Helpdesk Research Report

Defining social protection systems

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Question

How do key partners define social protection systems?

Contents

1. Overview

This rapid review identifies the definitions of social protection systems used by multilateral, bilateral, civil society organisations (CSOs), and think tanks. Social protection systems broadly refer to the combination of institutions, laws, regulations and interventions that are involved in implementing social protection[1]. However, there is **no common definition** and a **lack of clarity** among the available literature of what the selected organisations consider these to be. Some organisations advocate a child-sensitive approach to social protection (for example UNICEF and Save the Children), while others take a right-based perspective (such as SIDA and IDS). Some of the research think tanks contacted indicated that they do not have a common institutional position on social protection issues.

Drawing from the literature that is available, a sample of the definitions of social protection systems identified includes:

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[1] Definition provided by DFID.

Multilateral definitions:

- *World Bank*: The World Bank have a broad perspective on social protection that aims to achieve poverty alleviation, risk reduction, resilience and growth promotion.

- *Asian Development Bank*: Social protection is one of three pillars in the Asian Development Bank's poverty reduction strategy and is comprised of five components: labour markets; social insurance; social assistance; micro and area-based schemes to protect communities; and child protection.

- *UNICEF*: UNICEF advocates a child-sensitive, integrated approach to social protection systems which focuses on four key components: social transfers; programmes to ensure economic and social access to services; social support and care services; and legislation to prevent discrimination in children and families' access to employment, services and livelihoods.

Definitions of social protection systems are also provided for the World Food Programme, the Food and Agricultural Organisation, and the European Commission.

Bilateral definitions:

- *GIZ:* GIZ's definition of social protection is broad and incorporates health, poverty and broader issues of social and economic development. Social protection systems should be tailored to specific needs and country contexts.

Definitions of social protection systems are also provided for SIDA and USAID.

Civil society and think-tank definitions:

- *Oxfam International:* Oxfam have a rights-based approach to social protection and contend that social protection instruments should help people manage risks, enable them to invest, build skills, and address long term deprivation.

- *Institute of Development Studies (IDS):* IDS takes a broad perspective on social protection. It advocates for universal provisions and has an interest in the social justice and transformative dimensions of social protection.

Definitions of social protection systems are also provided for Save the Children, Oxfam International, HelpAge International, the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, the Centre for Global Development, and ODI.

2. Multilateral definitions

World Bank

Definitions

The World Bank notes that social protection aims to achieve poverty alleviation, risk reduction, resilience, and growth promotion (World Bank 2011; World Bank 2001). In a 2011 strategy paper, the Bank (2011, p. xi) states the aim of social protection and labour programmes is to 'buffer individuals from shocks and equip them to improve their livelihoods and create opportunities to build a better life for themselves and their families'.

Positions

The World Bank's Social Protection and Labour (SPL) strategy has three core activities: social assistance programmes, including cash transfers, targeted food assistance, and subsidies; contributory social insurance programmes, such as disability pensions; and labour market programmes that seek to enhance skills and productivity, and help people find jobs[2]. The Bank's strategy aims to harmonise social protection systems by supporting partner countries to make them more productive and inclusive[3].

In 2000, the Bank introduced the **Social Risk Management** (SRM) framework to expand social protection beyond safety net programmes and to identify social risks and potential responses[4]. The three main areas of SRM are risk management strategies (such as risk reduction and mitigation), risk management arrangements (including informal and market-based arrangements), and actors in risk management (such as individual, households, government, and international organisations).

Key documents

Holzmann, R. (ed.) (2009) *Social Protection and Labour at the World Bank, 2000-2008*. Washington: World Bank. Available at: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/280558-1225731593400/SPL_at_the_WB_2000-08.pdf

World Bank (2011). *Resilience Equality and Opportunity: 2012-2022 Social Protection and Labour Strategy*. Washington: World Bank. Available at:
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/280558-1274453001167/7089867-1279223745454/7253917-1291314603217/SPL_Strategy_2012-22_FINAL.pdf

World Bank (2001). *Social protection sector strategy: from safety net to springboard*. Washington: World Bank. Available at: http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2001/01/828354/social-protection-sector-strategy-safety-net-springboard

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Definitions

In a strategy paper, the ADB defines social protection as a 'set of policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and interruption/loss of income' (ADB 2003, p. 1). The main aim of social protection systems is noted as reducing poverty and vulnerability (Ibid, p. 37).

