



DAY 1 | EMPOWERMENT

Additional Readings from the ADB Library

Explore selected flagship reports, recent journal articles, and background materials supporting the Day 1 conference sessions.

READINGS ORGANIZED BY SESSION

[Opening Session: Next-Generation Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific](#)

[Social Protection as a Platform for Empowerment](#)

[Session 1: Social Protection for Nutrition and Food Security](#)

[Session 2: Social Protection for Gender Equality](#)

[Session 3: Social Protection for Economic Inclusion](#)

[Session 4: Disability-Inclusive Social Protection](#)

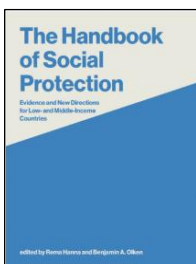
OPENING SESSION: Next-Generation Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific: What Do We Know and Where Do We Need to Go?



[State of Social Protection Report 2025: The 2-Billion-Person Challenge](#)
World Bank. 2025.

A global snapshot of social protection coverage, gaps, benefit adequacy, shock response, and financing—useful for framing the scale of the “2-billion-person” challenge.

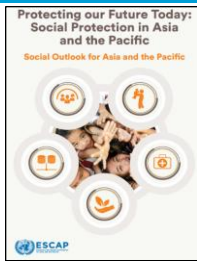
Keywords: social protection; coverage gaps; benefit adequacy; shock response; financing



[The Handbook of Social Protection: Evidence and New Directions for Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)
R. Hanna and B. Olken (eds). 2026. The MIT Press

Takes stock of literature on social protection in low- and middle-income countries to understand what we know about the differing aspects of social protection and to highlight the open questions for research for the future.

Keywords: social protection; impacts; poverty; inequality; financing; targeting; design; delivery



[Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific 2024: Protecting Our Future Today: Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific](#)

UN-ESCAP. 2024.

A regional overview linking social protection with poverty, inequality, ageing, climate risk, and future resilience across Asia and the Pacific.

Keywords: *social protection; poverty; inequality; ageing; climate resilience; Asia and the Pacific*



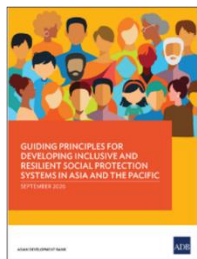
[World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Regional Companion Report for Asia and the Pacific](#)

ILO. 2024.

Highlights Asia-Pacific trends through a life-cycle and climate-action lens, connecting income security, care needs, decent work, and resilience.

Keywords: *social protection; life-cycle approach; climate action; income security; decent work; Asia and the Pacific*

[Social Protection as a Platform for Empowerment](#)

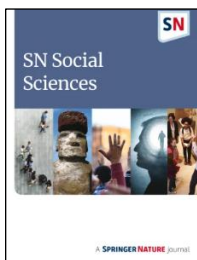


[Guiding Principles for Developing Inclusive and Resilient Social Protection Systems in Asia and the Pacific](#)

ADB. 2026.

Examines how countries in Asia and the Pacific can develop more inclusive and resilient social protection systems that reduce poverty and vulnerability, promote social inclusion, and strengthen resilience to shocks and long-term stresses.

Keywords: *inclusion; empowerment; resilience; social protection; life-cycle; Asia and the Pacific*



[Misdiagnosing Poverty: When Empowerment Comes Without Protective Governance](#)

Y. Yohanes et al. 2026. SN Social Sciences. 6: 261

Argues that empowerment efforts must be paired with strong social protection to reduce economic vulnerability and support lasting inclusion.

Keywords: *poverty; empowerment; protective governance; social protection; economic vulnerability; inclusion*



[Interlinking Social Security and Social Empowerment: Pathways to Inclusive Development: A Sri Lanka Perspective](#)

M. T. R. Shamini Attanayake 2025. *International Journal of Advances and Applications in Convergent Studies & Transdisciplinary (IJ-AACST)*. 1 (1). pp. 40-48

Links social security and empowerment in Sri Lanka, showing how program design can strengthen livelihoods, inclusion, gender sensitivity, participation, and development impact.

Keywords: *social security; social empowerment; inclusive development; livelihoods; gender sensitivity; Sri Lanka*

SESSION 1: Food for Thought: Leveraging Social Protection to Improve Nutrition & Food Security

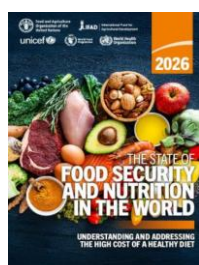


[The Impact of COVID-19 Cash Transfer Program on Food Security in Cambodia](#)

A. Perdana, K. De Witte and W. Groot. 2026. *Journal of Development Studies*.

Examines Cambodia's COVID-19 cash transfers and food security, showing how timely income support can protect households facing livelihood and food-access shocks.

Keywords: cash transfers; food security; COVID-19; income support; household resilience; Cambodia



[The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 – Understanding and Addressing the High Cost of a Healthy Diet](#)

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2026.

Examines why healthy diets remain unaffordable for billions, linking high prices of nutrient-dense foods, productivity gaps, and value-chain inefficiencies to policy options for nutrition-sensitive social protection.

Keywords: food security; nutrition; healthy diets; food affordability; social protection



[Making Social Protection Programs Work for Improved Nutrition in Asia and the Pacific.](#)

R. Morgan et al. 2025. Nutrition International and Asian Development Bank.

Explains how social protection programs in Asia and the Pacific can be designed or adapted to improve nutrition outcomes, including through stronger links to diets, services, and targeting.

Keywords: nutrition-sensitive social protection; program design; healthy diets; service linkages; targeting; Asia and the Pacific

SESSION 2: Breaking Barriers: Enabling Gender Equality through Social Protection

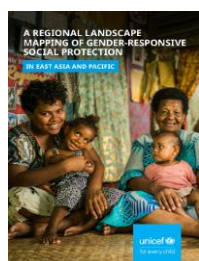


[Intersectionality and Structural Barriers in the Last-Mile Delivery of Social Protection: Evidence Concerning Women's Access to Social Protection in Gujarat, India](#)

S. Rajasekar, K. Bender and T. D. Beuchelt. 2026. *International Social Security Review*. 79 (1). pp. 69–93.

Shows how gender, caste, digital access, documentation, and household constraints shape women's last-mile access to social protection in Gujarat, India.

Keywords: gender equality; intersectionality; last-mile delivery; digital access; social protection; India



[A Regional Landscape Mapping of Gender-Responsive Social Protection in East Asia and the Pacific](#)

UNICEF. 2025.

Maps gender-responsive social protection in East Asia and the Pacific, identifying policy gaps, delivery barriers, and entry points across the life cycle.

Case Studies:

- [Gender-Responsive Social Protection in East Asia and Pacific. Country Case Study: Social Protection and Gender Barriers of Adolescent Girls in the Philippines.](#)
- [Gender-Responsive Social Protection in East Asia and Pacific. Country Case Study: Social Protection and Women's Livelihood Vulnerabilities Due to Climate Change in Fiji.](#)

Keywords: gender-responsive social protection; policy gaps; delivery barriers; life-cycle approach; East Asia and the Pacific



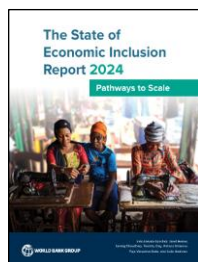
[Addressing Gender-Based Violence through Social Protection: A Scoping Review](#)

T. P. Cookson, L. Fuentes and J. Bitterly. 2025. *Development in Practice*. 35 (3). pp. 305–320.

Reviews how social protection can help address gender-based violence, identifying evidence gaps and entry points for safer, more gender-responsive programming.

Keywords: gender-based violence; social protection; evidence gaps; program safety; gender-responsive programming

SESSION 3: Scaling Economic Inclusion: Pathways out of Poverty through Social Protection Systems



[The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2024: Pathways to Scale](#)

World Bank Group. 2024.

Examines how economic inclusion programs are expanding livelihoods, income-generating opportunities, and resilience for poor and vulnerable populations, highlighting pathways to scale through coordinated investments in social protection, skills, finance, and productive inclusion.

Keywords: economic inclusion; social protection; livelihoods; productive inclusion; poverty reduction

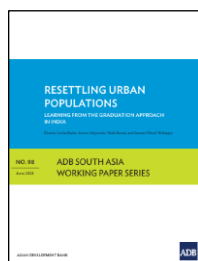


[Integrating the Graduation Approach into a Sustainable Livelihood Program](#)

Y. Ito, D. Shrestha and J. Valenzuela, Jr. 2023. *ADB Briefs*. No. 258. Asian Development Bank.

Examines how the graduation approach can be integrated into sustainable livelihood programs to strengthen economic inclusion by combining social assistance with livelihood development, financial inclusion, and tailored support for poor and vulnerable households.

Keywords: graduation approach; economic inclusion; sustainable livelihoods; social assistance; poverty reduction



[Resettling Urban Populations: Learning from the Graduation Approach in India](#)

R. C. Barba et al. 2023. *South Asia Working Paper Series*. No. 98. Asian Development Bank.

Examines how the graduation approach can support livelihood restoration and socioeconomic recovery among vulnerable urban populations affected by resettlement. The paper highlights the value of combining social protection, skills development, financial inclusion, and coaching to strengthen long-term resilience and self-reliance.

Keywords: graduation approach; urban resettlement; social protection; livelihood restoration; India



[Assessing the Impact of the Graduation Approach in the Philippines](#)

K. Schelzig and A. Jilani. 2021. *ADB Briefs*. No. 169. Asian Development Bank.

Assesses a graduation approach pilot for 1,800 households in Negros Occidental, showing how integrated social assistance, coaching, and asset support strengthened household resilience, including during COVID-19, while identifying implementation challenges and lessons.

Keywords: *graduation approach; social assistance; poverty reduction; household resilience; Philippines*



[Testing the Graduation Approach in the Philippines](#)

K. Schelzig and P. Rawal. 2020. *ADB Briefs*. No. 132. Asian Development Bank

Describes how the graduation approach combines social assistance, livelihood assets, skills training, financial inclusion, and coaching to help poor households in the Philippines build sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

Keywords: *graduation approach; social assistance; sustainable livelihoods; poverty reduction; Philippines*

SESSION 4: Advancing Autonomy: Disability-Inclusive Social Protection



[Global Disability Inclusion Report 2025: Accelerating Disability Inclusion in a Changing and Diverse World](#)

UNICEF et al. 2025.

Examines persistent barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and identifies strategies to strengthen inclusion across education, health, employment, and social protection in the context of technological, demographic, climate, and social change.

Keywords: *disability inclusion; social protection; employment; accessibility; inclusive development*

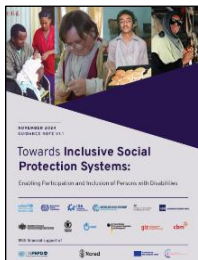


[Building an Inclusive Future: Social Protection as a Catalyst for Disability Empowerment in Viet Nam](#)

ILO. 2026.

Reviews Viet Nam's disability-inclusive social protection, focusing on autonomy, participation, access, and policy gaps against international standards and lived experience.

Keywords: *disability-inclusive social protection; autonomy; participation; accessibility; policy gaps; Viet Nam*

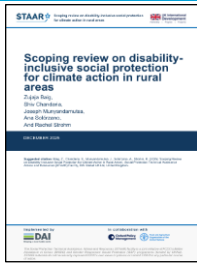


[Towards Inclusive Social Protection Systems: Enabling Participation and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#)

ILO, UNICEF et al. 2024

Provides a framework for developing more inclusive social protection systems, to enable the full participation of persons with disabilities in their societies across the lifecycle

Keywords: *disability-inclusive social protection; autonomy; participation; accessibility; policy gaps*

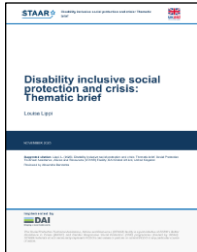


[Scoping Review on Disability-Inclusive Social Protection for Climate Action in Rural Areas.](#)

Z. Baig et al. 2025. Social Protection Technical Assistance, Advice and Resources Facility

Connects disability-inclusive social protection with climate action in rural areas, emphasizing accessibility, disability-related costs, livelihoods, and crisis exposure.

Keywords: *disability inclusion; social protection; climate action; rural livelihoods; accessibility; crisis exposure*



[Disability Inclusive Social Protection and Crisis: Thematic Brief](#)

L. Lippi. 2025. Social Protection Technical Assistance, Advice and Resources Facility.

Focuses on disability-related costs, care responsibilities, livelihood constraints, and barriers to assistance during crises—evidence for planning inclusive responses before shocks occur.

Keywords: *disability-inclusive social protection; crises; disability-related costs; care responsibilities; livelihoods; inclusive response*

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