



International Conference on  
**Resilient Social Protection**  
for Inclusive Development  
**2019**

**18-19th September**  
Kathmandu, Nepal

Organised by:







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Social protection has emerged as a major agenda in efforts to reduce poverty and promote human capital accumulation around the world. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to end poverty in all its forms by expanding social protection for all, with SDG Target 1.3 aiming to 'implement nationally appropriate social protection systems' towards that objective.

The International Conference on Resilient Social Protection for an Inclusive Development aims to support the Government of Nepal, and its relevant Ministries, to deliver in its vision of a core package of social protection for all and help Nepal become a more prosperous nation, with a focus on the next generation and the most vulnerable and help Nepal become a more prosperous nation. Recognising that there are many paths towards universal social protection, and programmes in different countries have followed different paths towards their expansion and consolidation, the Conference aims to bring regional and international experiences and research to support Nepal learn from the global experience and develop an evidence based national integrated social protection framework.

The Conference focuses specifically on how social protection programmes, such as social security allowances and cash transfers, can be scaled-up and strengthened with a focus on the following key themes:

- Strengthening social protection systems, including rights-based approaches and contributory social protection;
- Child and family benefits, such as child grants, and linking cash transfers with key services;
- Productive programmes aimed at increasing productivity and labour market participation;
- Shock-responsive social protection; and
- Programmes reaching minority and particularly disadvantaged groups, such as disability grants.

In addition, selected research papers will be presented throughout the Conference.

The conference is being organised by the Government of Nepal in collaboration with ILO, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UK Aid, The World Bank, GIZ, and Social Science Baha.

# AGENDA

Day 1	Main Conference Room	Parallel session
September 18th	Wednesday	
08:30 am	Registration	
09:00 am	<p><b>Inauguration Session: Social Protection in South Asia: Investing in an inclusive future</b></p> <p>Inauguration and introductory remarks to set the stage, guide the conference and share vision for investing in social protection for a more inclusive future.</p> <p><b>Chair: Hon'ble Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal</b>, Member, National Planning Commission, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keynote: Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman</b>, Executive Chairperson, Power and Participation Research Centre &amp; Chairperson BRAC Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Ms. Elke Wisch</b>, Representative, UNICEF Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Ms. Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough</b>, World Bank Country Director for Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Ms. Lisa Honan</b>, Head of DFID Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Chief Guest: Hon'ble Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada</b>, Minister of Finance, Nepal</li> </ul>	
10:30 am	Coffee break	
11:00 am	<p><b>Policy dialogue 1. Addressing Inequalities in South Asia through Social Protection Policies</b></p> <p>Inequality remains at the top of the development agenda, with rising evidence about the impacts of poverty and unequal life chances on productivity and growth. This session will explore some of the key trends shaping the poverty and inequality debate in the region, as well as recent advances in measuring inequality of opportunity, to frame the debate on the importance of social protection as a key tool to reduce inequalities in its multiple forms and achieve a more sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Chair: Mr. Balananda Paudel</b>, Chair, National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Patrik Andersson</b>, Chief of the Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Baikuntha Aryal</b>, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, GoN</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Fathimath Yumna</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Abdul Alim</b>, Regional Social Policy Advisor for South Asia, UNICEF</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Stefano Paternostro</b>, Practice Manager, Social Protection and Jobs, South Asia Region, World Bank</li> </ul>	
12:30 pm	Lunch	

Day 1	Main Conference Room	Parallel session
02:00 pm	<p><b>Policy dialogue 2. Investing in the future: Child and family benefits</b></p> <p>In this session, panellists will discuss experiences, potential and challenges of child and family benefits, such as Child Grants, as a key way to invest in future generations. The session will discuss Nepal's current plans to expand the Child Grant and bring other experiences on how different countries have moved towards universal coverage. It will discuss some of the emerging evidences about Cash plus and how other key services can enhance impacts.</p> <p><b>Chair: Hon'ble Dr. Usha Jha, Member,</b> National Planning Commission, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Michael Samson,</b> Director of Research, Economic Policy Research Institute, South Africa</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Dipak Kaphle,</b> Director General, Department of National ID and Civil Registration, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoN and Ms. Preksha Golchha, Senior Research Fellow, Economic Policy Research Institute, South Africa</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Somchai Jitsuchon,</b> Thailand Development Research Institute</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Sanghamitra Ghosh,</b> Secretary, Department of Women, Child Development &amp; Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal</li> </ul>	<p><b>Research Presentations 1. Shock-responsive social Protection</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Hon'ble Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli,</b> Member, National Planning Commission, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 1:</b> Radhakrishnan, A. and Jafar, K. – Target with Care: Shock responsive social protection in a decentralized governance framework</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 2:</b> Ghimire, A., Holmes, R., Samuels, F., Evans, M., &amp; Twigg, J. – The potential of Nepal's social security allowance schemes to support emergency flood response</li> </ul>
03:30 pm	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>	
04:30 pm	<p><b>Policy dialogue 3. Shock-responsive social protection: Building resilience and protection against shocks</b></p> <p>Panellists will discuss the role of social protection systems in helping states respond to natural disasters and shocks. The session will reflect on recent experience and research on shock responsive social protection in Nepal and set it within the international context of different approaches to shock responsive social protection. The aim of the session will be to take stock of where Nepal is and what the potential is for Nepal to develop its social protection system to be more shock responsive in the future.</p> <p><b>Chair: Ms. Indu Ghimire,</b> Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Thomas Walker,</b> Senior Economist, World Bank</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Clare O'Brien,</b> Senior Adviser on Social Protection, World Food Programme</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Daniel Clarke,</b> Director, Centre for Global Disaster Protection</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Alexandra Yuster,</b> Associate Director and Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF NYHQ</li> </ul>	<p><b>Research Presentations 2. Inclusion in social Protection</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Usha Mishra Hayes,</b> Chief Social Policy, Evidence &amp; Evaluation, UNICEF Nepal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 1:</b> Lawoti, M. – The Limits of Social Protection Policies in Ethnically Diverse Societies: Lessons for Nepal from a Comparative Perspective</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 2:</b> Upadhyay, C. – Hope for Inclusive Future: Social Protection of Disabled in Nepal Studying the Perspectives of Disability Allowance Recipients</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 3:</b> Kumar Rasaili, P. – Social Protection and Poverty among the Women in Dalit Community in Nepal: An Analysis from Gender Perspective</li> </ul>

Day 1	Main Conference Room	Parallel session
05:30 pm	<p><b>Reception and Social Protection showcase</b></p> <p>The Speed Networking session will be an interactive forum where conference participants from the South Asia region and beyond present and share their experiences about flagship social protection programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Somchai Jitsuchon</b>, Thailand Development Research Institute</li> <li>• <b>Chaya Jha</b>, Human Resources Development Center, Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Anowarul Haq</b>, Department for International Development Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Nabin Maharjan</b>, Social Protection Civil Society Network, Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Predrag Savic</b>, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Toan</b>, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Government of Vietnam</li> </ul>	

