

AT A GLANCE

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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL  
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **20<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

[Status and determinants of poverty and income inequality in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities: Household-based evidence from Afar Regional State, Ethiopia](#) by Araya M. Teka, Gabriel Temesgen Woldu and Zeremariam Fre

This paper analyzes poverty and its determinants and income inequality in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Ethiopia. 2295 households from zone 1 and zone 2 of the Afar region were surveyed and examined using the FGT index, the Gini coefficient, and logistic regression. 47.6 percent of the households are poor, with poverty gap index of 0.178 and poverty severity index of 0.092. Food poverty accounts for 33.7 percent with an income gap of Birr 33 per month. Food poverty is highest in pastoral (35.6%) than the agro-pastoral communities (29.8%). 35.6 percent of PSNP non-participants and 32 percent of the participant households are poor. Gender of the household head, family size, access to credit, mobility, participating in safety net programs and local institutions, distance to market and remittances are determining poverty in the area. There is an

alarmingly high degree of income inequality (0.592) in the study area. The lowest Gini index (0.433) is found in Koneba district, and the highest index (0.616) is observed in widowed heads of households. Strengthening the poverty reduction programs and introducing diversified income schemes; modernizing local institutions, increase provision of microfinance services, introducing packages specific to women and youth are recommended to address the high poverty and inequality in Afar.

[Universal basic income policies and their potential for addressing health inequities - Transformative approaches to a healthy, prosperous life for all](#) by Lousie Haagh and Barbara Rohregger

Over recent years, universal basic income (UBI) has become an important reference point when discussing innovative basic income policies as promising alternatives to address shortcomings resulting from the changing nature of traditional employment patterns and work. Related to this is the notion of new insecurities that have arisen, which existing welfare state arrangements are not in a position to adequately tackle. These aspects also resonate with the debate on health and well-being, emphasizing the role of income security – either through employment or social protection measures – in playing a key role in achieving more equitable health. More recently, this debate has gained momentum, as global and domestic factors are forcing a rethink of income security design, to generate conditions in which income support systems effectively counteract insecurity.

[Reducing inequality requires redistribution - Social protection ensures progress towards reaching SDG 10](#) by Anja Gaentzsch

Inequality has been rising in many countries and stabilized at excessively high levels in others. Inequality hinders the reduction of poverty, affects human dignity and violates human rights. Moreover, due to its negative impact on social, economic and political participation, inequality endangers the core values of democracy and challenges social cohesion and peace. It will be impossible to achieve the sustainable development goals, if inequality is not reduced.

Fiscal and social policy alone cannot overcome the multifaceted problem of inequality, but they form an important foundation that can be built upon. If well designed, social protection systems contribute to reducing inequality and exclusion, and enable self-determined participation in social, economic and political affairs.

This study reviews the scope for influencing social inequality through social protection. It illustrates which instruments social protection can use and why finance always has to be part of the overall analysis. The author examines the question of why there is such

a large variance in the impact on equality resulting from the social protection systems in operation in different countries. Also under discussion are the framework conditions that place constraints on redistributive social and fiscal policy in the global south and the resulting responsibilities for national governments and the international community.

Related to their work on [Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization](#) UNRISD published briefs and papers which have links with social policy, albeit in the context of a stronger focus on financing and inequalities.

[Inequality and the 1%: Is a Transformative Fiscal Policy Possible?](#) - Event Brief by Maggie Charter

Tackling inequality requires more than raising people out of poverty; it depends on progressive and substantial shifts in fiscal policy, an essential equality-enhancing instrument with the potential to do three things: (1) raise necessary revenues for public spending which tackles vertical and horizontal inequalities; (2) stem market incentives for accumulation of income and wealth at the top; and (3) forge a credible fiscal compact between citizens and the state. But how can such progressive policies be implemented while those in power benefit from the status quo?

[Overcoming Inequalities in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.](#)  
- Issue Brief summarizing the main findings from our international conference in Inequalities in 2018

Inequalities are one of today's greatest challenges, obstructing poverty reduction and sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to overcome inequalities, containing two standalone goals—SDGs 5 and 10—and, moreover, an overarching commitment to leaving no one behind. In considering how to reduce inequalities, the time has come to adjust our focus to include not just the bottom of the pyramid, but also the top: elite power and all its ramifications, as well as the sources of these power imbalances, the fractures they have wrought, and the drivers of policy change to level out social stratification and devolve power and resources from elites to non-elites.

[Persistence of Poverty in an Indigenous Community in Southern India: Bringing Agrarian Environment to the Centre of Poverty Analysis](#) - Occasional Paper by Sudheesh Ramapurath

This paper draws attention to the need for centring the agrarian environment in poverty analysis and development policymaking. Through an ethnographic enquiry into the persistence of poverty among a landless indigenous community in the southern Indian state of Kerala, this paper tries to understand the community's negotiations with

changes in the agrarian environment. The community is losing out on livelihood strategies and adaptation measures on multiple fronts simultaneously. The multi-directionality and simultaneity of the exclusions produced by changes in the agrarian environment warrant attention in poverty analysis, the paper argues. I follow members of this community in their quest to find alternative livelihoods in the wake of rapid deagrarianization in Kerala and show how they are systematically losing out on each of these livelihood pathways. I also follow them in sites of migration in the villages of the neighbouring state of Karnataka, where they are fast being replaced by cheaper labour. Fieldwork in sites of state-sponsored land distribution shows that receiving land does not necessarily work towards lifting them out of precarity. From these observations, the paper concludes that the stealthy ways in which changes in the agrarian environment further the exclusions of marginalized communities need to be paid greater attention.

