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PUBLICATIONS

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **27th edition** of our Social Protection Brief. On the left-hand side you can find a short list of the sections included.

*Best Regards,
Callistus
Agbaam*

Special issue “[Social protection and social cohesion](#)” guest-edited by [Francesco Burchi](#), [Markus Loewe](#) and [Daniele Malerba](#) German Development Institute (DIE)

The European Journal of Development Research is releasing a special issue on the relationship between social protection and social cohesion in low- and middle-income countries in June 2022. It includes a conceptual introduction in addition to seven more empirical papers, all using common definitions of social protection and social cohesion. Based on research conducted mainly in Burundi, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya and Malawi, the special issue provides evidence for a bidirectional relationship between social protection and social cohesion. In particular, it shows that social protection programmes can contribute to horizontal and vertical trust and inclusive identity. However, they can also have negative effects if they suffer from weaknesses in targeting and design.

Special issue “[The Fragility-Grievances-Conflict Triangle in the Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\)](#)” –with a focus on the role of social protection systems by [Timo Kivimaki](#) and [Rana Jawad](#) (Eds.) (2022).

“Social Sciences” has published a special issue in April 2022 that studies state fragility and its relationship with conflict and grievances in the MENA. It contains a conceptual

introduction and eight more specific articles. The special issue argues that all aspects of state fragility relate to grievances and conflict dynamics in the rest world, while in the MENA, political factionalism plays a disproportionate role. Using empirical evidence the authors, [Markus Loewe and Tina Zintl](#) from the German Development Institute (DIE), argue that improvements in social protection can cure for deficits in the delivery of any of the these three “Ps” by the government. Another article by [Georgeta Vidican-Auktor and Markus Loewe](#) shows that subsidy reforms can impact on social contracts in very different ways. It compares Morocco, which tried to preserve its social contract as much as possible with Egypt and Iran. Egypt dismantled subsidy schemes quite radically without systematic information and consultation campaigns and just limited compensation. Iran, in contrast, replaced energy subsidies with a much more cost-efficient and egalitarian quasi-universal cash transfer scheme, paving the way to a more inclusive social contract.

[The Poverty Reduction Effect of Social Protection: The Pros and Cons of a Multidisciplinary Approach](#) by Nicky Pouw and Katja Bender. In *The European Journal of Development Research* (2022).

There is a growing body of knowledge on the complex effects of social protection on poverty in Africa. This article explores the pros and cons of a multidisciplinary approach to studying social protection policies. Our research aimed at studying the interaction between cash transfers and social health protection policies in terms of their impact on inclusive growth in Ghana and Kenya. Also, it explored the policy reform context over time to unravel programme dynamics and outcomes. The analysis combined econometric and qualitative impact assessments with national- and local-level political economic analyses. In particular, dynamic effects and improved understanding of processes are well captured by this approach, thus, pushing the understanding of implementation challenges over and beyond a ‘technological fix,’ as has been argued before by Niño-Zarazúa et al. (*World Dev* 40:163–176, 2012). However, multidisciplinary research puts considerable demands on data and data handling. Finally, some poverty reduction effects play out over a longer time, requiring longitudinal consistent data that is still scarce.

[An Ethnographic-Discourse Analysis of the Socio-political Effects of Interaction Between Cash Transfer Programme Authorities, Caregivers and Non-beneficiaries](#) by Dennis Puorideme. In *The European Journal of Development Research* (2022).

Studies of cash transfer programmes in developing countries have demonstrated the quantitative income effects of these programmes with few studies reporting the socio-political outcomes regarding cohesive social relations. Thus, there is paucity of studies in the field of social protection about the nexus of cash transfer programmes and social cohesion. Do the actions, interactions, practices of cash transfer programme officials, caregivers, and non-beneficiary community members promote cohesive social relations

in a specific socio-political context? This study combines ethnographic methods with discourse analysis to investigate the socio-political effects of the actions of Ghana's LEAP cash transfer programme community focal persons, caregivers, and non-beneficiary community members on cohesive social relations. This study demonstrates that the LEAP cash transfer programme's targeting, enumeration and enrolment practice produces negative social relations and undermines trust between caregivers and non-beneficiary community members, and between community focal persons and non-beneficiary community members. Thus, this study contributes to an improved understanding of cash transfer programmes' socio-political outcomes in relation to social cohesion for a better development policymaking and implementation.

