



Newsletter 39: January 2018

Welcome to the thirty ninth 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'

Making social protection work for children

In the last decade child-sensitive social protection has become an integral component of efforts to promote children's wellbeing. It is considered a key intervention as part of multisectoral efforts to advance early childhood development, to attract and keep children in school and to reduce child labour and early marriage. Against the backdrop of the rapid scale-up of social protection to improve children's lives and expansion of evidence regarding its impacts, child-sensitive social protection was one of the themes of the [international conference 'Putting Children First'](#) held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 October 2017. Participants at the conference discussed the current state of evidence, knowledge gaps and policy needs in order to make social protection work even better for children.

There was consensus that social protection can be a powerful tool for positively changing children's lives, as it has proven to reduce child poverty, improve household food security and enhance children's access to essential services such as education and health. Increasingly we see other impacts as well, including reduced stress and stronger relations with peers and family members. But cash transfers alone have their limitations; evaluations find hardly any impact on malnutrition or on school performance, for example. While the need for multisectoral approaches has always been acknowledged to be crucial for providing a holistic response to children's needs, so-called 'cash plus' approaches that combine cash with complementary services are quickly gaining ground to make social protection more effective.

Presentations and discussions at the conference also highlighted the need to consider children as individuals within households and the role of communities. Interventions are mostly household-focused and thereby tend to overlook both differential programme impacts on individual children within households and communities at large. Concerns were also raised regarding the persistently weak linkages between social protection and child protection, often still operating in silos. Finally, some strong points were made regarding rigid perspectives on the role of work in children's lives, the extent to which social protection may reduce or encourage child work and whether this is always a bad thing.

Check out the [Conference Website](#) for presentations and blogs, and have a look at recent guidance on child-sensitive social protection by the Global Coalition to [End Child Poverty](#).

This Talking Point was written by Keetie Roelen.

SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWS AND EVENTS:

NEWS AND OPINION

European Commission - Publication of a Call for Proposals

European Union funding opportunities in the framework of the programme: *"Promoting Decent Work in the Cotton and Garment Value Chains"*

The Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission has published a call for proposals aiming at improving working conditions, promoting labour and environmental standards and reducing labour rights abuses in the cotton and garment sector value chains.

Deadline of concept note submission: **8 February 2018 - 16h** (Brussels date and time).

HIV and Social Protection Assessment Tool

UNAIDS launched the HIV and Social Protection Assessment tool last year. The tool is available on the UNAIDS website in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#) and will be translated soon into Portuguese. Liberia and Sierra Leone has since undertaken HIV and Social Protection assessments and the reports are informing the countries' work in expanding the HIV sensitivity of social protection. Other countries are planning to undertake the assessments.

EVENTS

Forthcoming:

Webinar on social accountability in social protection

HelpAge International is organising a three-part webinar series on social accountability in the delivery of social protection. The first webinar was hosted on 18th January and unpacked the concept of social accountability and specific considerations for its application in the social protection sector. Tamsin Ayliffe presented findings from a recent research project carried out by Development Pathways and Emily Kemigisha from HelpAge International in Uganda and Jaime Gutiérrez, Director General of Planning and Monitoring of PROSPERA, Mexico provided perspectives from civil society and government respectively. The second and third webinars in the series will be held on 1st March and 29th March (times TBC). Please see the [website](#) for further details and to register.

Panel debate on social accountability in social protection

This event will take place on the 20th of February 09:00 to 12.30 UTC, at Age International (Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9NA). Tamsin Ayliffe and Rasmus Schjoedt will present key findings from a recent research project on social accountability in social protection by Development Pathways. HelpAge International will provide perspectives from the organisation's extensive work on social accountability and Salum Rashid Mohamed, former head of the Social Protection Unit on Zanzibar, will talk about his practical experience of citizen engagement in social protection. The event is by invitation only, as there are limited places available. To request an invitation, please contact Rasmus Schjoedt at rschjoedt@developmentpathways.co.uk

Recent:

Webinar on social protection for people with disabilities

Development Pathways organised the above webinar on 25th January (via socialprotection.org). The webinar discussed the role of social protection in the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities considering the current lack of support that is needed for them to access employment. The discussion was led by Stephen Kidd, Senior Social Policy Specialist at Development Pathways, and Morgan Banks, Research Fellow at the International Centre for Evidence in Disability at the LSHTM.

