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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL  
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **15<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

[Institutional factors and people's preferences in the implementation of social protection: the case of Ethiopia](#) by Vincenzo Vinci and Keetie Roelen

Effective implementation of social protection interventions is key for achieving positive impact, but factors underpinning quality of implementation have not been widely explored. Recent literature on determinants of social protection expenditures indicates that quality of institutions and people's preferences play an important role. This paper builds on this literature to explore the linkages between quality of institutions and people's preferences in relation to the quality of implementation of social protection interventions. It does so by using Ethiopia and one of the largest social protection programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa - the Productive Safety Net Programme - as a case study, thereby contributing to debates of how social protection can be implemented more effectively, particularly in settings with widespread poverty, relatively low levels of institutional capacity and rapid scale-up of programmes. Based on primary qualitative data, the paper finds that greater institutional quality is associated with more



effective implementation of social protection interventions. The ability to voice preferences can lead to adaptations in implementation, although the extent to which this occurs is highly gendered.

Reminder that the [Special Issue of the International Social Security Review: The Human Right to Social Security](#) is still open access!

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 asserts that social security is an inalienable human right. To meet the international commitment to progressively realize universal social security coverage, social security administrations are key actors. 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.

### [Social protection as an alternative to migration? An assessment of the role of social protection in reducing push factors for migration in different country contexts](#)

by Prof. Dr. Esther Schüring, Chantel Pearson, Alexis Castro, Brian Mathebula, Prof. Dr. Volker Kronenberg, Dr. Manuel Becker and Jakob Horneber



The study examines the role of social protection in migration and return decision-making in different countries of origin, using Albania, Iraq, Nigeria and Pakistan as case studies. It establishes a conceptual framework linking social protection and migration based upon Hagen-Zanker's theoretical summary of factors influencing migration decisions. The study finds social protection can have a direct and indirect effect on decisive factors at the micro- and meso- level. It directly affects household income and poverty levels as well as individual's capacity to cope with life-cycle risks. Indirect effects of social protection have a significant impact on improving state-citizen relations and reducing relative deprivation. Depending on the accessibility and quality of social protection as well as the portability of social transfers, social protection can impact migration decisions and therefore either impede or facilitate migration. There is, however, inconclusive evidence on the decision to migrate, hence the need to examine the linkages contextually.

Placed within the debate of German migration pressures, the study also points out German strategies which aim to reduce flight and migration and assesses the relevance of social protection in German national and development policy. Most strategies place more emphasis on reducing migration by focusing on factors with immediate and short-term effects such as border controls and stricter immigration rules. Existing social protection strategies in the context of migration equally adopt a short-term perspective. Yet as Germany has committed itself not only to controlling immigration and better integrating refugees but also to tackling the causes of migration, it is important to explore all options that look promising and potentially sustainable. Social protection is a case in point, as its impact goes beyond its immediate effects of reducing poverty and inequality. Dependent on the country context, the prevailing causes of flight and the design of social protection, it can play an influential role in migration decisions by giving individuals and households prospects in their home countries.

Results from the [SHPIG Project](#) have just been published in two [IZNE Working Papers](#)

[The politics of implementation or why institutional interaction matters: The role of traditional authorities in delivering pro-poor social policies in Kenya](#) by Barbara Rohregger, [Katja Bender](#), Bethuel Kinuthia, [Esther Schüring](#), Grace Ikuu, [Nicky Pouw](#)



The paper contributes to the debate on the political economy of implementation of pro-poor social policy. It argues for a broadening of the debate, which is dominated by technocratic arguments, emphasizing the lack of financial resources, technology or skills as the major barriers for effective implementation. Describing the dynamic interplay of ‘formal’ operational programme structures and ‘informal’ traditional institutions in delivering the CTOVC – the largest and oldest cash transfer programme in Kenya – it argues for the need to look more closely into the local political economy as an important mediating arena for implementing social policies. Implementation is heavily contingent upon the local social, political and institutional context that influences and shapes its outcomes. These processes are highly dynamic and ambivalent evolving between ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ structures and institutions. They may change over time and place, challenging the implicit assumption that programmes are evenly implemented across geographic and political entities.

[Social Protection in Ghana and Kenya through an Inclusive Development Lens: complexity, risks and limitations](#) by Nicky Pouw, Barbara Rohregger, Esther Schüring, Kennedy, Alatinga, Bethuel Kinuthia, Katja Bender



This paper analyzes the complex effects and risks of social protection programmes in Ghana and Kenya on poor people’s human wellbeing, voice and empowerment and interactions with the social protection regulatory framework and policy instruments. For this purpose, it adopts a comprehensive Inclusive Development framework to systematically explore the complex effects of cash transfers and health insurance at the individual, household and community level. The findings highlight the positive provisionary and preventive effects of social protection, but also illustrate that the poorest are still excluded and that promotive effects, in the form of enhanced productivity, manifest themselves mainly for the people who are less resource poor. They can build more effectively upon an existing asset base, capabilities, power and social relations to counter the exclusionary mechanisms of the system, address inequity concerns and offset the transaction costs of accessing and benefitting from social protection. The inclusive development framework enables to lay these complex effects and interactions bear, and points to areas that require more longitudinal and mixed methodology research.