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[2] See:
http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALPROTECTION/0,,contentMDK:23147159~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:282637,00.html#nature
[3] Ibid.
[4] See:
http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALPROTECTION/0,,contentMDK:20221089~menuPK:7142325~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:282637~isCURL:Y~isCURL:Y,00.html

The ADB's social protection strategy is comprised of five main elements: labour markets; social insurance; social assistance; micro and area-based schemes to protect communities; and child protection (ADB 2003, p. 1). Social protection is one of the three pillars in the Bank's poverty reduction strategy (Ibid.). Recognising that significance of country-specific circumstances, the Bank notes that initiatives are developed on the basis of: a country's needs; resources; the feasibility of institutional arrangements; and the political economy of reforms[5]. Projects are also designed and implemented with reference to national and international labour standards on issues such as minimum wages, working conditions, and social security contributions[6]. Social impact assessments are also conducted to ensure that projects do not adversely affect vulnerable groups[7].

Key documents

Asian Development Bank (ADB) (2003). *Social Protection*. Asian Development Bank. Available at: http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/pub/2001/social-protection.pdf

UNICEF

Definitions

UNICEF advocates for **child-centred** and **gender-sensitive integrated social protection systems**[8]. The definition of social protection adopted by the organisation is 'a set of public and private policies and programmes aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating economic and social vulnerabilities to poverty and deprivation' (UNICEF, 2012, p. 14). Within this framework, UNICEF concentrates on four components: social transfers; programmes to ensure economic and social access to services; social support and care services; and legislation and policies which aim to prevent discrimination in children's and families' access to services, employment, and livelihoods (Ibid.).

Positions

A UNICEF (2012, p. 49) strategic framework paper states that integrated social protection systems aim to address both social and economic vulnerabilities. This is achieved through a comprehensive set of interventions that are based on assessed needs and context, multi-sectoral coordination, and framed within a broader set of social and economic policies (Ibid.). This strategy is said to go beyond safety net approaches by targeting responses to structural vulnerabilities, rather than purely shock-related vulnerabilities (Ibid.)

There are two key components for the effective functioning of integrated social protection systems: a systems approach – which seeks to strengthen the mechanisms and structures that support the integration interventions – and a multi-sector approach, which identifies and maximises the potential for social protection initiatives to enhance sector outcomes (Ibid, pp. 49-54). Key elements of the integrated systems

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[5] See: http://www.adb.org/sectors/social-protection/social-protection-strategy
[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid.
[8] See: http://www.unicef.org/socialprotection/framework/

approach include vulnerability assessments that feed into programme design; institutional frameworks to facilitate vertical and horizontal linkages; and participatory and accountability structures (Ibid., p. 49).

Key documents

UNICEF (2012). *Integrated Social Protection Systems: Enhancing equity for children*. UNICEF Social Protection Strategic Framework. New York: UNICEF. Available at: http://www.unicefinemergencies.com/downloads/eresource/docs/DRR/UNICEF_Social_Protection_Strategic_Framework_full_doc_std(1).pdf

World Food Programme (WFP)

Definitions

The World Food Programme's perspective on social protection focuses on the **provision of food or cash grants** to protect vulnerable people against livelihood risks, as well as enhancing the rights and social status of marginalised and excluded groups (WFP, 2011).

Positions

The WFP's social protection work is primarily aimed at providing protective safety nets. However, it also seeks to achieve 'higher-level goals' such as preventing shocks, promoting livelihoods, or supporting marginalised groups. The WFP's 2008-2013 strategic plan states that the organisation will develop school feeding, nutrition and other safety net programmes as a means of strengthening resilience to shocks (cited in WFP 2011). Additional areas that have been incorporated in social protection include capacity development and HIV/AIDS (Ibid.).