SOCIAL PROTECTION TRAINING AND COURSES

Forthcoming:

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

25-28 June 2018, Brighton, United Kingdom

The Centre for Social Protection (CSP) at the Institute for Development Studies will be offering the fifth round of its annual 4-day short course 'Social Protection: Policies, programmes and evidence' from 25-28 June 2018. The course focuses on getting participants up to speed with current knowledge, evidence and practice of social protection and on stimulating critical thinking and debate about current policy and practice. Applications are now open, visit our [website](#). Deadline for applications is **2 March 2018**.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Psychosocial side of poverty

Dr Keetie Roelen published a series of outputs on issues of psychosocial aspects of poverty, including shame, and the role of policies in tackling these. This includes an [IDS working paper on poverty, shame and social protection](#) and an [opinion piece and podcast, both published by Project Syndicate](#).

Law in Africa

Journal - Special Issue, 2017, 20(1)

Special issue on the implementation of international, regional and national laws on social protection in Africa, with articles by Markus Kaltenborn ('Implementing International Social Protection Initiatives in Africa: The Role of Global and Regional Soft Law'), Stephen Devereux ('The Right to Social Protection in Africa: From CCCDFPRTs to CLSPPPs'), Letlhokwa George Mpedi ('Social Protection Law in the Republic of South Africa'), and Hatem Elliesie ('Traditional Forms of Social Protection in Africa: Selected Examples from Ethiopian and Eritrean Societies').

The targeting effectiveness of social transfers

Journal Article, 2017, S. Devereux, E. Masset, R. Sabates-Wheeler, M. Samson, A. Rivas and D. te Lintelo, Journal of Development Effectiveness, 9(2): 162-211

This article reviews empirical evidence from a range of social protection programmes on the accuracy of alternative targeting mechanisms - means testing, proxy means tests, categorical, geographic, community-based, and self-selection - in terms of minimising targeting errors (inclusion and exclusion) and various costs associated with targeting (administrative, private, social, psycho-social, incentive-based and political costs). Given the inevitability of trade-offs, there is no 'best' mechanism for targeting social transfers. The key determinant of relative accuracy and cost-effectiveness is how well the targeting mechanism is designed and implemented.

Social Protection after the Arab Spring

IPC-PG, Policy in Focus, A publication of The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, December 2017, Volume 14, Issue No. 3

The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-PG) published an edited collection on social protection in Middle East and North Africa with contributions providing overviews of common interventions, discussing the role of social protection in humanitarian settings, amongst others.

The Influence of Policy and Legal Frameworks on the Development of National Social Protection Systems

IDS Working Paper, November 2017, M. Kaltenborn, A-G. Abdulai and S. Hague

This recently published working paper by UNICEF Innocenti Office of Research explores the role of policy and legal frameworks in the establishment of social protection systems in low- and middle-income countries.

Articles on human right to social security

Journal Articles, October/December 2017, International Social Security Review, Volume 70, Issue 4, Issue edited by Katja Hujo and Christina Behrendt

The International Social Security Review published a set of articles based on experiences in South Africa, East and South East Asia and Latin America examining the role of human rights and rights-based approaches to social protection.

Social Protection in Uganda

Report entitled 'How can a social pension underpin an economic development strategy?' Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda, November 2017, Stephen Kidd and Anh Tran, Development Pathways

This report reviews evidence on how social pensions underpin economic growth by expanding income generating opportunities and businesses through the cash that enters communities. The report was published ahead of a one-week visit to the UK by the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection, organised by HelpAge International and Age International. Development Pathways, HelpAge International and Age International organised a public event on 29 November to discuss the developments of social protection in Uganda and the success of Senior Citizens Grant. The event generated important insights into the political economy of social protection, which Alexandra Barrantes described in a [blogpost](#).

Human Rights and Social Protection

Blogpost entitled 'Looking afresh at social protection programmes, with a human rights lens', December 2017, Alexandra Barrantes, Development Pathways

On International Human Rights Day, Alexandra Barrantes at Development Pathways opened a discussion on the importance of looking at social protection programmes with a human rights lens. The blog argues that human rights principles are an integral part of not only the outcome, but moreover the design and implementation phases of programmes in realising economic and social rights.

The politics of data and development

Blogpost entitled 'Down the 'development' data rabbit hole', January 2018, Heiner Salomon, Development Pathways

This blogpost by the economist Heiner Salomon describes three major lessons that he has learnt while working on data analysis. He argues that the way data is made available and is interpreted is always political.