[Governance Principles for a Global Fund for Social Protection](#) by Markus Kaltenborn and Laura Kreft. In *Labour and Social Justice* (2022).

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development international support for establishing and financing social protection floors must be organized within a partnership-based framework. The authors therefore argue that if a new international financing mechanism is set up for this purpose, it should be designed in such a way that recipient governments retain full ownership of their social protection systems. Moreover, it will be necessary that the recipient countries, as well as civil society actors be included in the decision making processes of the new mechanism and that effective accountability instruments are implemented.

[Process evaluation of the Disability Allowance programme in the Maldives](#) by Shaffa Hameed, Matthew Walsham, Lena Morgen Banks and Hannah Kuper. In *International Social Security Review* (2022).

Limited evidence on the design and implementation of social protection programmes for people with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries constrains understanding of how their impacts could be improved. The Disability Allowance programme in the Maldives is a non means-tested, monthly cash transfer targeting people with disabilities. Using qualitative methods, process evaluation was used to examine the intervention design, implementation, and likelihood of achieving its intended objectives. There were important strengths of the programme, including the broad definition of disability. We find that delivery could be strengthened through providing greater clarity on eligibility criteria and strengthening human resources to widen the programme's reach. Intervention fidelity was challenged by inconsistent practice among implementers and lack of established protocols. Most importantly, the absence of linkages with the Medical Welfare scheme that provides assistive devices potentially limits the likelihood of the programme achieving intended objectives.

[Social protection responses by states and international organisations to the COVID-19 crisis in the global South: Stopgap or new departure?](#) by Lutz Leisering. In *Global Social Policy* (2021).

Macro events like the Great Depression in the 1930s and the Second World War have triggered new departures in social policy. What about the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant socio-economic crisis? This article analyses the social protection measures taken by governments in the global South in response to the crisis, the social protection concepts developed by international organisations, and the overall strategies of the organisations in view of future shocks. The finding is that while the measures taken by governments expectedly have just been stopgap measures of a transitory nature, international organisations are aspiring to future-oriented policies and present a range of concepts for the time after the crisis. However, these are old concepts from pre-COVID-19 times, and the main strategy is to expand rather than reform the old models, even though the international organisations themselves identify new forms of poverty and structural inequalities. Moreover, the organisations do not provide conclusive evidence of their strategy's viability; the strategy rather reflects a belief in social progress. All in all, the crisis has hardly been used as a window of opportunity for generating new ideas of social protection. Rather, the crisis has revealed the flimsy nature of widespread thinking about building social protection in the global South. Conceptually, the article draws on world society theory, conceiving of the pandemic as a global macro event the

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- Blog post about “ Which are the principles for governance of a global Financing Mechanism for social Protection: <https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/which-are-principles-governance-global-financing-mechanism-social-protection>

OTHER NEWS

[“Social protection and social cohesion”](#)

Online panel discussion and official launch of the special issue “Social Protection and Social Cohesion”, edited by Francesco Burchi, Markus Loewe and Daniele Malerba

15 June 2022 at 3.00 pm -4.30pm CEST (UTC+2)

Please register for participation at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldeGprzMvHtyFBy4VVRE9TnTaepx8kV6r>

While there is substantial evidence of the effect of social protection on poverty, inequality and vulnerability, limited research has focused on societal and political outcomes so far. The European Journal of Development Research (EUDR) is publishing a special issue

on “Social Protection and Social Cohesion”, which is guest-edited by Francesco Burchi, Markus Loewe and Daniele Malerba from the German Development Institute (DIE). It includes eight articles examining how social protection contributes to social cohesion – that is vertical and horizontal trust in society, inclusive identity and cooperation for the common good – but also how social cohesion affects the implementation and effectiveness of social protection programmes. The special issue sheds light on three world regions and various forms of social protection. The main results will be presented and discussed in a virtual panel discussion, which is going to be held by the EADI secretariat in co-operation with DIE on 15 June 2022. Please note that screenshots may be taken during the event.

