

AT A GLANCE

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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL  
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **22<sup>nd</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

## [EADI Statement on COVID19, 31 March 2020](#)

The COVID19 crisis is the health, social, and economic crisis of our time. Fully in the throes of it, we are yet to understand – or even imagine – its fallout. The fact that the majority of countries around the world are in lockdown creates a space to reflect upon the effects of this crisis upon our communities, our societies and our interconnected world.

EADI is in solidarity particularly with the most vulnerable, those who do not have time to reflect as they continue their daily struggle. They have been denied the benefits of so-called development in our world of inequality and social injustices and now face barriers erected out of fear or ignorance or disrespect of life. We treasure, protect and promote the concept of human dignity for all, in the face of rampant distress - whether related to hunger, health, unemployment, lack of educational provision, governance, absence of basic services or other support. Hundreds of millions of people in all parts of the world face dire circumstances as panic-driven nationalist emergency policies shut off and shut down. It is our common duty to stand by those that are most affected in our world of asymmetric power structures, privileges and marginalisation.

\* The content of this Brief lies within the responsibility of the working group members.

At EADI, we commit to focusing on the international development challenges that affect the majority of the world. We will remain dedicated to the promotion of research and dissemination of evidence-based knowledge into international development issues, to ensure that they do not fade into the background in the current crisis. We engage to keep profiling inclusive development, sustainability and transformational change as key to elaborating a profound, long-lasting response to the challenges we are confronted with. As a pan-European community, EADI has the experience to keep strong social links despite physical distances and we commit to an ongoing, open dialogue to exchange ideas and explore answers to our current predicament.

The world-wide crisis risks reinforcing North/ South asymmetries and inequalities in all areas and societies. It risks exacerbating underlying problems, and insular mentalities and deepening we-they divides. All this is the opposite of unity, of solidarity, of social justice and human dignity. We need to use the challenges as an opportunity to reconsider what “development” means and what the implications for “development studies” are. The only way to emerge from this global onslaught is through working together in search for alternatives to enable a sustainable reproduction of our world. COVID19 has shown us that there are no islands or bunkers - we are only as strong as the weakest among us.

## PUBLICATIONS

[Social protection in Ghana and Kenya through an inclusive development Lens. Complex effects and risks](#) by Nicky R.M. Pouw, Barbara Rohregger, Esther Schüring, Kennedy A. Alatinga, Bethuel Kinuthia and Katja Bender

Social protection research in African economies is growing along with global and national policy debates on inclusive growth and development. Yet, empirical evidence on the nature and scope of the effects, in particular on the poorest and most vulnerable, is scant. This article makes both a theoretical and empirical contribution by analyzing the complex effects and risks of social protection policies in Ghana and Kenya. It proposes a comprehensive inclusive development framework for analyzing social protection impacts. Based on a two-years study on the multidimensional wellbeing effects in rural communities in both countries, it is found that social protection impacts food, education, health and to a limited extent productivity levels of individuals and households, their family and community relations and social equity, as well as perceptions of self-reliance and citizenship. Risks involve exclusionary social-economic and political mechanisms and power inequities aggravate programme design and implementation failures that exclude the poorest from accessing social protection at multi-scalar levels in the first place.

[Child-sensitive graduation: How can programmes break the intergenerational cycle of poverty?](#) by Keetie Roelen

Helping to raise people out of poverty is one of the objectives of social protection.

So-called 'graduation programmes' represent a new wave of comprehensive interventions that seek to 'graduate' people out of poverty. Programmes commonly include a package of cash transfers, asset transfers, access to savings and credit, livelihood training and coaching, aiming to set beneficiaries on an upwards pathway out of poverty. Programmes have been found to increase the household-level outcomes such as food security, asset holdings and living conditions, both in the short-term and medium-term. However, the impacts of graduation programmes on individual household members and specifically children are far less understood. On one hand, children are likely to benefit from improved outcomes at the household level. On the other hand, a narrow focus on economic strengthening and greater demand on caregivers' time and resources may undermine care for children. Experiences with programmes in Burundi and Haiti indicate that impacts on children's lives are mixed, particularly for infants. Given the long-standing consequences of under-investment in children at an early age, the extent to which graduation programmes are 'child-sensitive' should receive greater consideration in programme design and implementation than it does at the moment.

