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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL  
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **12<sup>th</sup> edition** of our Social Protection Brief. On the left-hand side you can find a short list of the sections included.

Best Regards,  
Christian

## PUBLICATIONS

### [Economic Empowerment Pilot Project in Malawi: Qualitative Survey Report](#)

by Stefan Beierl, Francesco Burchi and Christoph Strupat

In 2016 the Government of Malawi, the Mwanza District Council, and COMSIP Cooperative Union, with the support of the GIZ Social Protection Programme, implemented the Economic Empowerment Pilot Project in the district of Mwanza to alleviate extreme poverty. The programme targets ultra-poor and labour-constrained households in six randomly selected areas of the district. Three groups of beneficiaries were identified. The first received training on financial literacy and business management, in order to increase savings and access to loans through the creation of Village Savings and Loans (VSL) groups. The second received a lump-sum transfer (about 70 USD) with the objective of raising business investments. The final group received both the lump-sum and the training.

In view of the forthcoming impact evaluation, this report analyzes how beneficiaries spent the lump-sum transfers, in which kind of micro-business activities they engaged, and what is the potential role of training in coming up with new business ideas and generating stable



savings groups. It builds on three rounds of qualitative interviews conducted between June and October 2016, together with focus group discussions and interviews with purposely selected households.

Our findings highlight the importance of providing poor households with a one-time lump-sum transfer to support their income diversification and, therefore, reduce their vulnerability. Moreover, basic financial/business training has thus far proven to be important in ensuring that people spend the transfer in a productive way. The training has also been the key driver for the creation and the maintenance of VSL groups. An increase in savings, especially combined with lump-sum transfers that increase productive investments, can smooth consumption and improve beneficiaries' living standards.

[Working Paper: The Rise of Homegrown Ideas and Grassroots Voices: New Directions in Social Policy in Rwanda](#) by Chika Ezeanya

At the core of Rwanda's social policy renaissance is the emphasis on the home-grown and grassroots centred generation of intellectual and material resources, utilized with the aim of ensuring a local population familiar with and favourably disposed to government social policy. In the past decade and a half, Rwanda has gradually but consistently charted this path in social policy action through the establishment of systems and processes that focus on ensuring that citizens—and not government or donors—are held accountable for development prioritization and the achievement of set goals. Indigenous knowledge, endogenous thinking patterns, grassroots based participation and cultural considerations have—as much as feasibly possible within the Rwandan polity—characterized efforts aimed at social policy action.



[Working Paper — Reformas Estatales, Fortalecimiento Institucional y Políticas de Movilización de Recursos en Nicaragua: El Caso del Sector de la Salud](#) by Guy Delmelle and René Mendoza

En el presente estudio sobre la movilización de recursos domésticos para el desarrollo social se analiza el sector de la salud en Nicaragua desde 1972 hasta 2015. Se examinan las variaciones en las políticas que afectan el sector salud y su financiamiento, el papel de las instituciones, la fuerza de las ideas nacionales e internacionales, y la influencia de la sociedad civil y del sector privado. Estos elementos se retoman para el análisis de diferentes periodos de gobierno: la dictadura de Somoza (1972–1979), una década de revolución (1979–1989), un período de políticas neoliberales (1990–2006), y finalmente una etapa de modelo híbrido que incorpora elementos de las dos etapas anteriores (2007–2015). El estudio examina los diferentes períodos y analiza con más detenimiento el período actual bajo el gobierno de Ortega.



[Working Paper: A Political Economy Analysis of Domestic Resource Mobilization in Uganda](#) by Anne-Mette Kjaer, Marianne Ulriksen with Jalia Kangave and Mesharch Katusiimeh



This synthesis paper brings together the research findings from four papers prepared by the Uganda team as a part of the UNRISD Politics of Domestic Resource Mobilization for Social Development project, which addresses three broad themes: bargaining and contestation, key relations, and institution building with regard to mobilizing resources for social development. In the paper we analyse how political economy factors affect revenue raising and social spending priorities in Uganda. We establish a theoretical framework based on the political settlement theory, within which we explore instances of revenue bargain, which we understand as political negotiations that shape revenue mobilization, the actual revenue composition and policy priorities guiding revenue allocation. We focus on three instances of revenue bargains: legislative tax reform, institutional performance of the revenue agencies, and policy making. The first two instances relate to the actual mobilization of resources, whereas the third example focuses on bargains over spending priorities within a given revenue base. We find that in Uganda, a low-income country with competing political factions, there are specific challenges to mobilizing resources for social development. The need to maintain political power has led to reduced tax intakes, as a result of abolishing taxes levied on rural voters and introducing tax exemptions for powerful supporters. On the spending side, social development concerns compete with other public policy areas as well as the pressure to allocate resources for political purposes.

