

Call for papers

International workshop on

Gender-responsive social protection and employment policies in low and middle income countries

German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Bonn, Germany, 21 – 22 November 2024

Gender equality has become a key objective for international organisations and policymakers. It is recognised both as a fundamental human right and an important driver of economic development. However, recent estimates suggest that, at the current pace, it remains a challenge in all regions worldwide and will not be achieved before the end of this century. A significant volume of research indicates that in many low- and middle income countries (LICs/MICs), in particular, gender-based disparities, which disadvantage girls, begin in childhood and are frequently rooted within household dynamics. These disparities can lead to considerable challenges for women in their later employment prospects. Gender gaps in employment remain large and persistent in many MICs, while, in particular, in Sub-Sahara Africa women still lack access to education and thus mostly work in informal and vulnerable employment in the low-wage sector.

Despite the many high-level commitments made by global stakeholders to advancing gender equity and equality through social protection and employment policies significant evidence gaps prevail in understanding what this means in practice. For instance, it remains ambiguous which policy design options are critical to mitigate gender inequality in childhood and how they differently impact men and women later in life. Additionally, there is a lack of understanding regarding the gender-specific consequences of familial and societal norms and their intergenerational transmission, and the ways in which gender-responsive policies in social protection and employment can challenge these norms in the long term. Moreover, most studies have only superficially analysed gender differences, with many indicators still being aggregated at the household level, despite well documented intra-household disparities, thereby obscuring important gender-specific insights.

The German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) intends to contribute to filling the gap by organising an International Workshop on 21 and 22 November 2024. The Workshop will bring together researchers from different disciplines to discuss the effects and design of social protection and employment policies so that they can contribute to gender equality and equity in the short and long term. We welcome abstracts that:

- Focus on the empirical effects of social protection and employment policies on gender equality and equity in education and labour activities for children and in labour market participation and income generation for adults in the short to long term
- Focus on the empirical analysis of how different design and implementation features can make social protection and employment policies more gender-responsive so that they can have multi-faceted positive effects for girls and women, including:

- improving girl's school attendance and educational performance
 - reducing girl's work activities and child labour
 - transforming women's economic status via participation in the labour force and raising income
 - stimulating women's ambition to be economically active beyond her own household
 - increasing her sense of agency via participation in household and community decision-making
 - transforming gender-specific social norms
- Focus on the underlying mechanisms for differences between women and men (girls and boys), e.g. social and family norms, labour market segregation, care work, etc.
 - Focus on better indicators and measurement by gender to provide more gender-specific insights
 - Focus on the conceptualization of how social protection and employment policies can become more gender-responsive and contribute to gender equity

Participants are fully responsible for organising their travel and accommodation arrangements, but IDOS will provide logistical and information support in this regard. Funds are available to cover travel expenses for a limited number of participants from non-OECD countries. Please let us know if you would need such support when you send your abstract.

Please send your **scholarly written abstract** (500-600 words) to: socioeconomic@idos-research.de until **30 June 2024**. Abstracts should provide information on (i) the problem or research gap to be addressed, (ii) the research question, (iii) the main message, (iv) the methodology and (v) the expected findings.

Extended deadline for application:	30 June 2024
	Review of submitted abstracts will begin on 14 June 2024
Notification of acceptancy:	late June to early July 2024
Submission of full papers:	end of October 2024

We consider publishing a limited set of papers in a special issue.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at socioeconomic@idos-research.de

Best greetings,
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