



Newsletter 41: September 2018

Welcome to the forty first 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'

Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection

Access to social protection is uneven and varies widely between countries, groups and individuals within countries depending on their age, gender, disability or migrant status, race or ethnicity. The newly released [Report on the World Social Situation 2018](#) from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs brings attention to these disparities by surveying access to social protection programmes among seven priority groups highlighted in the 2030 Agenda: children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, international migrants, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

Despite the fast expansion of social protection programmes across the world, the evidence presented in the Report confirms that there are significant gaps in access among members of these groups. In large part, these gaps are a result of the disadvantages faced in accessing decent work and full employment. Young people's lack of formal work history—because of their age and high participation in the informal sector—hinders their access to social protection. For indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, spatial segregation, lack of legal identification and discrimination often limits access as well, while international migrants are vastly underserved by social protection systems around the world. Moreover, the benefits received through social protection are often inadequate. Gaps in access and insufficient benefits challenge the effectiveness of social protection to reduce inequality and tackle exclusion.

Universal access to basic social protection, together with access to social services, can break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and promote inclusion. Leaving no one behind calls for universal social protection programmes that are sensitive to the needs of a diverse population at every stage of the life-cycle.

This Talking Point was written by Jonathan Perry, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

SOCIAL PROTECTION NEWS AND EVENTS:

NEWS

[UN ESCAP Launches Online ‘Social Protection Toolbox’](#)

Launched earlier this year, the Social Protection Toolbox was developed by the Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Economic Commission for Africa. The aim of the Toolbox is to enhance the capacity of policymakers and planners for developing effective and coherent social protection policies and programmes.

EVENTS

Forthcoming:

[International Conference on Global Dynamics of Social Policy](#)

25-26 October 2018, University of Bremen, Germany

Marking the start of the new [Collaborative Research Centre \(CRC\) 1342 “Global Dynamics of Social Policy”](#) at the University of Bremen, the Conference seeks to bring together a diverse network of social policy experts from different regions of the world to exchange ideas, knowledge, and expertise on the dynamics of social policies all over the world. In accordance with the central aim of the CRC, the main theme of the Conference revolves around explaining how the interplay between domestic factors and inter-/transnational interdependencies has shaped the development of social policy from the last quarter of the 19th century to the present day.

SOCIAL PROTECTION TRAINING AND COURSES

Forthcoming:

[EPRI Short Course ‘Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes’](#)

1-12 October 2018, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), together with the UNU-MERIT/Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and the Institute of Development Studies, will be holding their 2018 ‘Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes’ course in Chiang Mai, Thailand from the 1-12 October 2018. The two-week intensive course includes a number of specialised modules aimed at providing participants with an in-depth understanding of the conceptual and practical issues involved in the design and implementation of social protection programmes. The course will reinforce the skills required to identify, design and implement effective social protection programmes.

[EPRI Short Course ‘Evidence-Building for “Social Protection Plus”’](#)

8-12 October 2018, Chiang Mai, Thailand

A first-of-its-kind programme, the EPRI Evidence-building for Social Protection Plus course is designed to give participants the skills and tools to effectively design, implement and monitor "Social Protection Plus" programmes so as to promote sustainable livelihoods and achieve complex developmental outcomes. Participants will engage in real-world case studies taught by the Economic Policy Research Institute faculty and a team of international experts and interact with peers from around the world.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

[Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection: Report on the World Social Situation 2018](#)

Report, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The Report on the World Social Situation 2018 shows that children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, international migrants, ethnic and racial

minorities and indigenous peoples all face particular barriers to social protection coverage. It contends that inclusive social protection systems must guarantee access to a minimum set of tax-financed schemes. It explains why universal schemes are better at reaching disadvantaged groups than schemes targeted at them and considers how social protection programmes should be implemented in order to avoid excluding people in need.

'Cash Plus': Linking Cash Transfers to Services and Sectors

Innocenti Research Brief, UNICEF, May 2018, K. Roelen, T. Palermo and L. Prencipe

Cash transfers have been successful in reducing food insecurity, increasing consumption, building resiliency against economic shocks, improving productivity and increasing school enrolment. Despite the many successes of cash transfer programmes, they can also fall short of achieving longer-term and second-order impacts related to nutrition, learning and health outcomes. A recent study highlights how so-called 'Cash Plus' programmes, which offer additional components or linkages to existing services on top of regular cash payments, may help address such shortcomings.

Money and the Message: The Role of Training and Coaching in Graduation Programming

Article, The Journal of Development Studies, May 2018, K. Roelen and S. Devereux

Graduation programmes are innovative because they combine regular cash transfers with livelihood promotion and - most innovatively - a combination of training and tailored coaching. The latter is sometimes considered the 'X-factor' in the graduation model, but little evidence exists regarding its role in affecting change. This paper presents findings from a mixed methods evaluation of a graduation programme in Burundi.

Enabling Graduation for Whom? Identifying and Explaining Heterogeneity in Livelihood Trajectories Post-Cash Transfer Exposure

Article, Journal of International Development, August 2018, R. Sabates-Wheeler, R. Sabates and S. Devereux

This paper uses a data set from a graduation programme in Rwanda to explore the heterogeneous livelihood pathways that programme participants follow during and after the programme period. It shows that household characteristics, such as gender of household head and labour availability, will affect trajectories of change; yet, the impact of initial resources will depend on what outcomes are being measured and possible complementarities between them.