Key documents

WFP (2011). *Strategic evaluation - WFP's role in social protection and safety nets*: A strategic evaluation. Office of Evaluation. World Food Programme. Available at: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/reports/wfp235864.pdf

Gentillini, U. & Omamo, S. (2009) *Unveiling Social Safety Nets*. Occasional Paper No. 20. Rome: World Food Programme. Available at: http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/OP20%20-%20Unveiling%20Social%20Safety%20Nets%20-%20English.pdf

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Definitions

The ILO takes a **rights-based perspective** on social protection, with activities in this field predominately focusing on social security and labour protection[9]. The organisation contends that effective social protection makes a positive contribution to social stability, enhances productivity, and promotes fair growth[10]. The ILO's agenda is broadly organised around the concept of 'decent work', which includes a

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[9] See: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/decent-work-agenda/social-protection/lang--en/index.htm
[10] See: http://www.ilo.org/protection/lang--en/index.htm

broad range of social and employment protections, including rights at work, social protection, and social dialogue.

Positions

The ILO's strategic objectives in the area of social production include[11]:

- Extending the coverage and effectiveness of social security schemes in line with national circumstances;

- Promoting labour protection, including decent conditions of work and occupational safety;

- Supporting programmes that aim to protect vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers and their families and those employed in the informal sector.

The ILO's strategy for the extension of social protection aims to achieve the **universal protection** of populations 'by ensuring a minimum level of income security…access to essential health care, and progressively ensuring higher levels of protection guided by…ILO security standards' (ILO 2012, p. 1).

Co-led by the ILO and the World Health Organisation, the **Social Protection Floor** (SPF) initiative was introduced in April 2009 as a response to the global economic crisis. Through the SPF, the ILO and other UN partners promote access to 'essential social security transfers and social services in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education, food, housing, life and asset-saving information'[12]. It emphasises the need for comprehensive and coordinated social protection and employment policies that pay particular attention to vulnerable groups, and guarantee services and social transfers across the life cycle[13].

Key documents

ILO (2012). *Social Security for all: Building social protection floors and comprehensive social security systems*. Geneva: ILO. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---multi/documents/publication/wcms_213761.pdf

ILO (2011). *Social protection floor for a fair and inclusive globalisation*. Geneva: ILO. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/ilo-bookstore/order-online/books/WCMS_165750/lang--en/index.htm

Key website

ILO Social Protection: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/decent-work-agenda/social-protection/lang--en/index.htm

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[11] See: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/decent-work-agenda/social-protection/lang--en/index.htm
[12] See: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/decent-work-agenda/social-protection/lang--en/index.htm
[13] Ibid.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

Definitions

The FAO's perspective on social protection aims to reduce risk and vulnerability, alleviate poverty and deprivation, and has a particular interest in food security and hunger reduction (FAO 2013). In a joint statement with the Organisation of American States, the FAO declared that social protection is a 'key element in the fight against hunger'[14]. This necessitates the need for 'national agreements to develop politics and programmes which promote access to permanent adequate nutrition'[15].

Positions

The FAO advocates a '**systems approach**' to social protection, which aims to link various social protection goals together in an integrated and cost-effective manner, and ensure the provision of assistance throughout the life-cycle (FAO 2012, p. 44; FAO 2013, p. 3). Within the framework of reducing global hunger and food insecurity, the organisation advocates four key components of social protection[16]:

- Coordination between sectors to address multidimensional issues, such as hunger;

- The provision of direct assistance through transfers;

- Support for policies and programmes that promote economic and social inclusion in vulnerable rural areas;

- Labour market regulation to tackle precarious labour practices, including informalisation.

The Organisation advocates predictable and regular social protection instruments that enable households to better manage risks (FAO 2013). In a submission for the UN Council, the FAO identifies the five roles that social protection instruments play within the organisation's strategic framework (UN 2013):

- Providing direct income support to tackle food security and poverty reduction at both individual and household levels;

- Supporting rural households to manage risks better and overcome liquidity constraints;

- Stimulate inclusive local economic development, that has positive feedback on agricultural production, employment and rural poverty reduction;

- Enhance the development of human capital with beneficial impacts on livelihoods. For instance, this could occur through higher educational attainment that improves the employability of rural workers in and outside agriculture;

- Support and promote the sustainable management of natural resources to help build resilient livelihoods.