Social Accountability in Social Protection

Literature Review entitled 'Citizen action can help improve social protection programmes, finds review', November 2017, Tamsin Ayliffe, Ghazia Aslam and Rasmus Schjoedt, Development Pathways

This literature review reveals how social accountability mechanisms are currently used in social protection programmes. The evidence on social accountability tools for social protection, which also include grievance mechanisms and committees of beneficiaries, is so far very limited. Development Pathways has carried out research with support from DfID to start filling the knowledge gaps.

Tackling exclusion, pensions progress, citizen action: a year in review

Review, December 2017, Development Pathways

In December of 2017, Development Pathways published a brief review of some of the most read Development Pathways resources produced over the year, ranging from issues around tackling exclusion, pensions progress, and citizen action.

Resilience solutions: exploring social protection linkages to forecast-based financing

Policy Brief, December 2017, Cecilia Costella, Catalina Jaime, Julie Arrighi, Erin Coughlan de Perez, Pablo Suarez and Maarten van Aalst, Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED)

This policy brief explores one aspect of how social protection can support better climate risk management and increase climate resilience by anticipating and dealing with shocks before they happen - that is, contributing to anticipatory capacity as proposed in BRACED's resilience framework.

Social Protection in a Changing Climate: Making systems adaptive through climate information and early action

Paper, October 2017, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

This paper synthesizes key ideas and concepts around using climate information for better early action through social protection to reduce disaster impacts on poor and vulnerable populations. It is also available in [French](#).

Towards a shock sensitive social protection system for Malawi

Report, 2017, Government of Malawi, Red Cross Climate Centre, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

The concept of shock-sensitive social protection has become a national priority in Malawi. Commissioned by the Government of Malawi and international partners, the study, conducted by ODI and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, looks at how social protection and humanitarian work can be implemented to provide predictable support to the most vulnerable, including in the face of shocks. The study offers concrete ways to take forward shock-sensitive social protection in Malawi, complemented by a review of cases from elsewhere.

The Increasing Importance Of Uganda's 'Grey Shilling'

HuffPost Article, December 2017, Chris Roles CEO, Age International

"The Ugandan government has been rolling out its Senior Citizens Grant - a form of social pension - in selected districts across the country. In 2011 a pilot pension was distributed in 15 districts and has now been rolled out to 47 districts; there is a push within the Ugandan Parliament to make the grant available for older people across the whole country." In this article Chris Roles looks at the Senior Citizen's Grant in Uganda.

Dynamics of social protection in fragile contexts: Nepal and Myanmar

Journal Article entitled 'Forum Introduction: Dynamics of social protection in fragile contexts: Nepal and Myanmar,' 2017, Gabriele Koehler, Nicholas Mathers, Global Social Policy, Vol. 17, Issue 3, SAGE Journals

This article explores some of the shared dimensions of fragility experienced by Myanmar and Nepal to illuminate the challenging contexts in which social protection policies and programmes have taken shape. Both countries have adopted a universalist, rights-based vision in their approaches to social protection, with social pensions and child benefits at the forefront of social protection programming. At the same time, both countries are employing incremental strategies to overcome political, social, and administrative obstacles, while demonstrating that fiscal space is available. The *politics* of social protection policy making are obvious, and consistent engagement by progressive social policy advocates in these countries will be necessary to seize opportunities, and to ensure continued investment in building inclusive, effective, and accountable social protection systems.

Why a universal Child Grant makes sense in Nepal

Journal Article, 2017, Nicholas Mathers, Global Social Policy, Vol. 17, Issue 3, SAGE Journals

Whether cash transfers should be poverty targeted or universal within certain social categories remains a hotly debated topic. Recent plans to expand Nepal's Child Grant programme brought this question sharply into focus. Using available secondary data, this article presents a four-step analysis that examines the costs and benefits of different approaches. Given the country's poverty profile, the theoretical results of different targeting models, government capacity and overall costs, a universal (age-cohort targeted) approach achieves the best outcomes for children.

The evolution of Nepal's child grant: From humble beginnings to a real driver of change for children?

Journal Article, 2017, Maricar Garde, Nicholas Mathers and Thakur Dhakal, Global Social Policy, Vol. 17, Issue 3, SAGE Journals

Nepal's Child Grant was introduced in 2009, and the government made a commitment to enhance and expand the programme in 2016. This contribution argues that good evidence, local popularity, and a combination of political legitimacy and opportunity were all necessary to bring about the reforms. Despite initial underinvestment and various design and implementation challenges, the reforms provide a solid platform to help the programme realise its full potential.

