash transfers: what does the evidence say? A rigorous review of impacts and the role of design and implementation features

ODI (together with OPM); report, briefing paper and annotated bibliography, 2016, Francesca Bastagli, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Luke Harman, Georgina Sturge, Valentina Barca, Tanja Schmidt, Luca Pellerano

The largest and most comprehensive review of its kind to date of the evidence on the impact of cash transfers. This rigorous review looks at the evidence on the impact of cash transfer programmes for six outcome areas and considers how these outcomes are affected by variations in cash transfer design and implementation.

Available: full report; a briefing paper which summarises the findings; and an annotated bibliography of studies which passed the rigorous screening process. A briefing paper on the findings related to women and girls is forthcoming.

Cash transfers and psychosocial well-being: evidence from four African countries

UNDP-IPC series, August 2016, Ramlatu Attah, Valentina Barca, Andrew Kardan, Ian MacAuslan, Fred Merttens, Luca Pellerano

There is reasonable consensus that development ultimately aims to improve people's well-being. Well-being is a final goal in a way that other traditional developmental outcomes—income, expenditure, education, health etc.—are not. Yet the large majority of cash transfer impact evaluations focus narrowly on these simpler and relatively easy-to-measure indicators.

Cash transfers: their economic and productive impacts - Evidence from programmes in sub-Saharan Africa

FAO Policy Brief, 2016

This brief summarises the findings of rigorous impact evaluations of seven government-run cash transfer programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. The focus of the evaluations was on economic and productive impacts of the programmes on beneficiaries as well as the wider communities in which they lived.

Designing public works programmes for protection and growth

UNDP - IPC series, June 2016, Rodolfo Beazley, Anna Vitali

Public Works Programmes (PWP) have been widely employed in both developed and developing countries to provide social protection to people of working age who are living in poverty.

Ensuring Escapes from Poverty are Sustained in rural Bangladesh

CPAN report, August 2016, Lucy Scott and Vidya Diwakar

A report focusing on “transitory poverty escapes” in Bangladesh. It explains why some households escape poverty only to live at a level just above the poverty line and to be vulnerable to slipping into poverty in the event of a shock or stress.

Ensuring Escapes from Poverty are Sustained in Uganda

CPAN report, June 2016, Lucy Scott, Vidya Diwakar and Moses Okech

The report looks at the factors that have caused a rise in the number of people living at a level less than twice the poverty line in Uganda, despite a substantial reduction in poverty since the early 1990s.

Gender differences in child investment behaviour among agricultural households - Evidence from the Lesotho Child Grants Programme

UNU-WIDER Working Paper 107/2016 Ashwini Sebastian, Ana Paula de la Campos, Silvio Daidone, Benjamin Davis, Ousmane Niang, Luca Pellerano

We examine the impacts of an unconditional cash transfer in Lesotho using an experimental impact evaluation design. We find that the cash transfer led to different outcomes for girls and boys, overall favouring secondary school-aged girls.

Impact of cash transfer programs on food security and nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa: A cross-country analysis

Global Food Security, available Sept 2016, Smriti Tiwari, Silvio Daidone, Maria Angelita Ruvalcaba, Ervin Priifti, Sudhanshu Handa, Benjamin Davis, Ousmane Niang, Luca Pellerano, Paul Quarles van Ufford, David Seidenfeld

This paper explores the extent to which government-run cash transfer programs in four sub-Saharan countries affect food security and nutritional outcomes. These programs include Ghana's Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, Kenya's Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Lesotho's Child Grants Program and Zambia's Child Grant model of the Social Cash Transfer program. The cross-country analysis highlights the importance of robust program design and implementation to achieve the intended results.

Impact of a rural microcredit scheme on female empowerment and household vulnerability in Nigeria

PEP Working Paper 2016-01, Damilola Olajide, Ngozi Ibeji, Kehinde Omotosho, Olufemi Obembe

This paper shows that female beneficiaries of microcredit in Nigeria are significantly more empowered and their household vulnerability is reduced compared to non-beneficiaries. The findings and policy recommendations put forward in this paper are being used to inform the design of a national program for female

empowerment and state-level poverty alleviation program. There is further information about the [project](#) and authors together with a [policy brief](#) and [impact brief](#).

[Impact of food prices increase among Lesotho's poorest](#)

FAO, 2016, Ervin Prifti, Silvio Daidone and Borja Miguelez

This report, simulates, with a demand system, the effects of an increase in the price of food commodities. The data used were collected for the evaluation of a social protection policy, the Child Grants Programme, which offers unconditional cash transfers to poor households with orphans and vulnerable children.

[Leaving No One Behind: A Social Protection Primer for Practitioners](#)

UNDP, 2016

This Primer is intended to provide UNDP Country Offices, programme staff and relevant partners with a practical resource on ways to strengthen social protection to address the systemic and interlinked objectives of the Sustainable Development Agenda. It articulates and highlights some lessons learned from the countries that are leading the way in thinking about social protection in the context of sustainable development. Ensuring that no one is left behind is not just about transferring resources that push people above the poverty line, it is also about ensuring that people have the freedom, opportunities and access to live the lives they value. Social protection, when designed and implemented from a social inclusion perspective, is an important means to fulfil this commitment.

[Leveraging Social Protection Programs for Improved Nutrition: Summary of Evidence prepared for the Global Forum on Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection Programs, 2015](#)

World Bank, 2016, Harold Alderman

The paper reviews the global reach, expansion, budgets, and impacts of social protection programmes broadly, and then explores whether and how nutrition outcomes can be achieved through instruments such as cash transfers, food voucher programs, school feeding, and others. The paper also introduces three indicative pathways that help to conceptualize the links from social protection programs to nutrition outcomes, according to income, prices, and behaviors.

