

Social protection for inclusive development: Evidence and gap maps

INCLUDE seeks to share knowledge on the effectiveness of social protection interventions in achieving development objectives. A resource developed by the [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#) to share such knowledge is the [Productive Safety Nets Gap Maps \(PSNGM\)](#). These maps provide evidence of the outcomes of [social protection interventions](#) and highlight any gaps in these outcomes. To do this, the PSNGM [database](#) summarises the findings of 20 systematic reviews and 248 impact evaluations of interventions dealing with social protection, financial services, microcredit support and other issues (such as land property rights and group formation for collective action). The indicators used to measure impact include access to or uptake of the services, income, empowerment and education. The PSNGM also rates the confidence in the systematic review findings as high, medium or low.

In creating the maps, the PSNGM conducted impact evaluations of 11 interventions in Uganda, 10 in Kenya, 8 in Ethiopia, and 13 in Ghana. The resulting database reveals evidence gaps in relation to social protection interventions in Uganda, Kenya and Ghana and in relation to microenterprise support in Kenya. Gaps also exist in relation to income poverty, income inequality and cost-benefits analysis of some the interventions. For ease of reference, the PSNGM gives links to summaries of systematics reviews and impact evaluations and to the sources of the studies.

To generate new knowledge, NWO-WOTRO/INCLUDE has funded [seven studies](#) on the cost effectiveness of health social protection interventions in Africa. Of these, two will be conducted in Uganda, two in Kenya two in Ethiopia, and one in Kenya and Ghana. In these countries, the PSNGM database contains summaries of three impact assessments of health interventions in [Kenya](#), [Uganda](#) and [Ethiopia](#), as well as links to their sources. The Kenyan study looks at the relationship between health interventions and savings, the Ugandan study investigates the health outcomes of economic empowerment among youth, and the Ethiopia study explores the link between microcredit and health outcomes.

Other resources on social protection

- Cherrier, C (2015) [Examining the catalytic effect of aid on resource mobilisation for social transfers in low-income countries](#). UNRISD Working Paper 2015-3. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
Though empirical case studies from six African countries (Lesotho, Mozambique, Ghana, Kenya, Zambia and Ethiopia), this study found that foreign aid was a catalyst for mobilising additional resources for social transfers.
- Del Ninno, C; Mills, B (eds) (2015) [Safety nets in Africa: Effective mechanisms to reach the poor and most vulnerable](#). World Bank Publications.
This book assesses the effectiveness of targeting mechanisms used in social safety net programmes, such as conditional and non-conditional cash transfers and social assistance, in Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Niger and Malawi. Due to weaknesses associated with targeting mechanisms, the authors propose use of clear, objective and transparent targeting criteria in order to reach the poorest and most vulnerable people with safety net programmes.
- Banerjee, A; Duflo, E; Goldberg, N; Karlan, D; Osei, R; Parienté, W; ... Udry, C (2015) [‘A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries.’](#) *Science*, 348 (6236)

Findings from Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Pakistan and Peru revealed that a multicomponent intervention significantly improved the livelihoods of beneficiaries in terms of several indicators including productive asset transfers, consumption, household assets and food security.

- Roodman, D (2012) *Due diligence: An impertinent inquiry into microfinance*. CGD Books: Washington DC. ([Click here for CGD Brief](#))
This book questions the role of microfinance in development from three perspectives, namely, aiding escape from poverty, expanding freedom and building industry. Drawing on examples from studies conducted in several countries including India (Andhra Pradesh), Kenya, Bangladesh, Morocco, Pakistan and Nicaragua, the author concludes that micro loans improve the livelihoods of poor people only in certain contexts.
- The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) produces One Pagers aimed at promoting knowledge sharing among African nations, as well as informing policy-makers, practitioners and researchers around the world about the latest developments in the area of social cash transfers in Africa. Below are some examples of recent IPC-IG One Pagers. Read more [on this series](#).
 - IPC-IG (2015) *Innovative technology serving social cash transfers in remote rural areas of Ethiopia*. One Pager No. 228, April 2015.
 - IPC-IG, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
This One Pager explains the benefits that accrued from using mobile money payment technology under the Tigray Social Cash Transfer Programme (TSCTP).
 - IPC-IG (2015) *The impact of social cash transfer programmes on community dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa*. One Pager No. 290 May 2015. IPC-IG, UNDP
This study investigated the impact of social transfer programmes in Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia and found that cash transfers encouraged income-generating activities, boosted local markets marginally, and improved the access of beneficiaries to economic collaboration with others in all six countries. Although the targeting of beneficiaries was generally effective, communication about the process was often weak, resulting in confusion and sometimes resentment.
 - IPC-IG (2015) *The impact of cash transfers on local economies*. Policy in Focus, Vol. 11, Issues No. 1, 2015. IPC-IG, UNDP
This publication details impact assessments of targeted cash transfers, conditional cash transfers, in-kind transfers, short-term cash transfers and social cash transfers in several countries including Mexico, Ethiopia, Uganda, Cambodia and Brazil. Some of the studies found that social transfers had an effect on the local economy, evidenced by investment, productivity, prices, employment and trade.
- Browne, E (2015) *Social protection: Topic guide*. Birmingham, UK: Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC), University of Birmingham.
This book explains social protection concepts, approaches, issues, and debates and outlines the evidence on social protection interventions.

- The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) has also started a new research project on the political economy of social protection systems: <http://www1.wider.unu.edu/tax4protection/article/call-papers>
- The World Bank database provides information on social protection instruments: <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/labor-and-social-protection>
- The Inter-American Social Protection Network is a source of information with various publications: <http://socialprotectionet.org/about>
- FAO provides reports from various studies on social protection conducted in Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia and South Africa: <http://www.fao.org/economic/ptop/publications/reports/en/>