Piloting social protection in Chin State, Myanmar: Challenges and opportunities within a context of fragility

Journal Article, September 2017, Aniruddha Bonnerjee, Global Social Policy, Vol. 17, Issue 3, SAGE Journals

This article provides a glimpse into the opportunities and challenges facing Myanmar as it rolls out the first Mother and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) in one of the country's most disadvantaged areas, Chin State. Already known for its fragile context, women and children have among the most alarming social indicators in Myanmar. Despite the many types of obstacles the role-out faces, the pilot programme provides a strong socio-economic, political and rights-based case for genuine improvements in Chin State, and across Myanmar more generally.

The case for universal social protection in Myanmar

Journal Article entitled 'The case for universal social protection in Myanmar: Options, costs and policy benefits,' September 2017, Aniruddha Bonnerjee, Global Social Policy, Vol. 17, Issue 3, SAGE Journals

In 2016, the government of Myanmar began the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy Plan (NSPSP). This is a significant step since it addresses social assistance for the majority of the population outside the formal sector for the first time in a systematic manner, moving beyond the few fragmented social transfers in place earlier. This article offers cost calculations based on three different social protection transfer options: a social pension, an education grant and a combined mother and child benefit.

Reflecting on the human right to social security

Journal Article, October/December 2017, Katja Hujo, Christina Behrendt and Roddy McKinnon, Special Issue: The human right to social security, Volume 70, Issue 4, International Social Security Review Journal

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 asserts that social security is an inalienable human right. Realizing this human right is often considered, simply, as a matter of political will and of administrative aptitude. In these terms, the progressive realization of the human right to social security may be viewed as the outcome of an appropriately-resourced political and bureaucratic process. Such a perspective, however, is clearly inadequate. Characteristically, bureaucracies are designed to cater to the needs of all, based on common procedures and common deliverables designed for the “typical” case. Yet such approaches often lack the necessary flexibility and resources to make a distinction between individuals, which acknowledge their respective differences and needs. To meet the international commitment to progressively realize universal social security coverage, social security administrations are key actors. However imperative this role may be, if the pursuit of this commitment fails to respect people’s differences this will put at risk the meeting in full of what is envisioned by the human right to social security. To this end, this special issue aims to foster an understanding that the goal of universal coverage must necessarily also respect and respond to the individual needs of each and every person.

Ensuring inclusion and combatting discrimination in social protection programmes

Journal Article entitled 'Ensuring inclusion and combatting discrimination in social protection programmes: The role of human rights standards,' October/December 2017, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Special Issue: The human right to social security, Volume 70, Issue 4, International Social Security Review Journal

Recent years have witnessed the significant expansion of social protection programmes around the world. Yet, a vast number of poor and vulnerable people, including children, women, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities, remain uncovered, especially in lower-income countries. This article argues that a better understanding of the principle of equality and non-discrimination, as defined under international human rights law, can guide practitioners and policy-makers to design and implement more inclusive social protection systems.

Social Protection and persons with disabilities

Journal Article, October 2017, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Special Issue: The human right to social security, Volume 70, Issue 4, International Social Security Review Journal

Social protection is an essential condition for social and economic development for all, but particularly for those who experience poverty and social exclusion. Social protection programmes can play a crucial role in alleviating and preventing poverty and vulnerability to secure people’s well-being. The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities challenges these views, promoting social protection systems that are inclusive of persons with disabilities and which facilitate active citizenship, social inclusion and community participation. The Convention calls on States parties to ensure that persons with disabilities receive equal access to mainstream social protection programmes and services as well as access to specific programmes and services for disability-related needs and expenses such as support services. Against this background, this article aims to discuss why and how States and other stakeholders should ensure the establishment of disability-inclusive social protection systems, in conformity with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Approaches to social protection for informal workers

Journal Article entitled 'Approaches to social protection for informal workers: Aligning productivist and human rights-based approaches,' October 2017, Laura Alfers, Francie Lund and Rachel Moussié, Special Issue: The human right to social security, Volume 70, Issue 4, International Social Security Review Journal

There has been increasing recognition of the growth of informal employment in the global South and North. Most informal work is precarious and low paid, with workers having little or no access to social protection. It is sometimes suggested that an approach that moves away from productivism - the idea of work as a pathway to access social protection - and towards a universal human rights-based approach is important. However, this article argues that a large and growing informal economy does not provide justification for abandoning certain key productivist ideas.