Day 2	Main Conference Room	Parallel session
September 19th	Thursday	
09:00 am	<b>Welcome and Wrap up of Day 1</b>	
09:15 am	<p><b>Policy dialogue 4. Improving productivity through social protection</b></p> <p>In addition to providing a safety net for the most vulnerable people, social protection can also support people to become more productive. This can also facilitate people to move up the ladder of prosperity. In some parts of the world, public works plus or second and third generation public works programs have proven how productive social protection can function successfully.</p> <p><b>Chair: Mr. Binod K.C.</b>, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Rachel Slater</b>, Professor, University of Wolverhampton</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Bjorn Johannessen</b>, Senior Specialist on Employment Intensive Investments, International Labour Organization</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Phillippe Leite</b>, Senior Social Protection Economist, World Bank</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Prakash Dahal</b>, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, GoN</li> </ul>	<p><b>Research Presentations 3. Social Protection: Policy and Financing</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Prof. Mahendra Lawoti</b>, Western Michigan University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 1:</b> Parajuli, L. – From State Charity to Citizen’s Rights: Exploring Contours of Nepal’s Social Security</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 2:</b> Baral, D. – Analysing Disbursement of Social Security Entitlements in the context of Rightness: Time, Amount, Person and Place</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 3:</b> Chakraborty, P. and Radhakrishnan, A. – Fiscal Space for Social Protection in India: Do rights-based entitlements ensure equity in access?</li> </ul>
10:45 am	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:15 am	<p><b>Policy dialogue 5. Promoting Social Inclusion: Impacts of social protection on vulnerable groups</b></p> <p>This session will look at how to design inclusive and robust social protection programmes that reach and support particularly disadvantaged and excluded groups such as persons living with disabilities, minorities, and women and policy options to consider when designing inclusive schemes.</p>	<p><b>Research Presentations 4. Productivity and growth</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Prof. Kushum Shakya</b>, Head of Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 1:</b> Whitehead, L. and Shrestha, D. – Mainstreaming</li> </ul>

Day 2	Main Conference Room	Parallel session
	<p><b>Chair: Mr. Chandra K Ghimire</b>, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Ermina Sokou</b>, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Bimal Paudel</b>, Federal Project Coordinator, National Federation of the Disabled Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ram Prasad Ghimire</b>, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, GoN</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ahmet Tunc Demirtas</b>, Expert for Family, Labour and Social Services, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, Republic of Turkey</li> <li>• <b>Mr. MD. Abul Hossain</b>, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Tahereh Zandi</b>, First Secretary, Division of International Specialized Agencies, Islamic Republic of Iran</li> </ul>	<p>Graduation into Social Protection Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 2:</b> Karn, S. and Adhikari, S. – Social inclusion and social protection: Economic challenges and social prerequisites</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 3:</b> Kanel, T. – Do construction workers choose to work informally? What are their perceptions on labour rights at their work?</li> </ul>
12:45 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
02:00 pm	<p><b>Policy dialogue 6. Developing systems: Policy integration, implementation systems and financing</b></p> <p>This session will discuss the systematic approaches of social protection to ensure that people are covered against poverty and risks throughout the lifecycle. The discussion will also focus on how the social protection strategies and programmes are to be coordinated with those of other sectors, including employment and food security. The session will also discuss how integrated social protection information systems can be developed in Nepal.</p> <p><b>Chair: Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal</b>, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, GoN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Narhari Ghimire and Mr. Yadu Acharya</b>, Programme Directors, National Planning Commission, GoN</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Franziska Gassmann</b>, Professor of Social Protection and Development, Maastricht University</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Pinaki Chakraborty</b>, Chief of Social Policy, Chennai Office, UNICEF India</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Said Mirza Pahlevi</b>, Head of Data and Information Centre, Ministry of Social Affairs, Government of Indonesia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Research Presentations 5. Child and family benefits</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Dyuti Baral</b>, Adjunct Faculty, South Asian Institute of Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 1:</b> Baniya, J., Yangchen, G., Bhattarai, A. and Nepali, S. – Politics of Implementation of Scholarships: Evidences from Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 2:</b> Mahato, S., Sah, R., and Tumsa (Limbu), D. – Issues of Governance and Social Protection in Nepal: A Case Study of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation 3:</b> Mathers, N. – Enabling traditional (gendered) transitions to adulthood: the effects of an unconditional cash transfer on adolescent education, work and marriage in Nepal</li> </ul>
03:30 pm	<b>Coffee break and Q&amp;A with Experts</b>	<p><b>Inter-ministerial dialogue: Social Protection in Nepal</b></p> <p>Inter-ministerial dialogue to discuss the next steps for Nepal</p>
03:30 pm	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon'ble Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal</b>, Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Hon'ble Prof. Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel</b>, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, GoN</li> <li>• <b>Closing remarks by Hon'ble Mr. Gokarna Bista</b>, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, GoN</li> </ul>	

## Speakers

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### **Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada**

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada is a member of National Assembly of the Federal Parliament and has held the position of Minister of Finance since March 2018. He held twice the position of the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission (equivalent to the Minister of Planning) of Nepal during 2015-16 and during 2009-2010. He served as the Governor of the of Nepal Rastra Bank (Central Bank of Nepal) during 2010-15. He served the UN System as a Senior Economist in the Regional Centre of UNDP for Asia and the Pacific (2006-2009). He had served the government as a Member of the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal from 2002 to 2005. He was Head of the Economic Research Department of the Nepal Rastra Bank from 1999 to 2002, a postgraduate teacher at Tribhuvan University in 1982, and intermittently a visiting faculty member at Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University from 1992 to 2001. He received his Master's degrees in Economics and Public Administration from Tribhuvan University in 1981 and 1984 respectively, and a PhD in Monetary Economics from Delhi School of Economics in 1991. He has carried out a considerable amount of research and has authored and co-authored many books and articles. He is honored with national awards such as the Suprabal Gorkha Dakshin Bahu (2001), Sukirtimaya Rastra Deep (2013) and Prasiddha Prabal Jana Sewa Shree (2016) conferred by the Right Honorable President of Nepal for his outstanding contribution to the development of Nepal in his different capacities.



### **Ms. Elke Wisch**

Elke Wisch has 23 years of experience serving children and communities in a range of emergency, fragile and development contexts. Ms. Wisch joined UNICEF in 1996 as Child Protection Officer in Rwanda and subsequently served as Child Protection Chief in Liberia (1997- 1999). As Balkans Area Office Programme Officer, she supported the UNICEF offices in Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and FYR Macedonia (1999 to 2001), serving as Programme Coordinator Kosovo Emergency in 1999 and Acting FYR Macedonia Representative in 2001. From 2001 to 2003, Ms. Wisch supported the UNICEF Afghanistan Emergency Operation, initially as sub-regional Emergency Programme Coordinator, and then as Child Protection Chief. From 2003 to 2007, Ms. Wisch served as UNICEF Deputy Representative in Myanmar. In 2008, Ms. Wisch joined the UN Country Team in Uganda as inter-agency Senior Recovery Coordinator for Northern Uganda. As ESA Deputy Regional Director, Ms. Wisch oversaw regional technical assistance and oversight for 21 UNICEF country programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa from 2010-2014. Prior to her arrival in Nepal, Ms. Wisch served as UNICEF Representative in Madagascar (2014-2018). Since August 2018, Ms. Wisch has been the Deputy Regional Director for South Asia supporting eight UNICEF country offices in South Asia. Prior to joining UNICEF, Ms. Wisch worked for various conflict resolution organizations and academic institutions in Germany and the US. Ms. Wisch holds a Master's degree in Social and Political Sciences, Munich University and a Master of Public Administration, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. A national of Germany, she is the mother of a daughter.



