

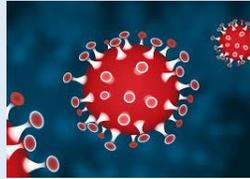
Summer Reading List on Social Protection

By Ugo Gentilini

Are you looking for a reading list on social protection for your July 4th or Summer holiday? Here is a select compilation of materials out this calendar year and spanning ten themes.

COVID-19

Let's start with data trackers: the ILO has its 4th edition of the [social protection monitor](#); WFP is tracking [school meals](#) around the world; the IMF has a dedicated [policy tracker](#); a [database of measures](#) is hosted at Oxford; and our [global social protection response paper \(v.11\)](#) comes with the [accompanying Excel file](#). What about literature? The OECD examines [structural and new issues in social protection](#); Lustig and Tommasi discuss [social protection and Covid in the LAC region](#); the SPACE initiative has a [strategy decision matrix](#), a [delivery system decision matrix](#), a set of pros/cons with various [options for expansion](#); Bassier et al examine how South Africa [repurposed its social assistance system to support informal workers](#); Robalino unbundles the protecting [lives vs jobs conundrum](#); and Brown et al show that [96% of housing in African doesn't meet global Covid standards](#).



Saving lives, health, and mental wellbeing

In Brazil, Oliveira Alves et al found that that [an increase in the duration of high Bolsa CCT coverage \(of 70% or more\) is associated with a fall in suicide rates](#). In the US, Rambotti estimated that an increase in SNAP participation by a standard deviation could



have reduced suicides and [saved the lives of approximately 31,600 people](#); in Indonesia, Hensel finds that cash [reduced suicides by 18% of the mean suicide rate](#); Ridley et al shows that cash can [reduce mental illness by between 0.1-0.17 standard deviations](#) pending on design; Owusu-Addo et al articulate the transmission channels through which [cash transfers can affect the social determinants of health](#); De Brauw and Peterman present [new evidence from El Salvador's cash transfers](#) showing impacts on maternal health at the time of birth; Roelen et al [review the state of the evidence on graduation programs and early childhood development](#); Thomas et al found that [social protection interventions had the best outcomes for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS](#); Pescarini et al show that in Brazil, [receiving Bolsa cash transfers before diagnosis led to better leprosy treatment adherence](#); and in Ethiopia, Hirvonen et al estimate that [only 10-22% of PSNP families receive health programs](#);

Education, gender and adolescence

In Mali, Lees et al find that cash transfers had [limited effects on women's agency to challenge male authority and control over sexual and financial matters](#); a cross-country review by Baranov et al finds that [cash reduces intimate partner violence \(physical and emotional\)](#); Pozuelo et al conclude that cash transfers exhibit [mixed effects on adolescents' health and social outcomes](#); in Tanzania, TASAF et al estimate that cash transfers have [limited effects in helping](#)



[young people make safe and healthy transitions into adulthood](#); Li and Sekhri report a [decline in children's primary school enrollment due to India's NREGA program](#); a paper on cash in Bolivia by Canelas and Nino-Zarazua shows that [transfers increased school enrollment, but had no effects on child labor](#); in Peru, Sanchez et al found that the [Juntos program affects cognitive skills among children of 0-4 years of age](#), but not those in the 5-8 age cohort.

Food security and nutrition

Daidone et al show that beneficiaries of [cash transfers in Lesotho increased consumption and diversified diets](#); new findings by Chakrabarti et al from Zambia find that [cash transfers enhance food security](#), but had no impact on child malnutrition; in Burkina Faso, Gross et al estimate that [food assistance improves nutrition as measured by body mass indexes](#); and Chowdhury et al show that under Bangladesh's Food Friendly Program, [only 86% of beneficiaries receive the full amount of rice \(60kg\)](#).



