



## Newsletter 37: January 2017

Welcome to the thirty seventh 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'

#### Financing social protection Isabel Ortiz (ILO)

In July 2015 the United Nations adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Action Agenda included a commitment to “provide fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems”. It encouraged countries to set “nationally appropriate spending targets” and promised to “explore coherent funding modalities to mobilise additional resources”.

In November 2016 the United Nations Financing for Development Office and the Social Protection Department of the International Labour Organization convened an expert group discussion on financing social protection floors, under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

Participants heard that fiscal space to expand spending on social protection exists in all countries. There are eight options that governments can consider:

1. reallocate spending away from sectors with low developmental impact and towards high social impacts such as social protection, and reduce inefficient spending and corruption;
2. raise progressive taxes such as income and corporate tax, taxation of natural resources (e.g. mineral extraction), property and inheritance taxes, tourism taxes and others, and improve the efficiency of tax collection methods, to increase the revenue available for redistribution through social protection;
3. extend social security coverage, by formalising informal sector workers or encouraging their voluntary participation in contributory schemes, and enhance the collection of social security contributions;
4. tackle illicit financial flows (IFFs), which are substantial in low-income countries, to capture and redirect some proportion of these resources towards investment in social protection;
5. use fiscal reserves and reduce excessive foreign exchange reserve holdings to moderate levels, to release resources for social protection programmes;
6. manage debt - that is, borrow more if debt is low, or restructure current debt if debt service is too high;
7. adopt a more accommodative macroeconomic framework (e.g. tolerance to some inflation, fiscal deficit);
8. lobby for more international aid.

The international community can also do more to support global commitments on achieving universal social protection. These include, funding a Global Facility to Extend Social Protection Floors in Developing Countries, or a World Solidarity Fund for social protection, and establishing international counter-cyclical credit lines for low- and middle-income countries to protect maintain essential spending.

For more information, check “[Fiscal Space for Social Protection: Options to Expand Social Investments in 187 Countries](#)”, and <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

## SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWS AND EVENTS:

### NEWS AND OPINION

#### [Rwanda: ILO welcomes the launch of a new maternity leave benefits scheme](#)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) welcomed Rwanda’s decision to provide paid maternity leave and health benefits by law, which offers better protection for working women who become pregnant and are often confronted with the threat of job loss or suspended incomes.

#### [ILO Global Flagship Programme Building Social Protection Floors for All](#)

This programme was launched in 2016 and the [preliminary results report](#) is now available.

#### [Social Protection Assessment Tools](#)

The Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board has launched their Social Protection Assessment Tools which are a set of practical tools that help countries improve their social protection system by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and offering options for further action.

#### **Blog series by Fundación Capital on Graduation**

These blogs explore the way in which the [Graduation](#) strategy, a program that helps families in extreme poverty “graduate” into sustainable livelihoods, is changing the lives of millions of families - and how [Fundación Capital](#) is changing and adapting the program to reach even more people. The series includes:

#### [Second-Generation Graduation: New Ways to Scale a Proven Anti-Poverty Model](#)

explores how the Graduation model is evolving, and the adaptations they are implementing through increased government investment and innovative technological tools

#### [Digital Tools for Impact and Scale to Reduce Extreme Poverty](#)

This blog by Ana Pantelic at Fundación Capital outlines their view of technology as a key piece of growing effective programs at scale and at a lower cost.

#### [An MVP for Africa: Adapting Poverty Solutions to New Continents and Contexts](#)

This blog looks at how do you take what has proven successful in one context, and adapt it to another.

#### [Peer Mentorships Helping Colombia Write Its Next Chapter](#)

With the Colombian government, Fundación Capital is working to integrate peer-learning and Graduation approaches to help victims of the country’s internal conflict define their own paths out of poverty. There is a [video](#) available with more details about Fundación Capital’s peer-to-peer model.

#### [Why These Are Some Of The World’s Most Exciting New Entrepreneurs](#)

This blog by Alan Wagenberg looks at how the world’s most exciting new entrepreneurs look nothing like the Silicon Valley stereotype. They live in rural communities and support their families on less than one dollar and 25 cents a day. Yet many of these entrepreneurs are mapping their own road out of poverty.

#### [Cash or Cow? Weighing Monetary vs. In-Kind Asset Transfer](#)

This CGAP blog post by Austine Gasnier discusses the best approaches to Graduation. Fundación Capital have been part of the movement for in-cash rather than in-kind transfers, and strongly believe that cash transfers are preferable, which begs the simple question: Why?