[Intergenerational Mobility in Education: Estimates of the Worldwide Variation](#) - Occasional Paper by Tharcisio Leone

This paper applies the recently published “Global Database on Intergenerational Mobility” to present a detailed picture of the chances of mobility around the world. The empirical results obtained from transition matrices and linear regression models, and based on harmonized data for education attainments of children and their parents from 148 countries, point to three main conclusions: first, the likelihood of attaining intergenerational mobility differs widely across countries and world regions; second, intergenerational persistence in education is particularly strong in the least-developed countries; and, finally – and perhaps most importantly – the mobility gap between poor and rich countries has increased over time.

## OPINION PIECES

The following two Think Pieces also relate to UNRIDS’ work on [Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization](#)

[We Cannot Take on Inequality Without Tax Justice](#) by Fariya Mohiuddin

At the heart of inequality is uneven access to key human rights such as health, housing and adequate living standards. Effective taxation is fundamental to addressing inequality in this form: by funding access, it creates a pathway for the progressive realization of human rights. Yet the links between inequality, rights provision and taxation have not always been clearly made in policy or in activism. Holding governments to account for their human rights obligations is more than a political or legislative issue—it is a fiscal one. And so, the role of the state in resourcing and funding the provision of rights as a means to combat inequality is often overlooked in policy and activist spheres.

Governments must meet their human rights obligations by developing adequate and appropriate economic, social and cultural policies. Citizens are then able to hold their government to account for these obligations when they are underpinned by domestic legislation.

This opinion piece reflects on how social protection can support women, arguing that efforts to increase employment need to go hand-in-hand with social support and services.

[Citizenship and Equality in Latin America: A Troubled Link](#) by Luciano Enrique Andrenacci

As the 20th century drew to a close, Latin America witnessed an unexpectedly virtuous alignment of factors favouring “inclusive” citizenship. A combination of global economic and political change weakened long-standing power arrangements, providing a window of opportunity in the region to strengthen the otherwise troubled link between citizenship and equality. So how did this come about? This think piece traces the historical genesis of the connection between modern notions of citizenship and equality, and the highs (few) and lows (many!) of how it has played out in Latin America up to the present day.

## ONGOING RESEARCH

**#1:** Social protection among others aims at facilitating financial access to health services. Yet, access to health services is influenced by multiple factors. The idea that energy and esp. electricity access are important enablers of better access to health care by enhancing health service provision has only recently been taken up. In June 2019 academic and private sector partners started the 3-year research and development project “[EnerSHelf – Energy self sufficiency for health facilities in Ghana](#)”; funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). [Katja Bender](#) is one of the two project leaders and [Christian Böber](#) is involved in the socio-economic project activities and supports the scientific coordination.

Within the project various disciplines work together: From a development-economic perspective, options for strengthening the governance structures in the Ghanaian energy and health sector should be developed. This is based on empirical analyzes of the barriers and drivers of institutional change towards a sustainable energy transition and the decision-making behavior of decision makers in healthcare facilities and companies regarding the adoption of PV solutions. From a technical point of view, first of all, field tests of PV-based solutions and the improvement of the data situation are in the foreground (energy meteorological data and load data). The data serves as the input

of newly developed tools and algorithms. The aim is to achieve greater reliability in the planning, design and control of PV diesel hybrid systems and a context-specific electrification strategy. The collaboration between technical disciplines (engineering and natural sciences) and social sciences (development economics) allows the project to gain an integrative understanding of the interplay between institutional and technological change in the health-energy nexus. In particular, it deals with the question of how the interaction between the development and dissemination of technological solutions works, given the specific institutional and political-economic country context.

**#2:** Research on social protection often involves collaboration with policy-makers, NGOs or other non-academic actors. The European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) is currently conducting a study on the [perspectives of researchers towards research-practice collaborations](#). The study focusses on underlying motivations and enabling as well as disabling factors for research integrating non-academic actors. The research is led by the International Centre for Sustainable Development, Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Exploring the Feasibility of International Financing for Social Protection Systems](#)

UNRISD is co-hosting a technical session on 28 November 2019 as part of the ILO's Global Social Protection Week

Objectives of the session and format

- Discuss the extent to which a global solidarity mechanism is needed in addition to domestic resources, and the conceptual basis for a social contract beyond country borders.
- Compare the strengths and weaknesses of different proposals that have been put forward, and critically reflect on what has hindered, the effective implementation of these proposals so far
- Identify options for financing social protection with international sources that seem, in the current context, the most feasible

This technical session will consist of a moderated discussion, where the moderator will ask one or two rounds of questions to the panel members.

Moderator: Paul Ladd, UNRISD

Inputs by Markus Kaltenborn, Ruhr-Universität Bochum and Gabriele Köhler, UNRISD

Panellists:

- Sekai Nzenza, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe
- Marijke Wijnroks, Chief of Staff, The Global Fund
- Michael Cichon, Core Group Member, Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors
- Arthur Wood, Founding Partner, Total Impact Capital

### [2019 Social Policy In Africa International Conference](#)

UNRISD is a co-organizer of this conference on the theme of "Governance of Africa's Social Policy: Subverting Development and Democracy?", taking place on 25-27 November 2019 at the University of South Africa, City of Tshwane, South Africa