Climate, energy and the environment

In Indonesia, Ferraro and Simorangkir estimate that [cash transfers reduced tree cover losses by 30%](#) (and the economic value from reduced carbon emissions alone could cover for cash implementation costs); Nawaz and Iqbal show that Pakistan's cash transfers increase the use of modern fuels, but also [boost the share of fuel in household expenses](#); a report by McGregor and Girardeau examines how cash transfers help low-income households [afford and connect to energy, and not just compensate for energy subsidy reductions](#); a new paper by Solórzano and Cárdenes discusses [social](#)



[protection and climate change, with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean](#); Garg et al show that in Mexico, a 1-degree Celsius increase in temperature raises homicide risk by 2.1%, but [cash transfers reduce such effect by 50-67%](#); and Vaughan Bowen et al have a new book setting out a [framework for adaptive social protection](#).

Fragility and displacement

Phadera et al examined how the [Iraqi PDS mitigated the loss of welfare induced by forced displacement](#); in the Central African Republic, Alik-Lagrange et al estimate that [public works increased monthly earnings by 10%](#); in Kenya's refugee camps, Delius and Sterck show that [mobile cash transfers increased businesses' revenues](#); Jaspars et al discuss [power dynamics around humanitarian assistance in Somalia](#); and Chaaban et al show that the effects of a [large cash transfer on Syrian refugees in Lebanon](#) faded away within 4 to 10 months after program discontinuation.



Economic effects

Jayachandran summarizes the effects of cash transfers on [small-scale entrepreneurship](#) in Mexico, Kenya, Uganda, and Central America; in Lesotho, by Prifti et al document that cash transfers increase farm profitability, but [impacts are limited to 'viable' recipients with land and labor capacity](#); and Sabates-Wheeler et al examine the (limited) [long-run effects of the PSNP on 'graduation' of beneficiaries over a decade of implementation](#).



Political economy and trust

Conover et al find that in Colombia, [cash transfers increase political participation by women as well as votes for incumbent politicians](#); in the same country, Garcia and Cuartas estimate that [formal cash transfers augmented the probability of getting informal support](#) by about 10 percentage points; Hickey and Seekings examine [the transnational politics of cash transfers](#); Ghorpade and Justino explored how in Pakistan the [BISP cash transfer program improved attitudes towards the state](#); in South Africa, Nnaeme et al show that [cash transfers can help generate citizens' agency](#); Lavers et al examine the political economy of local-level implementation of safety nets in Ethiopia's [Oromiya](#) and [Afar](#) regions; and Nowack and Schodereron contrast the effects [universal vs means-tested programs](#) on social and institutional trust.



Design

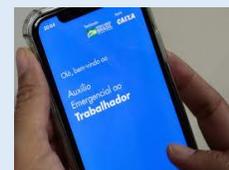
Ozler summarizes the [evidence on different cash transfer design options](#); Gazeaud evaluates the performance of proxy means test in Tanzania and finds that [inherent errors result in a 5 to 27% reduction in the method's predictive performance](#); in Kenya, Heinrich and Knowles show that hard and soft conditions [yield similar effects, with harder conditions also generating some negative unintended consequences](#) (fines decreased non-food consumption); Bergstrom and Dodds argue that in Mexico [conditionalities on children's school enrollment offer an unexplored targeting benefit over unconditional transfers](#); Bastagli et al produced a great UNICEF-ODI report compiling [key issues and features on universal child-benefits](#); Gentilini et al offers a 360-degree tour of [evidence and practices](#)



[on universal basic income](#); Aizer et al present [evidence on long-term effects of US public work schemes in 1940s](#); and Homonoff and Somerville estimate the [costs of eligibility recertification for the US SNAP program](#).

Delivery

A report by GIZ and ADB unbundles [the risks and opportunities with artificial intelligence in social protection](#); Muralidharan et al identify [three lessons emerging from evaluating Aadhaar in Jharkhand's public distribution system](#); Barca and Chirchir have a crisp paper on [building an integrated and digital social protection information systems](#); Shiferaw estimates that in California, the adoption of the [electronic transfers under the SNAP program bolstered applications by eligible beneficiaries](#); a paper by Alinaghi ascertains that [M-PESA has had a positive impact on people's financial health](#); Nishtar discusses how [Pakistan's emergency Ehsaas cash program](#) is shifting the payment ecosystem from cash-based to digital; and Dreze and Khera warn about the [risks for social protection that an over-reliance on technology can entail](#).



This compilation draws from the 22 weekly links editions published in 2020. These and the overall 152 editions available [here](#).