### **Ms. Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough**

Ms. Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough is the Country Director for Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka in the South Asia Region (SAR). Ms. Pswarayi-Riddihough, a Zimbabwean national, joined the Bank in 1995 as a Young Professional (YP). She earned her PHD from Oxford University in 1993. She has since held various operational and corporate management positions, her most recent being Director of Strategy and Operations, in the Human Resources Vice Presidency. She has worked in 4 different regions, South Asia, East Asia, Middle East and North and Africa and the Africa Region. Her most recent posting in South Asia was as the Director of Operational Services from 2012 to 2014, where she also supervised teams covering operations in Financial Management and Procurement.



### **Ms. Lisa Honan**

Ms. Lisa Honan arrived as Head of DFID Nepal in July 2019. She was before that the Governor of SAint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha from April 2016-May 2019, being the first female in 400 years. She was previously Head of Office for DFID Kenya. She is a long-term DFID member of staff and particularly champions women and diversity issues.



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### **Dr Abdul Alim**

Abdul Alim is currently the Regional Adviser for Social Policy covering South Asia for UNICEF and is based in Kathmandu. For the last 20 years he has worked with UNICEF in the developing world, covering countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe/and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Middle East. His major interest is in the application of results-based management and human rights based-approach to reform social policy and planning with an emphasis on social service delivery. He is a member of the UN Development Policy Network.



### **Patrik Andersson**

Patrik Andersson is Chief of the Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section, Social Development Division, at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He has worked with ESCAP in Bangkok since early 2011 and is responsible for inequality and social protection issues. Over the past 25 years, Mr Andersson has worked extensively on a wide range of social development areas as well as labour market issues. Some of his prior assignments include different positions with the Swedish Government and OECD in Paris.



### **Dr Baikuntha Aryal**

An economist by education, Baikuntha Aryal has been with the Government of Nepal since January 1990. Before assuming the office of Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, he was the Secretary at the National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission. Dr Aryal worked as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance for six years with the Economic Policy Analysis Division, Budget and Program Division and International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division as well as nearly two years in the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. In addition to his official responsibilities, he has keen interests in the area of macroeconomics and resource economics.



### **Dr Daniel Clarke**

Daniel Clarke leads the Centre for Disaster Protection, London, an initiative that seeks to find better ways to protect poor and vulnerable people from the impact of disasters. The Centre works to influence global policy on financing responses to disasters, while working directly with developing countries to improve their resilience through early action and better financial planning. It works across the development, humanitarian and financial sectors, offering analytics, innovative solutions, impartial advice and training.

Dr Clarke is an actuary and development economist. He has worked with more than 40 developing country governments on disaster risk finance in close collaboration with bilateral and multilateral development institutions, and the private insurance and reinsurance industry. He has a first class degree from Cambridge University in Mathematics in Computer Science and a DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries. An influential voice in the field of disaster risk finance, Daniel's publications include the book, *Dull Disasters? How Planning Ahead Will Make a Difference* (Oxford University Press, co-author).



### **Prakash Dahal**

Prakash Dahal is a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Government of Nepal. He leads the Prime Minister's Employment Programme Section. Earlier, he was with the Ministry of General Administration, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, and the National Planning Commission. Mr Dahal holds several

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Master's degrees, in Public Policy from the Australian National University, and in Political Science, Public Administration and English Literature from Tribhuvan University. He also has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Economics Advance School (IDEAS), Tokyo, Japan. He has several publications focused on economic development and governance.



### **Ahmet Tunç Demirtaş**

Ahmet Tunç Demirtaş was born in Ankara, Turkey, in 1978. He received his BA degree in Political Science from Bilkent University and an MPhil degree from Ankara University. Before his position in the civil service, he worked as a consultant for a World Bank-funded project on mental health. He has been working as an expert in the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services since 2010. He has been part of country delegations to ILO's labour conferences. During his public service, he was posted in diplomatic positions to Saudi Arabia and Canada, where he provided consultancy services to migrant Turkish workers on social security and labour issues. He also took part in numerous negotiations for social security agreements between Turkey and other countries. He is currently working in the foreign relations department of the Ministry, with a special focus on social protection, social security, labour migration and inter-ministerial relations. Apart from Turkish, he speaks English and Arabic.



### **Dr Franziska Gassmann**

Franziska Gassmann is Professor of Social Protection and Development at UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance (Maastricht University), where she leads the research theme on Social Protection, Inclusive Innovation and Development and teaches in the institute's graduate programmes (MSc, PhD) in the field of social protection and welfare state economics, poverty and public policy analysis. She also has an affiliation at the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Science as Professor of Poverty and Social Protection.

Dr Gassmann has more than 20 years of experience as a consultant and adviser to governments and international organisations on poverty and social protection policies in Central and Eastern Europe, the countries of the former Yugoslavia, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Southeast Asia. She has headed or worked on projects for the European Commission, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank, OECD, ADB and others in numerous countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Her own research focuses on the analysis of social protection policies and measurement of poverty and vulnerability. Her work has been widely published.



### **Dr Ram Prasad Ghimire**

Dr Ram Prasad Ghimire is the Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MOLESS). Currently, he heads the Labour Relations and Social Security Division at the ministry. Dr Ghimire previously served as the Joint Secretary of the Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission, National Vigilance Center and the Ministry of General Administration. He has also held leadership positions at the Public Service Commission and the Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management. Recently, he has been involved in a number of high-level task forces on employment, labour and social security reforms. He completed his PhD at the Australian National University, where his research focused on governance reform.

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### **Dr Md. Abul Hossain**

Md. Abul Hossain is Deputy Secretary with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. He has a PhD in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development. His current responsibilities include preparing annual and monthly reports and other reports for the Ministry of Social Welfare, works related to Annual Performance Agreement, National Integrity Strategy, Right to Information, Grievance Redress System, and Mother of Humanity Social Welfare Award.



### **Bjorn Johannessen**

Bjorn Johannessen is a civil engineer trained at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, who for the past 30 years has worked with public works programmes in Africa, Asia and South America. At present, he is Senior Engineer on Employment-Intensive Investments at the Regional Office of the International Labour Organization for Asia and the Pacific.

A major part of his work has focused on the development of sustainable approaches for the provision of rural infrastructure, covering a wide range of issues such as strengthening the capacity of local government, private sector involvement, use of local resource-based approaches, and, more recently, also crisis response and climate-change adaptation works through employment-intensive public works.

Mr Johannessen has published many technical manuals, guidelines and papers on effective implementation of rural infrastructure works and regularly lectures at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin. His work experience includes both direct involvement in the design and implementation of technical cooperation programmes, as well as in an advisory role, collaborating with a number of international development agencies, including several UN agencies, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the EU and bilateral donors.



