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DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EADI SOCIAL  
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP,

This is the **9<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

## CONFERENCES

[Call for papers for the EADI NORDIC Conference 2017: Globalisation at the Crossroads – Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries](#), and esp.

[Call for papers for a session organized by the working group: Social Protection and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

There is growing consensus in the international development debate that social protection plays a key role not only for the social but also for the economic and political development of countries. This very insight has deeply coined the text of the Agenda 2030: Social protection has not become one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) itself but it is explicitly mentioned as a key instrument for the achievement of SDG1 (eradication of income poverty) and SDG10 (reduction of income inequality) and apparently also key for the achievement of SDGs2-6 (ending hunger, healthy lives, education, gender equality, access to water). In addition, recent empirical research confirms that social protection is also a fundamental instrument for the achievement of pro-poor growth, employment and MSME development (SDGs 8-9) as well as for social inclusion, social cohesion, state building, political stability and international co-operation (SDGs 16-17). And some authors

even argue that social protection promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns and thereby climate stability (SDGs 7 and 12-15).

The question that is left to answer is now how social protection have to be designed in order to achieve as many of these manifold tasks ascribed to them: cover as large shares of society as possible, reduce poverty and inequality in all of their dimensions, promote economic investment and growth (in particular among low-income groups) and support social inclusion, social cohesion, state building and political stability. In the best case, social protection is turned into the basis of a social contract between the state and its citizens.

The EADI Working Group "Social Protection" invites researchers and practitioners to submit abstracts of papers to be presented in a separate at EADI's General Conference 2017 in Bergen during a separate working group session. The papers may

- Present or discuss empirical evidence on the effects of social protection schemes on either of the SDGs
- Present and discuss empirical evidence on the interaction between SDGs.
- Analyse conceptually or provide empirical evidence on the question how social protection schemes should be designed to achieve the best effect on one or as many as possible of the SDGs,
- Discuss what it requires to reform existing social protection schemes in order to improve their effects on SDG achievement, or
- Analyse which political obstacles may prevent policy makers from implementing the reforms in social protection that would be needed to produce better results on SDG achievements.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **16 January 2017**.

### [Conference on Social Protection Systems in Africa](#)

In November (10.-11.11.2016) the Gesellschaft für afrikanisches Recht (African Law Association), together with the Institute for Development Research and Development Policy (IEE), Ruhr-University Bochum, will organize a conference on "Law for Development: Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Africa". Experts from both African and European research institutes will discuss the current challenges of Social Protection Law in African countries. The conference will be hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Berlin.

You can register for the conference **until 28 October 2016** at Christiane Schwausch via E-Mail ([christiane@goodmatters.net](mailto:christiane@goodmatters.net))

## SYMPOSIUM AND PROJECT NEWS

### [Symposium "Social Protection Systems - Tying the Knots"](#)

The 2-day symposium on "Social Protection Systems – Tying the Knots" provided the floor for round about 200 practitioners, policy-makers and researchers from 58 countries on September 5-6 to exchange and discuss advances and challenges in social protection system building. The first day of the symposium in Bonn started off with keynote speeches and panel discussions, reflecting on the



importance of flexible and adaptive systems for low but also for high-income countries and the international challenges that these systems have to respond to. Individual country experiences from Brazil, Kenya, Iran and Germany discussed the challenges encountered as well as factors of success in various country contexts. Tools for assessing the performance of systems and the corresponding programmes and delivery mechanisms were introduced and critical questions around effective linkages and graduation raised. The second day gave room to practitioners and academics to present their latest research findings around system-strengthening in the form of papers and posters. Selected speakers presented their research around the themes of conceptual variations of social protection systems, effective linkages between social protection interventions and different ways of how to analyse the performance of social protection systems. All documentation can be found on:

[www.h-brs.de/en/sv/termin/symposium-socialprotection-2016](http://www.h-brs.de/en/sv/termin/symposium-socialprotection-2016).