### Sowing Opportunities and Growing Possibilities in Paraguay

This CGAP blog looks at the partnership between Fundación Capital and the government of Paraguay which offers an example of how the Graduation program can be integrated into public policy in any region of the world where poverty exists. Paraguay provides a powerful model, demonstrating the potential of the Graduation Approach, particularly when paired with social protection programs, government allies, and private sector investment.

## EVENTS

### Forthcoming:

#### Global Redistribution and the Challenges of Externally Financing Social Policy and Development Symposium

16-17 February 2017, ISS, The Hague

This is the first international symposium of the [AIDSOCPRO](#) (Aiding Social Protection: the Political Economy of Externally Financing Social Policy in Developing Countries) research project, funded by the European Research Council and based at ISS in The Hague, part of Erasmus University Rotterdam. The symposium will address a series of big thematic questions related to the AIDSOCPRO research project and the principle aim is to stimulate critical reflexions on global redistribution as an imperative to deal with the fundamental issues facing the world in the twenty-first century and also in terms of its potential consequences on development. Within this, the symposium will have a particular focus on the evolution of social policy systems in developing countries.

### Recent:

#### Law for Development: Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Africa

10-11 November 2016, Berlin

This conference organised by BMZ, Ruhr-Universität Bochum and African Law Association focused on the role and interactions of state law and customary law for social protection in African countries. Challenges and opportunities for international development cooperation, especially in light of plural legal reality where 'the state' is not the only social protection actor, was also the subject of discussion. Stephen Devereux (CSP) delivered the keynote address on 'The Right to Social Protection in Africa'.

#### International Forum - Social Protection Initiatives for Achieving Zero Hunger

15-17 November 2016, Cape Town

This forum which was hosted by the WFP Center of Excellence against Hunger in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Institute was an attempt to bring the diverse views, expectations, challenges and experiences in implementing social protection programmes related to food and nutrition security, health, nutrition, education and agriculture. Basing in SDGs 1 and 2, the linkages between its targets and existing social protection initiatives, the Forum encouraged South-South debate and evaluation of the current activities and discuss potential cooperation opportunities.

## SHORT COURSES

### Forthcoming:

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

12-15 June 2017 IDS, Brighton UK

The Centre for Social Protection (CSP) is pleased to announce the fourth round of the 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 policy makers, practitioners and researchers to broaden their knowledge base and gain critical insight into the most recent thinking about social protection. The deadline for applications is Friday 10 February.

### International short course on Social Protection specialisations

For a second year, the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences partners with renowned social protection experts (World Bank, UNFCC, WHO, etc.) to offer short courses on social protection. Participants will get to choose one high-quality specialisation from the following: climate change, health, old age, return to work, vulnerability and migration. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2017.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Research Fellow, Social Protection

The Social Protection Programme at ODI is seeking a Research Fellow to develop, fundraise for, conduct and manage policy relevant, high-quality and innovative research, policy advice and public-affairs programmes.

### Research Officer, Social Protection

ODI are seeking a Research Officer to join their Social Protection Programme. Under the supervision of Research Fellows, the post holder will contribute to designing and delivering innovative, high-quality and policy-relevant research, policy advice and public-affairs initiatives.

### Managing Director, Advocacy and Advisory Services, Ultra Poor Graduation initiative

The Managing Director will build and accelerate the momentum of a global team advancing advocacy and advisory services around the Ultra-Poor Graduation approach. In collaboration with the BRAC family of entities, this individual will serve as a powerful advocate and external figurehead representing BRAC's pioneering role in Graduation programming; initiate and negotiate engagements with multilaterals, governments and other implementers; mobilize significant resources from multilateral and donor communities; and successfully navigate an increasingly visible, multi-country team within the world's largest NGO.

### Director of Technical and Advisory Services, Ultra - Poor Graduation

The Director of Technical and Advisory Services will manage a team of development professionals and oversee and grow BRAC's suite of advisory services and technical assistance around the Ultra-Poor Graduation approach. Under the general supervision of the Managing Director, s/he is responsible for providing technical leadership and oversight to Graduation programs designed through client engagements with UN agencies, governments, the World Bank, microfinance institutions, and NGOs.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS:

### Improving child wellbeing and care in Sub-Saharan Africa: The role of social protection

Children and Youth Services Review Volume 73, February 2017, Pages 309-318, Keetie Roelen, Emily Delap, Camilla Jones and Helen Karki Chettri

This article presents findings from cross-country qualitative research regarding the impact of social protection on loss of parental care, support to foster or kinship care and quality of care and wellbeing in Sub-Saharan Africa. It investigates large-scale nationally implemented cash transfer and public works programmes in Ghana, Rwanda and South Africa.