### **Philippe Leite**

Philippe Leite is a Senior Social Protection Economist in the South Asia Unit of Social Protection and Job Global Practice of the World Bank Group, and part of the Global leader teams on Social Safety nets and Delivery System. Before joining the South Asia unit, he worked in the Social Protection and Labor network team and in Africa participating in the design of social programmes, among others, in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Senegal, Mali and Congo. He previously worked for the Development Research Group on determinants of poverty and inequality, poverty maps methodology, and micro-econometric simulation models. He holds a BA and an MS in statistics (sampling and modeling) from ENCE/Brazil, an MS and a PhD in Economics from École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris.



### **Clare O'Brien**

Clare O'Brien is a senior adviser in social protection at the UN World Food Programme's global headquarters in Rome. She provides technical guidance on social protection issues to WFP's country offices and regional bureaux worldwide. Prior to joining the WFP in 2018, she worked as a social protection consultant at Oxford Policy Management, a UK development consultancy, for over 10 years. She has worked on a wide range of issues relating to the design, implementation and

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monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes and national social protection strategies. As part of this, from 2014 to 2017, she led a three-year DFID-funded research project on Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems.



### **Dr Said Mirza Pahlevi**

Said Mirza Pahlevi joined the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in January 2017 as the Head of Center for Social Welfare Data and Information and is responsible for developing and maintaining Indonesia's Unified Database (UDB), including the Database for Social Assistance Programs. Before joining the MoSA, he worked at Statistics Indonesia where he led the development of several statistical databases and information systems. Prior to that, he was a Senior Research Scientist at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan, conducting research on web databases and machine learning fields.



### **Dr Stefano Paternostro**

Stefano Paternostro is the World Bank's Practice Manager of Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice in the South Asia Region. In this role, he oversees the World Bank's work on social safety nets, social insurance, labour market and job creation policies in the region. Previously, he was Practice Manager for the Africa region, and lead economist in the Middle East and North Africa region. Dr Paternostro's extensive experience and publications cover issues related to fiscal and redistribution policies, social protection, education, poverty and labour markets. He graduated from Sapienza University of Rome and holds an MSc and a PhD in Economics from Cornell University.



### **Bimal Paudel**

Bimal Paudel is Federal Project Coordinator of the National Federation of the Disabled, Nepal (NFDN). He has been working at NFDN for the last six years. He is also a disability rights activist and has been actively involved in various campaigns for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in Nepal for the last 12 years. He has a Master's degree in English. While with NFDN, he led projects such as the National Survey on Living Condition of Individual with Disabilities in Nepal, Accessibility Promotion, Strengthening the Advocacy Policy of NFDN, and Effective Implementation of UNCRPD, among others.



### **Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman**

Economist and social thinker, Hossain Zillur Rahman is a leading policy voice of Bangladesh. Holding a Masters in Economics (Dhaka University) and a PhD in Political Sociology (Manchester University), Dr Rahman is the founder-chairman of the think tank, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). He was Lead Consultant in the preparation of the poverty reduction strategy of the Government of Bangladesh (2005) and a member of the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation.

Dr Rahman was appointed Adviser (cabinet minister) in charge of the Ministries of Commerce and Education in the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh (2007-08) and was credited with a lead role in the successful return of Bangladesh to electoral democracy. He was recently elected Chair of the Governing Body of BRAC Bangladesh.

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Dr Rahman is the convener of civic platforms, Healthy Bangladesh and Safe Roads Transport Alliance, and was a key contributor to the recent adoption of the national social security strategy in Bangladesh. He has authored/edited *Rethinking Rural Poverty* (SAGE, 1995), *Social Protection in Bangladesh* (UPL, 2014), *The Urban Spectrum* (PPRC, 2016).



### **Rachel Slater**

Rachel Slater is a Professor of International Development at the Centre for International Development and Training at the University of Wolverhampton. She has more than 20 years of experience leading and delivering research and policy analysis projects in developing countries. She holds a PhD from the University of Manchester and has worked in numerous countries in Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Slater specialises in social protection, gender, conflict and fragility, food security, rural and urban livelihoods, rural development and agriculture. As Research Director of the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium, she led an interdisciplinary team of more than 80 qualitative and quantitative researchers exploring livelihoods, basic service delivery and governance in fragile and conflict-affected countries. She has worked with a wide range of government and donor agencies, NGOs and international organisations including DFID, World Bank, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IrishAid, NORAD, Concern Worldwide, CARE International, Oxfam and Save the Children.



### **Ermina Sokou**

Ermina Sokou is Social Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section of the Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok. She is responsible for the Division's work on measuring and addressing inequality, with a focus on inequality of opportunity and on promoting inclusive social protection systems. She has previously worked on environmental management and on programme management for the United Nations in Bangkok and in Beirut. She holds an MA in Economics from Tufts University and an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, also at Tufts University.



### **Dr Thomas Walker**

Thomas Walker is Senior Economist for Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice. He holds MA and PhD degrees in Economics from Cornell University, and a Bachelor of Economics (Hons I) degree from the University of New South Wales.

Dr Walker's work currently focuses on developing social protection systems to protect livelihoods and promote economic and social inclusion in Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Nepal. He conceived and led a multi-year study in Nepal on Household Risk and Vulnerability, based on a unique panel survey of rural households. He has previously worked on poverty and social protection in Bangladesh, Ghana, Morocco, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tunisia. An Australian national, Thomas joined the World Bank as a Young Professional in 2011. He previously worked for the Reserve Bank of Australia and Cornell University, and has published in peer-reviewed journals on informal support systems, social networks, agriculture and education investment, and economic modelling. His PhD dissertation was on informal support mechanisms and shocks in rural Ghana.

## Speakers

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### **Fathimath Yumna**

Fathimath Yumna has been a known figure advocating for women's development since 2005. Her passion to make a difference in the lives of women initiated while working as a civil servant under the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Service, Government of Maldives, taking up tasks at all levels of her career. Initially starting her work with the civil service of Maldives, she has participated in both international and national forums, representing the Government of Maldives, determined to raise a voice for the rights of women and their empowerment.

She won the Special Achievement Award in 2004 from the President of Maldives for outstanding academic performance overseas. She was also a recipient of the gold medal for outstanding academic performance at the 14th graduation ceremony of the International College of Rangsit University in Thailand in 2003.

Ms Yumna has facilitated leadership training and professional development training on women's empowerment and strategic planning in government institutions. She had travelled to almost all of the atolls of the Maldives, conducting workshops on women empowerment for Women's Development Committees. She was also actively engaged in the process of establishing decentralised social protection services in 19 Atolls of the Maldives.

From 2009 to 2011, she headed the Department of Gender, Family and Social Services, where she initiated, organised and facilitated several workshops, awareness programme on gender, child rights and other social issues falling under the mandate of the Department. She was actively engaged in Radiantheat Maldives Pvt Ltd (a pioneer in resort supplies in the Maldives) as General Manager from 2012 to 2019 and had contributed to the significant profit gained by the company during her tenure of six years.

