

Sustainable Social Security Systems. Social assistance in developed, developing and transitional countries.

(Projekt nachhaltige soziale Sicherung - Soziale Grundsicherungs- und Sozialhilfesysteme in entwickelten, Übergangs- und Entwicklungsländern")

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Project Summary:

International development strategies with regard to developing countries are dominated by the paradigm of help to self-help. From this point of view direct cash transfers to individuals in developing countries are not seen as an adequate instrument. However, triggered by the widespread of AIDS in developing countries some observers increasingly emphasize that new groups have emerged with little capacities for self-help. These groups include people with AIDS or orphans and families affected by AIDS, people with disabilities and the aged. These groups may not profit from the conventional forms of aid that emphasize help to selfhelp. Accordingly, the project inquires into the spread and further potential of non-contributory cash transfers to individuals, that is, of social assistance type benefits in developing and transitional countries. The focus is on goals and target groups, benefits, coverage, administration and financing of social assistance schemes and their impact on poverty, inequality, social integration and the economy. The project also provides an overview of the experience of social assistance schemes in Western countries to inform the new debate on development strategies. The study also aims to provide an assessment and recommendations of different models of social assistance, aiming to strengthen the competence of German development agencies in their work in developing countries. Social assistance and basic income schemes also respond to the problem of limited coverage of social security in developing countries. Since the 1980s and, increasingly, since the 1990 formal and translocal social security systems are spreading in some developmental and transitional countries. However, setting up formal social security is easier for people in formal employment while coverage of people outside formal employment like persons in the informal sector, small self-employed, peasants, people in subsistence economy and wives of formally employed persons is more difficult to achieve. The International Labour Office (ILO) is currently launching a 'Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage For All'. Social assistance could be one avenue to reach people not covered by insurance schemes.

Publications:

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