Key documents

FAO (2012). 'Social protection for the poor and vulnerable: A foundation for reducing hunger and malnutrition'. Rome: FAO. Available at: http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3027e/i3027e05.pdf

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[14] See: http://reliefweb.int/report/world/fao-and-oas-social-protection-key-element-fight-against-hunger
[15] Ibid.
[16] See: http://reliefweb.int/report/world/fao-and-oas-social-protection-key-element-fight-against-hunger

FAO (2013). *FAO's Work in Social Protection*. Rome: FAO. Available at:
http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/mi557E.pdf

Europe Aid/the European Commission

Definitions

Europe Aid's engagement in social protection is guided by the European Consensus on Development and places an emphasis on social exclusion and vulnerability. The 2010 European Report on Development (European Report on Development 2010, p. 1) defines social protection as 'a specific set of actions to address…vulnerability…**through social insurance**, offering protection against risk and adversity throughout life; **through social assistance**, offering payments and in kind transfers to support and enable the poor; and **through inclusion efforts** that enhance the capability of the marginalised to access social insurance and assistance'.

In a submission to the European Parliament, the Economic Commission furthers that social protection should 'aim at providing a higher level of social security through income security and access to essential services…throughout active and inactive periods, and periods of need **throughout the life-cycle'** (Ibid.).

Positions

The European Report on Development calls for social protection to be 'an integral part of EU development policy' (European Report on Development 2010, cited in European Commission 2012, p. 3). The Economic Commission advocate 'innovative, tailor-made solutions based on country specific needs and priorities' and identify nine components in the EU's support to social protection in partner countries (European Commission 2012, p. 2):

- Support social protection in improving equity and efficiency, while supporting social inclusion and cohesion;

- Place social protection at the centre of policy dialogue with partner countries;

- Support the development of nationally-owned social protection policies and programmes;

- Support measures that create fiscal space to fund social protection mechanisms through fair and sustainable tax systems;

- Provide capacity building for institutions and technical cooperation in the field of social protection;

- Support transformative social protection;

- Ensure that men and women benefit equally from social protection systems;

- Support job creation and employment;

- Support and facilitate the involvement of civil society and the private sector in social protection provision.

Key documents

European Commission (2012). *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions: Social Protection in European Union Development Cooperation*. Brussels: EC. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/social-protection/documents/com_2012_446_en.pdf

European Report on Development (2010). *Social Protection for Inclusive Development: A new perspective in EU co-operation with Africa*. Brussels: EC. Available at: http://erd.eui.eu/media/2010/Social_Protection_for_Inclusive_Development.pdf

3. Bilateral definitions

GIZ

Definitions

GIZ's definition of social protection systems is broad and incorporates health, poverty, and broader issues of social and economic development[17]. In a sector strategy paper, the BMZ note that social protection 'refers to the entire system of productive measures against risks to assist individuals, households and communities to better manage risks and economic shocks, and to provide support to the critically vulnerable' (BMZ undated, p. 6). Systems of social protection are noted as being those that support risk prevention and mitigation and aim to: secure a minimum level of socio-economic livelihoods for individuals and households; ensure that individuals and households do not suffer from poverty; and encourage individuals and households to invest in education, health and productive capital to improve employment opportunities and their socioeconomic situation (Ibid, p. 7).

Positions

GIZ have a **rights-based approach** to social protection and note that it provides the basis for sustainable economic development and poverty eradication (BMZ undated, p. 4). The organisation's objective is to support partner countries to protect populations – particularly the poor – against shocks (Ibid.). GIZ advocate that social protection systems should be tailored to individual country needs and local conditions (BMZ undated, p. 4). The creation of inclusive social protection systems necessitates the complementary involvement of civil society, the private sector, and the state – with the state taking overall responsibility (Ibid.). Priority areas are: health; good governance; sustainable economic development; and rural development. Approaches supported include social health insurance schemes and basic social security systems[18].