### [INCLUDE research-policy dialogue 'How to make development policies in Africa more inclusive?'](#)

On September 30, Nicky Pouw and Katja Bender presented updates on the project: ['Social and Health Policies for Inclusive Growth' \(SHPIG\)](#) and Franziska Gassmann presented progress of the project: ['Social Protection in Uganda'](#) at an INCLUDE research-policy dialogue in Leiden, the Netherlands. All INCLUDE research groups presented on their progress and outcomes at the various stages of their research. The day brought together researchers and policymakers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, and few other organizations (e.g. including the Royal Tropical Institute, KIT) to discuss research outcomes and preliminary policy messages.

## PUBLICATIONS

[Cash transfers: what does the evidence say? A rigorous review of impacts and the role of design and implementation features](#) Francesca Bastagli, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Luke Harman, Valentina Barca, Georgina Sturge and Tanja Schmidt, with Luca Pellerano, ODI Report July 2016

This rigorous review of the impact of cash transfers is the largest and most comprehensive review of its kind to date. It consolidates and assesses the body of evidence from 2000 to 2015, covering low- and middle-income countries worldwide, to provide policy-makers, practitioners and researchers with a single resource on the most rigorous and up-to-date evidence available.

The review covers the intended and unintended impact on individuals and households of non-contributory cash transfer programmes on six outcome areas: 1) monetary poverty, 2) education, 3) health and nutrition, 4) savings, investment and production, 5) employment, and 6) empowerment. It pays particular attention to the links between variations in cash transfer design and implementation details (e.g. transfer value, targeting mechanism, conditionality) and outcomes.

[Soziale Sicherung und internationale Politikdiffusion](#), by Katja Bender (to be published in: MenschenRechtsMagazin, 2/16, 2016).

Over the past two decades many developing countries have started to extend the coverage of national social protection systems. In light of the international proliferation of reforms, approaches linking policy change to international factors might help explain reform processes. This review assesses the current state of the art within the policy diffusion literature with a particular focus on social protection. Empirical evidence demonstrates that besides country-specific factors, international interdependencies impact policy change in social protection. Learning and emulation are identified as causal mechanisms inducing policy diffusion. However, there is a lack of empirical studies addressing developing countries. Yet, the major drawback of the current state of the art is identified with respect to the theoretical underpinning, which are still weak.

[Addressing food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa: the role of cash transfers](#)

Francesco Burchi, Margherita Scarlato and Giorgio d'Agostino. DIE Discussion Paper 17/2016.

Food insecurity, a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon, is currently one of the inter-national community's main priorities, especially in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). As food insecurity in this region is most widespread in pockets of extreme poverty, particularly in rural areas, traditional agricultural or general



economic interventions alone are unlikely to generate substantial improvements. Instead, there is ample scope for social protection schemes.

This paper investigates the role played by rapidly expanding cash transfers (CTs) in enhancing food security. First, it offers an innovative conceptual framework for explaining the channels through which CT programmes can affect the various aspects of food security. It also illustrates how specific design features of CT programmes may generate effects through little known pathways, such as women’s empowerment and improved intra-household decision-making. Second, based on this conceptual framework, the paper provides a systematic review of evidence of the effects of CT programmes on different aspects of food security in middle-income and low-income countries in SSA. A rigorous overview based on a comprehensive conceptual framework is missing from the literature, as most of the overview papers published to date have concentrated on the specific effects of CT programmes on monetary poverty, human capital accumulation or food expenditure.

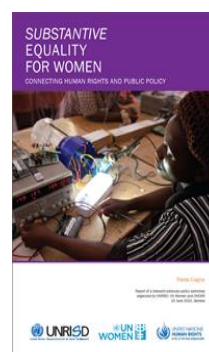
The paper shows that CTs offer great potential for enhancing households’ access to food, as long as they take full account of:

1. the targeting of beneficiaries;
2. the regularity of payments;
3. the size of monetary transfers;
4. the need to amass political support.

In order to enhance all the different aspects of food security in the medium to long-term, CTs should be integrated with other interventions such as public works programmes, nutritional education, nutritional supplements for vulnerable groups, and economic policies. This is the main rationale behind the planned new phase of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia.

