

DEFINITIONS OF KEY SOCIAL PROTECTION TERMS FROM OTHER DONORS

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ABSTRACT: This document is intended as ‘ready reference’ for USAID staff who will be working with other donor agencies on social protection issues. It provides some background on donor’s work, definitions of key terms and a list of key documents from a variety of different donor agencies.

Social Protection Thesaurus; Key Terms and Documents from Donor Agencies

This document is intended as a ready reference for USAID staff working with other donors in the social protection field. It is organized by donor. For each donor, some background is provided on the scope of the donor's definition of social protection and the donor's work in the field. This background is followed by definitions quoted from donor documents and websites. Finally, a list of key policy documents in the field is provided for each donor.

World Bank

Social Protection (SP)

Social protection in the World Bank is construed fairly broadly. The World Bank has a social protection strategy for worldwide operations, as well as several regional social protection strategy papers. In 2001, the World Bank published a Social Risk Management framework which expanded the concept of social protection beyond safety net programs to include programs that focus on managing risk before shocks occur. Details of this framework are below.

Social Risk Management (SRM)

In contrast to the social protection papers, the World Bank's 2001 Social Risk Management framework limits social risk management to a very discrete area of programming. The World Bank's concept of social risk management emphasizes the role of risk and risk aversion behavior in poverty traps. The World Bank outlines three different programmatic areas that alleviate the consequences of risk and risk aversion.

- Risk reduction (examples include in-service training, financial literacy)
- Risk mitigation (examples include microfinance, various insurance schemes)
- Risk coping (examples include cash transfers, credit from banks)

The Social Risk Management framework overlaps with the WB's social protection work, but there are aspects of SRM and SP that do not overlap. For example, social exclusion is a social protection issue that the 2001 strategy considers beyond the scope of SRM. Likewise, the framework considers microfinance schemes a social risk strategy program, not necessarily a social protection program.

Definitions

Social Protection: "Public interventions to assist individuals, households and communities to manage risk better and that provide support to the critically poor."

Social Risk Management: “A collection of public measures intended to assist individuals, households and communities in managing risks in order to reduce vulnerability, improve consumption smoothing and enhance equity while contributing to economic development.¹”

Key Documents

The World Bank. 2001. Social Protection Sector Strategy: From Safety Net to Springboard.

<http://go.worldbank.org/D4GM6AG850>

The World Bank. 2000. Balancing Protection and Opportunity: A Strategy for Social Protection in Transition Economies. Social Protection Team; Human Development Sector Unit; Europe and Central Asia Region; The World Bank.

[http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/eca/eca.nsf/Attachments/ProtectionTOC/\\$File/toc.pdf](http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/eca/eca.nsf/Attachments/ProtectionTOC/$File/toc.pdf)

Holzmann, Robert and Steen Jorgensen. 1999. Social Protection as Social Risk Management: Conceptual Underpinnings for the Social Protection Sector Strategy Paper. Social Protection Unit, Human Development Network, The World Bank.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The Asian Development Bank has a broad definition of social development, which emphasizes inclusiveness. Inclusive social development is one of the three pillars of poverty reduction in the Asian Development Bank’s Enhanced Poverty Reduction Strategy². The ADB considers equitable social development essential to poverty reduction, along with the two other pillars of pro poor sustainable economic growth and good governance. The thematic areas under the inclusive social development pillar include gender and development, social protection, social capital, human capital and population policy.

The ADB has a more limited scope for social protection programming. Social protection falls under the management of social risk among vulnerable groups within ADB’s social development matrix, and therefore has a focus on vulnerable groups. A broader definition was presented in a framework document specifically on social protection in 2001, reprinted in 2003. This document outlines a definition of social protection that the ADB considers relevant to the Asian context and the ADB’s work. It breaks the Bank’s social protection work into five main areas: labor markets, social insurance, social assistance, micro and area based schemes to protect communities, and child protection.

¹ Definitions for Social Protection and Social Risk Management taken from the World Bank’s 2001 Social Protection Sector Strategy; From Safety Net to Springboard.

² ABD, Overview of Social Development and Social Analysis in ABD Operations.

In 2007, a presentation by a social protection expert at the ADB, Axel Weber, on the creation of a social protection index presented a definition of social protection that limited social protection programs even further to specific cash transfer schemes.