### Linking taxation and social protection: Evidence on redistribution and poverty reduction in Ethiopia

ICTD Working Paper 61, January 2017, Kalle Hirvonen, Giulia Mascagni and Keetie Roelen

This paper aims to jointly assess the distributional effect of taxes and transfers (through social protection) using Ethiopia as a case study. We find that currently Ethiopia's flagship social protection programme is more effective than income taxation in achieving poverty reduction, while neither policy achieves a sizeable reduction in overall inequality.

### Strengthening Citizenship: Social Grants and the State-Citizen Relationship in South Africa

IDS Working Paper 482/CSP Working Paper 014, December 2016, Hannah Hudson

This study uses a citizenship lens to consider the extent to which social grants strengthen or weaken the state-citizen relationship, examining the case of the Child Support Grant in South Africa.

## **Compendium Social Protection Floors.**

ILO Policy Brief, 2016, I. Ortiz, V. Schmitt, L. De

These volumes on “Social Protection Floors” present best practices and experiences from countries that are useful for South-South learning, for practitioners and to provide the basis for more informed policy-making.

**Volume 1:** [Universal schemes](#)

**Volume 2:** [Innovations to extend coverage](#)

**Volume 3:** [Governance and financing](#)

## **Conceptualising the politics of social protection expansion in low income countries: The intersection of transnational ideas and domestic politics**

International Journal of Social Welfare, Volume 25, Issue 4 October 2016 Pages 388-398, Tom Lavers and Sam Hickey

The growing literature on social protection in low income developing countries has tended to focus on definitional debates, policy design and impact evaluations, with relatively little consideration of the ways in which politics shape policy. This article argues that politics needs to be at the centre of efforts to understand social protection and outlines a new conceptual framework for investigating this, with a particular focus on explaining the variation in progress made by low income countries in adopting and implementing social protection.

## **Conditional Cash Transfers in Africa: Limitations and Potentials**

SASPEN brief 6, October 2016, Olabanji Akinola (University of Guelph)

This policy brief draws attention to the limitations and potentials of Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programmes in Africa, and provides recommendations on how to maximize some of the identified potentials and overcome the limitations. It argues that although CCTs in Africa are mostly designed like the pioneer CCTs in Brazil and Mexico, certain features differentiate them from their Latin American counterparts, and demands more nuanced design and implementation strategies to fit contexts of individual African countries.

The Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Centre at the University of Manchester has published a [set of working papers](#) examining the political economy of social assistance and health insurance programmes in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.

- [The politics of promoting social protection in Zambia](#) Working paper 75/2017 Kate Pruce and Sam Hickey
- [Social protection in an aspiring ‘developmental state’: The political drivers of Ethiopia’s PSNP](#) Working paper 73/2016 Tom Lavers
- [The political path to universal health coverage: Elite commitment to community-based health insurance in Rwanda](#) Working paper 72/2016 Benjamin Chemouni
- [Social protection in an aspiring ‘developmental state’:The political drivers of community-based health insurance in Ethiopia](#) Working paper 71/2016 Tom Lavers
- [The politics of promoting social cash transfers in Uganda](#) Working paper 69/2016 Sam Hickey and Badru Bukenya
- [Understanding elite commitment to social protection: Rwanda’s Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme](#) Working paper 68/2016 Tom Lavers

## **How can social protection build resilience? Insights from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda**

ODI working paper, November 2016, Martina Ulrichs and Rachel Slater

This paper presents a synthesis of findings from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda on the role of social protection programmes in contributing to people’s capacity to absorb, anticipate and adapt to climate-related shocks and stresses.

## **Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development**

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2016

The UN recently released its *Report on the World Social Situation 2016* which examines patterns of social exclusion, paying particular attention to the links between poverty, changes in the world of work and inclusion—or exclusion. The report also highlights policy options to promote social inclusion, including through social protection. The Report on the World Social Situation 2017 will examine more closely the impact of social protection on social inclusion.

