

Webinar invitation

Progressive realisation:

Building inclusive social protection systems in low- and middle-income countries using the principle of universality

Date: Friday 7th October 2022

Time & Time Zone: 2-3 pm CEST

Background

There is broad consensus that expansion of social protection is a necessary response to the global food and economic crises. But an immediate reaction when universal social protection is proposed is often that “it is impossible, because it is too expensive!” or perhaps “we agree that universal social protection is the ultimate goal, but we must see it as a long-term vision. For now, we must target the poorest”.

At this webinar we show how, in actual fact, universal programmes are a feasible and far more effective policy alternative to poverty targeting available to low- and middle-income countries. And, critically, that universality can be affordable if programmes are gradually introduced but maintain the principle of universality in their approach from day one.

Daisy Sibun will be launching a new paper, *Can a leopard change its spots? A critical analysis of the World Bank’s ‘progressive universalism’ approach to social protection*. The paper critically analyses the justification through which the World Bank continues to promote poverty targeted programmes, despite its more recent high-level support for the idea of universal social protection, and contrasts it with the human rights-based approach to social protection as promoted by the ILO.

Stephen Kidd will present evidence on how countries can implement universal social protection schemes progressively in an affordable way through the reports *Building universal social security systems using the principle of universality* and *Taking stock of progress: A compilation of inclusive social security programmes in low- and middle-income countries*.

Speakers

Daisy Sibun Social Policy Specialist at Development Pathways, author of ‘Can a leopard change its spots?’

Marion Ouma Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Nordic Africa Institute

Stephen Kidd Principal Social Policy Specialist at Development Pathways

Moderator: Lena Simet, Senior Researcher and Advocate, Human Rights Watch

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