Ms Yumna was appointed Deputy Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services in January 2019. In that role, she continues her passion in advocating for women's rights and empowerment along with the social development of the country.



### **Alexandra Yuster**

Alexandra Yuster is Associate Director, Programme Division, UNICEF HQ, leading UNICEF's work on social policy, which encompasses social protection. During her tenure the UNICEF social policy team contributed actively to the inclusion of children in SDG 1 on poverty and social protection, worked to advance the understanding and UNICEF's active engagement in the role of social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts, and launched an evidence-generation initiative around universal child grants with partners.

She served as the UNICEF Representative in Moldova from 2008 to 2013, and previously at HQ as well as UNICEF country offices in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and India. While in Moldova, UNICEF helped the government maintain and strengthen social protection during the economic crisis. At UNICEF HQ from 2003-2008, Ms Yuster was part of a multi-agency effort to advance child-sensitive social protection. During previous UNICEF postings, her work encompassed health, child protection, HIV and social policy. Born and raised in New York City, she holds a BA in Anthropology and a Master's in Public Health.

## Speakers

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### **Tahereh Zandi**

Tahereh Zandi is an international law expert, focusing on population and development issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran. She is also the MFA delegate at the National Committee Coordination for HIV/AIDS.

## Chairs

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### **Chandra Kumar Ghimire**

Chandra Kumar Ghimire is currently the Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. He has a career spanning 29 years in the Nepali administrative system. He had earlier served as the Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, the National Planning Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. He possesses rich experience acquired in the domain of trade policies, including bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations and trade system, during his tenure as both Secretary and Joint Secretary. He played significant roles to strengthening Nepal's trade and transit sectors as the Consul General of Nepal in Kolkata, India.

Mr Ghimire has been decorated with numerous awards and accolades, including the prestigious Suprabal Jana Sewashri Medal, for his remarkable contribution to public service. He has represented Nepal in various negotiations as well as international and national forums. He has an MPhil in Public Policy from the University of Bergen, Norway. He is a gold medalist in Master's of Public Administration from Tribhuvan University. He has attended a host of training programmes and courses, including at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and the University of York, where he was a Chevening Fellow.



### **Indu Ghimire**

Indu Ghimire is the Joint Secretary leading the Disaster and Conflict Management Division at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal. She has more than two decades' experience in the civil service, covering various portfolios. Ms Ghimire previously served as the Chief District Officer in Kapilvastu and Syangja. She has a Master's in Public Administration from Flinders University, Australia.



### **Usha Mishra Hayes**

18 years of experience in international development in senior management, policy analysis, research and advocacy gained with the UN, DFID, Oxfam GB and the Government of India. Worked as Chief of Social Policy with UNICEF (Cambodia, Tanzania, Afghanistan and Nepal), supporting ministers and top civil servants in reforming and strengthening national delivery systems in Asia and Africa. Awarded by the government of Cambodia for her work on social protection in ASEAN.

Key publication: Chapters in "From Safety Net to Safety Ladder", edited by David Hulme and Hossain Zillur Rehaman, Universal Press, 2014 and 'What works for the Poorest in Africa', Edited by David Hulme and David Lawson; Practical Publishing, 2017. Under Publication: 'Central Shift: A Ringside View of Policy Making', Palimpsest Publication, New Delhi.

## Chairs

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### **Dr Usha Jha**

Usha Jha is a member of National Planning Commission of Government of Nepal. She hails from the village of Madhawa in Mahottari District in Province 2. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Science, she started her career working with children in playgroups and taught English and Science to primary and secondary school students until she completed her Master's in Chemistry from Tribhuvan University in 1985. She then joined Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS) in Rampur, Chitwan, as a lecturer and continued there until 1995 before moving to head the IAAS campus in Lamjung.

After completing her term of four years, Dr Jha changed her career and moved into the development field, committing herself to work for women's economic empowerment. She worked with NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies, where she could gain experiences of working with women and the type of affirmative action needed to bring change in their lives. As she believes in the dictum 'dependency is not empowering', she has always worked with the savings-led approach with rural women while working for economic empowerment, linking it to entrepreneurship and access to finance.

During this journey, Dr Jha worked as a member of Civil Society Advisory Group to UN Women, a Think Tank member to Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare, President of the National NGOs Network against Aids in Nepal, member of the Country Coordinating Mechanism for The Global Fund, Grant Management Committee member for Program for Accountability in Nepal and Proposal Evaluation Committee member for SNV, among others. She has done several national and international project evaluations and also presented best practices in different international forums.



### **Binod KC**

Binod KC is Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Government of Nepal. His prior experience includes being Secretary in the Office of the President and the Public Procurement Monitoring Office. Mr KC has served in other government agencies, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the Financial Controller General's Office and the Department of Foreign Employment. His vast experience working in several government agencies gives him a holistic perspective on Nepal's development, the Government of Nepal's priorities and the roles of different government agencies.



### **Shreekrishna Nepal**

Shreekrishna Nepal is the Joint -Secretary and Chief of the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD) at the Ministry of Finance (MoF). He was with the Economic Policy Analysis Division of the MoF before being transferred to the IECCD. Mr Nepal has earlier also served as the Deputy Director General at the Department of Customs.



## Chairs

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### **Balananda Paudel**

Prior to joining at National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission (NNRFC) as its chairperson, Balananda Paudel was involved in various independent research and studies on matters ranging from education, personnel management to subnational governance. He has also been playing a prominent role in the discourse surrounding the institutionalisation of the federal structure in Nepal.

Most recently, he served as the Chairman of Commission for Determination of the Number and Boundaries of Rural Municipalities, Municipalities and Special, Protected or Autonomous Region (2016-17). The Commission was responsible for submitting a report to the Government of Nepal to determine the number and boundaries of rural municipalities and municipalities.

Mr Paudel worked as a bureaucrat with the Government of Nepal (1988-2012). During this time, he served as the Secretary of various sectoral ministries from 2006-2012, namely, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of General Administration, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. During this time, his work was focused on initiating sectoral reforms to strengthen existing systems and procedures, and also to introduce newer programmes to ensure an efficient bureaucracy. He has acted as the chairperson of various government-owned or -funded entities like Nepal Electricity Authority, Janak Education Material Center, Nepal Stock Exchange, Budhanilkantha School and the founder chairperson of Hydroelectricity Investment and Development Company Ltd.

Mr Paudel holds a Master's degree in public administration and a Bachelor's degree in law.



### **Dr Kushum Shakya**

Kushum Shakya is currently the Head of the Central Department of Economics at Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She had earlier served as the Director of Quality Assurance and Accreditation at the University Grants Commission of Nepal. She has carried out several research projects as a team leader, gender expert, socio-economist, senior social development expert, research fellow, coordinator, project chief, and as a national consultant. Professor Shakya has a Master's degree in Demography from the Australian National University and a PhD in Economics from Tribhuvan University. Her areas of specialisation are demography, economics, gender, and quality assurance and accreditation.