Definitions

Social Development (an approach- oriented definition used on the website): “A cross-cutting approach to development that promotes policies and institutions in support of:

- greater inclusiveness and equity in access to services, resources and opportunities
- greater empowerment of poor and marginalized groups to participate in social, economic, and political life;
- greater security to cope with the chronic or sudden risks, especially for the poor and marginalized groups.³”

Social Development (the definition used in the Handbook on Social Analysis to capture social development as it relates to the three Pillars of Poverty Reduction at the ADB; a goal oriented definition): “Equitable and sustainable improvements in the physical, social and economic well being of individuals and social groups, especially those socially or economically damaged.”

Social protection: “The set of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labor markets, diminishing people’s exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and interruption/loss of income. Social protection consists of five major elements: (i) labor markets, (ii) social insurance, (iii) social assistance, (iv) micro and area-based schemes to protect communities and (v) child protection.⁴”

Social Protection (Axel Weber’s SPI 2007 definition): “The set of policies and programs that enable vulnerable groups to prevent, reduce and /or cope with risks, AND that:

- are targeted at the vulnerable groups;
- involve cash or in kind transfers; and
- do not fall under activities usually associated with other sectors such as rural development, basic infrastructure, health and education⁵”

Key Documents

Asian Development Bank. 2004. Enhancing the Fight against Poverty in Asia and the Pacific; The Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Asian Development Bank.

http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Poverty_Reduction/2004/prs-2004.pdf

³ Definition quoted from Asian Development Bank website;
<http://www.adb.org/SocialDevelopment/default.asp>

⁴ Asian Development Bank, 2003

⁵ Weber, 2007

Asian Development Bank. 2003 (revised). Our Framework: Policies and Strategies: Social Protection.

http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Social_Protection/social-protection.pdf

Ortiz, Isabel, ed. 2001. Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific. Asian Development Bank.

http://www.adb.org/documents/books/social_protection/social_protection.pdf

Weber, Axel. 2007. Ppt: Social Protection Index For Committed Poverty Reduction. Specialist NPRS-PRF Seminar 16 August 2007; ADB Headquarters.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/SocialProtection/SPI-Poverty-Reduction.pdf>

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

JICA's social protection work is focused on vulnerable groups in three different areas; social insurance and welfare, support for people with disabilities, and labor and employment. JICA's work in social insurance and welfare includes support for the social reintegration of vulnerable groups as well as the development of social insurance systems. In addition to vocational and medical rehabilitation programs, support for people with disabilities includes community rehabilitation programs, lifestyle independence and leadership training for people with disabilities. Finally, JICA's work with labor safety and health standards and employment services also fall into the social security division⁶.

Definitions

Social security: "The provision of income and services by governments and public institutions to enable individuals to cope with life problems that they cannot surmount through their own efforts, including illness, old age, disabilities, and unemployment. Social security systems are extremely important to vulnerable members of society and those whose rights tend to be ignored, including workers, the aged, mothers and children, and orphans."⁷

Key documents

JICA's website on social security.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/global/soci/index.html> (accessed December 6, 2007)

⁶ Information drawn from the JICA website, <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/global/soci/index.html>

⁷ Definition from the JICA website; <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/global/soci/index.html> (accessed December 6, 2007)

International Labor Organization (ILO)

Social development at the ILO is viewed primarily through an employment lens and the belief in everyone's right to 'decent work'. This 'decent work for all' agenda at the ILO is quite broad, and includes work for equity, inclusion, employment security and fair globalization. While the ILO acknowledges the importance of economic growth, the economic and social development section of its website notes that economic growth is an 'essential but not sufficient' condition for poverty reduction. 'Pro poor growth', the website notes, involves changes in institutions, laws and practices in favor of the poor⁸.

In addition to the promotion of decent work for all and pro poor growth, the ILO has a social security department which works on the right to basic social services. Social security, as can be seen in the definition below, is an inclusive concept that encompasses food, health, education and housing. Although its definition is not limited to vulnerable groups, the ILO has focused on the expansion of social services to the developing world and the informal sector. It has produced several papers arguing for the expansion of social security to the developing world, and outlining the role of social security programs in country development plans. Most recently, the office has pinpointed the problem of unprotected informal sector workers as an important issue in the social protection sector.