School Feeding in South Africa: What We Know, What We Don't Know, What We Need to Do

Food Security SA Working Paper 4, DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, June 2018, S. Devereux et al.

This working paper draws on the proceedings of a 'National Workshop on School Feeding in South Africa', convened in November 2017 by the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security. Workshop participants engaged with unresolved debates in school feeding, notably its objectives and impacts, which include food security and nutrition, education access and outcomes, intergenerational poverty reduction, employment creation and support to local agriculture.

Realizing the Full Potential of Social Safety Nets in Africa

Report, World Bank, July 2018

The number of programs has skyrocketed since the mid-2000s, although many interventions are still modest in size. This notable shift in social policy reflects an embrace of the role that social safety nets can play in the fight against poverty and vulnerability, and more generally in building human capital and spurring economic growth. *Realizing the Full Potential of Social Safety Nets in Africa* provides evidence that positive impacts on equity, resilience, and opportunity are growing, and it is clear that these programs can be good investments.

Social Protection and Disability in South Africa

Working Paper, Development Pathways, July 2018

This working paper launches a new series of publications that identify good practice in enabling the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social protection systems and programmes. It finds that South Africa's lifecycle system of social security transfers for disabled people, one of such systems in low- and middle-income countries, has overall had a major positive impact on the lives of persons with disabilities. It also identifies challenges that need to be addressed with accessing benefits, a complex and exclusionary registration process, and a design that may discourage people from working.

Why We Need Social Protection

Social Development Policy Guide, UN ESCAP and Development Pathways

The aim of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's [Social Protection Toolbox](#) is to support countries in the region to understand the

role social protection plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It identifies national coverage gaps and assists with capacity and knowledge-building with materials including learning modules, in-depth studies and videos. The first module, *Why We Need Social Protection* raises awareness of the role social protection systems can play in tackling poverty.

[How to Implement Inclusive Social Protection Schemes](#)

Social Development Policy Guide, UN ESCAP and Development Pathways

This United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) guide sets out practical steps that need to be taken to design tax-financed and inclusive income transfer schemes. It examines the operational cycle of schemes and the business processes that must be put in place. It is one of four new e-learning guides to be featured in the UNESCAP online Social Protection Toolbox to support countries to understand the role of social protection in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to assist them to build knowledge and capacity.

[Social Accountability in the Delivery of Social Protection: India Case Study](#)

Report, Development Pathways, May 2018, R. Schjødt

In their scope, and by the fact that they are legally required, the social audits in India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are an unparalleled collective social accountability mechanism. In the state of Andhra Pradesh, social audits have been institutionalised and implemented across the state. This report identifies the lessons for elsewhere. These include how social accountability mechanisms most likely need to be institutionalised and led by the state if civic mobilisation is to succeed in the face of strong local elites.

[Resilience, Social Protection and Integrated Risk Management: Using Social Protection to Increase Resilience to Climate and Ecological Risks](#)

Briefing Note, Climate Centre, June 2018, A. Kapoor and M. Ulrichs

This short note from the Partners from Resilience alliance provides an overview of how social protection can be part of an integrated approach for managing climate and environmental risks.

[Social Protection for the Informal Sector](#)

Article, Partnership for Economic Policy

Three projects supported by the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) investigated how informal sector workers in Africa and Latin America can protect themselves against shocks such as accidents and illness, as well as plan for old age. The evidence points to paid social insurance programs for informal sector workers, but women risk being left out.

[Smarter Through Social Protection? Evaluating the Impact of Ethiopia's Safety Net on Child Cognitive Abilities](#)

Article, Oxford Development Studies, August 2018, M. Favara, C. Porter and T. Woldehanna

Ethiopia's productive safety net is the second largest Social Protection Program in sub-Saharan Africa and has been rolled out to almost 10 million beneficiaries since 2005; its effects are therefore of general interest. This paper provides the first estimates of its impact on children's cognitive abilities. To identify impacts of this program, four rounds of data on a cohort of children surveyed repeatedly between 2002 and 2013 were examined, finding a small but significant positive effect of the programme on both numeracy skills and vocabulary.

[Comparing the Productive Effects of Cash and Food Transfers in a Crisis Setting: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Yemen](#)

Innocenti Working Paper, UNICEF, June 2018, B. Schwab

The productive impacts of transfer programmes have received increased attention. However, little is known about such effects in emergency and crisis settings. Even less is known about whether transfer type - a food basket or a cash grant - influences the productive potential of such transfers. Using a randomized field experiment in Yemen, we contrast the effects of transfer modality. The results demonstrate a modest productive impact of both modalities and suggest a role for both liquidity and price risk channels.

[Monitoring Progress Towards Sustainable Development: Multidimensional Child Poverty in the European Union](#)

Article, Journal of Poverty and Social Justice, June 2018, Y. Chzhen, Z. Bruckauf and E. Toczydlowska

The new universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for 'reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in

poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions' by 2030. This paper proposes and evaluates a child-specific multidimensional poverty measure using data from ad hoc material deprivation modules of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The proposed measure can be used both for national and EU-wide SDG monitoring without replacing either national or EU-wide indices of material deprivation.

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: Simon Jeavons

Email: socialprotection@ids.ac.uk

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

Disclaimer

The Centre for Social Protection cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this newsletter. The views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Centre for Social Protection or IDS.