Key documents

BMZ (undated). *Sector Strategy on Social Protection*. Strategies 190. Berlin. BMZ. Available at: http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/konzept190.pdf

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[17] See: http://www.giz.de/expertise/html/3860.html

[18] Ibid.

BMZ (2008). *Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries and Emerging Economics: Fighting poverty – for a social equitable globalisation*. Berlin: BMZ. Available at: http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/information_flyer/flyer/SocialProtection.pdf

SIDA

SIDA are in the early stages of developing a conceptualisation of social protection systems and so have **no clear definition** of what social protection systems are[19]. A SIDA representative indicates that the UN concept of the Social Protection Floor perhaps best anchors the conceptualisation of social protection in a development context[20]. SIDA considers social security systems as formal systems that create security for individuals in vulnerable situations (SIDA 2012, p. 7).

Positions

SIDA's social protection engagement is guided by two perspectives: a rights perspective and the perspective of the poor[21]. The organisation attempts to support the state in creating social protection systems that are based on transparency, accountability and participation. Key activities include (SIDA 2013, pp. 15-17):

- Supporting and strengthening civil society as an executer and activist of social policy issues;
- Advocating and supporting social security systems as an integrated component of employment policy;
- Supporting the development of social service activities, including making sure that social protection mechanisms reach the vulnerable.

Key documents

SIDA (2012). *Social Security Systems.* A position paper - Department for democracy and social development. Stockholm: SIDA. Available at: http://www.sida.se/Publications/Import/pdf/sv/Social-Security-Systems.pdf

USAID

USAID defines social protection as 'a system of public interventions that seeks to enable poor and vulnerable households to increase their ability to manage risk; thereby allowing them to contribute to, participate in, and benefit from economic growth' (Mahoney undated).

Positions

There are very few specific details available on USAID social protection policy. The most widely cited example of USAID engagement in this field is the **Social Protection Systems Strengthening project** (SPSS), based in Armenia. Through the project, USAID is working alongside the Armenian government to develop and implement social services that target vulnerable people, and strengthen the capacity of the government to deliver a social reform agenda[22]. Key areas of engagement include supporting government

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[19] Expert comments
[20] Expert comments
[21] Expert comments
[22] See: http://www.usaid.gov/social-protection

institutions in administering a sustainable pension system, and providing community-based services for vulnerable populations, particularly children[23].

Key documents

Mahoney, T. (undated) Social Protection & Safety Nets: USG Experience. Available at: http://www.ovcsupport.net/files/Social%20Protection%20%20Overview%20TIM%20MAHONEY%20SAFETY%20NETS(1).pdf

USAID (undated) *Strategy paper on programmatic directions for 2009-2013*. USAID Armenia. Available at: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pdacm401.pdf

Key website

USAID Social Protection Systems Strengthening Project: http://www.spss.am/index.php?cat_id=85

4. Civil society and think-tank definitions

Save the Children

Definitions

Save the Children have a **child-sensitive perspective** to social protection, which emphasises the need to ensure social protection instruments are child-sensitive in their design and implementation (Save the Children 2007).

Positions

Alongside UNICEF and other partner organisations, Save the Children produced a joint statement on child-sensitive social protection. The statement notes that introducing small nuances in the design and implementation of social protection schemes can produce significant benefits to both children and wider populations (DFID et al. 2009). Some of the principles of child-sensitive social protection include: avoiding adverse impacts on children; intervening as early as possible when children are at risk; including the voices and opinions of children in design and implementation; and making special provisions to reach children who are particularly vulnerable (DFID et al. 2009, p. 2).

In a briefing paper, Save the Children UK (2007, p. 2) note that that social protection measures are necessary to reduce vulnerabilities to risks, alleviate the impacts of current hardship, and overcome some of the factors that keep people in structural poverty. The organisation notes that it is necessary to balance universal and targeted measures, and that needs should be assessed through national level dialogue (Ibid.).

Key documents

DFID, HelpAge International, Hope and Homes for Children, IDS, ILO, ODI, Save the Children, UNDP, UNICEF and World Bank (2009). *Advancing Child-Sensitive Social Protection*. Available at:

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[23] Ibid.