Definitions

Decent Work for All: "Opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men."⁹

BSS (Basic Social Security) "The social provision of a critical minimum to meet conditions "deficiency" in such basic wants as food, health, education and housing."

CSS (Contingent Social Security): "Socially supported institutional arrangements to meet conditions of 'adversity' such as sickness, accidents and old age."¹⁰

Key Documents

Townsend, Peter. 2007. The Right to Social Security and National Development: Lessons from OECD experience for low-income countries. Social Security Department; International Labour Organization.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/secsoc/downloads/publ/1595sp1.pdf>

⁸ Paraphrased from the ILO website; <http://www.ilo.org/global/Themes/Ecosocdev/lang--en/index.htm>

⁹ Definition quoted from the ILO Decent Work website;
<http://www.ilo.org/global/Themes/Decentwork/lang--en/index.htm>

¹⁰ Kannan, 2004

7/1/2008

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Kannan, KP. 2004. Social Security, Poverty Reduction and Development. Arguments for enlarging the concept and coverage of social security in a globalizing world. The Global Campaign for Social Security and Coverage for All; International Labour Office.

<http://www-ilo-mirror.cornell.edu/public/english/protection/socsec/download/esspaper21.pdf>

The Department for International Development (DFID)

DFID does not have a single policy for social protection or a single definition. In a 2004 paper commissioned by DFID and written by Andrew Shepherd of the Overseas Development Institute¹¹, social protection is defined both as an approach and as a set of policies. The approach discussed is an approach that considers risks poor people face, and how policies, processes and intervention address those risks. The set of policies the paper defines as policies which the government uses to protect the poor, both what the paper refers to as the ‘economically active’ poor and the ‘less active poor’. The paper emphasizes that these policies are part of a broader set of policies generally intended to both reduce risk and bring about pro poor growth.

Definitions

Social protection: “An approach towards thinking about the processes, policies and interventions which respond to the economic, social, political and security risks and constraints poor and vulnerable people face, and which will make them less insecure and less poor, and more able to participate in economic growth...As an approach, it focuses on reducing risk and vulnerabilities, and includes ‘all interventions from public, private and voluntary organizations and informal networks to support communities, households and individuals in their efforts to prevent, manage and overcome risks and vulnerabilities’.”

“A set of policies which governments can pursue in order to ensure protection both to the ‘economically active poor’, enabling them to participate more productively in economic activity, and to the less active poor, with considerable benefits for society as a whole.¹²”

Key Documents

Shepherd, Andrew et al. 2004. Policy Paper on Social Protection. Overseas Development Institute for DFID.

http://www.odi.org.uk/Africa_Portal/pdf/Social_Protection_1309.pdf

¹¹ Please note that the Overseas Development Institute is an independent think tank, although it works closely with DFID (among other actors in the private sector), therefore its papers are not official DFID policy.

¹² Shepherd, 2004

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Institute for Development Studies¹³

The Institute of Development Studies has a Centre for Social Protection, which releases a Social Protection Newsletter periodically, and also has several working papers. In 2004, Stephen Devereux and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler developed an inclusive framework in their paper, Transformative Social Protection. They introduce the concept of transformative social protection, or social protection measures that specifically address social equity and cohesion issues. Examples of transformative social protection measures include sensitization campaigns and regulatory changes that protect socially vulnerable groups¹⁴.

Definitions

Social Protection (working definition from Devereux and Sabates Wheeler): “The set of all initiatives, both formal and informal, that provide **social assistance** to extremely poor individuals and households; **social services** to groups who need special care or would otherwise be denied access to basic services; **social insurance** to protect people against the risks and consequences of livelihood shocks; and **social equity** to protect people against social risks such as discrimination or abuse.¹⁵”

Social Protection (conceptual definition from Devereux and Sabates Wheeler): “All public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks, and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized; with the overall objective of reducing the economic and social vulnerability of poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups.¹⁶”

Key Documents

Devereux, Stephen and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler. 2004. IDS Working Paper 232; Transformative Social Protection. Institute for Development Studies.
http://www.ids.ac.uk/UserFiles/File/poverty_team/social_protection/wp232.pdf

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The focus of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s poverty reduction work has been in economic growth. However, the EBRD has published working papers on both pension reform and social capital in transition economies, examining the connection between social capital and economic growth. The paper on social capital uses Robert Putnam’s definition, what the authors term ‘formal social capital’

¹³ DFID is the largest IDS funder, so it is placed next to DFID in this piece, however, IDS also receives funding from the UN, the EC, and other agencies.

