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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **19th 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

[Graduating Out of Poverty Across Generations: Unpacking Children's Well-being Trajectories in Burundi](#) by Keetie Roelen and Carmen Leon-Himmelstine

Graduation model interventions represent a new wave of anti-poverty programming that seeks to offer a sustainable pathway out of poverty. An expanding evidence base points towards positive economic outcomes at household level but little is known about impacts on child well-being. This paper investigates children's well-being in Burundi during and after participation in a graduation model programme using a longitudinal mixed-methods approach. The programme is found to improve child well-being, particularly in relation to housing, food security and education. Covariate shocks undermine sustainability of effects but greater knowledge, experience and prioritisation of children's needs contribute to harnessing improved outcomes.

[Pathways to Stronger Futures in Haiti: The role of graduation programming in promoting early childhood development](#) by Keetie Roelen, Sung Kyu Kim, Inka Barnett and Devanshi Chanchani

This new report presents findings from a mixed-methods study that investigated how graduation programmes can affect outcomes for young children, particularly seeking insights into pathways, dynamics and contextual factors that underpin positive or negative linkages. It does so in a context of widespread poverty, low levels of child wellbeing and limited availability of services in rural Haiti.

[Legal and Human Rights case for Universal Child Benefits](#) by Magdalena Sepúlveda

Often, decisions regarding the design and implementation of social protection programmes do not include comprehensive assessments of the compatibility of the programme design or implementation features with human rights norms and standards which are included in which several cash transfers programmes comply with four principles which are essential for the protection of children:

- i. The principle of equality and non-discrimination;
- ii. The principle of “best interests of the child”;
- iii. Respect for dignity and avoidance of stigma;
- iv. Compliance with other children’s rights and avoidance of adverse impact on exercise of those rights.

These principles are enshrined in several international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which is binding on almost all States in the world. Moreover, these principles are often protected under domestic constitutions or bills of rights, as well as national legislation and even through the operational guidelines of various social protection programmes around the world.

The study first briefly reviews the children’s right to social protection. Then, it examines the scope and content of these four principles. Using these legal principles as an analytical tool, the study then examines how specific cash transfers programmes comply with them.

The assessment is designed to serve as a guide for policy makers. When deciding on social protection interventions, decision-makers must choose among those policy options that maximize the protection of children’s rights and disregard those which have a negative impact on those rights.

Increasingly, when social protection practitioners ignore these legal principles, national courts, regional human rights tribunals and United Nations treaty monitoring bodies request corrective measures. The paper therefore includes diverse examples of such landmark cases.

[Transformative Change for Children and Youth in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) by Katja Hujo and Maggie Carter (Research Report)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a new opportunity to address the key development challenges of our time with the aim to improve the well-being and rights of all people while protecting the natural environment. Children are important agents and beneficiaries in this process: many children are not only among the most vulnerable groups affected by poverty, inequality, conflict and climate change, they are also the generation that will reach adulthood during the realization of the 2030 Agenda. To create the sustainable, long-term transformation ambitiously laid out in Agenda 2030, new transformative approaches to policy must be implemented and applied to children and youth — approaches that target the underlying generative framework of social injustice as opposed to implementing affirmative remedies that simply seek to alleviate the symptoms.

The objective of this paper is to develop a conceptual framework to help assess the transformative potential of policies – particularly with regard to their impact on children and youth – and how these are meaningfully integrated and represented in decision-making processes. It will shed light on the policy space for transformative change by analysing a range of relevant factors which present both challenges and opportunities for fostering child rights and well-being through the implementation of Agenda 2030. The paper then applies the framework to a selection of policy areas that are of high relevance for child development, such as social policy and care policy assessing necessary means of implementation such as resource mobilization and governance systems and looking at economic and environmental impacts in a cross-cutting way. The aim is to stretch boundaries and invite new thinking on how to grasp the numerous opportunities offered by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to approach development challenges holistically and from a child-centred perspective. This involves integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and fostering cross-sectoral approaches.

