

## **GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**

### **July 2010**

**In this edition**

**Social protection floor initiative moves ahead**  
**ADB Seminar on Promoting Inclusive Growth through Social Protection**  
**From the OECD: Wanted - 15 Million Jobs**  
**Steps out of the global development crisis**  
**European conference of ICSW - together with ENSACT**  
**UNRISD launches UNRISD News and more from UNRISD**  
**Policy Brief: Reconnecting the MDGs to the development agenda**

#### **Social protection floor initiative moves ahead**

In the June edition of the Global Cooperation Newsletter I outlined the concept of the social protection floor initiative (SPF-I). I reported on the adoption of the initiative by ICSW General Assembly as an enhancement to the ICSW global programme. The SPF-I was adopted as part of the future Agenda of the International Association of Schools of Social Work, ICSW and the International Federation of Social Workers.

The SPF-I is promoted (in English, French and Spanish) on the Global Extension of Social Security (GESS) website <http://www.socialsecurityextension.org>. On this site, amongst much material, is a brochure outlining the initiative. ICSW dedicates part of its website to the SPF-I. Information can be found through a link on the home page - [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org)

Since the world conference in Hong Kong I attended a meeting in Turin where national representatives shared their experiences on the social protection floor. Papers on social protection initiatives came from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Columbia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Mexico, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa and Thailand.



Christian Jacquier of the International Labour Organisation when outlining the aims and objectives of the workshop emphasised the four dimensions of the SPF-I: – social protection as an affordable human right, and as a social, economic and political necessity.

Supporting the SPF-I is a global coalition of 19 UN agencies and other partners including regional development banks, bilateral partners (Finland, Germany, Brazil, etc), INGOs including ICSW, HelpAge International and the private sector. The activities being generated include awareness raising and advocacy to bring the SPF into the policy debate and taking stock of knowledge management.

**National action:**

Large scale and successful flagship building blocks of the SPF are already in place in many countries: basic health, basic education, basic pensions, family or child benefits, employment guarantee schemes, unemployment benefits, food security and nutrition...

Most emerging economies are already moving toward a comprehensive SPF: Mexico (Vivir mejor), Argentina, Brazil, Chile (Red Protege), Uruguay (El plan de Equidad), Colombia, China, India, Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa etc.

An increasing number of least developed countries have decided to start their own SPF: Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Togo and other West African countries, Honduras, El Salvador, Cambodia, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Ecuador etc.

What we know about the SPF:

- SPF should be based on a coherent, explicit, guaranteed, realistic, articulated and relevant basic package.
- A well designed SPF is affordable even in the poorest countries (it costs from 3 to 5 % of GDP).
- SPF has a positive and rapid impact on poverty and inequality reduction, on economic growth, on social and health outcomes and on the achievement of the MDGs.
- It requires a strong political commitment, a sustainable fiscal space and political consensus.
- Financial and technical support from donors is necessary for the poorest countries. It should be adequate, predictable and sustainable.
- SPF is a cost-effective investment.
- SPF should be country-specific.
- SPF is a long term process which starts modestly and builds progressively.
- Necessary ingredients of SPF include: investments in social budgeting, social dialogue, careful gender-sensitive design, capacity building, SP education, people empowerment, civil society participation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Creating linkages between SPF building blocks and with social security is a necessity
- Knowledge management, knowledge sharing and South-South exchanges are essential.

All the national experiences presented at the workshop will be published in English, French and Spanish. I will keep you posted on when the publication is available. The workshop was sponsored by the ILO, the UN Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, GTZ (Germany) and the ILO International Training Centre (Turin).

(Report written by Denys Correll ICSW Executive Director)

### **ADB Seminar on Promoting Inclusive Growth through Social Protection**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) conducted a seminar on *Promoting inclusive growth through social protection*. UNRISD Director Sarah Cook said at the [seminar](#) appropriately designed social protection can provide a way out of poverty and promote more equitable growth. Many social protection interventions focus on protection against specific shocks rather than addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability. Social protection can be designed to achieve developmental outcomes. For example, programmes designed to maintain and strengthen the productive assets of households, together with the universal provision of basic public goods and services, can better protect households. A key issue is how to ensure the critical linkages between protection and production or enhanced livelihood capabilities.

Cook outlined three key lessons of the Asian financial crisis of 1998: strong state-led policies are necessary for economic growth to be inclusive; the nature of these policies matters; and the critical link between social protection and inclusive growth lies in the extent to which social protection interventions can go beyond protection and address interconnected issues of production, distribution and reproduction.