[Migration, Forced Displacement and Social Protection](#) by Katy Long and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler



The purpose of this paper is to set out a common framework, language and understanding of the relevance of social protection to different groups of migrants and forcibly displaced people.

This paper considers the framing of social protection in relation to forcibly displaced populations (refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs) and low-income labour migrants. We take as a starting point Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler's (2004) definition of social protection as 'all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks, and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalised; with the overall objective of reducing the economic and social vulnerability of poor, vulnerable and marginalised groups.' This definition includes a focus on economic welfare, which is standard in traditional definitions of social protection, but it also recognizes the non-separability of the economic from the social and political determinants of vulnerability. It therefore broadens the scope of provision to ensure that the

standard social protection interventions, such as a cash transfer or food provision to the most vulnerable, will be accompanied by complementary interventions to ensure access to that cash or food. For instance, if a migrant is unaware of their rights and unable to read the forms necessarily to obtain provision, then sensitization of rights and language barriers will need to complement social protection provisioning.

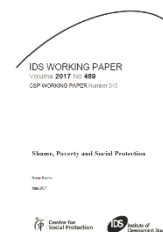
It is important to recognize that many forms of social protection are informal (relying on community, kin, clan or other forms of reciprocity). This is especially the case in less developed countries where the majority of forcibly displaced both come from and are hosted, and where formal state-based social protection is weak. This paper acknowledges the importance of these forms of social protection, but is primarily focused on assessing the impact of formal social protection programmes on forcibly displaced and low-income migrant populations. Formal social protection is normally conceived of as state-led, but in certain contexts – particularly when considering forced displacement – non-state internationally led social protection is actually the norm.

[Working Paper: The Political Economy of Tax Reforms and the Implications for Social Development in Nicaragua](#) by Roberto Molina



This paper examines the mobilization of domestic resources for social development in Nicaragua, analysing the fiscal system, its main tool. The main argument of the paper is that many tax reforms that have taken place in Nicaragua since the 1970s have been motivated mainly by the objective to increase revenue collection. However, through all the periods studied in this paper, higher revenue levels have not necessarily translated into higher social spending, as the latter has fluctuated throughout the different time periods. This results from power relations that determine the economic and social effects of the different tax reforms, more specifically, tax burdens, winners and losers, perpetuating an unequal system of wealth and income distribution in Nicaragua.

[Shame, Poverty and Social Protection](#) by Keetie Roelen, IDS Working Paper, Volume 2017 No. 489



Despite long-standing conceptual considerations of shame in understanding poverty and debates about its moral, social and emotional qualities, the role of shame in poverty reduction policies remains largely unexplored. Notions of shame or mechanisms leading to shame – such as stigma or lack of dignity or respect – feature in many studies and policy evaluations, yet few studies have considered the interaction between shame, poverty and policy as its core focus.

This paper has two objectives: Firstly, it aims to provide a conceptual framework for understanding the interactions between shame, poverty and policy. Shame is considered to be both intrinsic and instrumental to poverty; shame undermines the human right to dignity

and respect and subjective wellbeing and also represents a capability deprivation or a breakdown in conversion factors (impeding the conversion from capabilities into functionings). Secondly, the paper explores these interactions with a focus on social protection and welfare policy. Given the universal nature of the 'shame–poverty nexus' and the majority of research on shame originating from Europe and the US, the paper focuses its review on low and middle-income countries but will also draw from literature in high-income countries.

The paper concludes with reflections on next steps for research and policy in reference to shame in relation to poverty and poverty reduction policies. These include the need for clarity of language, the need to move beyond the 'shamee' and 'shamer' dichotomy, and the need for exploration of policy options.

[Book: Towards Universal Health Care in Emerging Economies](#) edited by Ilcheong Yi

This book explores how political, social, economic and institutional factors in eight emerging economies have combined to generate diverse outcomes in their move towards universal health care. Structured in three parts, the book begins by framing social policy as an integral system in its own right. The following two parts go on to discuss the opportunities and challenges of achieving universal health care in Thailand, Brazil and China, and survey the obstacles facing India, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa and Venezuela in the reform of their health care systems. The evolution of social policy systems and the cases in this volume together demonstrate that universalism in health care is continuously redefined by the interactions between diverse political forces and through specific policy processes. At a time when international and national-level discourse around health systems has once again brought universalism to the fore, this edited collection offers a timely contribution to the field in its thorough analysis of health care reform in emerging economies.

## BRIEFS AND BRIEFINGS

[Briefing: Social protection, migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: https://www.odi.org/events/4468-universal-basic-income-has-its-time-come](https://www.odi.org/events/4468-universal-basic-income-has-its-time-come).

This briefing considers the extent to which international labour migrants are covered by social protection, and the implications this has for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). More specifically, this brief shows that social protection coverage of international labour migrants varies considerably, and outlines how this has a bearing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to social protection - Goals 1 and 10.

