

PD-SPD third meeting
**Social protection in times of growing vulnerability and
poverty crises**

29-30 November 2022 – Online
13:00-16:30 (Paris, CEST time)

AGENDA

To register, click on the following links:

[Registration for day 1, 29 November](#)

[Registration for day 2, 30 November](#)

Contacts

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Day 1: 29 NOVEMBER 2022

Interpretation available in English and French

13:00-13:15

OPENING REMARKS

Ragnheidur Arnadottir, Director, OECD Development Centre

Shahra Razavi, Director of the Social Protection Department, ILO

Michal Rutkowski, Global Director for Social Protection and Jobs, World Bank

13:15-14:45

SESSION 1 Social protection and the unprecedented food and energy price inflation

The recent global rise in inflation is bringing hardship to many people across the world, especially among poorer and middle-income households. Rising prices have been exacerbated over recent months by the war in Ukraine, particularly for what concerns food and energy costs. Russia and Ukraine account for 29% of global wheat exports and 62% of sunflower oil exports, while Russia is the world's largest exporter and second-largest producer of natural gas. As food and energy prices soar, fears of a global food crisis are growing. Such concerns demonstrate the urgency of reinforcing investments in national social protection systems and identifying those features of social protection systems that can actually adapt to a volatile inflationary environment and ensure food security.

Questions:

How can social protection be an effective platform to respond to the set of compounding covariate shocks in a way that ensures that food security, nutrition and other basic needs are safeguarded and strengthened? How to adjust social benefits in a volatile inflationary environment? How can social protection and agricultural policies be coordinated to tackle food insecurity? How can social protection systems prevent people and households from falling into poverty in light of the multiple crises?

Speakers:

Ousmane Basse, Director, Strategies and Planning, Senegal

Frederic dos Santos, Executive Administrator, National Institute of Social Security (INPS), Cabo Verde

Sarah Hunt, Policy Director, Irish Aid

Felipe Jardim Ribeiro Lins, General Coordinator of Articulation and Intersectoral Actions of the Department of Assistance and Benefits, National Secretariat of Social Assistance, Brazil

Discussant:

Marco Knowles, Senior Social Protection Officer, FAO

Dominic Richardson, Chief of Social and Economic Policy Analysis, UNICEF Innocenti Centre

Moderator:

Ugo Gentilini, Global Lead for Social Assistance, World Bank

Open discussion

14:45-15:00

Coffee break

15:00-16:30

SESSION 2 Shielding populations from environmental degradation and climate shocks

Environment depletion and climate change will disproportionately impact middle- and low-income countries and low-income households within countries. Without proper mitigation policies, this trend might push between approximately 30 and 130 million people into poverty by 2030, a shock comparable in magnitude to the COVID-19 containment measures. Multiple mechanisms link environmental depletion and climate shocks to increased poverty, including the impact of weather shocks on agricultural yields and food prices, natural disasters and reduced labour productivity because of physiological reasons, in particular for outdoor workers. Social protection can play a crucial role in sheltering populations from adverse socio-economic effects of environmental degradation and climate shocks as well as facilitate the structural transformation of economies to cleaner consumption and production patterns through a just transition process (ILO, 2015). Novel approaches have consisted in integrating routine social protection with broader emergency response mechanisms, as well as, for example, cash transfers conditional on weather conditions.

Questions:

Can social protection reduce the effect of environmental damages to vulnerable populations? Which programs have been most effective in mitigating poverty in the face of environmental degradation and climate shocks? Is the solution to expand existing social protection mechanisms, or should climate shocks-specific approaches be developed? How can social protection facilitate a just transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies?