### Midline Impact Assessment Report of Rural Access Programme (RAP)

ITAD, November 2016

This Midline Impact Assessment conducted in mid-2016 provides a longitudinal analysis of socio-economic changes in Mid and Far West region of Nepal as well as an objective assessment of the impact of the third phase of the DFID Nepal's Rural Access Programme 3 (RAP3). The report highlights the positive contribution of those receiving cash-for-works in RAP towards consumption smoothing, particularly during a period of intense drought, with direct relevance to the Karnali Employment Programme, the Government of Nepal's high-profile Public Works Programme implemented in the same region.

### Minimum income programme and welfare dependency in China

International Journal of Social Welfare, 2016, Xu, Y. and Carraro, L.

In the mid-1990s China introduced a means-test cash benefit called the Minimum Living Standard Guarantee System (dibao). Alongside the increases in both the number of beneficiaries and the budget, there is growing public concern that dibao is creating welfare dependency. Using survey data collected in three cities in China, we investigated to what extent dibao beneficiaries look for work.

### Rethinking the design and implementation of Nigeria's COPE Conditional Cash Transfer Programme

UNDP-IPC One-Pager 330, August 2016, Olabanji Akinola, University of Guelph

Based on findings of research conducted in Nigeria in 2013, this policy brief provides an overview of Nigeria's "In Care of the People" (COPE) Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programme, the first nationwide CCT programme in the country. It highlights some design and implementation challenges that are associated with the programme, and notes that the Nigerian government needs to address these challenges as it seeks to expand the coverage of CCTs in the country.

### Social protection: Improving its contribution to preventing households falling into poverty

Chronic Poverty Advisory Network Policy Guide 10, 2016, Lucy Scott and Vidya Diwakar

This Policy Guide, which is part of a research series and will feed into the 4<sup>th</sup> Chronic Poverty Report by CPAN, focuses on role of social protection policies and programmes in preventing households from falling into poverty or in preventing their impoverishment. In doing this, it:

- Brings together evidence about the drivers of impoverishment and the role and effectiveness of social protection in preventing descents into poverty;
- Provides guidance for national policy-makers, their donors and other development partners on the design and implementation features of social protection policies, programmes and allied investments in order to minimise the likelihood of people falling into poverty.

The guide also investigates how, or through which transmission channels, social protection (specifically social assistance and social insurance) can minimise the likelihood of people falling into poverty.

### A strategy for enhancing and expanding Nepal's Child Grant

In 2016/17 the government of Nepal announced its intention to expand the Child Grant programme nationally. UNICEF was requested to provide technical support to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MOFALD) to develop the expansion strategy. The following policy brief series lays out the evidence for the benefits of the child grant and why it is a sound investment for the country's long term social and economic development; why a universal (rather than poverty targeted) approach will achieve the best outcomes for children in Nepal; and the strategies, options and costings for incremental geographic expansion to reach national coverage within 10 years. Underpinning the expansion strategy is a detailed costings analysis.

### Talking About Inclusion: Attitudes and Affirmative Action in Nepal

Development Policy Review, December 2016, Kristie Druzca

This article explores the history and impact of affirmative action in Nepal's civil service and political parties. Affirmative action was part of a broader social inclusion agenda introduced after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2006. Affirmative action will always have associated costs and trying to minimize these requires concerted effort and leadership. Affirmative action is difficult to do well in a country like Nepal because it challenges centuries of discrimination that is reinforced daily and involves confronting clientelistic practices and social norms of entitlement. Quotas alone will be insufficient in such a context. This article argues that affirmative action can have wider good governance outcomes by improving accountability and meritocracy if it is combined with other initiatives aside from quotas. Some of the positive governance gains achieved through affirmative action warrant a bigger investment from development partners in this area.

### Study on Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean

OPM, December 2016, Rodolfo Beazley, Ana Solórzano and Kokoevi Sossouvi

A new literature review on shock responsive social protection in Latin America.

### Sustainable escapes from poverty through productive inclusion

Chronic Poverty Advisory Network Policy Guide 9, September 2016, Chiara Mariotti, Martina Ulrichs and Luke Harman

This policy guide looks at evidence from social protection programmes with innovative designs that combine different interventions, either following a graduation approach or by building integrated social protection systems. This comparative approach is new and offers insights for policy-makers seeking to design integrated social protection systems that fulfil protective and preventive functions as well as maximise their promotive and transformative potential in order to lift people out of poverty in a sustained way. The report has been funded through the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

## **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](mailto:socialprotection@ids.ac.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

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