## [Issue Brief — Rights-Based Social Protection: From Rhetoric to Reality? New Directions in Social Policy in India](#)

India stands out among countries with comparable levels of economic development for its rights-based social policies. But rights on paper do not always translate into rights in reality. This case study investigates the genesis of India's rights-based social policy legislation, its ramifications in the areas of primary education, public health care and income security, and the factors that have contributed to the success or difficulties of implementation.

### BLOG

#### [The Uberization of Retirement](#) by Saskia Sickinger

The gig economy and its innovative approach to employment is attracting increased attention in policy debates. Often assumed to be the purview of younger, tech-savvy generations, these new forms of work are however increasingly being adopted by seniors. This piece explores why more and more older people are moving into the gig economy and what this tells us about the state of traditional pension systems in a changing world.

### EXPERT COMMENTARY

#### [Expert Commentary: Universal Basic Income – Necessary but not Sufficient?](#) by Paul Ladd

This expert commentary explores if and how universal basic income can be used to meet states' social protection obligations, including social protection floors.

### PAST EVENTS

#### **May 2017**

#### [ODI: Universal basic income: has its time come?](#)

View a recording: <https://www.odi.org/events/4468-universal-basic-income-has-its-time-come>. The idea of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) has grown in popularity in the last year, with politicians and entrepreneurs around the world arguing that it could solve some of the greatest challenges of our time. Trials are underway in countries from Finland to Kenya, where participants are granted a regular and unconditional income, irrespective of their work status. In the context of shifting labour trends and the rise of automation, some argue that a UBI could help keep people out of poverty, while curbing the effects of economic insecurity, low pay and unemployment. But would equal payments to all citizens help close the gap between rich and poor? Would a system that works for a country such as Finland have the same success in developing and emerging economies? And crucially, how would a UBI be funded?

[Global Research Workshop for New Directions in Social Policy: Alternatives from and for the Global South, co-hosted with the Centre for Social Development in Africa](#) (24-26 May)

This three-day workshop brought together representatives from all research teams working on UNRISD's three-year research project, [New Directions in Social Policy: Alternatives from and for the Global South](#), which focused on understanding the nature of changes in social policy in developing countries in the midst of widespread economic crisis and uncertainty. Participants discussed research findings and lessons from the project on topics such as global social policy, the informal work sector, decentralization and the role of civil society.

[Policy Dialogue: Social Protection for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (25 May)

In this Policy Dialogue, co-hosted by the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) from the University of Johannesburg, a panel of researchers from the UNRISD project New Directions in Social Policy shared findings on innovations in social policy from countries including Brazil, China, Egypt, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa and Qatar. Local development actors representing national government, civil society and the research community have the opportunity to exchange with international researchers on experiences and challenges related to how changing social policy and practice in the Global South can contribute to implementing the SDGs around the world.

## **June 2017**

[European Development Days: The Future of Social Protection.](#)

This session, co-hosted by OECD and ODI, aimed to explore the profound challenges that confront social protection today – including persistent high informality, underemployment and low pay; policy fragmentation and weak coordination; fiscal constraints. It also identified opportunities and future innovations to address such issues, debating and providing concrete examples of options for extending social protection coverage, social protection financing and social protection systems-building. A summary can be found here: <https://www.eudevdays.eu/sessions/future-social-protection>.

[Workshop on “Social protection for inclusive growth in Africa?”](#)

Key findings from the [Social and Health Policies for Inclusive Growth \(SHPIG\) project](#) were shared at a half-day dissemination workshop at Universiteit van Amsterdam, jointly organized by [Nicky Pouw](#), Governance and Inclusive Development, Universiteit van Amsterdam, and [Katja Bender](#), International Centre for Sustainable Development, Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg. [Frank van Kesteren](#) (INCLUDE/ The Broker) chaired and moderated the workshop.

Results of the quantitative analysis on the impact of social protection measures and esp. the interaction effects between cash transfers under Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Program (LEAP) and the National Health Insurance Scheme were presented for Ghana. In case of Kenya, results of a political economy analyses were shared. Feedback was obtained during moderated roundtable discussions with researchers and practitioners working or interested in social protection in Africa including representatives from international NGOs such as Oxfam, Amref Flying Doctors and UNICEF.

## **July 2017**

### [Linking Social Protection and Human Rights: Special Session of the Regulating for Decent Work 2017 Conference](#) (5 July 2017)

The Special Session, convened by UNRISD and the ILO, presented experiences and results of applying a human rights-based approach in the design and implementation of social protection policies and programmes in different country and regional contexts.

The aim of the Special Session was to raise awareness among researchers, policy makers and international organizations on the need and practical ways to ground social protection and labour policies in human rights, and to deepen knowledge on the linkages between social protection and human rights through empirical evidence drawn from concrete examples.