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/Advancing_Child_Sensitive_Social_Protectio n_1.pdf

Save the Children (2007). *Children and Social Protection: Towards a package that works*. London: Save the Children. Available at:
https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/Children_and_Social_Protection_Jan_07_1. pdf

Oxfam International

Definitions

Oxfam have a **rights-based approach** to social protection and view it as essential to achieving social inclusion, strengthening the legitimacy of government, and achieving sustainable economic growth (Oxfam International 2009, p. 1). Social protection is broadly defined as 'public or publicly mandated actions…that enable people to deal more effectively with risks and vulnerability, that provide support in cases of extreme and chronic poverty, and that enhance the social status and rights of marginalised groups' (Ibid.). Oxfam contend that social protection instruments can help people manage risks and enable them to invest, build skills, and attempt to address long term deprivation.

Positions

Oxfam emphasise that the choice of social protection instruments should be context specific, depending on – amongst other aspects –targeting issues, affordability, and the role of stakeholders. The organisation identifies a number of principles that guide their engagement with social protection systems. These include: social protection should aim to empower the target population and foster equity; social protection requires long term commitment, particularly in terms of institutional arrangements and funding; social protection should be large scale and have a broad coverage; and meaningful social protection demands the active involvement of civil society (Ibid.). Oxfam also contend that social protection can play a crucial role in addressing gender equality and advocate that the design of social protection systems should take gender into account (Oxfam International undated).

Key documents

Oxfam International (2009). Oxfam International Policy Compendium Note on Social Protection. Oxfam International. Available at: http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/oa4/social-protection.pdf

Oxfam International (undated). Oxfam International response to the final draft of the World Bank's Social Protection Strategy 2012-2022. Available at:
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/280558-1274453001167/7089867- 1279223745454/7253917-1291314603217/7595300- 1299088294716/sp_strategy_final_review_oxfam_feedback.pdf

Help Age International

Definitions

HelpAge International's social protection policy places an emphasis on **supporting older people and their families**[24].

Positions

HelpAge considers pensions 'a crucial form of social protection', and, to this end, the organisation's activities are predominately interested in supporting governments in the design and implementation of pension schemes[25]. The organisations strategic approach aims to[26]:

- Support and ensure that governments uphold the rights of older individuals and households to secure an income;

- Advocate that countries provide pensions as part of their basic social protection system;

- Support older people to have a voice in demands for a pension;

- Engage with all levels of policy, including the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative, to secure policy change;

- Advocate for social protection to be included in donor policy and programmes.

Key documents

HelpAge International (2011). 'Strengthening state-citizen relations in fragile contexts: The role of cash transfers'. London: HelpAge. Available at: http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/social-protection/strengthening-statecitizen-relations-in-fragile-contexts/

HelpAge International (2011). 'The price of income security in older age: Cost of a universal pension in 50 low- and middle-income countries'. London: HelpAge. Available at: http://www.helpage.org/download/4de50ec434dec/

HelpAge International (2011). 'Financing social pensions in low- and middle-income countries'. London: HelpAge International. Available at: http://www.pension-watch.net/download/4f0599ba9c5d6

International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-UNDP)

Definitions

IPC-UNDP considers social protection a policy tool to tackle inequality, poverty and social exclusion[27], and takes an '**inclusive growth**' perspective, which emphasises the links between social protection and macroeconomic policies (IPC 2013, p. 2).

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[24] See: http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/social-protection/pensions-policy/
[25] See: http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/social-protection/pensions-policy/
[26] Ibid.
[27] See: http://www.ipc-undp.org/PageNewSiteb.do?id=48&active=3

Positions

IPC-UNDP's social protection work is framed by a south-south learning perspective[28]. Social protection instruments and mechanisms advocated for include both social assistance and social insurance schemes - the latter of which can be achieved through income maintenance, in-kind transfers, or social services[29].

