

# Nordic Network for Social Protection

*The Nordic Network for Social Protection is a new initiative that brings together Nordic researchers and practitioners interested in social protection globally.*

## Purpose and relevance of the network

Social protection, i.e. provision of income security through transfer payments, is widely recognised as a key measure for eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. However, most people in the world still do not have access to income support when they need it. According to the latest ILO World Social Protection Report, 4 billion people do not receive the support they need, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, 87 percent of the population still do not have access to social protection.

The good news is that many governments in low- and middle-income countries, often in collaboration with international partners, are starting to establish and expand social protection programmes and there has been a rapid increase in the amount of funds invested in social protection globally over the last 20 years. Still, there is a need for increased international funding, technical support and experience sharing between countries.

The Nordic countries demonstrate the importance of a high level of redistribution through social protection transfers, and the value and feasibility of essential tax-financed universal transfers such as old age pensions, child benefits and disability benefits. These programmes will be key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 1, on the elimination of poverty everywhere, and Goal 10 on reducing inequality. As role models for many countries, the Nordic countries could play a much more active role in supporting the expansion of social protection globally.

## Potential activities

**In the Nordic countries:** The Nordic Network for Social Protection provides a platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building and advocacy activities aimed at actors in the Nordic countries, including governments, international development organisations and foundations. The objective is to push social protection higher up on the international development agendas in the Nordic countries. Activities will include organising conferences, workshops and seminars, publishing research, opinion pieces and blog posts and formulating position papers as inputs to relevant policy processes.

**Internationally:** In addition to the national activities, the Network will cooperate with other actors, particularly in the Global South, to shape the international social protection agenda. This can for example be by working with others to push for a global fund for social protection, or to publish research and analysis to further inclusive social protection, building on the experiences of the Nordic countries.

**Connecting researchers and practitioners:** The Network will also provide opportunities for social protection researchers and practitioners in the Nordic countries and in low-and middle-income countries to connect with each other and share experiences.

## Who we are

The Nordic Network for Social Protection is hosted by the SDU Just Society Programme, located at the Danish Centre for Welfare Studies (DaWS), University of Southern Denmark. The Network welcomes as members researchers and practitioners based in the Nordic countries, who has an interest in social protection globally. If you would like to become a member, please get in touch with one of the three board members:

- Marianne S. Ulriksen, Associate Professor, Danish Centre for Welfare Studies & Department of Political Science, University of Southern Denmark. Email: [mu@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:mu@sam.sdu.dk)
- Christian Friis Bach, founder of warfair.org, external lecturer at University of Copenhagen. Former Danish Minister of Development Cooperation and UN Under-Secretary-General. Email: [christian@friisbach.dk](mailto:christian@friisbach.dk)
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