## Showcase

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### **Anowarul Haq**

Anowarul Haq is presently working as Social Development Adviser in DFID Bangladesh. He has more than 20 years of work experience in the development field. He is an expert on social protection work. His primary area of interest is developing programmes that address inequalities and build resilience of marginalised communities to cope with shocks and stresses. He has intensive experience with community-led total development approach, pro-poor and inclusive development with local government and influencing policies.

Mr Haq is a member of the Extreme Poverty Resilience and Climate Change Team of DFID Bangladesh and works as the office lead for social protection work. He is also a member of Disability Inclusion Core Team of DFID Bangladesh. Before joining DFID Bangladesh, he worked with CARE Bangladesh as Director for Extreme Rural Poverty Programme. He holds a Master's in English Literature from Jahangirnagar University.



### **Do Thi Thanh Huyen**

Do Thi Thanh Huyen currently holds the position of Deputy Head of Social Protection Policy Department. She has served with the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Vietnam, since 2003. Her responsibilities include working as a researcher and senior official in the field of social protection policy and advising on the design and implementation of policy for social assistance for vulnerable groups such as children in special circumstances, older people, people with disabilities and the poor. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics and an MSc in Regional and Rural Development Planning.



### **Predrag Savic**

Predrag Savic works as an Associate Social Affairs Officer at the Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), based in Bangkok. He is part of the Socioeconomic Transformation Section, focusing on social protection and inequality of opportunity in Asia and the Pacific. He holds two Master's degrees in Economic Development and Growth from the University of Warwick and Lund University, followed by experience in socioeconomic research, including data collection and data analysis in topics relating to inequality and poverty.

## Presenters

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### **Sanghamitra Ghosh**

Sanghamitra Ghosh is an Indian Administrative Service Officer of the 1997 batch. She has served in various capacities, including District Magistrates of various districts and has served as the Mission Director of the National Health Mission in the State of West Bengal. Currently, she is the Secretary, Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal and the Vice-Chairperson of the West Bengal Clinical Establishments Regulatory Commission.



### **Preksha Golchha**

Preksha Golchha is a Lead Social Policy Advisor at the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), a global research institute based in Cape Town, South Africa. She has nine years of experience working in social policy, and specialises in vulnerability assessments, systems review and designing, monitoring and evaluating social protection systems, programmes and policies. Her experience in these areas includes work in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Ms Golchha has co-ordinated and co-led the team implementing the integrated qualitative-quantitative impact assessment of the Child Support Grant in Thailand, and she has implemented both impact evaluations and ex-ante assessments of social protection programmes in other countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. She is currently co-leading vulnerability assessments in four countries and has completed similar work in three countries before this. She has co-led research on child-sensitive social protection programming for national policies and strategies in several countries. She regularly presents on child and adolescent sensitive programming in courses on social protection in South Africa and Thailand.

Her current work focuses on programming for adolescents and early childhood development—understanding age-specific risks and vulnerabilities as they affect children and adolescents and investigating ways to best address these through evidence-based, integrated and comprehensive social protection programming.



### **Dr Somchai Jitsuchon**

Somchai Jitsuchon is currently a Research Director of Inclusive Development at the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). He specialises in macroeconomic policies, macroeconomic modelling (computable general equilibrium models and econometric models), theories and empirical applications of poverty and income distribution, inclusive growth, social protection and welfare system. His past experiences include being a visiting researcher at the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), Tokyo, Japan; and special lecturer at various leading universities and public agencies in Thailand. He has served in many government and private committees and director boards, including currently as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee and the National Reform Committee on Health. Dr Somchai received his doctorate in Economics from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

## Presenters

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### **Dr Michael Samson**

Michael Samson is the Research Director of the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), a global research institute based in Cape Town, South Africa. He has 34 years of experience working in social protection, and specialises in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection systems, programmes and policies, and his experience in these areas includes work in 41 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific as well as many related books, journal articles and other publications.

Dr Samson co-ordinated and co-led the team implementing the South African government's first integrated qualitative-quantitative impact assessment of the Child Support Grant, and he has implemented both impact assessments and ex ante evaluations of social protection programmes in other countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, including a recently completed evaluation of Thailand's Child Support Grant. He led a nation-wide audit of South Africa's Early Childhood Development (ECD) system and has researched extensively the linkages between ECD and social protection. He was the lead author of the policy guide, 'Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes', and wrote the OECD's policy guidance on social protection, and he convenes courses annually in South Africa, Thailand and Kenya on this topic, and is convening a Sida-funded 'International Training Programme in Social Protection for Sustainable Development' in 10 countries.

Dr Samson's current research focuses on how comprehensive social protection reinforces cross-sectoral public investments in 'cognitive capital' and strengthens early childhood development, enabling governments to deliver human rights while building the foundations for equitable economic growth. With a PhD in Economics from Stanford University, he lectures at policy conferences and training workshops around the world. He is also on the economics faculty at the Williams College Center for Development Economics in the United States.

## Researchers

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### **Dr Santosh Adhikari**

Santosh Adhikari completed his PhD in economics from Indiana University Bloomington in 2018. His specialisations lie in economic growth and development, public economics and computational macroeconomics. His research so far has touched on the impact of sub-national institutions and regulation on growth as well as effectiveness of foreign aid. His current research range from structural transformation to inclusive economic development. Previously, he worked in the energy sector after completing his engineering from the Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk Campus, Kathmandu.



### **Dr Jeevan Baniya**

Jeevan Baniya is Assistant Director of Social Science Baha. He received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Oslo, Norway and an MA from Ajou University, South Korea. He is also a visiting faculty at Tribhuvan University. He has been involved in several research related to social policies, labour and migration, state-society relations, GESI, governance, disaster, etc.



### **Dyuti Baral**

Dyuti Baral has a Master's in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a non-degree certification in Human Resource Management from the University of Washington–Seattle. As a sociologist, she has provided leadership in managing projects funded by USAID (such as the Girls and Women's Education), and the US Department of Labor (such as Child Labor Elimination Project targeting worst forms of child labor). She has worked with New ERA in the World Bank-administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund Project entitled 'Program for Accountability in Nepal' (PRAN). Currently an Executive Committee member in Social Science Baha, Ms Baral is also an alumnae of the Fulbright and Humphrey Fellowship programmes and has been invited as a panelist for several US Scholarship Selection processes in Nepal. She has more than a decade of experience as a management professional and has worked in ActionAid and Plan International Nepal as the Human Resource and Organizational Development Manager. She has provided consultancy services as an HR Expert to the World Bank-funded RWSSP, World Neighbors, NEWAH, New ERA, Governance Facility, Abt Associates, NMB, Ncell, Dan Church Aid.

Ms Baral has been invited to provide support in HR-related assignments to Uganda, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. She has designed training programmes, led and facilitated comprehensive salary surveys, provided oversight to grievance management committees, and enabled talent management for succession and leadership planning. She Baral is a former member of the faculty of the Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tribhuvan University, and is currently an Adjunct Faculty at the South Asian Institute of Management where she takes courses in Business Research Methodology, Cross-Cultural Communications and Negotiations, Performance Management and Thesis Writing.



### **Anisha Bhattarai**

Anisha Bhattarai is a Research Associate at Social Science Baha. She received a Master's degree in anthropology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She has been involved in research in areas such as migration, gender-based violence, labour management, social protection and disaster. She is interested in the areas of gender, culture, environment, health and education.

