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Stephen Devereux is an IDS Fellow and a Director of the Centre for Social Protection. He works on food security, rural livelihoods, poverty reduction and social protection. His research experience has mainly been in Africa, especially Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Namibia. His books include Fieldwork in Developing Countries, Theories of Famine, Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa and The New Famines.

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Nicholas Freeland is a Director of MASDAR (UK) Ltd, and has spent 27 years working in information and communications for development (ICD). He has extensive experience in agriculture, rural development, food security, poverty reduction and social protection, with a technical emphasis on ICT strategies. He is a specialist in information systems and policy analysis for vulnerability, food security and nutrition assessment. He has worked in this area in over 30 countries throughout the world, including substantial inputs to a number of national and regional food security projects in Africa. He is currently Programme Director of DFID’s Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP) in southern Africa, with particular responsibility for the establishment of a Regional Centre of Excellence for Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis.

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Rebecca Holmes is a Research Officer at the Overseas Development Institute, London. She is currently interested in exploring the scope for synergies between agricultural growth and social protection, and looking at the role of cash transfers in social protection, in both a development and a relief context. She has an MA in Gender and Development from IDS, and has previously worked in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia on gender equality issues.

Robert Holzmann is Director of the Social Protection and Labor Department of the World Bank. His department is in charge of the conceptual and strategic Bank work in the area of social risk management and it leads the Bank’s work on pension systems and reform. He is the lead author of the recent position report of the World Bank on...
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Karishma Huda is pursuing an MPhil in Development Studies at IDS and is also working at Imp-Act. Prior to this, she was a researcher at BRAC, focusing on their Targeting Ultra Poor (TUP) social protection scheme. She has worked on the ‘social side of microfinance’ in India, Bangladesh, Haiti and the UK. Her areas of interest include microfinance, social performance management, social protection, social capital and extreme poverty.

Naila Kabeer is a social economist specialising in gender, poverty and social policy issues. Her main areas of research have been in South and South-East Asia. She has also been active in developing frameworks and methodologies for integrating gender concerns into policy and planning and has substantial experience of training and advisory work with governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies and NGOs. She managed the DFID-funded Social Policy Programme and the Mainstreaming Poverty and Gender in the Gambia Project (also funded by DFID) and is currently a convener on the Development Research Centre on Citizenship at IDS. She is also a member of the Global Advisory Team on the Ford Foundation’s Global Impact Evaluation of Microfinance Programmes.

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Ian Macauslan is an MPhil student at IDS whose recent focus is on social protection, politics and policies. In the last year, he has undertaken commissioned work on the politics of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India; synergies between social protection and agriculture; DFID’s attempts to influence policy on social transfers; social protection policies in South-East Asia; and school-feeding for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Before coming to IDS, Ian worked for NGOs, researching vulnerability in rural Cambodia and adolescent migration in rural India.

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Koy Thomson is Director of the Knowledge Initiative (KI) in ActionAid International (AAI), a new initiative established to deepen critical thinking and analysis in ActionAid, and accelerate knowledge development and practice where there are strategic gaps. The KI was designed to work as much inside as outside the organisation. Current areas of focus are social protection and local economy. Prior to this Koy was International Director for Policy in AAI. Before joining AAI, he was Assistant Executive Director at the International Institute for Environment and Development and played a key role in policy, NGO and government processes around the 1992 Earth Summit. He was Senior International Rainforest Campaigner for Friends of the Earth linking human rights, global justice, poverty and environmental issues for the first time in popular campaigning. Koy has been an adviser to the UK government, UNDP and OECD on environment and development issues.