The rights-based approach to care policies: Latin American experience

Journal Article, October 2017, Valeria Esquivel, Special Issue: The human right to social security, Volume 70, Issue 4, International Social Security Review Journal

This article presents the Uruguayan and Costa Rican "care systems" as examples of Latin America's rights-based approach to care policies. It succinctly explains their political and institutional evolution, and presents the main features of their legal frameworks. It pays particular attention to the actors that have mobilized to support and, eventually, shape them. It also identifies the dimensions that are singled out by other countries in the process of replicating and adapting these examples to build their own "care systems" following a rights-based approach to care policies. The article closes with a focus on implementation challenges.

The politics of rights-based, transformative social policy in South and Southeast Asia

Journal Article, October 2017, Gabriele Koehler, Special Issue: The human right to social security, Volume 70, Issue 4, International Social Security Review Journal

A key normative principle of transformative social policy is that it is rights-based. This implies that it be universal, as a right extended categorically to all persons in a defined situation, or to all citizens, or, in its most radical form, as applicable to all residents regardless of citizenship status. To be transformative, social policy also needs to tackle the root causes of inequalities and social injustices. In the cases under review the trends towards a universal, rights-based approach to social services and social transfers were in each case politically driven and a result of changes in government - the social turns were the outcome of contestation. This article seeks to make two points. First, a rights-based, transformative policy approach and a social turn do not come automatically: it is always the result of contestation. Second, acquired rights and moves towards transformation can be dismantled.

The 1.5 Billion People Question: Food, Vouchers, or Cash Transfers?

Book, 2018, Harold Alderman, Ugo Gentilini, Ruslan Yemtsov, Open Knowledge, World Bank

The 1.5 Billion People Question focuses on the evolution of public distributions systems and looks at a broad transition from in-kind food transfers to cash transfers. The book achieves this by describing PDS from a global view and then digging into 6 country case studies from both developed and developing countries.

Recommendation on Social Protection Floors: Basic principles for innovative solutions

Book, November 2017, J. Dijkhoff and L.G. Mpedi (ed.), The Hague: Kluwer Law International

Since the adoption of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation 202 by the International Labour Conference in 2012, efforts to implement the human right to social protection have intensified across the world. This collection of essays contains an in-depth clarification and analysis of the Recommendation, applies its basic principles to topical thematic issues such as the right to food, and examines case studies from several countries, including Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Tunisia, India and Thailand.

Midline evaluation of the Child Development Grant Programme (CDGP)

Midline evaluation, 2017, OPM

OPM recently published the findings from its midline evaluation of the Child Development Grant Programme (CDGP) implemented in Northern Nigeria. The programme provides a cash transfer of Nigerian Naira (NGN) 4,000 (about £8.60) per month for up to 70,000 pregnant women for a period of approximately 33 months, alongside a behaviour change communication (BCC) component. Overall, the midline evaluation shows that the CDGP has had a strikingly positive impact on women's and men's knowledge and beliefs about healthy infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. The programme also had a positive impact on improving household food security, especially during the lean season, and on reducing the stunting rate for children born after it started. The findings point to the beneficial impact on child development and maternal health of a programme combining cash transfers with BCC.

Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems

Synthesis Report, 2017, OPM, ODI, CaLP and INASP

How and when can non-contributory social protection systems better respond to shocks? Following three years of research, the DFID-funded Shock Responsive Social Protection Project, led by OPM in partnership with ODI, CaLP and INASP, has recently published its [Synthesis Report](#) to address this question, based on case studies in [Pakistan](#), [Philippines](#), [Mozambique](#), [Lesotho](#), [Mali](#), and the [Sahel](#), as well as a [global review of literature](#) on the topic. Accompanying outputs of interest include a [webinar](#) on the topic, a short [video](#) and a [Briefing Note](#) on the factors affecting the usefulness of existing social protection databases in disaster preparedness and response.

SECRETARIAT:

The Centre for Social Protection network now has more than 1,200 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.

Directors:	Stephen Devereux Keetie Roelen Rachel Sabates-Wheeler
Programme Administrator:	Lee Imray

Email: socialprotection@ids.ac.uk

Website: www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/centre-for-social-protection

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