[Master’s Programme in Social Protection at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences turns into a Master of Science \(MSc\)](#)

Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences in Germany is delighted to announce its current re-accreditation of the "[Master’s programme in Social Protection](#)" by evalag. The accreditation agency certifies not only the excellent quality and innovative nature of the study programme, but also a constant improvement compared to the last accreditation. The department has used the re-accreditation to embed the quantitative courses more prominently in the curriculum in addition to the qualitative contents. This will result in a change of the degree title from Master of Arts (MA) to Master of Science (MSc). In addition, the curriculum was adapted to reflect feedback from students and teaching staff.

The master’s programme in Social Protection is conducted by the Department of Social Policy and Social Security Studies at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University at its campus in Sankt Augustin, Germany and online. It offers an interdisciplinary and in-depth study of social protection systems. Graduates will be able to design, manage and critically assess systems that are effective, affordable and flexible enough to meet future socio-economic challenges. The degree is organized as a full-time programme over a 2-year period with 120 credits according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The first semester is taught on campus, followed by an online semester, a practical and a thesis semester.

[Call for Applications for DAAD Scholarship / Helmut-Schmidt-Programme \(Public Policy and Good Governance, PPGG\) for Master’s programme in Social Protection at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences](#)

Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences is happy to announce that up to 10 fully-funded DAAD scholarships including an intensive German course for half a year will be awarded to outstanding applicants from low- and middle-income countries for its master’s programme in social protection for a start in the **winter semester 2023/2024**. The application portal will be open from June 1 to July 31, 2022.

More information is available on the [university website](#).

Short Course on Disability-Inclusive Social Protection

Short on time, but interested in a particular social protection topic? Looking for a short, in-depth, course with renowned social protection and disability experts? Then our certified short course conducted with and sponsored by UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will certainly be of interest to you.

Participants: Up to 40 practitioners from government disability and social protection focal points, leaders and staff of organizations of persons with disabilities, social protection specialists, social inclusion specialists

Fees: Free

Duration: 4 weeks online and independent work (200 hours in total over an 8-week period)

Language: English (Sign Language interpretation provided on demand for video conferences)

Prerequisites:

- Relevant work experience in the field of disability inclusion and/or social protection.
- Bachelor degree in social sciences, economics, law, development studies or equivalent preferred, but extensive work experience will be considered.

More information on the short course and applications is available on the [university website](#).

The [Community of Practice on Social protection in Crisis Contexts](#), would like to flag following activities:

- A truly inspiring **webinar** held on 14 April on [The social protection response for Ukrainian refugees](#) in Poland and beyond—We strongly invite readers to watch the [replay](#) and review the [presentation](#) by Dr Andrzej Szybkie, Director of Poland's Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), to learn how this national institution has managed to respond with speed and scale to receive applications and make payments against the “Big Four” national social protection programmes for children and families.

- An **online hangout** hosted every other Wednesday at 3 pm CEST—It is an informal space for practitioners and researchers to connect, network and exchange on social protection in crisis contexts. Each time, we focus on a specific theme (such as, the adaptation of the Ukrainian social protection system in the crisis, social protection responses to the Ukrainian refugee crisis, unpicking the targeting debate across social protection and humanitarian perspective, making social protection systems resilient to crises) but we can of course bring up other things we are thinking about or working on. We have Chatham House rules. Please use [this link to download the invite](#) into your calendars, and [this Zoom link](#) to join.
- Moderated **communication channels**—Anyone interested in social protection in crisis contexts is invited to [become a member of the Online Community](#) (330 members) and to [join its Discussion Group](#) (250 members). Please use [this email](#) to contact the administrators of the online [Community of Practice on Social protection in Crisis Contexts](#).

[Katrin Weible](#) has been awarded a PhD in sociology in the Faculty of Sociology at Bielefeld University, Germany. Her PhD thesis is entitled “Social citizenship for ‘the poor’? Large N data construction, conceptualization, and comparative analysis of social cash transfers across the global”. Her dataset is openly accessible at <https://doi.org/10.7802/2249> Congratulations Dr. Katrin Weible!

After successful defence of his PhD Thesis on Tuesday 24 May 2022, [Callistus Akachabwon Agbaam](#) from Ghana has been awarded the degree of a Philosophiae Doctor (Ph.D.). His thesis with the title "Determinants of Public Support for Social Protection in Ghana. A Micro-level Analysis" was supervised by Prof. Dr. Katja Bender and Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Löwenstein. Prof. Dr. Markus Kaltenborn chaired the oral exam. Congratulations Dr. Agbaam.

*****The End*****