Key documents

IPC (2013). *Intersections between social protection, inclusive growth and fiscal space: Issues paper for G20 DWG on Growth with Resilience*. Brasilia: IPC. Available at: http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCTechnicalPaper5.pdf

IPC (2013). *Exploring and Strengthening the Intersections between Social Protection, Employment and Inclusive Growth: Issues paper for G20 DWG on Growth with Resilience*. Brasilia: IPC. Available at: http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCTechnicalPaper6.pdf

Centre for Global Development (CGD)

As a research think tank, the CDG does not have an institutional position on social protection, nor an agreed definition of what social protection systems are[30]. The centre engages in research activity on a range of issues relating to social protection in both low and middle income countries. Examples of evidence-based research include an evaluation of unconditional cash and voucher transfer programmes in Democratic Republic of Congo – which argues that unconditional cash transfers can make a positive contribution to improving outcomes to vulnerable populations, provided there is access to markets for goods and services (Aker 2013).

Key documents

Aker, J. (2013). 'Cash or coupons? Testing the impacts of cash versus vouchers in the Democratic Republic of Congo'. *Working Paper 320*. Centre for Global Development. Available at: http://international.cgdev.org/publication/cash-or-coupons-testing-impacts-cash-versus-vouchers-democratic-republic-congo-working

Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

Definitions

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) takes a broad perspective on social protection. It advocates for universal provisions and has an interest in the social justice and transformative dimensions of social protection – i.e. whether social protection can address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability[31] (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler 2004). The Institute see social protection systems as a set of policies and programmes which reduce poverty and vulnerability. They are implemented through social assistance; social systems (e.g. child grants and cash or food transfers); social insurance schemes that support some

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[28] See: http://south-south.ipc-undp.org/
[29] See: http://www.ipc-undp.org/PageNewSiteb.do?id=48&active=3
[30] Expert comments
[31] See: http://www.ids.ac.uk/news/protecting-lives-promoting-livelihoods

of the most vulnerable households and individuals; and targeted approaches that address livelihood risks (such as emergency food transfers).

Positions

The Centre for Social Protection (CSP), housed within the Institute, advocates and supports social protection systems and instruments that are '**comprehensive, long-term, sustainable and pro-poor'**[32]. The Institute also advocates for **Adaptive Social Protection**, an approach which promotes greater integration between social protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (Davies et al. 2008).

Key documents

Devereux, S. & Sabates-Wheeler, R. (2004). *Transformative social protection*. IDS Working Paper 232. Brighton: IDS. Available at: http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/Wp232.pdf

Devereux, S., Béné, C., Chopra, D., Koehler, G., Roelen, K., Sabates-Wheeler, R. & te Lintelo, D. (2011). 'Social Protection for Social Justice' in *IDS Bulletin 42.6*. Brighton: IDS. Available at: http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/social-protection-for-social-justice

Davies, M., Guenther, B., Leavy, J., Mitchell, T. & Tanner, T. (2008). *'Adaptive Social Protection': Synergies for Poverty Reduction*. IDS Bulletin 39/4. Available at: http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/13Davies39.4web.pdf

ODI

Definitions

ODI has **no clear institutional definition** of social protection systems. The organisation's work in the area is broad, ranging from a livelihoods-based perspective to a rights-based perspective.

Positions

Under the broad umbrella of the social protection programme, ODI aims to support the design and implementation of effective social protection policy and programming in poor countries. Projects include the impacts of social protection on resilient food systems – where the social protection system includes cash transfers, public works, and insurance[33] – and strengthening social protection for informal workers, by supporting pensions and health insurance[34].

Key documents

Slater, R., Holmes, R. & Bhuvanendra, D. (2013). *Social Protection and resilient food systems: A synthesis*. London: ODI. Available at: http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8695.pdf

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[32] See: http://www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/centre-for-social-protection
[33] See: http://www.odi.org.uk/projects/2739-social-protection-instruments-food-resilience
[34] See: http://www.odi.org.uk/projects/2440-strengthening-social-protection-informal-workers-supporting-poverty-reduction-social-inclusion-across-stable-fragile-contexts

Norton, A., Conway, T. & Foster, M. (2001). *Social Protection Concepts and Approaches: Implications for policy and practice in international development*. Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure. London: ODI. Available at: http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/2999.pdf

5. Additional information

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