



ANNUAL MEETINGS

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IMF SEMINARS

Helping Countries Strengthen
Social Spending

RECOMMENDED READING



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WEDNESDAY, October 16, 2019

11:30am - 12:30PM, IMF HQ1, Meetings Halls A&B (HQ1-3-430 A&B)

Helping Countries Strengthen Social Spending

Sponsored by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department and Strategy, Policy, and Review Department

Social spending is a key ingredient for fostering inclusive growth and stable societies. How can countries raise more resources for social spending and make the most of the scarce resources they have? And are there best practices when it comes to making sure that social spending is adequate, efficient and financially sustainable?



Coady, David. 2018.

[“Creating Fiscal Space.” Finance & Development 55 \(4\): 24–27.](#)

A key challenge for developing economies wishing to strengthen their social protection systems and expand access to education and health is how to raise the necessary revenue in the context of a large informal sector.

Gaspar, Vitor, David Amaglobeli, Mercedes Garcia-Escribano, Delphine Prady, and Mauricio Soto. 2019.

[“Fiscal Policy and Development: Human, Social, and Physical Investments for the SDGs.” Staff Discussion Notes 19/03, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

The goal of this paper is to estimate the additional annual spending required for meaningful progress on the SDGs in these areas. Our estimates refer to additional spending in 2030, relative to a baseline of current spending to GDP in these sectors. Toward this end, we apply an innovative costing methodology to a sample of 155 countries: 49 low-income developing countries, 72 emerging market economies, and 34 advanced economies. And we refine the analysis with five country studies: Rwanda, Benin, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Guatemala.

Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund. 2017.

[“The IMF and Social Protection.” Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

Over the past decade, the IMF has stepped up its attention to social protection as it has dealt with the aftermath of the global financial crisis and addressed concerns from the impact of food and fuel price shocks and broader stresses on low-income groups and the most vulnerable. Thus, the IMF has moved beyond its traditional “fiscal-centric” approach to recognize that social protection can also be “macro-critical” for broader reasons including social and political stability concerns. Evaluating the IMF’s involvement in social protection is complicated by the fact that there is no standard definition of social protection or of broader/overlapping terms such as “social spending” and “social safeguards” in (or outside) the Fund. In this evaluation, social protection is understood to include policies that provide benefits to vulnerable individuals or

households. Food and fuel subsidies are also covered to reflect that such policies have social protection elements, but the evaluation does not cover broader policies for long-term poverty reduction such as health and education spending.

International Monetary Fund. Fiscal Affairs Department, and International Monetary Fund. Strategy, Policy, & Review Department. 2019.

[“A Strategy for IMF Engagement on Social Spending.” Policy Paper No. 19/016, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

Interest in social spending issues has intensified over the last decade. This reflects concerns about rising inequality and the need to support vulnerable groups, especially in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. In line with this, the Fund has also increased its engagement on social spending issues. This paper outlines a strategy to guide IMF engagement on social spending issues going forward.

International Monetary Fund. Fiscal Affairs Department, and International Monetary Fund. Strategy, Policy, & Review Department. 2019.

[“A Strategy for IMF Engagement on Social Spending: Background Papers.” Policy Paper No. 19/017, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

This supplement presents an account of the extensive consultations and the results of various analyses that supported the development of “A Strategy for IMF Engagement on Social Spending.”

International Monetary Fund. Fiscal Affairs Department, and International Monetary Fund. Strategy, Policy, & Review Department. 2019.

[“A Strategy for IMF Engagement on Social Spending: Case Studies.” Policy Paper No. 19/018, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

This paper uses case studies to explore the nature and extent of past IMF engagement on social spending issues and to draw lessons for future engagement.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). 2018.