### [Workshop Report: Substantive Equality for Women-Connecting Human Rights and Public Policy](#), by Paola Cagna

At a time when significant improvement in gender equality has been achieved in some areas — almost equal access to education for girls and boys, increased numbers of women in the world of work, more female political leaders and increased public attention to violence against women — there are still glaring gaps between progress at the legal and normative level and the realities on the ground. The advancement of women’s rights requires bridging these gaps to achieve substantive gender equality, that is, equal recognition, exercise and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by women and men.



The research-advocacy-policy workshop Substantive Equality for Women: Connecting Human Rights and Public Policy was jointly organized by UNRISD, UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It aimed to establish a dialogue between key individuals from human rights' bodies, UN agencies, civil society and academia about ways of making concrete and implementing the policy recommendations from the UN Women 2015 flagship report, Progress of the World's Women: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights. Participants focused on how economic and social policy can contribute to advancing women's economic and social rights within the UN system and beyond. This report summarizes the rich discussions across the workshop session.

[Working Paper: Political Economy of Enhancing Children's Rights through Mineral Rents: The Case of Mongolia](#) by Pascale Hatcher, Etienne Grègoire and Bonnie Campbell

This paper reviews the historical progression of the country's mining regime and its contribution to government revenues, analyses the linkages between mining rent and social expenditure, focusing on children and the extractive sector's ability/willingness to take account of children's rights in the small-scale and artisanal mining (SSAM) sector. It concludes that Mongolia should establish a coherent long-term poverty reduction strategy that encompasses both the economic benefits and potential harm of extractive industries; strengthen socio-environmental regulation and enforcement capacity: ratify and apply international instruments regarding access to information, public participation in decision making, and access to justice in environmental matters: put in place effective prevention and remedy mechanisms for human rights abuses by private companies; and pursue its efforts towards the legalization, regulation and monitoring of SSAM using a rights-based approach.

[Working Paper: Between Protest and Policy: Women Claim their Right to Agricultural Land in Rural China and India](#) by Govind Kelka

This paper situates the discussion on women and land in the broader context of women's emerging agential power against the patriarchal forces of the state, market fundamentalism and social cultural norms that influence both formal and informal institutions at various levels. Women's claims are thus framed against two major related factors: an insidious state-backed development policy that keeps women dependent on the male as the head of the household; and a combination of institutional structures with social norms and legal rules that shut most rural women out of land and property ownership.

[Working Paper: Colonial Legacies and Social Welfare Regimes in Africa: An Empirical Exercise](#) by Thandika Mkandawire

This paper identifies three types of welfare regimes in Africa, based on the insight that tax and expenditure regimes are closely associated. Using cluster analysis, the author highlights historical legacies in current welfare policies, demonstrating that welfare regimes in Africa have been strongly determined by the ways in which different countries were incorporated into the colonial economy. The author finds that many of the new social welfare reforms are taking place in what he refers to as labour reserve economies, and are generally internally rather than aid-driven. He stresses the importance of thinking of social expenditure in relationship to domestic resource mobilization, and finds that the focus on aid and social expenditure has tended to obscure this important aspect of welfare regimes in Africa.

[Working Paper: Redefining a Rights-Based Approach in the Context of Temporary Labour Migration in Asia](#) by Nicola Piper, Stuart Rosewarne and Matt Withers

This working paper analyses the implications of the dominant framework that has guided migration policy in Asia and identifies institutional gaps that hamper the realization of migrants' human and labour rights in East, Southeast, South and West Asia. The key argument advanced is that the dominant project of migration governance continues to fail in several key areas, reflected in decent work deficits in relation to labour rights, the nature of employment opportunities and lacking social protection at all stages of the migration process. The authors find that these manifestations of precarity are related to forces of structural inequalities that operate throughout the global (and regional) economy, institutional incapacity and lacking integration of labour governance within migration governance. They propose that migration governance will only deliver on its commitment to "benefit all" if it is grounded in a holistic understanding of the concept of precarity that takes account of its spatial, protracted and temporal foundations.

