

AT A GLANCE

PUBLICATIONS

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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL PROTECTION  
WORKING GROUP,

This is the **30<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,  
Callistus Agbaam*

[Informal workers and Kenya's National Hospital Insurance Fund: Identifying barriers to voluntary participation](#) by Raphael Indimuli, Nina Torm, Winnie Mitullah, Lone Riisgaard, Anne W. Kamau. In *International Social Security Review* (2023).

This article investigates the barriers to informal workers' voluntary participation in Kenya's national health insurance scheme – the National Hospital Insurance Fund. Based on primary data from both qualitative and quantitative methods, we find that the key determinants of enrolment include social factors, such as marital status, which create demand for insurance, and the role of informal workers' associations that promote the voluntary uptake of health insurance and prevent default through contribution support. Participation barriers and reasons for inactiveness stem from the nature of informal work characterized by irregular earnings, which combine with apprehension about having to pay penalty charges for the late payment of premiums, inadequate levels of knowledge about health insurance schemes, institutional constraints such as complex registration procedures, as well as premium costs and poor-quality services, all of which discourage enrolment or the reactivation of lapsed membership. There is thus a need for health insurance schemes, such as Kenya's National Hospital Insurance Fund, to educate informal

workers on insurance services and protocols and to improve services to encourage uptake and reduce default behaviour.

[Expanding Global Social Protection – Options for the Design of an International Financing Mechanism](#) by Markus Kalterborn. In Labour and Social Justice, FES (2023).

This article argues that a solidarity-based Global Fund for Social Protection must meet certain criteria to respond adequately to the challenges of global poverty and inequality. Also key requirements include compliance with the country-ownership principle in the allocation of funds and a governance structure oriented toward equal decision-making power for the partner countries. The author ends with the suggestion that both Financial Intermediary Funds and UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds are suitable in principle, whereas the World Bank Trust Fund model is not to be recommended in this respect.

[Can social protection tackle emerging risks from climate change, and how? A framework and a critical review](#) by Cecilia Costella, Maarten van Aalst, Yola Georgiadou, Rachel Slater, Rachel Reilly, Anna McCord, Rebecca Holmes, Jonathan Ammoun and Valentina Barca. In Climate Risk Management Volume 40, (2023).

This paper takes a comprehensive look at the implications of increasingly more complex climate risks on poverty and wellbeing, and on the growing need and demand for social protection arising from them. By reviewing current arguments and evidence, the authors conclude that social protection schemes around the world can play multiple roles in helping manage the social dimensions of climate change, but they need to become much more strategic and purposeful in doing so. Costella et al. propose to focus on four key strategic roles of social protection in this space, which can support climate resilient development across a wide spectrum of its interventions.

[The discursive construction of gender identities and roles for women in cash transfer programmes: Implications for gender power relations](#) by Dennis Puorideme and Lise Rolandsen Agustín. In World Development Perspectives 29 (2023).

This article analyzes the unequal and pervasive gender power relations in Global South countries' social protection interventions using Ghana's Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) as a case study. The authors argue that the discursive analysis of the practices of the LEAP CT programme officials and the women caregivers demonstrate that the LEAP CT programme, at the institutional level, discursively reproduces and naturalises gender identities, roles and subject positions for women despite prioritizing women as the recipients of the cash. However, it also reveals nuances of women agency evident at the intersecting and participatory practices of

women caregivers in the programme and in the socio-political contexts of the local communities. Whilst the first finding affects women negatively, the second presents a potential for transforming gender power relations in institutions and local communities in Global South countries as it challenges the taken-for-granted notions of gender relations for a better world.

## BLOGS/ONE PAGER

- [The multiple, potential and actual effects of social protection](#) by Nino Gogsadze. IPC-IG

This One Pager, part of the series on the Handbook on Social Protection Series discusses the evidence for social protection programmes, their challenges and the underlying theories of change.

- [Groups in focus – Going beyond mainstreaming](#) by Nino Gogsadze. IPC-IG

This one pager calls for universal social protection to cover everybody. This does not entail that everybody should receive the same type of support. Different groups face and distinct challenges, which change over the life cycle, as do their circumstances. While there is a standard set of instruments that can be used in social protection systems, they must be designed and adapted considering different risk profiles. This One Pager discusses groups in focus and the social protection needs and challenges of each group.

## OTHER NEWS

### **New Head of Programme for Master's Programme in Social Protection at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences**

Prof. Dr. Simona Helmsmüller has taken over the position of the academic head of the master's programme in Social Protection (M.Sc.) in April 2023. She has already been teaching in the programme as a lecturer and professor of Economics of Social Protection since 2019. Prof. Helmsmüller brings a wealth of experience and expertise in development economics, health economics, applied econometrics, impact evaluations and microfinance through her various research and consulting projects like her newest research on the social health protection in Pakistan.

After 10 years of dedicated service in putting up the master's programme, Prof. Dr. Esther Schüring has decided to re-join the practical world as a technical advisor for the GIZ sector initiative on social protection. She will be returning as a lecturer in August 2025.

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

## **Ongoing Short Course on Social Protection and the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities**

Alexandre Cote and Louisa Lippi from UNICEF, Daniel Mont from the Center for Inclusive Policy and consultant Charles Knox-Vydmanov are delivering the short course on social protection and the inclusion of persons with disability from April to June 2023.

More information available on the [short course website](#).

## **Call for Applications for DAAD Scholarship for Master's programme in Social Protection**

The 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 2024/2025**. The application portal will be open from June 1 to July 31, 2023.

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

## **Social Protection Brown Bag Lunch Series**

Abdelrahman Fatoum from the University of Applied Sciences Bonn-Rhein-Sieg regularly invites social protection practitioners to speak on various social protection topics based on their current work or research.

The upcoming events are:

Dr. Jürgen Focke (HelpAge Germany) on "How can we achieve UHC when older persons are neglected in the nutrition crisis?": May 11, 2023 13 – 14:30 CET; ONLINE

Jakob Kort (BG BAU) on „Digital Transformation of Social Insurance Services“: June 27, 2023 13:30 – 15:00 CET; ONLINE

External participants are welcome. There is no registration required. More information and meeting links available on the [university website](#).

## Open Access Link

Chapter 9 of the book '[Social Protection, Pastoralism and Resilience in Ethiopia: Lessons for Sub-Saharan Africa](#)' is now open access. Please see the details below

[Social protection design and implementation in Ethiopia: Prospects for a more inclusive approach](#) By: Zeremariam Fre, Gabriel Temesgen Woldu and John Livingstone

**\*\*\*The End\*\*\***

## EADI SOCIAL PROTECTION WORKING GROUP

The working group aims at exchanging information and discussing ongoing research related to social protection. Researchers dealing with social protection and interested in an international exchange are also welcome to join. For More information please contact the Convenors:

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