¹⁴ Pp 9, Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004

¹⁵ Pp 9, Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004

¹⁶ Pp 9, Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004

This formulation defines social capital as a cultural phenomenon with three elements; the extent of civic mindedness of members of a society, the existence of social norms promoting collective action and the degree of trust in public institutions. The paper uses quantitative techniques to evaluate the connection between all three elements of social capital listed above and economic growth in transition economies.

Another EBRD Working Paper by Christine Nickel and Johan Almenburg examines pension reform in transition economies, offering policy suggestions in the face of a rapidly ageing population base.

Key Documents

Nickel, Christiane and Johan Almenberg. Ageing, pension reforms and capital market development in transition countries. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Working Paper Series.

<http://www.ebrd.com/pubs/econo/wp0099.pdf>

Raiser, Martin, Christian Haerper, Thomas Nowotny and Claire Wallace. Social capital in transition: a first look at the evidence.

<http://www.ebrd.com/pubs/econo/wp0061.pdf>

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (Germany) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)

GTZ's Health, Education and Social Protection division focuses on social development. GTZ has published several documents on social protection in particular, with a focus on social health insurance and social security schemes. The 2007 Priority Social Protection Themes of German Development listed five areas: social protection in health, basic social protection (such as cash transfers), Poverty and Social Impact Analysis, microinsurance and finally, persons with disabilities. In line with this emphasis on security schemes, the definition given below is focused on risk mitigation, and is not limited to vulnerable groups.

BMZ published a 2002 Executive Summary of the Promotion of Social Protection and Social Security Systems. This document outlines seven areas of action in social protection: human rights and core labor rights, security of income, safeguarding health, social protection of women and children, old age security, social welfare for particularly needy groups and finally, protection of the poor in cases of natural disaster.

GTZ, the ILO and the WHO have formed a Consortium on Social Health Protection in Developing Countries. This consortium works to promote and create social health insurance schemes, financed in a variety of ways.

Definitions

Social protection systems: “Support systems embedded within an institutional framework that helps people to cope with life's risks and cushion their consequences. Distinctions are made between the following systems: informal community-based systems founded on family ties or other social relationships, co-operative systems of social protection based on membership of self-help groups or trade associations (including group forms of insurance such as benevolent funds and microinsurance), private insurance (life and property insurance) and formal state social protection systems (the various branches of social insurance).¹⁷”

Key Documents

GTZ. 2007. Social Protection; Priority Social Protection Themes of German Development Cooperation.

<http://www2.gtz.de/dokumente/bib/07-1438.pdf>

GTZ. 2004. Focus on People; Health, Education and Social Protection.

<http://www2.gtz.de/dokumente/bib/05-0266.pdf>

GTZ. 2002. Promotion of Social Protection and Social Security Systems in Developing Countries: Executive Summary.

<http://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/en-social-security-executive-summary.pdf>

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Like many other donors including USAID, the UNDP recognizes that economic growth is a ‘necessary but not sufficient’ condition for poverty reduction. Areas that fall under the Investing in People section of the USAID framework, like health, literacy and basic social services are also considered aspects of UNDP’s poverty reduction efforts. The UNDP also includes participatory processes and equitable development as essential aspects of poverty reduction¹⁸.

The UNDP International Poverty Center, a joint initiative between UNDP and the Brazilian government, has initiated a research program on cash transfer programs. In 2007, they published a series of case studies on social protection and cash transfer programs from around the world. As part of this effort, the UNDP June 2006 Poverty in Focus newsletter offered an inclusive definition of social protection in terms of hazards, risks, and stresses; a definition which is also not limited to vulnerable groups. This framework of prevention, management and overcoming hazards, risks and stresses which

¹⁷ GTZ, 2002

¹⁸ UNDP; Strategies and Policies for Poverty Reduction

<http://www.undp.org/poverty/propoor.htm>

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is not limited to marginalized groups echoes the World Bank's Social Risk Management terminology of risk aversion, risk management, and risk prevention.

Definitions

Social protection: "Social protection involves interventions from public, private, voluntary organizations, and social networks, to support individuals, households and communities prevent, manage, and overcome the hazards, risks, and stresses threatening their present and future well-being."