[Pension programs around the world: determinants of social pension](#)

Alexandra Rudolph. Göttingen: Georg-August-Univ. (Courant Research Centre: Poverty, Equity and Growth, Discussion Papers 212), August 2016.

Old-age poverty is to become one of the most pressing issues in the coming decades given the demographic trends forecasted. Particularly in developing countries this could be an obstacle to inclusive and sustainable growth as well as the fight against all forms of poverty (SDG 1), through shocks on consumption and production patterns within countries. Investigating social, non-



contributory pension systems highlights their potential for countries to implement one of the main instrument to fight old-age poverty.

Through a new comprehensive global data set of 185 countries over the 1960-2012 period the paper shows the trends in social pension provision in the last five decades. Furthermore, it studies the political economy of implementation by internal and international drivers. Grouped event history data allows the control of duration dependence on the probability of social pension adoption in the multivariate setting. Results show that internal (national) demand drivers are more important than external (international) peer pressure while the composition of the political system and of governments seem to be major factors influencing the provision of social pension mainly in developing countries. Since only 50 percent of countries provide against old-age poverty countries may use the window-of-opportunity of the 2030 Agenda to reach “nationally appropriate social protection systems” (SDG 1.3; UN, 2015).

[Working Paper: Migrant Nurses' and Care Workers' Rights in Canada](#), by Bukola Salami, Oluwakemi Amodu and Philomena Okeke-Ihejirika

Between 2000 and 2014, there was increasing mobility of migrant workers to Canada, especially through temporary migration streams. However, the large expansion of the Canadian Temporary Foreign Worker Program from 2000 to 2014 has been curtailed over the last one to two years with more restrictive policies. In this working paper, the authors discuss care worker rights within the changing policy landscape in Canada, with a focus on individuals who migrate as domestic caregivers and as nurses. In the paper they illustrate the systemic barriers to the enforcement of rights and access to the profession, and show how the introduction of the Canada Caregiver Program in 2014 has made migrant care workers' legal status more precarious.

[From protection to reduction? The impact of the public health insurance scheme on child labour in Ghana](#) Christoph Strupat, DIE Discussion Paper 17/2016.

Using the fourth and fifth wave of the Ghanaian Living Standard Household Survey, I empirically investigate whether the implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme affects child labour in Ghana. My findings suggest that the implementation of the insurance scheme leads to a decrease in out-of-pocket payments for health purposes, which is linked to a substantial reduction in the incidence of child labour. Furthermore, I find that the overall reduction in child labour is strongest in rural areas and the agricultural sector. I conclude that the provision of public health insurance improves the financial protection of households, which removes the





necessity for households to send their children to work. Thus, health insurance schemes seem to be an effective social protection instrument to fight child labour.

[Working Paper: Regulating “Illegal Work” in China](#), by Mimi Zou

The unprecedented growth of the Chinese economy has seen significant changes in its migration patterns and trends. In spite of a growing number of foreign migrants, legal and institutional frameworks to regulate the entry, residence and employment of foreign migrants has developed in a slow and piecemeal fashion, focusing mainly on formalistic procedures related to entry and exit administration. However, there has been little consideration of other policy issues regarding labour market regulation, rights protection, settlement and integration of longer-term migrants in China. In a new UNRISD Working Paper, author Mimi Zou examines the ways in which China’s immigration law regime regulates “illegal work” and thereby constructs precarious statuses that shape migrants’ vulnerability to precariousness in their employment relations.

[UNRISD Issue Brief: The Human Rights-Based Approach to Social Protection](#)

This Issue Brief introduces readers to the human rights-based approach to social protection. It highlights the fundamental principles of this approach, which are explored in detail at [socialprotection-humanrights.org](http://socialprotection-humanrights.org), and directs readers to the key human rights instruments and other tools that are available to help policy makers and practitioners advocate for and operationalize a rights-based approach to social protection.

## EXPERT COMMENTARY

[Beyond Addis: Social Protection in the 2030 Agenda](#) by Markus Kaltenborn

In 2015, both the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit provided an opportunity for states to renew their commitment to developing rights-based social protection systems. This expert commentary examines this commitment through the lens of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.