

SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS' IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY

This literature review looks at how SSNs better can integrate a gender-relational lens, including an analysis of masculinities and power dynamics, with the aim of making them more effective and sustainable.

Social protection systems are highlighted in Agenda 2030 as an important tool to reduce poverty. Different forms of Social Safety Net programs (SSNs), like cash transfers, in-kind food aid or public work programs are rapidly becoming cornerstones in many national poverty reduction strategies and international development programs.

In-depth gender-relational analysis has not typically been part of social protection system design. However, according to the report authors, a gender transformative approach, including a focus on masculinities, would increase the understanding of underlying intrahousehold dynamics. These dynamics influence program outcomes and a gender transformative approach could possibly have a positive impact towards equality.

THE REVIEW CONCLUDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT:

- 1 Most SSNs reinforce gender roles and norms, as they target women as main beneficiaries, based on the assumption that women are more likely to use transfers to benefit the entire household.
- 2 Some SSNs have attempted to shift the care work burden from women to the state, by providing childcare subsidies, but none have encouraged greater male involvement in care work or sought to breakdown the female care giver trope.
- 3 A few SSNs have included transformative elements, such as men and women's savings groups that tackle larger issues of joint decision-making, household finances, and division of household labor.



Applying a Masculinities Lens to the Gendered Impacts of Social Safety Nets
can be downloaded at www.eba.se

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