

**Migration and Social Protection:
Exploring Issues of Portability and Access**

5-6 November 2008, Bramber House, University of Sussex

Migration is arguably one of the most important social risk management instruments of mankind. It is a strategy by which individuals, families and whole populations can escape exposure to risk by moving from a risk-prone region to a safer region. This may be in response to natural hazards, physical conflict or poverty, the risk of destitution and other economic shocks. At the same time migration does not eliminate the need to handle the many other risks of life (such as sickness or unemployment). In other words, migration can be seen as a form of social protection, but it also necessitates social protection.

This conference seeks to profile current research on migration and social protection, including Migration DRC research on the topic, review good practice and consider policy options in this area.

Day 1

09.30 – 09.50 *Coffee and registration*

09.50 – 10:30 Welcome (Richard Black) and Introduction (Rachel Sabates-Wheeler)

10:30 – 13.00 Session 1: Portability Regimes and Formal Provisions

This first session will give an overview of current and emerging trends in migration and social protection, and formulate recommendations, at the global level. The first paper will primarily seek to quantify numbers and trends under different regimes of social protection for groups of international migrants. The second paper will look at current practices in terms of formal social protection provision, in particular through bilateral and multilateral agreements, and explore options for future international cooperation in the field. The third presentation will explore the legal implications and constraints surrounding the portability of social protection systems through an analysis of the situation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. The paper will identify what problems the diversity of systems and statuses entail and how these could be overcome.

Johanna Avato, World Bank
Chris Brailey, IBM Global Business Services

11.30 – 12.00 *Coffee break*

Marius Olivier, University of Johannesburg

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 Session 2: Migrants and Host Welfare Systems

This session will investigate existing policy frameworks with regard to the social protection of international migrants. The first paper will highlight the problems of provision being linked to migrant status in the field of healthcare in the UK. The second paper will look at the relationship between the take-up of social protection provision by different groups of migrants and the sustainability of the welfare system at stake.

Rayah Feldman, London South Bank University
Claudia Hartmann-Hirsch, CEPS/INSTEAD Luxembourg

15.30 – 16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00 – 17.30 Session 3: Policy Frameworks

This session will look at how different policy environments interact with migrant vulnerabilities. The first paper will identify the shortcomings of social protection provision for migrants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and prospects for improvement through regional cooperation. The second paper will review evidence on SADC individual member-state national, bilateral and multilateral policies on the portability of social security systems, both formal and informal, for migrants in the region.

Sefu Papa Kawaya, IOM Kinshasa
Bilisoni Itaye, University of Zimbabwe

17.30 *Close*

19.00 Informal dinner at La Fourchette, Brighton

Day 2

8.30 – 9.00 *Coffee*

9.00 – 11.00 Session 4: Conceptualising Access

The fourth session will look into different theoretical perspectives on migrants' access to social protection. The first paper examines migrant-related disadvantages in benefiting from social protection programmes, based on research into the Indian Public Distribution System. The second paper looks at immigrant access to social protection in the Netherlands from a historical perspective of change, and formulates recommendations towards overcoming asymmetries in migrants' entitlements to social protection. The third paper uses field research on Bengali markets in Kerala, India as sites of interaction facilitating access to social protection, and questions the concept of social protection as being exclusively either formal or informal.

Ian MacAuslan, Oxford Policy Management
Melissa Siegel, Maastricht University
Mythri Prasad, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30 – 13.30 Session 5: Overcoming Constraints at Destination

The fifth session will present research into strategies for overcoming constraints in destination areas in terms of social protection. The first paper investigates the interaction between legal status, migration outcomes and social protection, focusing in particular on informal social protection strategies. The second paper, based on research into migrant domestic workers in Greece, draws attention to new forms of welfare marginalisation for these women, looks into how these come about and what informal strategies are devised to circumvent failure of access to formal social protection. The third paper will assess the comparative risks and vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers in the pineapple export sector in Ghana, and how social protection can be effectively adapted for migrant labour.

Rachel Sabates-Wheeler, Migration DRC and IDS

Vasilis Lolis, Panteion University

Stephanie Barrientos, University of Manchester

13.30 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 16.30 Session 6: Social Protection in Source Country and For Returnees

The final session will look into the provision of social protection for migrants upon return and in source areas. The first paper presents research into retired returning migrants in the countries of the Maghreb, what use is made of pension transfers, how governments seek to attract such migrants, and what the implications of differential policies between Maghrebian states mean in practice. The second paper looks at the comparative weight and relevance for Ecuadorian migrants of social protection strategies provided by the sending country on the one hand and those developed on migrants' own initiatives, and analyses the implications of the two interacting for further public policy development in the field. The third paper explores the impact of the international migration of Ghanaian fathers on the livelihoods of their families left behind, and suggests avenues of international cooperation to improve mothers' and children's wellbeing in areas of origin.

Paolo Boccagni, University of Trento

Sofiane Bouhdiba, University of Tunis

Delali Badasu, University of Ghana, Accra

16.30 – 17.00 Concluding Remarks

17.00 – 17.30 *Coffee*

17.30 *Close*