

Subject: [SDC Poverty-Wellbeing] Newsletter May 2017



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EDITORIAL

Dear all,

I am pleased to send you the latest Poverty-Wellbeing Newsletter. Inequalities are a rising concern worldwide. They are hindering the results achieved in supporting the people to get out of poverty. The gap between the top and the bottom of the population within countries is already very high, and in many it is still widening. Even the World Economic Forum (WEF), that gathers every year the most powerful economic and political leaders of the world in Davos, is seriously concerned about it, because evidence has showed that extreme global inequalities slow economic growth.

In this issue, you will find an article on the new index that the WEF proposes to use to monitor inclusive development. As for us, development practitioners, shall we continue to work the way we do or shall we adapt our interventions and strategies to tackle inequalities? To answer this question, the SDC has launched a working group on inequalities. You will learn about it in this issue. Social protection is often mentioned as an effective redistributive tool, which allows to provide new opportunities to the people left behind. The SDC started a reflexion process on its role in the setup of social protection systems within our countries of intervention. However, tackling inequalities starts with a good understanding of the groups left behind, as you can read in our recent experience in Haiti.

Enjoy the reading!

*Anne Moulin, Poverty reduction and social development adviser***LATEST NEWS****Inclusive Development Index**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a well-established standard to measure economic progress of a country. Is this national indicator satisfactory in times of increasing within country inequality and growing political commitment to promote economic growth that benefits all? The Inclusive Development Index (IDI), introduced by the WEF 2017 Inclusive Growth and Development Report, allows for a comprehensive understanding of economic development and helps to bring inclusive growth approaches into practice. [Learn more »](#)



Kim Andreas Kessler, Academic Intern, Quality Assurance and Poverty Reduction Section, SDC

**Learning Trajectory Global Inequalities**

Income inequality between countries has reduced, while inequality within countries has increased in many cases. The call for inclusive poverty reduction is not new, yet it gained renewed momentum with the UN Agenda 2030 and its emphasis to 'leave no one behind'. Growing political attention to so called losers of globalization in developed countries has further pushed inequality towards a prominent theme on national and international development agendas. This deepening concern has led to the SDC Quality Assurance & Poverty Reduction Section to launch a Learning Trajectory on Global Inequalities. Trajectory members learn about forms and manifestations of inequalities within and between countries, and reflect on SDC's work in this area. [Learn more »](#)

Kim Andreas Kessler, SDC

**SDC Issue Paper on Social Protection**

The Quality Assurance and Poverty Reduction Section is pleased to announce that the Issue Paper on Social Protection has been discussed and approved by the SDC Directorate. Further to overwhelming evidence of the positive effects on socio-economic development and poverty reduction, support to Social Protection is an opportunity for SDC to foster joint initiatives between its domains and thematic networks. [Read more »](#)

Kim Andreas Kessler, SDC

RECOMMENDED »**Blind to extreme poverty? Inequalities and extreme poverty in Haiti**

By Anne Moulin



Haiti is one of the poorest and most unequal countries in the world. The Swiss Development Cooperation office in Port-au-Prince organised a workshop to reflect on its strategic orientation to best tackle extreme poverty and inequalities. [Learn more »](#)

Interrogating Decentralisation in Africa

By Jane Stevens

This [IDS Bulletin](#) provides detailed evidence of the impact of decentralisation reforms at the local level through case studies in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. Dealing with Africa's decentralisation objectives of improved service delivery, democracy and participation, and a reduction in central government expenditure, it analyses how decentralisation works differently within each featured country, the factors responsible for different outcomes, and how more innovative and incisive methods can be used to deepen understanding of these processes. [Learn more »](#)

PEGNet Conference 2017: Understanding National Inequalities

The Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet) Conference 2017 places within-country inequality at center stage, and will provide a platform for development scholars and policy makers to reflect on the measurement, drivers, and consequences of national inequalities as well as policies to reduce them. [Learn more »](#)

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