[Trends Shaping Education 2019: Centre for Educational Research and Innovation. Paris: OECD Publishing.](#)

Did you ever wonder whether education has a role to play in preparing our societies for an age of artificial intelligence? Or what the impact of climate change might be on our schools, families and communities? Trends Shaping Education examines major economic, political, social and technological trends affecting education. While the trends are robust, the questions raised in this book are suggestive, and aim to inform strategic thinking and stimulate reflection on the challenges facing education – and on how and whether education can influence these trends. This book covers a rich array of topics related to globalisation, democracy, security, ageing and modern cultures. The content for this 2019 edition has been updated and also expanded with a wide range of new indicators. Along with the trends and their relationship to education, the book includes a new section on future's thinking inspired by foresight methodologies. This book is designed to give policy makers, researchers, educational leaders, administrators and teachers a robust, non specialist source of international comparative trends shaping education, whether in schools, universities or in programmes for older adults. It will also be of interest to students and the wider public, including parents.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). 2018.

[Health at a Glance: Europe 2018. Paris: OECD Publishing.](#)

Health at a Glance: Europe 2018 presents comparative analyses of the health status of EU citizens and the performance of the health systems of the 28 EU Member States, 5 candidate countries and 3 EFTA countries. It is the first step in the State of Health in the EU cycle of knowledge brokering. This publication has two parts. Part I comprises two thematic chapters, the first focusing on the need for concerted efforts to promote better mental health, the second outlining possible strategies for reducing wasteful spending in health. In Part II, the most recent trends in key indicators of health status, risk factors and health spending are presented, together with a discussion of progress in improving the effectiveness, accessibility and resilience of European health systems.

Rutkowski, Michal. 2018.

["Reimagining Social Protection." Finance & Development 55 \(4\): 10–13.](#)

The changing nature of work is upending traditional employment and its benefits. In developed economies, global drivers of disruption—technological advances, economic integration, demographic shifts, social and climate change—are challenging the effectiveness of industrial-era social insurance policies tied to stable employment contracts. Those policies have delivered formidable progress, but they have also increasingly harmed labor market decisions and formal employment.

World Bank Group. 2019.

[High-Performance Health Financing for Universal Health Coverage \(Vol. 2\): Driving Sustainable, Inclusive Growth in the 21st Century. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.](#)

Despite these multiple benefits, the majority of developing countries have yet to seize the growth and development opportunities offered by high-performing health financing. Major coverage gaps for essential health services persist; for those who receive services, coverage is too often ineffective, as the quality of services is low. To expand equitable coverage with both quality services and financial protection, the overall levels of health spending, the mix of revenue sources, pooling, and the efficient and equitable use of resources matter. This report identifies critical health financing constraints.

World Bank Group. 2019.

[The Human Capital Project. World Bank Group.](#)

Welcome to the Human Capital Project, a global effort to accelerate more and better investments in people for greater equity and economic growth. Why should countries invest in human capital? Can early health care and education prepare children to succeed and prosper as adults in a rapidly changing world? What are the barriers to nurturing human capital and how can countries overcome them? Find out why the World Bank, countries, and partners are coming together to try to close the massive human capital gap in the world today. Check out our videos, data visualization, frequently-asked-questions, and more so you too can help those around the world to #InvestinPeople.

World Bank Group. 2018.

[“Learning to Realize Education’s Promise.” In World Development Report 2018. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.](#)

The World Development Report 2018 (WDR 2018)—LEARNING to Realize Education’s Promise—is the first ever devoted entirely to education. And the timing is excellent: education has long been critical to human welfare, but it is even more so in a time of rapid economic and social change. The best way to equip children and youth for the future is to place their learning at the center. The 2018 WDR explores four main themes: 1) education’s promise; 2) the need to shine a light on learning; 3) how to make schools work for learners; and 4) how to make systems work for learning.

World Bank Group. 2018.

[The State of Social Safety Nets 2018. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.](#)

The State of Social Safety Nets 2018 Report examines global trends in the social safety net/social assistance coverage, spending, and program performance based on the World Bank Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) updated database. The report documents the main social safety net programs that exist globally and their use to alleviate poverty and to build shared prosperity. The 2018 report expands on the 2015 edition, both in administrative and household survey data coverage. A distinct mark of this report is that, for the first time, it tells the story of what happens with SSN/SA programs spending and coverage over time, when the data allow us to do so. This 2018 edition also features two special themes: Social Assistance and Ageing, focusing on the role of old-age social pensions, and Adaptive Social Protection, focusing on what makes SSN systems/programs adaptive to various shocks.

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