



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER
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Transferring cash and assets to the poor

The UK Auditor General has produced a report (November 2011) on the Department for International Development's (DfID) practice of supporting cash transfers to people in poverty.

The report examines whether DfID is achieving value for money through transfers by reducing poverty and increasing well-being at reasonable cost. The DfID programme involves reaching people in need and giving optimal support, in a timely and scheduled way, as well as assessing whether it knows the short- and longer-term effects of its interventions.

The Auditor General's report concludes DfID "is successfully using transfers to reach particularly impoverished populations in challenging places, through delivery chains that are shorter and more transparent than other, more traditional, aid interventions. Transfers show clear immediate benefits including reducing hunger and raising incomes."

This report can be found on the National Audit Office website at www.nao.org.uk/Transferring-Cash-and-Assets-to-the-poor

Social protection floor for a fair and inclusive globalisation



"Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization" was launched in Geneva on 8th November 2011. The report was prepared by the Advisory Group, led by Ms Michelle Bachelet.'

The floor is based on the idea that everyone should enjoy at least basic income security sufficient to live, guaranteed through transfers in cash or in kind, such as pensions for older people and persons with disabilities, child benefits, income support benefits and/or employment guarantees and services for the unemployed and working poor.

Together, in cash and in kind transfers should ensure that everyone has access to essential goods and services, including essential health services, primary education, housing, water and sanitation.

This report, prepared under the guidance of Ms Michelle Bachelet and members of the Advisory Group, shows that the extension of social protection, drawing on social protection floors, can play a pivotal role in relieving people of poverty and deprivation. It can in addition help people adapt their skills to overcome the constraints that block their full participation in a changing economic and

social environment, contributing to improved human capital development and stimulating greater productive activity. The report shows how social protection has helped to stabilise aggregate demand in times of crisis and to increase resilience against economic shocks, contributing to accelerate recovery towards more inclusive and sustainable development paths.

Human Development Report 2011



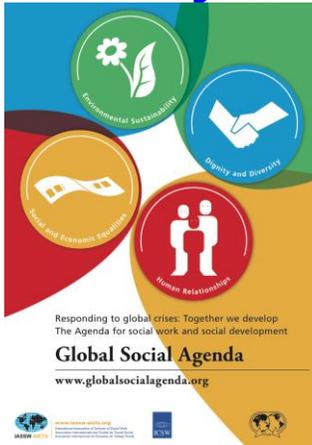
The 2011 Human Development Report argues that the urgent global challenges of sustainability and equity must be addressed together – and identifies policies on the national and global level that could spur mutually reinforcing progress towards these interlinked goals. Bold action is needed on both fronts, the Report contends, if the recent human development progress for most of the world’s poor majority is to be sustained, for the benefit of future generations as well as for those living today. Past Reports have shown that living standards in most countries have been rising - and converging - for several decades now.

Yet the 2011 Report projects a disturbing reversal of those trends if environmental deterioration and social inequalities continue to intensify, with the least developed countries diverging downwards from global patterns of progress by 2050.

The Report shows further how the world’s most disadvantaged people suffer the most from environmental degradation, including in their immediate personal environment, and disproportionately lack political power, making it all the harder for the world community to reach agreement on needed global policy changes. The Report outlines great potential for positive synergies in the quest for greater equality and sustainability, especially at the national level. The Report emphasises the human right to a healthy environment, the importance of integrating social equity into environmental policies, and the critical importance of public participation and official accountability. The 2011 Report concludes with a call for bold new approaches to global development financing and environmental controls, arguing that these measures are both essential and feasible. The 2011 Report is available for free downloading in 16 languages.

http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2011_EN_Complete.pdf

The Global Agenda



Since 2010, delegates and members of the three international organisations – ICSW, International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) – have researched and globally consulted to produce a draft Global Agenda document that seeks to address the social work and social development challenges in our societies.

The complexities of an ever-changing landscape of widening and worsening social infrastructure have created a heightened need for global collaboration to redress social inequities. Consequently, a worldwide movement representing the entire spectre of social work practice, social work education and social development work convened in November in Ghana to continue building a new global Agenda. The three organisations intend to submit the Agenda in March 2012 to the UN in New York.

Later in July the Agenda will also be presented at the Joint World Conference of the three organisations in Stockholm. (See www.adpgh.org and www.globalsocialagenda.org for further details).

Charles Abbey the Executive Director of African Development Programme and global Vice-President of ICSW is hosting the meeting in Ghana and will lead the delegation to meet with the Minister and senior officials at the ministry.

ICSW Europe board and the World Conference 2012

Led by Eva Holmberg-Herrström, President of ICSW Europe the European board discussed the Joint World Conference, Stockholm July 2012. Conferences are a main pillar of ICSW – a major meeting point for networking and exchanging of knowledge and experiences.