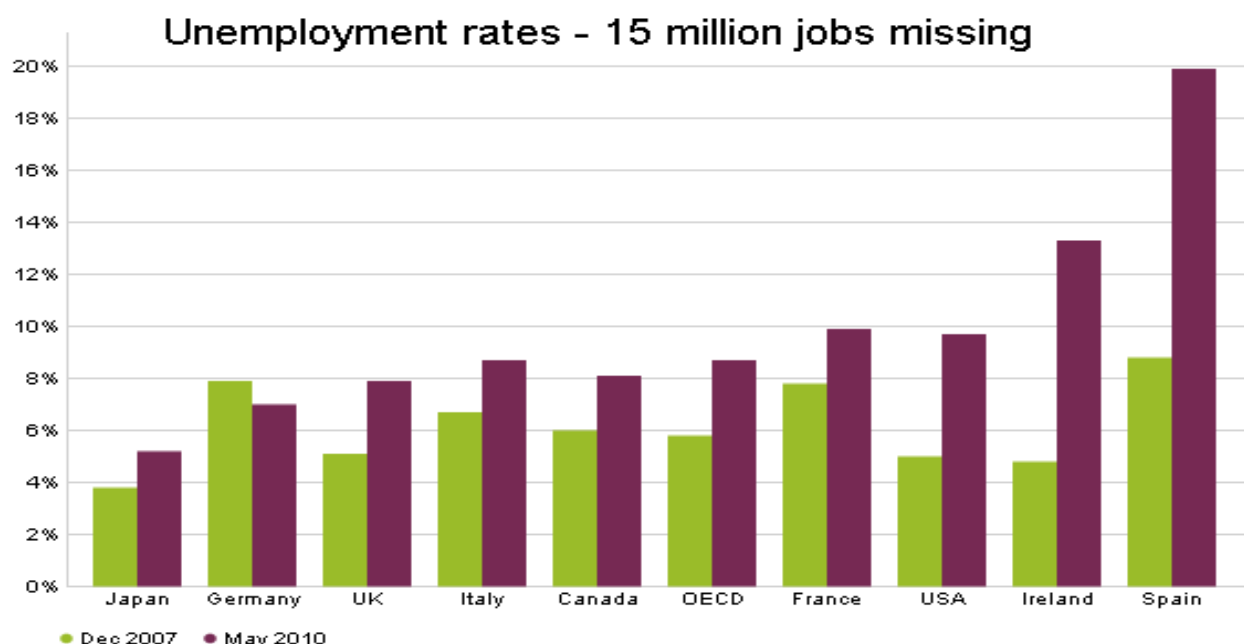
Social protection is usually introduced as a response to vulnerability and to protect against contingencies. Vulnerability has many aspects: material deficit in basic needs; exclusion; uncertainty and insecurity; and “traps” that arise when these intersect. Because institutional and political arrangements and the nature and source of vulnerabilities vary, there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution.

In the light of this complexity, Cook talked of the need for developmental measures that provide a basis for greater economic security and contribute to wider economic development goals; and transformative measures that address the underlying power imbalances that create and sustain

longer term vulnerabilities—for example, anti-discrimination legislation, secure rights and entitlements and strengthening the ability of citizens to claim rights. She also stressed the importance of an expanded role for the state in reducing, mitigating and responding to risk.

(<http://www.adb.org/AnnualMeeting/2010/Seminars/Presentations/S-Cook-presentation-4May.pdf>)

## From the OECD: Wanted - 15 Million Jobs



While economies in many developed countries may be starting to recover slowly from the recession, the jobs crisis looks set to last a while. By the end of 2011, OECD countries will need to create 15 million new jobs just to get employment levels back to where they were before the crisis hit. [Read more](https://community.oecd.org/community/factblog/blog/2010/07/07/jobs-gap-wanted-15-million-posts) at <https://community.oecd.org/community/factblog/blog/2010/07/07/jobs-gap-wanted-15-million-posts>

## Steps Out Of the Global Development Crisis

The financial and economic crisis of 2008/2009 only reached the developing world with a time lag. At least in parts of the Global South the crisis is having a huge social and economic impact. As a result, the prospects of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by 2015, are receding ever more into distance.

In a new publication of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung titled "Steps Out of the Global Development Crisis - Towards an Agenda for Change", (<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/07311.pdf>), Jens Martens, Director of Global Policy Forum Europe, outlines a comprehensive programme for change to combat what he sees as a global development crisis.

## European conference of ICSW - together with ENSACT

The next joint regional European conference of ICSW - together with ENSACT, the European Network on Social Action - will take place from **10 to 13 April 2011** in Brussels. Herman Rompuy, the President of the European Council, will be one of the key note speakers at this Conference.

The **Call for Papers** has been published - the deadline is **31 October 2010**.

For more information on themes of the conference and registration of proposals, please visit the conference website [www.ensact.eu](http://www.ensact.eu)

## UNRISD launches UNRISD News



In the first edition there is a message from the new UNRISD director Sarah Cook. Other content includes headlines; events; meet a researcher (Youssoufou Congo, visiting research fellow at UNRISD from Burkina Faso and is working on microfinance; and publications – including briefs (*Combating poverty and inequality* and *Why care matters for social development*), books and papers. The web version can be found at: <http://www.unrisd.org/publications/e-bulletin1> And if you wish to subscribe go to: <http://www.unrisd.org/myunrisd>

### More from UNRISD

**Podcast: Financing Social Policy: Mobilizing Resources for Social Development.** In this episode, Katja Hujo talks about her recent book on Financing Social Policy: Mobilizing Resources for Social Development, part of UNRISD project on social policy.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BE6B5/search/59798D5B6A35A5C9C12577510046422A?OpenDocument>

### UNRISD Flagship Report 2010: Combating Poverty and Inequality

UNRISD will launch its 2010 Flagship Report 'Combating Poverty and Inequality' on Friday, 3 September 2010 at the UN Office in Geneva, Room XII. The report is the culmination of three years of work from over forty contributors and the whole of UNRISD in-house staff, providing a synthesis of the research commissioned under the original Project on Poverty Reduction and Policy Regimes.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BD6AB/search/90DF168624C41E22C1257736004F70D1?OpenDocument>

### Policy Brief *Reconnecting the MDGs to the development agenda*

The UNCTAD Civil Society Outreach Team has produced a Policy Brief entitled *Reconnecting the MDGs to the development agenda: A four-pronged approach*.

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intlItemID=2068>

The content of this Global Newsletter may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. Views do not necessarily represent policies of ICSW.

Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll, Executive Director.

ICSW C/- MOVISIE Netherlands Centre for Social Development

PO Box 19129

3501 DC Utrecht

Netherlands

Website [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org) Email: [icsw@icsw.org](mailto:icsw@icsw.org)

If you wish to cease receiving this newsletter, please click '[here](#)' providing your name and email address