[Overcoming Inequalities in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) by Katja Hujo and Maggie Carter (Issue Brief)

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.

[The Political Economy of Domestic Resource Mobilization in Nicaragua: Changing State-Citizen Relations and Social Development](#) by Gloria Carrión Fonseca (Research Paper)

Nicaragua has gone through profound political, economic and social transitions in recent decades. Following a turbulent history of dictatorship (Somoza 1936-1979), the Sandinista revolution (1979-1989) and neoliberal adjustment (1990-2006), it remains one of the poorest countries in Latin America, second only to Haiti. Periods of high social tension and violence were followed by relative peace and democratic transitions. Social conflicts and contradictions, however, have continued to emerge. These dynamics have circumscribed strategies for mobilizing financial resources for development.

In 2007, the Sandinistas (Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional - FSLN) returned to power, continuing the economic liberalization policies of former neoliberal governments, directly contradicting the policy stance the FSLN had pursued in the 1980s. While president Ortega achieved some successes regarding the economy as a result of the implementation of several social and economic empowerment and food security programmes, major challenges remain, particularly in areas like civil society participation, institution-building, human rights, and democratization.

According to the research on which the paper is based, increased and expanded social policy spending occurs when: strong state-society relations are fostered; there is effective bargaining and inclusive participation of civil society in social policy making and spending; the state secures mechanisms to prevent elite capture of resources; civil society successfully mobilizes and negotiates with the state regarding the distribution of revenues from extractive industries; and democratization and institution building processes are strengthened. In Nicaragua, distinct political periods are associated with different strategies and outcomes regarding both social spending and mobilization of fiscal revenues. The extent to which these strategies have positively impacted social development show important links with the quality of state-society relations.

[Transforming Coastal City Adaptation: From Idea to Practice](#) by Dunja Krause (Research and Policy Brief)

People living in coastal cities around the world face great risks from the impacts of climate change. In the developing world, these often combine with the challenges of urban development and overcoming poverty and sharp inequalities, generating a particularly difficult set of tasks for local policy makers. Adaptation measures often focus on large infrastructural measures such as coastal defenses, at the expense of integrated and inclusive solutions that tackle not only people's exposure to hazards, but also social vulnerabilities and their root causes. This Brief introduces three key considerations for transformative policy change that builds resilience in highly exposed coastal cities.

OPINION PIECE

[How Social Protection Can Empower Women](#) by Phakama Ntshongwana, Nicola Ansell, Keetie Roelen

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.

BLOGS

[Beyond a Production- and Productivity-Centred View on Technological Progress](#) by Ilcheong Yi

[Fiscal Austerity, Consolidation and Economic Crises: Human rights implications and policy responses](#) by Katja Hujo

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

ONGOING RESEARCH

WFP Barbados Office for Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Caribbean is finalising four case studies on Shock-Responsive Social Protection in the Caribbean in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management. Studies were conducted in Belize, St Lucia, Jamaica and Guyana with the support of Governments' counterparts from the Social Protection and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) realms. A literature review of Social Protection and DRM in 18 Caribbean countries is also forthcoming. The project is part of a three-year research programme devoted to generating evidence and informing practice on the challenges and opportunities of adapting and expanding national social protection systems and programmes to respond to climate-related and other type of shocks Latin America and the Caribbean. Further information on previously published studies can be found at: <https://www1.wfp.org/publications/shock-responsive-social-protection-latin-america-and-caribbean>

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Call for Papers for the 2019 Social Policy in Africa Conference—Governance of Africa's Social Policy: Subverting Development and Democracy? \(Deadline: 30 August 2019\)](#)

If the protests in many African countries that saw the end of the authoritarian single-party state and military rule were triggered by the mass entitlement failures imposed by the orthodox stabilization policies of the 1980s, the electoral polity that emerged in the aftermath has not ensured the flourishing of human well-being, a significant reduction in

poverty, declining wealth inequality, and better employment. Such is the paradox of liberal democracy in much of Africa since the 1990s.