Hazards: "Events which, if they materialize, can adversely affect the consumption and investment plans of households. Unemployment, sickness and drought are typical hazards threatening the well-being of the poor."

Risk: "The probability that hazards will materialize. For example, research shows that the poor face a higher risk of sickness."

Stresses: "Continuous and cumulative pressures that adversely affect well-being, such as low wage rates or having to work excessive numbers of hours.¹⁹"

Key Documents

UNDP International Poverty Centre. 2006. Poverty in Focus: Social protection: the role of cash transfers.

http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/newsletters/Poverty_in_Focus_june_06.pdf

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

SIDA's work under this theme is done by the department of Democracy and Social Development. This department has two main areas of focus: democracy and governance issues and social sector issues; HIV/AIDS, health care, culture and media²⁰. A recent survey of SIDA's social sector projects pinpoints the goal of social development as sound and inclusive societies (much as the goal of economic development is sound and inclusive economies). SIDA's broad definition of social policies is focused on inclusiveness; social policies are seen as social development tools, tools which decrease marginalization and strengthen people's decision making power and ability²¹. Social services work, therefore, can be understood in the SIDA model as being part of social policy work, if not the entirety of it. SIDA also has worked with the UN Research Institute on Social Development to research issues in social policy and development.²²

Key Definitions

¹⁹ UNDP International Poverty Center, 2006

²⁰ See SIDA's website; http://193.14.162.85/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=261&language=en_US (accessed December 22, 2007)

²¹ Pp 3-4. SIDA's Health Division. 2006. Mapping SIDA's activities; Social Policy and Social Security. SIDA.

²² UNRISD section of SIDA website; http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=676&a=4494&language=en_US (accessed December 22, 2007)

Social Policy (from UNRISD section of SIDA’s website): “Public policies and institutions that aim to protect citizens from social contingencies and poverty, and ultimately to enable them to strive for their own life goals.²³”

Key Documents

SIDA Health Division. 2006. Mapping SIDA’s Activities, Swedish and international donors; Social Policy and Social Security. SIDA.

EuropeAid/The European Union and the European Commission

EuropeAid programming is guided by the European Consensus on Development, which has a section on social cohesion and employment with a particular focus on vulnerable populations, including the disabled, children and indigenous people²⁴. Under the Consensus, employment programming policy is led by the ILO’s ‘Decent Work for All agenda’²⁵. Like the ILO, the EU also does not limit its definition of social protection to vulnerable or excluded groups, although the website emphasizes social exclusion and vulnerability as an important issue in developing countries²⁶.

The EU also has a funding instrument for candidate and potential candidate countries, the Instrument for Pre Accession Assistance²⁷. This instrument came into effect on January 1, 2007, and finances projects through EuropeAid, including social protection projects, intended to assist these countries in meeting standards for admission.

Social Protection: “Most activities linked to prevention of and reaction to all social deficits: including employment generation, training, access to micro-credit and - in a context of high informal economy -micro-insurance, access to services to cover basic needs, and other poverty reduction initiatives.”²⁸

Note that the European Union also has an internal Social Protection Committee that focuses on social protection within EU countries. It defines social protection systems as systems which “protect people against the risks of inadequate incomes associated with unemployment, illness and invalidity, parental responsibilities, old age or inadequate income following the loss of a spouse or parent. They also guarantee access to services that are essential for a life in dignity.”²⁹

²³ Definition quoted from UNRISD website;
[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/\(httpProgrammeAreasForResearchHome\)/BFA13785EC135F568025718B003C5FA7?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/(httpProgrammeAreasForResearchHome)/BFA13785EC135F568025718B003C5FA7?OpenDocument) (accessed December 22, 2007)

²⁴ pp 29; The European Consensus on Development

²⁵ pp 28; The European Consensus on Development;

²⁶ See EuropeAid’s site at http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/human-social-development/index_en.htm (accessed December 22, 2007)

²⁷ See the Enlargement section of the European Commission’s website at http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/index_en.htm (accessed December 22, 2007)

²⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/human-social-development/welfare-protection/index_en.htm

²⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/social_protection_en.htm

Key Documents

Council of the European Union General Secretariat. 2005. Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: "The European Consensus".

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/eupresidency2005/eu-consensus-development.pdf>

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