[The role of graduation programming in promoting early childhood development: an overview of the evidence](#) by Keetie Roelen, Micah Sherer and Carmen-Leon Himmelstine

It is widely understood that poverty undermines early childhood development (ECD). In turn, poor ECD reinforces intergenerational transmission of poverty. Comprehensive economic strengthening and social protection programmes, such as 'graduation programmes', may offer a 'double boon': they can improve ECD in the short term and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty in the long run. This article provides a comprehensive review of the state of the evidence regarding the role of graduation programmes in ECD in the Global South. We find positive effects in relation to nutrition and health, but observe large evidence gaps with respect to safety and security, responsive caregiving and early learning. Tension between work and care, shortcomings in design and delivery and structural barriers form impediments to positive change. A greater and more holistic focus on children within graduation programming is crucial for securing ECD outcomes and ultimately achieving poverty reduction in the long run.

Occasional Paper 5 in the series “Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization” - [Achieving SDG 10: A Global Review of Public Service Inclusion Strategies for Ethnic and Religious Minorities](#) by Ghazala Mir, Saffron Karlsen, Winnie Mitullah, Upendra Bhojani, Benjamin Uzochukwu, Chinyere Okeke, Tolib Mirzoev, Bassey Ebenso, Naila Dracup and Gary Dymski, Doan Thi Thuy Duong, Bui Thi Thu Ha, Steve Ouma, Felicia Onibon, Joyce Ogwezi, Shahab Adris

Social inequalities are intensifying globally and widening divisions are linked to civil unrest. Disadvantaged ethnic and religious groups experience poor access to, representation in and outcomes from public services such as healthcare and education. As mechanisms for social participation and citizenship, public services are key to inclusive and sustainable societies.

Working Paper 2019-7 - [The Politics of Poverty Alleviation Strategies in India](#) by M. Vijayabaskar and Gayarathi Balagopal

This paper examines the performance of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the National Food Security Act (NFSA), considered by the authors to be an improvement of the pre-existing public distribution system (PDS) in India. Women, Dalits and Adivasis, who generally constitute the poorest inhabitants of rural India, have benefited most from the MGNREGA, weakening traditional relations of power. The paper highlights the need for a more local-sensitive approach to policy design and greater political mobilization of intended beneficiaries for rights-based welfare programmes to be effective in addressing the social and economic insecurities of the poor.

Capstone piece for UNRISD’s blog series on inequalities “Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization” - [The Shifting Landscape of Inequalities—What Have We Learned?](#) by Maggie Carter and Katja Hujo

This think piece rounds out the series Overcoming Inequalities in a Fractured World: Between Elite Power and Social Mobilization, launched as a way of continuing the conversations that began during the UNRISD conference of the same name. The piece gives an overview of the highly diverse contributions to the series and shows how they explore drivers and impacts of inequalities, and, beyond that, reveal ways that people, communities, social relationships and institutions are shifting, adapting and innovating in response to them.

[UNRISD collection of videos on Youtube](#) of selected presentation from our Overcoming Inequalities conference, covering issues like cash transfers in the Philippines, and what policy makers think about social protection in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the presentations on how transformative fiscal policy connects with social protection from our HLPF event.

Working paper [“A Public and a Private University in One”: Equity in University Attendance in Kenya since the Liberalization Reforms of the 1990s](#) by Rebecca Simson and J. Andrew Harris

The authors find that horizontal inequalities in university access - between ethnic and religious groups and the sexes—have declined, while vertical, “class”, inequality is likely increasing.

#### PAST EVENT

A regional webinar on the Social Protection and COVID 19, opportunities and challenges in the SICA region took place on the 31st March, co-organised by WFP Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Bureau, together with SISCA (Secretaría de Integración Social Centro Americana) and EUROsocial+. It consisted of a series of presentations by World Food Programme (WFP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), EuroSocial and the governments of Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Costa Rica. All the material is in Spanish and available online [here](#) and the full recording [here](#).