The organizers of the 2019 Social Policy in Africa Conference invite abstracts and papers on the theme of the conference, “Governance of Africa’s Social Policy: Subverting Development and Democracy?” Papers and the conference will address a wide range of issues in the sphere of inclusive development in Africa—from the different national and regional modes of governance of the African social policy space, to the drivers of policy preferences and the dynamics of social policy making, to the nature of politics and the public sphere necessary for economic transformation, human flourishing, and new forms of social compact in 21st century Africa.

Abstracts and papers are invited in the following thematic areas.

1. Governance of Africa’s social policy
2. Democracy and the governance of Africa’s social policy
3. Social policy making in Africa: Actors, agency, and policy space
4. Poverty and inequality in Africa.
5. Redressing health inequalities: Ensuring access to quality health care
6. Pension systems reform and income security in old age
7. Critical perspectives on social protection
8. Non-formal social provisioning: African experiences
9. Land and agrarian reform: Social policy perspectives

The organizers also welcome papers in the broad areas of social policy not directly concerned with the theme of the 2019 conference.

The 2019 Social Policy in Africa Conference will take place on **25-27 November 2019** at the University of South Africa, City of Tshwane, South Africa.

Note that a very limited number of travel support grants will be available for accepted paper presenters, but the organizers cannot guarantee that authors of accepted papers will receive full sponsorship for the conference. **Deadline for abstracts: Friday, 30 August 2019**

Please direct all enquiries to:

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[Development Pathways course on Inclusive Social Protection: Making the Case, 4-8 November, 2019](#)

This is a new course on Inclusive Social Protection: Making the Case that Development Pathways has just launched, to be held in Kenya in November 4th-8th of this year. The content of this course is the result of our many years of social protection experience and is aimed at giving participants an in-depth understanding of social protection so that they are able to effectively make the case for increased investment in inclusive social protection within their countries and organisations.

The organisers are hoping to attract social protection practitioners, policymakers and also the staff of international agencies. Also, they have brought together a great team of experts who are at the forefront of global social protection policy debates and bring a wealth of experience of working across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. More information on <https://www.inclusivesocialprotection.com>

PAST EVENTS

In support of the Belize Ministry of Human Development and Poverty Alleviation, WFP contributed to a conference on Social Protection in Emergencies with presentations on key concept and approaches in shock-responsive social protection; social protection data management & targeting; and preliminary findings and recommendations stemming from a case study conducted in March. The event was held with the support of UNICEF and the World Bank and it's part of a Social Protection conference series launched by the Ministry in 2018. Further information available at: <http://humandevlopment.gov.bz/index.php/spc2018/> WFP in collaboration with the World Bank, facilitated a panel discussion and a workshop on adaptive and shock-responsive social protection at the Understanding Risk Conference in Barbados (27-31 March). <https://understandrisk.org/event/urcaribbean/>

As part of its regional engagement to support countries strengthen the linkages between disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and social protection, WFP hosted the first inter-ministerial regional symposium on Shock-Responsive Social Protection in the Caribbean. The one day event was held on 27 June in Turks and Caicos, on the eve of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency annual ministerial council. Social Protection and DRM ministers, Permanent Secretaries and senior officials from 15 Caribbean countries attended the symposium. A recording of the morning panel discussions and information sessions can be found at: <https://socialprotection.org/livestream-regional-symposium-shock-responsive-social-protection-caribbean> and the symposium webpage at: <https://insight.wfp.org/regional-symposium-shock-responsive-social-protection-in-the-caribbean-3586aba67bf2>

OTHERS

The European Commission has released its guidance package on social protection across the humanitarian-development nexus. It includes a Reference Document, a series of Case Studies, and a series of additional Operational Notes: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sp-nexus/wiki/guidance-package-span-resources>. Anyone can join the dedicated community of practice: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sp-nexus>.