Speakers:

Mohammad Nazmul Ahsan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh

Chitembo Chunga, National coordinator, Zambia Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia

Carlos Soto Iguaran, Task Team Leader, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Discussant:

Nicolas Bidault, Chief, Social Protection, World Food Programme

Marie-Christina Dankmeyer, Social Protection and Climate Change Specialist, ILO

Moderator:

Martin Denis, Policy Advisor, TUAC

DAY 2: 30 NOVEMBER 2022

Interpretation available in English and French

13:00-14:30

SESSION 3 Revisiting the role of targeting and universalism in the context of increasing social protection demand

The issue of targeting versus universal programmes in social protection delivery has long been debated. Targeting aims to identify 'eligible' individuals and households in order to direct programmes to those most in need, determined by poverty measures and other means tests. On the other hand, universal programmes aim to reach all citizens based on a basic criterion like age or status (health, single parent or employment). This allows ensuring that benefits are received by those who need them, in line with international social protection standards. While concentrating a greater share of benefits on the poorest people has been considered by some as more cost-effective than expanding coverage more broadly, there are growing concerns over large exclusion errors and other studies point to better poverty and redistributive outcomes of universal approaches (Nelson 2004, Gugushvili and Laenen 2021). In addition, in a context where poverty is high and administrative capacity low, and where more and more segments of the population are affected by shocks and vulnerability than before, universalism may be preferable to targeted approaches.

Questions:

What is the consensus on key policy issues related to poverty targeting and where are the disagreements? In what context is targeting or universalism more appropriate? The use of big data and new technologies to improve targeting: what are the benefits and risks?

Speakers:

Edmund Cheong, Chief Transformation and Strategy Officer, SOCSO, Malaysia

Ousseynou Diop, Director, Single National Register, Senegal

Ghufron Mukti, Director General of BPJS-Health, Indonesia

Alexis Rulisa, Head of CBHI, Rwanda Social Security Board

Discussants:

Ruslan Yemtsov, Lead Economist, Social Protection and Jobs, World Bank

Moderator:

Valérie Schmitt, Deputy Director, Social Protection Department, ILO

Open discussion

14:30-14:45

Coffee Break

14:45-16:15

SESSION 4 Social protection, jobs and sustainable livelihoods

Today, there is growing interest in understanding the extent to which social protection programmes can be better integrated with employment and broader economic policies in order to sustain livelihoods in the longer term. In recent years, it has become increasingly clear that social protection can sustainably move people out of poverty, improve their food and nutrition security and contribute to local development only if it is integrated into broader livelihood promotion and local development strategies (Soares & Orton, 2017). Recently, the UN and ILO have established a Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection with a view to create at least 400 million jobs and extend social protection to 4 billion women, men and children currently without coverage. Country experiences show that certain approaches have proven to allow households to escape poverty and become resilient durably. Two policy options have received particular attention: graduation and large lump-sum cash transfers. The graduation approach typically offers extremely poor households a package of consumption support, training, transfer of productive assets, and coaching (de Montesquiou, Hashemi & Heinemann, 2018). Large lump-sum cash transfers can consist in a payment equivalent to about one year of a poor household's income, no strings attached (GiveDirectly, 2015). Both have a proven track record of transformative effects on beneficiaries by increasing income, consumption, wealth and employment. While cash-transfers appear to be more cost-effective in the medium run, graduation approaches may have more persistent effects (Sulaiman, 2018). Yet, there is growing concern that in contexts where social insurance coverage remains low, the benefits of such programs may be disappointing in the long run.

Speakers:

Marcelo Alvares de Sousa, Specialized Technical Advisor, Benefits Department of the National Secretariat for Citizenship Income, Brazil

Prof. Sang Hyon Lee, Research Fellow, Employment Information Service (EIS), Ministry of Employment and Labour, Republic of Korea

Eduardo Lepore, National Director of Coordination of Social Security Regimes, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Argentina

Discussants:

Christina Behrendt, Head, Social Policy Unit, ILO

Gregory Chen, UPGI Managing Director, BRAC

Michael Faye, Executive Chair and Co-Founder, Give Directly

Moderator:

Juan Vazquez Zamora, Deputy Head of Unit, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, OECD

16:15-16:30

CONCLUSION, NEXT STEPS

Alexandre Kolev, Head of Social Cohesion Unit, OECD Development Centre

Ayumi Yuasa, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre