



ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

6–8 October 2026 • ADB Headquarters, Manila

ADB

DAY 3 | SUSTAINABILITY

Additional Readings from the ADB Library

Explore selected flagship reports, recent journal articles, and background materials supporting the Day 3 conference sessions.

READINGS ORGANIZED BY SESSION

[Big Ideas: Social Protection in a World Without Jobs?](#)

[High-Level Plenary 3: Securing the Future of Social Protection](#)

[Session 12: Systems Reboot: Social Protection in a Digital World](#)

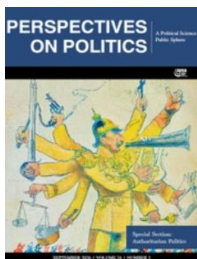
[Session 13: Beyond this Budget Cycle: Making Social Protection Sustainable](#)

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BIG IDEAS: Social Protection in a World Without Jobs?

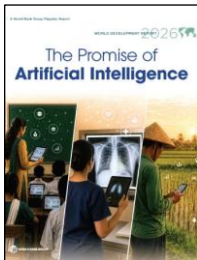


[AI, the Future of Work, and the Politics of the Welfare State](#)

J. Chueri. 2026. *Perspectives on Politics*.

Examines how fears of AI-driven automation are reshaping welfare politics, finding growing public support for policies that protect the social role of work, such as robot taxes, rather than traditional responses like unemployment benefits or retraining programs.

Keywords: artificial intelligence; future of work; welfare state; automation; social protection



[Spotlight 5: Upgrading Social Safety Nets as AI Transforms the Nature of Work](#)

World Bank. 2026. In [World Development Report](#), 267–272.

Explores how social protection systems in low- and middle-income countries can adapt to AI-related labor market shifts and leverage AI-related opportunities.

Keywords: artificial intelligence; social safety nets; labor market transformation; digitalization; social protection



[Why UBI Is Not the Answer to the Impact of AI on the Labour Market](#)

T. Ozay and E. Ernst. 2026. *Research Brief*. International Labour Organization.

Explores how AI reshapes tasks and occupations, as well as the implications for labour market transitions and social protection systems.

Keywords: *universal basic income; artificial intelligence; employment; automation; labor markets*

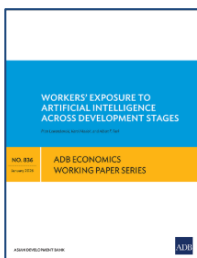


[Conditional Solutionism: How International Organizations Frame the Future of Work in Middle-Income Countries](#)

A. Kemmerling and G. Mwonzora. 2026. *Global Social Policy* 26 (1): 52–73.

Examines how international organizations frame technological change in middle-income countries, finding an optimistic “conditional solutionism” that emphasizes cash transfers while giving less attention to labor regulation, technology governance, and workplace surveillance.

Keywords: *digitalization; future of work; international organizations; labor regulation; solutionism*

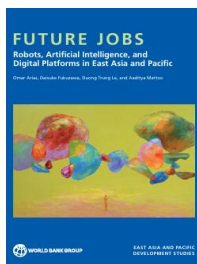


[Workers' Exposure to Artificial Intelligence Across Development Stages](#)

P. Lewandowski, K. Madoñ, and A. F. Park. 2026. *ADB Economics Working Paper Series*, no. 836. Asian Development Bank.

Develops a country-specific measure of workers' exposure to artificial intelligence that accounts for variation in occupational tasks across development contexts.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence; labor markets; future of work; skills development; Asia-Pacific*

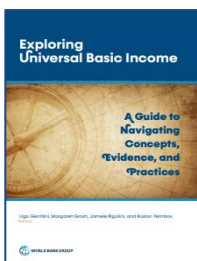


[Future Jobs: Robots, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Platforms in East Asia and Pacific](#)

World Bank. 2025.

Assesses how robots, AI, and digital platforms are reshaping employment in East Asia and the Pacific, showing that aggregate job gains coexist with displacement, informality, and widening disadvantages for less-skilled workers.

Keywords: *automation; artificial intelligence; digital platforms; labor markets; East Asia and Pacific*



[Exploring Universal Basic Income: A Guide to Navigating Concepts, Evidence, and Practices](#)

U. Gentilini et al., eds. 2020. World Bank.

Provides a framework for clarifying the issues and trade-offs associated with UBI to inform decisions about its appropriateness and feasibility in different contexts.

Keywords: *universal basic income; social protection; welfare state; targeting; feasibility*

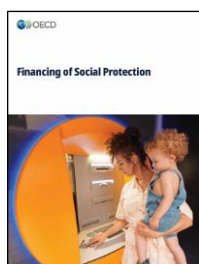
High-Level Plenary 3: Securing the Future of Social Protection



[Universal Social Protection in Changing Labour Markets: Protecting Workers in All Types of Employment](#) ILO. 2026.

Discusses how universal social protection systems can adapt to changing labor markets and explores new combinations of social insurance contributions and tax financing to cover workers in diverse employment arrangements.

Keywords: *universal social protection; labor market change; social insurance; employer contributions; informal employment*



[Financing of Social Protection](#) OECD. 2026.

Reviews how ageing populations, technological change, and fiscal pressures are challenging the traditional financing of social protection and explores options for broadening funding sources beyond labour income.

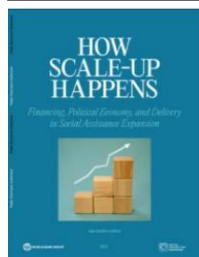
Keywords: *social protection financing; population ageing; artificial intelligence; fiscal sustainability; labour markets*



[Extending Social Protection to Workers in the Informal Economy](#) WIEGO. 2026.

Brings together new evidence, policy analysis, and innovations on extending social protection to workers in informal employment, equipping policymakers, worker organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders with concrete pathways for reform.

Keywords: *social protection; informal workers; formalization; financing; social dialogue*



[How Scale-Up Happens: Financing, Political Economy, and Delivery in Social Assistance Expansion](#) U. Gentilini, ed. 2025. World Bank.

Explores how fiscal conditions, political economy, and delivery capacity interact to shape the expansion of cash transfer programs.

Keywords: *social assistance; political economy; financing; delivery; capacity*

Session 12: Systems Reboot: Social Protection in a Digital World



[Social Protection and Digitalization in Asia and the Pacific](#) ADB. 2026.

Examines how digitalization can help countries in Asia and the Pacific strengthen inclusive, resilient, and shock-responsive social protection systems.

Keywords: *social protection; digitalization; data protection; digital inclusion; Asia-Pacific*

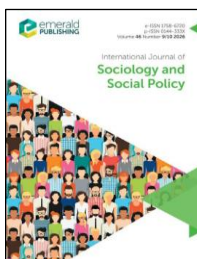


[AI Adoption in Social Protection – A Global Evidence Review 2020-2025](#)

DCI AI Hub for Social Protection. 2026. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.

Brings together verified AI use cases from more than 90 countries, providing the most comprehensive overview to date of AI adoption across social protection systems between 2020 and 2025.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence; social protection; digital transformation; social assistance; responsible AI*



[Artificial Intelligence Governance and Social Policy Divergence: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on Global AI Regulation](#)

D. Kumar and C. K. Sahu. 2026. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*.

Examines how different AI governance models shape welfare integration, labor-market risks, and social protection outcomes. Highlights the implications of AI regulation for the future governance of digital social protection systems, including those in Indo-Pacific economies.

Keywords: *AI governance; digital welfare; social policy; welfare systems; digital regulation*



[Invisible Citizens, Visible Policies: Digital Welfare, Social Exclusion and the Changing Nature of Citizenship in India](#)

Yogita. 2026. *International Journal of Social Research and Development* 8 (3): 80–87.

Examines how digital identification, biometric authentication, online registration, and digital public infrastructure are reshaping welfare delivery in India while creating new risks of exclusion for populations with limited connectivity, documentation, or digital literacy.

Keywords: *digital welfare; digital public infrastructure; biometric identification; social exclusion; India*



[The Digital Welfare State: Conceptual Limits and Possibilities](#)

S. Wilcock and G. van Toorn. 2026. *Big Data & Society*.

Examines how welfare systems are increasingly digitized and automated, proposing a framework for understanding the emerging digital welfare state and its implications for social policy design and delivery.

Keywords: *digital welfare state; digitalization; social policy; automation; welfare*

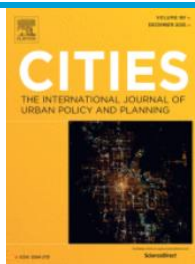


[Paradigm Shift: Exploring the Impact of Digital Technologies on the Welfare State through a Systematic Literature Review](#)

S. Alexopoulou. 2025. *Social Policy & Administration* 59 (1): 135–157.

Synthesizes evidence on how digital technologies are transforming welfare states and public bureaucracies, highlighting both opportunities for more responsive service delivery and risks related to exclusion, citizen profiling, and accountability. The review emphasizes the need for balanced, inclusive approaches to digital welfare reform.

Keywords: *digital welfare; welfare state; digital governance; social inclusion; public administration*



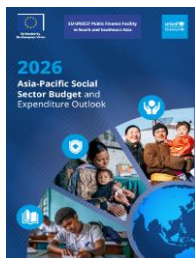
[Blockchain's Role in Social Welfare, Financial Inclusion, and Public Sector Innovations in India: A Multi-Sector Analysis of Government-Led Initiatives](#)

J. Singh, G. S. Batra, and S. K. Chatrath. 2025. *Cities* 167: 106366.

Examines how blockchain technology can strengthen transparency, reduce corruption, and expand financial inclusion in social welfare programmes serving economically weaker populations in India's urban slums.

Keywords: *blockchain technology; social welfare; financial inclusion; transparency; India*

Session 13: Beyond this Budget Cycle: Making Social Protection Sustainable



[2026 Asia-Pacific Social Sector Budget and Expenditure Outlook](#)

UNICEF. 2026.

Examines public spending on health, education, and social protection across Asia-Pacific and discusses the fiscal sustainability of social assistance in an era of climate shocks and economic uncertainty.

Keywords: *social spending; fiscal space; social protection; vulnerable households; Asia-Pacific*

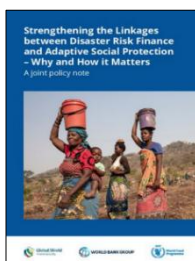


[Busting Myths and Exploring Fairer Ways to Finance Social Protection for Workers in Informal Employment](#)

F. Juergens-Grant. 2025. WIEGO.

Offers alternative and progressive approaches to financing social protection, showing how grounded evidence and worker-led perspectives can challenge prevailing narratives and open the way for more equitable and sustainable policy solutions.

Keywords: *social protection financing; fiscal sustainability; informal workers; social insurance; domestic resource mobilization*

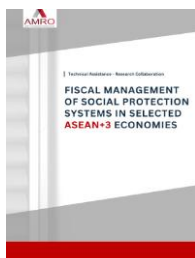


[Strengthening the Linkages between Disaster Risk Finance and Adaptive Social Protection: Why and How It Matters—A Joint Policy Note](#)

World Bank Group and WFP. 2026.

Offers an overview of why and how strengthening the linkages between disaster risk finance (DRF) and adaptive social protection (ASP) matters.

Keywords: *disaster risk finance; adaptive social protection; shock-responsive social protection; financing; resilience*

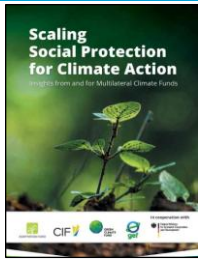


[Fiscal Management of Social Protection Systems in Selected ASEAN+3 Economies](#)

D. J. Sum and S. H. "Luke" Hong. 2025. ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office.

Examines how public financial management systems support the sustainability of social protection systems across the ASEAN-5, China, Japan, and Korea, highlighting approaches to budgeting, fiscal planning, governance, and long-term financing of social protection programmes.

Keywords: *social protection financing; public financial management; fiscal sustainability; social protection governance; Asia-Pacific*



[Scaling Social Protection for Climate Action: Insights from and for Multilateral Climate Funds](#)

S. Sivanu et al. 2025.

Provides recommendations for national social protection actors, policymakers, multilateral climate funds, and development organizations to embed social protection in climate action, and maps concrete entry points across fund mandates, frameworks, and funding windows.

Keywords: social protection; climate finance; adaptive social protection; financing; climate action



[Financing Gap for Universal Social Protection: Global, Regional and National Estimates and Strategies for Creating Fiscal Space](#)

U. Cattaneo et al. 2024. ILO Working Paper. No. 113

Provides updated estimates of the financing gap for achieving universal coverage of social protection floors and offers guidance on strategies to close that gap.

Keywords: social protection financing; fiscal sustainability; financing gap; domestic resource mobilization; universal coverage

Session 14: Bringing Business to the Table: The Role of the Private Sector in Social Protection



[Informal Matters: The Strategic Imperative of Engaging with Asia's Informal Workers](#)

People's Courage International. 2025.

Examines why businesses and investors should address the conditions of informal workers in South and Southeast Asian value chains, presenting practical approaches related to worker protection, responsible sourcing, climate risk, and access to finance.

Keywords: informal workers; business responsibility; value chains; responsible sourcing; South and Southeast Asia



[Innovative Approaches to Formalization in Asia and the Pacific](#)

ILO. 2025.

Highlights country initiatives using digital platforms, simplified registration systems, and business engagement mechanisms to connect informal workers and enterprises to formal social protection systems. It includes examples from Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Keywords: formalization; informal workers; social protection; employer engagement; Asia-Pacific

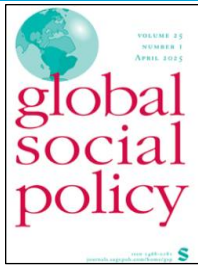


[Digitising the Social Safety Net: Lessons from Indonesia](#)

H. Palaon. 2024. Lowy Institute.

Examines Indonesia's journey in digitising its social safety net, emphasizing the scale and long-term nature of the initiative.

Keywords: digital payments; private sector; digital financial services; social protection; Indonesia



[Financialisation of the Health Sector: The Case of Public–Private Partnerships in India](#)

M. Nundy and R. V. Baru. 2026. *Global Social Policy*.

Examines how public–private partnerships have reshaped India’s health sector through commercialization and financialization, and assesses their implications for equity, universal health coverage, and public accountability in health service delivery.

Keywords: *public–private partnerships; health financing; universal health coverage; social protection; India*



[Reshaping the Social Contract? A Systematic Literature Review of Two Decades of Research on the Digital Welfare State in Developing Countries](#)

G. Huang and S. A. Oteng. 2026. *Social Policy & Administration*.

Synthesizes 25 years of research on digital welfare systems, examining how digital identification and data integration are reshaping access to social protection, inclusion, accountability, and citizen–state relations in developing countries.

Keywords: *digital welfare; social protection; digital identification; social inclusion; developing countries*

Session 15: Stop Guessing, Start Knowing: The Power of Data and Evidence



[Social Protection Indicators of Coverage and Effectiveness: A Tool for Social Protection Assessment](#)

ADB. 2026.

Introduces a methodology for assessing social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific to support evidence-based decision-making and poverty reduction efforts.

Keywords: *social protection; monitoring and evaluation; evidence-based policy; poverty reduction; Asia-Pacific*

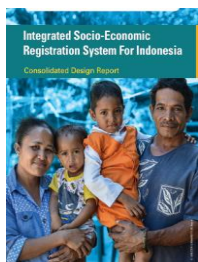


[A Data Governance Framework for Digital Social Protection Systems](#)

Digital Convergence Initiative. 2025.

Provides a flexible foundation for policymakers, practitioners, and institutions working to strengthen data governance across social protection programmes.

Keywords: *data governance; social protection; digital systems; identification; interoperability*

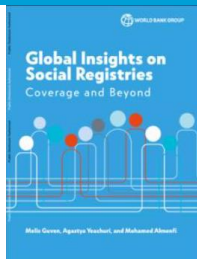


[Integrated Socio-Economic Registration System for Indonesia: An Assessment and Recommendations](#)

BAPPENAS and UNICEF. 2024.

Assesses Indonesia’s integrated socio-economic registration system and examines how data systems can improve the effectiveness, coverage, and administration of social protection programmes while reducing exclusion errors.

Keywords: *social protection delivery; social registry; beneficiary identification; digital governance; Indonesia*



[Global Insights on Social Registries: Coverage and Beyond](#)

M. Guven, A. Yeachuri, and M. Almenfi. 2026. World Bank.

Examines how dynamic social registries help governments identify vulnerable populations, assess needs, improve targeting, and deliver social protection more effectively. Highlights the role of interoperable data systems in building adaptive and shock-responsive social protection programs.

Keywords: social registries; administrative data; targeting; shock-responsive systems; evidence-based policy

Session 16: From Community Evidence to Financed Commitments: Partnerships and Finance for Adaptive Social Protection Systems



[Social Protection and Inclusive Climate Action: A Review of Social Protection for Rural Populations Within Green Climate Fund Projects](#)

FAO and GCF. 2025.

Reviews 23 Green Climate Fund projects that support social protection for rural populations, outlining challenges and promising approaches for using social protection to advance inclusive climate action.

Keywords: climate finance; social protection; climate action; rural populations; inclusion



[Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection \(CRISP\): Regional Conceptual Framework](#)

A. McCord, S. Okada, and K. Weinberger. 2025. ESCAP Working Paper.

Presents a conceptual framework for climate-resilient and inclusive social protection in Asia and the Pacific, emphasizing the integration of climate resilience, social protection systems, and coordinated action among governments, local authorities, civil society organizations, researchers, and vulnerable communities.

Keywords: climate-resilient social protection; climate adaptation; resilience; vulnerable populations; multisector partnerships

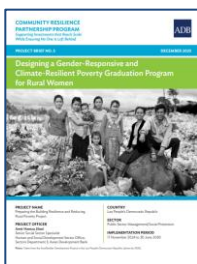


[Implementing Adaptive Social Protection through Government, Community, and Non-Governmental Initiatives: A Case Study from East Sumba, Indonesia](#)

D. Paramitasari et al. 2025. RDI Policy Brief, no. 1. Bandung: Resilience Development Initiative.

Examines how government programs, community initiatives based on local knowledge, and nongovernmental organizations jointly deliver adaptive social protection in East Sumba, identifying coordination, resource, and data challenges that affect long-term resilience.

Keywords: adaptive social protection; resilience; government programs; community initiatives; nongovernmental organizations



[Designing a Gender-Responsive and Climate-Resilient Poverty Graduation Program for Rural Women](#)

ADB. 2025. Community Resilience Partnership Program Brief. No. 5. Asian Development Bank.

Discusses how ADB's Community Resilience Partnership Program works with the Lao People's Democratic Republic to empower rural women through grants and technical training that improve livelihoods and build climate resilience.

Keywords: climate-resilient social protection; rural women; livelihoods; climate adaptation; Lao PDR

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