## Researchers

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### **Dr Pinaki Chakraborty**

Pinaki Chakraborty is currently Chief, Social Policy Chennai, UNICEF. He has around 20 years of research experience in the areas of fiscal federalism, tax policy and resource mobilisation, applied macroeconomics, public expenditure management, decentralisation, gender and fiscal policy and human development financing.

Until most recently, Dr Chakraborty served as a Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi. He also served as the Chairman, Kerala Public Expenditure Review Committee—a statutory body appointed by the Government of Kerala; Member, Advisory Council to the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India; and Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute, New York. From May 2013 to December 2014, he served as Chief Economic Adviser to the 14th Finance Commission of India, heading its Economic Analysis and Technical Coordination Division. He also served as a member of the Third Union Territory Finance Commission, appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and as a Consultant to the Eleventh Finance Commission of India.

In 2012–13, at the request of the UN Millennium Campaign, UNDP–Kenya, Dr Chakraborty actively engaged with the Kenyan Commission on Revenue Allocation in reviewing its first-generation formulation for revenue allocation under the 2010 Constitution of Kenya. Also, as a consultant to the Asian Development Bank, he advised the Governments of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan on macro fiscal management in 2017 and 2018, respectively. He also collaborated with the ADB, IMF-SARTTAC and Forum of Federation–Ottawa in various policy dialogues and knowledge networking exercises to help the Government of Nepal in operationalising the intergovernmental fiscal transfer mechanism after the transition to federal system of governance.

Dr Chakraborty holds an MA in Economics from North Bengal University, and an MPhil in Applied Economics and a PhD in Economics from the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala. He has written extensively on fiscal issues, macroeconomic management, federalism and decentralisation.



### **Martin Evans**

Martin Evans is a Senior Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute, London. His experience crosses industrialised and developing countries and has involved research and consultancy for a large range of funders, including the European Commission, Rowntree and Nuffield Foundations, The World Bank and UNDP.



### **Dr Anita Ghimire**

Anita Ghimire has a PhD in Human and Natural Resource Studies from University of Zurich and Kathmandu University. She is the director of Nepal Institute for Social and Environmental Research and course instructor for Masters degree course on migration and social inclusion at Purbanchal University, College of Development Studies. Her research expertise are on social norms, youth and adolescents, poverty, migration, and social protection.



### **Yangchen Dolker Gurung**

Yangchen Dolker Gurung is a Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM), Social Science Baha. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. In her capacity as a Research Associate at CESLAM, she has worked on projects

## Researchers

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related to social inclusion, social protection policies and minority rights. Her interests include environment, community resources, migration, gender studies, and inclusion.



### **Rebecca Holmes**

Rebecca Holmes is a Research Associate at the Overseas Development Institute, London. She specialises in social protection, gender and livelihoods. With a geographical focus on South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, her recent research includes leading studies on gender and social protection effectiveness, women's economic empowerment and leadership, and the effects of social protection on social inclusion and cohesion.



### **Dr K. Jafar**

K. Jafar is Assistant Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. He completed his doctoral research from the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, and Post-Doctoral research from the Council for Social Development-Hyderabad (ICSSR-PDF). Earlier, Dr Jafar worked at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Hyderabad, CSD-Hyderabad, Azim Premji University-Bangalore and CDS-Thiruvananthapuram. His research interests are in development with a focus on its link with education, labour migration, financial inclusion, local planning, informality, IPRs and gender. His publications include Education, Migration and Human Development: Kerala Experience (Rawat, 2018) and papers that have appeared in Oxford Development Studies, Social Change, Journal of Social Inclusion Studies, Journal of Health Management and Social Science in Perspective.



### **Tara Kanel**

Tara Kanel is currently associated with Niti Foundation as a strategic advisory group member, looking after the 'Addressing Marginalization and Vulnerability' thematic area. She holds two graduate degrees—a Master's of Law from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and a Master's of Social Policy from the University of Melbourne in Australia. She has over 15 years' experience in research and the deployment sector, particularly in the areas of social protection, governance, gender and social inclusion, and child protection, focusing on child labour. Ms Kanel has published several articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals on numerous social issues including social protection. Her publications in 2019 include 'What are the impacts of the child grant policy in Nepal on Dalit women? A qualitative analysis', published in Gender, Technology and Development, and 'Policy Landscape of Social Protection in Nepal', a report published by Niti Foundation.



### **Dr Sujeet Karn**

Sujeet Karn has obtained a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Hull, UK. Currently, he is working as a Research Fellow at the Policy Research Institute of the Government of Nepal. He is a lead researcher on Social Inclusion and Development at the institute. His research focuses on the anthropology of violence, social inclusion/exclusion, death and bereavement, borderland livelihoods and security in South Asia, and everyday religion in the Himalayas.

Previously, Dr Karn worked as a senior researcher for an ESRC-funded research project, 'Borderlands, Brokers and Peace Building in Sri Lanka and Nepal: War to Peace Transitions Viewed from the Margins', jointly implemented by the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University and Martin Chautari in Nepal. He also contributes as an adjunct faculty at the Social Work Programme at the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS), Tribhuvan University.

## Researchers

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Dr Karn has worked as a development professional and research consultant for various national and international NGOs and has written and published in academic journals and simultaneously on various social and political issues in national dailies in Nepal.



### **Dr Mahendra Lawoti**

Mahendra Lawoti obtained a BTech in Architectural Engineering (1990) from the National Institute of Technology, Kerala, India; a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning (1997) from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a PhD in Public and International Affairs (2002) from the University of Pittsburgh, USA. After teaching a year each at the Western Michigan University (WMU) and Wake Forest University, he joined the Department of Political Science, WMU in 2005 as an assistant professor, became an associate professor in 2008 and professor in 2011.

Dr Lawoti's teaching and research interests include international development, democratisation, ethnic politics, political exclusion/inclusion, and political institutions (federalism, constitutionalism). He has authored, co-authored, edited and co-edited 10 books and published numerous journal articles, book chapters and opinion pieces. *Towards a Democratic Nepal* (Sage, 2005) saw multiple reprints and translation into Nepali in 2007. His recent books include *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict in Nepal* (Routledge, 2012) and *Government and Politics in South Asia* (Westview Press, 2013), and *Sanghiyata and Samriddhi* (forthcoming). He has also regularly contributed opinion pieces to media outlets in Nepal and India. He served two terms as the president of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (2006-2010) and two terms as Associate Fellow of the Asia Society (2006-2012). He has conducted fieldwork in Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, delivered lectures/papers in various countries in South Asia, East Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East, and North America, and spoken to the media from around the world.



### **Dr Sanjaya Mahato**

Sanjaya Mahato is a political sociologist by training who received his doctorate from the Graduate School for Social Research (GSSR), Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences (IFIS PAN), Warsaw. He has experience on a cross-national research project related to election, political parties and political participation in Central and Eastern Europe and Nepal. His doctoral research was on 'Ethnicity, Political Party and Voters' Alignments: A Case of Democratic Elections after 1999'. He has contributed to international peer-reviewed journals and an edited volume. His research interests include ethnicity, political parties, political participation, governance, gender and political big data. Currently, he is involved in research on Post-Legislative Scrutiny, Women's Participation in the Local Bodies, Political History of Tharu and Tarai and Education Policies of Nepal.