## BRIEF

### [Project Brief: Addressing the Youth Unemployment Paradox: New Directions in Social Policy in the Mena Region](#)



In the 2000s, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faced a paradox: their populations were young and highly educated, and yet they faced some of the highest rates of youth unemployment in the world. The frustrations of these young people were one of the factors contributing to the popular uprisings that broke out across the region in 2011, commonly known as the Arab Spring. This case study, part of the UNRISD research project *New Directions in Social Policy: Alternatives from and for the Global South*, investigates the root causes of persistent youth unemployment in selected MENA countries and examines the steps being taken by national and international actors to address these challenges.

## THINK PIECE

### [Think piece: Rebuilding the Fiscal Contract? 5 Innovative Ways to Tax Informality](#) by Maudo Jallow

This think piece explores the potential to rebuild a social contract between informal workers and the state, refilling coffers to finance social development and providing social protection to those who lack formal access to it.

## EXPERT COMMENTARY

### [Expert Commentary — The Need for Transparency: Designing Rights-Based and Accountable Social Protection Systems](#) by Rasmus Schødt

This expert commentary explores the role of civil society in keeping governments accountable in the provision of social protection.

## WORKING GROUP MEMBER NEWS

[Boris Verbrugge](#), Adeline Ajuaye and [Jan Van Ongevalle](#) currently work on the [Research Project – BeFind](#) – on contributory social protection for the informal sector.

Specifically, during field research in Tanzania and Senegal, they attempted to identify the strategies used by community-based health insurance schemes to (1) attract people from the informal sector; and (2) collect their contributions on a regular basis. Output is due to appear in the coming months in the form of a case study paper, a policy brief, and (possibly) a journal article, but preliminary findings indicate that contributory social protection needs to

adapt to the complex realities of the informal sector, which is characterized by tremendous diversity, and is embedded in a complex and dynamic socio-political environment.

## UPCOMING EVENT

**27-29 June 2018**

[DSA2018: Global inequalities](#) at the University of Manchester

This year's Development Studies Association conference at the University of Manchester will host a panel on the political economy of social protection. Co-convened by Nabila Idris (University of Cambridge), and Drs Michael Tribe and Mozammel Huq (University of Strathclyde), the panel will showcase exciting social protection developments from around the world. See all abstracts here: <https://nomadit.co.uk/dsa/dsa2018/conferencesuite.php/panels/6391>

Within this panel Babara Rohregger and Katja Bender will present 2 papers. This first one is on: [The politics of implementation or why Institutional context matters?: The Role of Traditional authorities in delivering pro-poor social policies in Kenya](#)

The paper describes the implementation of the CT-OVC in three Kenyan counties that evolve between 'formal' and 'informal' institutions and processes. These hybrid delivery structures are not always dysfunctional to effective delivery, but have important complementing and substituting functions.

The second paper: [Understanding multiple trajectories of extending social protection to the poor - An analysis of institutional change in Kenya](#)

The paper provides a framework for defining and explaining variations in reform dynamics across sub-pillars of social-protection, and applies this framework to the Kenyan case focussing on cash transfer and social health protection reforms (process tracing approach with primary and secondary data).

## PAST EVENT

Video: [World Social Work Day 2018: Social Work and Youth—Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development](#)

World Social Work Day has been celebrated around the globe since 1983. This year, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) teamed up once again with the Geneva School of Social Work and its international partners to mark the Day at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

This year, the international theme of World Social Work Day was “Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability” which the Geneva event addressed under the banner of “Social Work and Youth. Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development”. During this year’s celebration, a 2-day event at UNOG, expert speakers came together with participants in interactive workshops to debate how to leverage the values and tools of social work to enable young people to thrive and contribute to building equitable, inclusive and sustainable communities at the local, national and global levels.

## SHORT COURSES

September 2018

Short courses in social protection

Short on time, but interested in diving deeper into relevant topics in social protection such as migration, health or vulnerability? The Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences invites you and social protection practitioners as well as young professionals from relevant fields of study or discipline to a three-week summer school, in partnership with renowned social protection experts (UNFCC, WHO, OPM, Maastricht university and more). The courses take place two weeks online and one week on campus.

Applicants can choose a specialization among the following:

- Migration Return to Work
- Climate Change
- Vulnerability
- Health
- Old Age
- Implementation of social transfers

Visit our website for more information about the courses and about the application process. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2018.

Link: <https://www.h-brs.de/en/sv/adsp-s-short-courses>

For further inquiries please email to [info@socialprotection.de](mailto:info@socialprotection.de)