



on this, work on land rights in Nepal, empowerment through micro-finance linked with HIV/AIDS prevention in South Africa. We've begun to collect some interesting ideas for what to do, including focusing more on training and enabling people to generate and use relevant sex-disaggregated data. We need to keep these ideas coming, but we'll focus on the action agenda in the last segment of our e-discussion, where we will get to what we can do about the poverty problems we have identified.

### **Launch of Second Phase**

So what's next? We're going to move to the second phase of our e-discussion, in which we want to address specific institutional responses to poverty. We want to build on the conversation we have started on conditional cash transfers, by looking at social security and social assistance programs, as one important mechanism for tackling poverty, as several of your postings have already suggested in the first phase.

We know from ILO and other data that very few people benefit from adequate social security, while half of the world's population lives without any social security protection. Social protection is provided through various instruments such as cash transfers, pensions, child care, social services, and various subsidies.

Here are the set of question for this week:

**What kind of social assistance/benefits and protection programs (such as cash transfers or other social benefits) are provided by your government?**

In answering this question, please provide concrete information on the objectives of these programs and, where possible, the extent to which these target or reach poor women.

**How have the recent economic crisis affected the provision of these programmes and what changes have occurred that might affect their sustainability.**

**To what extent have these programmes helped to transform gender relations.**

This is a big topic. In the interest of not asking too many questions, let's start and address the first question for the next 2 or 3 days, and then explore other aspects of the social security issue outlined in question two and three. We would ask you keep your answers focused.

Keep the messages and good ideas coming.

Best,

Mark Blackden