### **Nicholas Mathers**

Nicholas Mathers is a PhD candidate with the Department of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. His thesis is a mixed-methods study exploring the effects of a state cash transfer programme on the life-course circumstances of adolescents in Nepal. From 2015 to 2017, he was social policy specialist with UNICEF Nepal, primarily working on the post-earthquake emergency top-up cash transfers programme and expansion strategies for the child grant. He was previously social protection programme manager at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and worked for several years in humanitarian response. He holds an MSc in poverty reduction from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and has several publications on social protection related to child grants, targeting, food security and economic growth.



## Researchers

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### **Sita Nepali**

Sita Nepali is a Research Associate at Social Science Baha. She holds a Master's degree in English literature from Tribhuvan University and is currently pursuing a second Master's degree in Public Administration. She has been involved in projects related to social inclusion, mental health and psychosocial support, labour migration, disaster impacts and emergency relief response. Her primary research interest is in qualitative research studies, mostly in the sector of social inclusion, ethnic relations, labour migration, gender and minority issues.



### **Dr Lokranjan Parajuli**

Lokranjan Parajuli is Senior Researcher at Martin Chautari, an academic NGO based in Kathmandu. He is also an Adjunct Faculty at the Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University. He has edited/co-edited half a dozen books, and his articles have appeared in academic journals, edited volumes, and mainstream Nepali newspapers. He is one of the editors of the journals Studies in Nepali History and Society and Samaj Adhyayan.



### **Akila Radhakrishnan**

Akila Radhakrishnan is Social Policy Specialist (Education) for UNICEF in the two states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, India. She engages in creative social development work, and has designed and contributed to innovative pilots, research and programmes that have brought in new policies and programmes for children and adolescents in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Prior to joining UNICEF, she worked in academic institutions, several bilateral and multilateral organisations, and NGOs in India and abroad. In education, her work during the Education for All movement, the process evaluation of Activity Based-Learning for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan ('A Trigger for Change in Primary Education'), and the first model perspective plan for Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) have been widely recognised. She has a few writings in books and journals. She holds a doctorate in sociology which focused on establishing the interplay of caste and gender in education from a socio-historical perspective. She also held a post-doctoral Ford Foundation Fellowship.



### **Prem Kumar Rasaili**

Prem Kumar Rasaili is a Section Officer with the Government of Nepal with several years of experience in the Office of Social Security Fund, an office with the responsibility to formulate, execute and evaluate the social security policy in Nepal. He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Flinders University, South Australia, an MA in Economics, and a BA(LLB) from Tribhuvan University. His research interests are social protection, gender mainstreaming, poverty and their relationships, and he is very keen to collaborate with experts, researchers, international organisations and others who have similar interests.



### **Rupesh Kumar Sah**

Rupesh Kumar Sah holds a graduate degree in Public Administration from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. Mr Sah is an undersecretary of Government of Nepal, currently working in the Office of the Chief Minister of Province 2. He worked in the federal parliament of Nepal for seven years, particularly in the Delegated Legislation Committee. He has many experiences in facilitating and documentation on public policymaking in the parliament. His research interests include post-legislative scrutiny, involvement of civil society in public policymaking, political parties, and governance.

## Researchers

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### **Fiona Samuels**

Fiona Samuels is a Senior Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute, London. She is a social anthropologist with extensive research experience crossing the fields of public health and social development in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. She currently focuses on linkages between health, poverty, risk and vulnerability with a particular interest in gender, adolescence, social protection and psychosocial well-being.



### **Dristy Shrestha**

As a Senior Associate with the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, Ms Shrestha provides technical assistance to governments and NGOs implementing graduation programmes worldwide and supports research, advocacy, and knowledge management around the Graduation Approach. Currently, she is providing technical support to the governments of Kenya and the Philippines and their partners on the design, implementation, and evaluation of graduation pilots.

Previously, Ms Shrestha was a Consultant at the World Bank's country office in Nepal within the social protection unit, where she conducted field research to investigate factors affecting under-coverage of eligible beneficiaries to social protection allowances. She has extensive fieldwork and consulting experience in Nepal and elsewhere. She has worked as technical officer at Root Change, where she supported the design and implementation of various development projects in Mexico, Nepal and Nigeria. She holds a Master's of Arts in Law and Diplomacy, with a certificate in International Development, focusing on Social and Political Change, from The Fletcher School at Tufts University, and a bachelor's in Psychology and Economics from Middlebury College.



### **Dogendra Tumsa (Limbu)**

Tumsa holds an MSc in statistics from the Central Department of Statistics, Tribhuvan University. Currently, he works as a statistician for the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility at Social Science Baha, and has been involved in many projects collaborating with organisations and academic institutions such as UNDP, AmeriCares, The Asia Foundation, and VSO.



### **John Twigg**

John Twigg is a Principal Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute, London. He joined ODI in October 2016 as Senior Research Fellow in the Risk and Resilience programme, following more than 25 years working on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and international development as an academic researcher, independent consultant and in the NGO sector.



### **Chandra Upadhyay**

Chandra Upadhyay is Lecturer and Head of Department of Sociology at Mahendra Morang Adarsh Multiple Campus of Tribhuvan University (TU) in Biratnagar, Nepal. He has an MA in Sociology, MA in Political Science and an LLB from TU. He is a final-year PhD student in Guwahati University, India. His research has focused on social and cultural inclusion, gender studies, human rights, identity issues, federalism, democracy and good governance with publications in various national and international journals besides regularly writing articles for newspapers in Nepal. He is an active member of the Nepal Sociological Association (NSA) and a member of the Irish Association of South Asian Studies (IASAS), Dublin City University. He has also contributed to the Election Assistance Project with the United Nation's Mission in

## Researchers

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Nepal (UNMIN), Election Observation Project with The Carter Center, and Youth and Women Entrepreneurship Project in Nepal with the International Development Institute (IDI), Washington DC.



### **Lauren Whitehead**

As Director of Technical Assistance at BRAC USA, Lauren Whitehead manages a talented technical team to design and deliver high-quality technical assistance, advisory services, and policy advocacy to clients including governments, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral institutions, and international NGOs. Currently, Ms Whitehead provides critical expertise to the design and implementation of technical assistance contracts integrating economic inclusion and social protection with the Governments of the Philippines, Rwanda, and Lesotho; oversees donor and client relationship cultivation with multilateral and bilateral institutions; leads business development strategy and client and partner acquisition; and acts as an external representative in relevant global fora, including the United Nations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and before national governments.

Prior to joining BRAC USA, she had been seconded to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Ecuador to facilitate baseline evaluation and launch of a graduation programme targeting refugees, now scaled nationally and expanding throughout UNHCR's global portfolio. Lauren holds a Master's from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Global Human Development, with certificates in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies and Global Social Enterprise and Development, and a Bachelor's from Princeton University.

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