[Local solutions to Social Protection - the role of rural organizations](#)

FAO, 2016, Igor Vinci, May Hani and Carol Djeddah

In most developing countries, state-led social protection systems struggle to satisfy the need of social assistance, insurance and social services for the rural poor. Member-based rural organizations, intended as formal and informal groups of rural producers and labourers, are already engaged in the provision of these services to their members and poor rural communities. Thanks to their broad social coverage, particularly in hard-to-reach informal economies, rural organizations can act as useful partners of national governments in the implementation of social protection policies and programs.

[Nepal's Child Grant: A mixed-methods assessment of implementation bottlenecks](#)

International Social Security Review, 69(1). Jessica Hagen-Zanker and Richard Mallett.

This article evaluates the implementation of the Child Grant, one of the major social protection interventions in Nepal, and identifies bottlenecks that limit its ultimate effectiveness. On the whole, while delivery works for many beneficiaries, we found inconsistencies between the way the policy is laid out on paper, and the way it is actually implemented. Targeting efficiency is high, despite the wealth targeting criterion not being applied in practice. Owing to informal awareness-raising campaigns, beneficiaries' knowledge on registration, eligibility and entitlement is patchy. Payment levels vary and tend to be infrequent. These implementation bottlenecks limit the Grant's effectiveness and temper some of its impact potential.

[Not Just for Swedes - Universal Welfare in Sweden's International Development Cooperation](#)

Church of Sweden Policy Brief, May 2016

Strategic decisions in the early development of social protection systems may have a long-term impact on their design. This brief makes the case that Sweden, with its history of developing a universal welfare model, should take the opportunity to share its lessons with other countries that are expanding their social protection systems. There are also reasons for Sweden to be more active in the policy debate on universal social protection in global institutions such as the UN and the World Bank.

Public works and rural women's economic empowerment: Rwanda's Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme

FAO Policy Brief, 2016

The brief summarizes findings of the first PtoP case study on rural women's economic empowerment and focuses on the public works component of Rwanda's Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP) - the Government of Rwanda's flagship programme for poverty reduction providing countrywide social protection. The research was based on a mixed method approach comprising in-depth qualitative methods and quantitative surveys conducted in Rwanda during the autumn of 2014.

Public works programmes for protection and climate resilience: theory of change and evidence in low-income countries

UNDP-IPC series, July 2016, Rodolfo Beazley, Anna McCord, Ana Solórzano

There is growing interest globally in the role that social protection (SP) can play in promoting resilience to climate change. Public works programmes (PWP) have been identified as particularly suitable interventions for achieving this goal, although little conceptual understanding of how they might play this role has been developed. In this One Pager we present a broad Theory of Change (ToC), showing how PWPs could potentially increase resilience to climate change, and describe briefly the evidence base.

Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems

Ongoing research by Oxford Policy Management on [Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems](#) - strengthening the evidence base as to when and how social protection systems can better scale up in response to shocks in low-income countries and fragile and conflict-affected states - has produced a range of new outputs including:

- An [infographic](#) summarising the overarching [conceptual framework](#) for the study
- A new [webinar discussing preliminary evidence from Kenya and Mozambique](#)
- An overview of [community-level practices and perceptions of social protection in the Sahel](#)
- A [working document](#) on shock-responsive social protection in Mali (in French)
- An [online community of practice](#) is free to join on [socialprotection.org](#)
- To sign up to the project quarterly newsletter (where findings from the six studies will soon be shared) or for any questions/contributions, please contact the Project Manager and Team Leader [Clare O'Brien](#).

Social Welfare for a Global Era: International Perspectives on Policy and Practice

Sage Publishing, 2016, James Midgley

Social Welfare for a Global Era provides a comprehensive framework for examining social welfare from a global perspective. Drawing on a large body of literature and his own extensive knowledge of the field, Dr. Midgley offers students, scholars, and practitioners an up-to-date account of the complex ways social well-being is enhanced in the global era, including the major welfare institutions that provide a cultural context for social welfare policy and practice.

Sustainable escapes from poverty through productive inclusion

CPAN policy guide, September 2016, Chiara Mariotti, Martina Ulrichs and Luke Harman

A policy guide considering the evidence from social protection programmes with designs that combine different interventions, such as a graduation from poverty approach or building integrated social protection systems.

Videos:

Social Protection in FAO

Social protection has helped lift millions of people out of extreme poverty. However, 70% of the world population, particularly in rural areas, still lack social protection coverage. Benjamin Davis, Strategic Programme Leader ad interim of the FAO Strategic Programme on Rural Poverty Reduction together with Natalia Winder Rossi, Social Protection Team Leader of the FAO Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division explain how enhancing social protection systems in rural areas can contribute to reducing poverty and ending hunger. They describe the FAO policy work, including key policy messages. This video forms part of a series of policy and governance videos being produced by FAO in 2016.

How Social Protection Measures Impact on the Socioeconomy of Developing Countries - Interview with FAO's Ben Davis

Development cooperation highly underrates and underutilise social protection schemes, which are an effective tool to substantially enhance food and nutrition security in developing countries. Benjamin Davis, Strategic Programme Leader, Rural Poverty Reduction at FAO, speaks to me about the evidence for its efficacy, implications for decision makers in the developing scenario and the political setting.

SECRETARIAT:

The Centre for Social Protection network now has 1200 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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