The board called on the European members and others to submit abstracts. The local programme committee has discussed at length how to engage practitioners and users to send in abstracts. Traditionally these kinds of conferences are dominated by the researchers who are used to writing proposals and abstracts. The programme committee thinks it is very important that practitioners and users raise their voices and show their experiences and knowledge. It is important for ICSW that we take the floor in this arena. Some of our members are preparing for the Stockholm conference with pre-conferences in their own countries.

This conference is important for Sweden, for Europe and the world. It offers an opportunity to listen to good speakers and for Europeans to network not too far from home countries and at reasonable expense. It will be some time before another global ICSW Conference will be organised in Europe.

In order to make the conference a real arena for networking, the ICSW Global President Christian Rollet has asked "North" members to raise scholarships for one or more persons from the global South or from former East Europe. Eva underlined and supported the request. Please contact Eva (eva.herrstrom@icsw.org) if you want to make a contribution.

Landmine use highest since 2004 despite record clearances

This was the discouraging headline from the BBC on 23rd November 2011.

The Landmine Monitor Report 2011 stated that more countries deployed anti-personnel mines last year than in any year since 2004. This is despite record areas of land being cleared of landmines.

The Landmine Monitor was created in 1998 by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Its latest report says funding to clear mines, and to help victims of them, reached an all-time high of USD 637m (£407m) in 2010. "In these tough times government are showing their strong commitment to ridding the world of landmines by continuing to fund efforts to clear mines and assist survivors," said Jacqueline Hansen, programme manager for Landmine Monitor.

Eighty per cent of the world's countries (158 nations) have signed the Ottawa Treaty to ban mines, with several more countries preparing to join.

The Monitor identified 12 producers of antipersonnel mines (the same number as reported in 2010): China, Cuba, India, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, the United States (US), and Vietnam.

Loren Persi-Vicentic from Landmine Monitor said the number of people living with landmine injuries was increasing every year. "Only 9% of mine action funding is dedicated to assisting this growing population of survivors, who requires assistance for the rest of their lives," he said.

The Global Landmine Overview 2010–2011 can be downloaded at

<http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/publications/display?url=lm/2011/>

G20 - Wrong international forum for development

A study by Barry Herman, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School, 1 Nov. 2011

In September 2011, the "Development Working Group" of the Group of 20 met in Paris and sought to finalise its proposals for policies that the leaders of the 20 would be likely adopt at their summit meeting in November in France. Had the countries in the Group forged development-oriented compromises to end the stalemates in the main global trade, financial and environmental forums, they might have made a more convincing case for appointing themselves the leaders of global economic policy making. They have not, but have nevertheless begun directing the international

institutions to follow the G20's own development agenda. This note is offered to help understand the actions the Group is taking, which are quite detailed, but receive little public discussion.

Editor's note: I received an email from Barry Herman which alerted me to the website for Social Justice in Global Development. I must admit to not knowing of this organisation which started in 2010 in Germany. It is worth a look at their website. <http://www.socdevjustice.org/>

World of work report 2011: Making markets work for jobs

The World of Work Report is published annually by the International Institute for Labour Studies - the research arm of the ILO - the 2011 edition of shows that it will not be possible to recover successfully from the Great Recession unless social inequalities are addressed through well-designed policies. Growing youth unemployment, income inequalities made worse as a result of rising food and oil prices, and other social inequities undermine support for pro-growth policies. They also entail a risk of social unrest which has started to materialise in the Arab region, some Asian countries and the Euro area. And they deprive the world economy from the kind of income growth that is needed in order to ensure sustainable economic recovery. The report presents two scenarios for the next five years: under business-as-usual, the world economy will remain unstable, undermining employment prospects; by contrast, a strategy which addresses social inequalities adequately will support employment and sustain economic growth. Such a strategy is complex and faces implementation hurdles as some groups resist change; the report shows, however, that it can be achieved.

Reference: 978-92-9014-974-3[ISBN] *Authors:* International Institute for Labour Studies *Format available:* A4 xviii+140 pp. *Prices:* CHF 50; USD 50; GBP 30; EUR 35 *Support medium:* Paperback
Download for free at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_166021.pdf

International Training Centre Programme 2012

The International Training Centre (ITC) is the training arm of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), a UN agency entrusted with promoting social justice, including internationally recognised human rights and labour standards.

The ITC provides training in subjects that further the ILO's pursuit of decent work for all. Five regional teams ensure that ITC training for the world is relevant and appropriate to local needs, aspirations and conditions.

The Centre is more than a training institute. The campus in Turin, Italy is a meeting place where professionals from all over the world share experience. Here, they transcend national frontiers and capitalise on cultural diversity to develop an in-depth view of the world of work. This is also true of the ITC's distance learning virtual campus networks. The training catalogue can be downloaded: <http://www.itcilo.org> (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish)

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