



UNRISD

UNITED NATIONS
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

Research
for Social
Change



ABOUT UNRISD

The **United Nations Research Institute for Social Development** (UNRISD) is an autonomous research institute within the UN system that is on a mission to address the social dimensions of contemporary development issues. Since 1963, we have asked the difficult questions on neglected issues in development processes—about power, politics and distribution. We work with a global network to undertake cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and policy analysis. Our ultimate goal is to support transformative change through positioning equity, inclusion and justice at the centre of sustainable development policy and practice.

WHAT WE DO

TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH



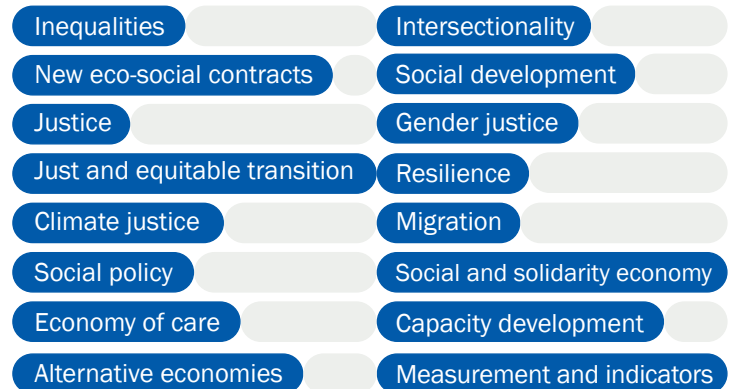
Produce policy-relevant, cutting-edge research, evidence, analysis, knowledge and ideas that put understanding and addressing root causes and drivers of inequality at the centre of sustainable development.

GLOBAL SOUTH EXPERTISE



Call on, amplify and enhance the knowledge and expertise of global South researchers through co-designing and co-producing interdisciplinary research to bring a plurality of perspectives and knowledge to UN processes and global policy-making and development.

OUR PRIORITY CONCERNS



CONVENING POWER



Use our unique position in the UN system to convene and catalyse knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary engagement and constructive debate, bridging the academic, policy, practitioner and activist communities in the global North and South.

POLICY RELEVANCE



Communicate research innovatively to ensure our work informs and is informed by those driving social change and the norms, policies and practices of sustainable development.

UNRISD IN NUMBERS

441

Network members **56%** women

82

Countries represented

45% network from global South

65

Research outputs

77% relevant for LICs/LDCs

61k publication downloads

311

Interdisciplinary events

51% invited speakers from global South

88% with UN, civil society or multi-sectoral partner

Data from 2024

OUR PARTNERS*



aecid



FINNISH
GOVERNMENT



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



KOICA
Korea International
Cooperation Agency



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Korea



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Robert Bosch
Stiftung



정몽구 재단
Chung Mong-Koo Foundation



CSES
Center for
Social & Policy
Research



IDRC - CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches internationales



INMUJERES
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LAS MUJERES



Ford
Foundation



OECD
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



ROCKEFELLER
Foundation



JUST
TRANSITION
FUND



ROSA
LUXEMBURG
STIFTUNG



UNDP
United Nations Development Programme



WOMEN
UN Women



MBC
Media Business Corporation



GCRF
Global Challenges
Research Fund
via Coventry University



Hes-SO
Haute école de
socialisme
Université de la région de la Vallée de Joux



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



FVO
Foreign & Commonwealth
Office



ILO
International Labour
Organization



unicef
United Nations Children's
Fund



WFP
World Food
Programme



Supporting socialprotection.org



Supporting socialprotection.org



Supporting socialprotection.org

* UNRISD is financially independent of the United Nations general budget. Through this, we maintain our autonomy to undertake independent progressive research and provide a neutral ground for policy discussion. Recent funding partners include cooperation agencies, foundations, NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector. For a full list of donors and partners, visit www.unrisd.org/funding.

OUR STRATEGY



Our research programmes are guided by the 2021–2025 institutional strategy, *Overcoming Inequalities: Towards a New Eco-Social Contract*. With this strategy, we are sounding the call for a new eco-social contract for people and planet, based on the values of human rights, justice, sustainability, and solidarity.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Global	●	●	●	●	●
Asia and the Pacific	●	●			
Middle East and North Africa			●		
Sub-Saharan Africa	●	●	●		
Latin America and the Caribbean	●	●	●		



Transformative Social Policy

Promoting universal, rights-based social policy as a driving force for inclusive and sustainable development

Through this programme, we analyse the drivers and actors in social policy reforms and adopt an integrated approach on the financing of and investments in social policies. The programme examines the root causes of poverty, inequality and social exclusion and the role universal and rights-based social policy plays for sustainable development, social justice and social cohesion. Our work on migration and displacement is also housed in this programme, producing policy-relevant research on South-South migration and migration governance.



Gender Justice and Development

Researching the most pressing social issues and transforming policies to advance gender justice

UNRISD has pioneered innovative approaches in the economy of care since developing the “diamond of care” concept in 2007, significantly shaping care policies. Today the GJD Programme works to expand the conceptual boundaries of care by exploring its intersections with critical contemporary issues and amplifying feminist and grassroots voices from the global South. Our work integrates feminist perspectives into global dialogues, promoting transformative change and inclusive policies. We focus on the climate and care nexus, reshaping gender norms, countering anti-gender backlash, and advancing LGBTQIA+ rights.



Alternative Economies for Transformation

Building better economic alternatives for a fair and sustainable future

Work in this programme answers the urgent call for rigorous research, evidence, analysis, models and tools toward a more just, fair and sustainable future. The programme focuses on the social and solidarity economy (SSE), which has the potential to support more inclusive and sustainable development. Our research also considers innovative and authentic approaches to measuring and reporting on sustainability—whether in large corporations or SSE entities. At the project level, we produce evidence on integrated approaches to development, in particular in fragile and conflict-affected regions.



Environmental and Climate Justice

Assessing and addressing justice dimensions of environmental and climate change

We approach environmental and climate change as rights issues, aiming to produce evidence, analysis and recommendations foregrounding linkages between social, climate and environmental justice. Our work in this area considers energy just transition and climate change resilience. Together with our partners, we aim to codify what good just transitions are amid growing dilution and weakening of the concept by corporate and other elite interests. The programme further strengthens the understanding and application of resilience thinking in the context of multiple, interlinked shocks and crises.



Translating Research into Policy and Practice

Sharing knowledge, building capacities and fostering partnerships for sustainable development

Located strategically in Bonn, a hub for the UN's climate and sustainability efforts, this programme identifies knowledge gaps and needs related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We work with partners in the UN and Bonn ecosystems and beyond to leverage our research to empower policy makers, development practitioners and activists on the implementation of the SDGs. We also co-coordinate the Global Research and Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract, a progressive global alliance exploring a new eco-social contract as a response to the current pressing social and ecological challenges.

OUR PROJECTS

- Migration for Development and Equality (MIDEQ) Hub
- Paving the Road to the Second World Summit for Social Development
- Socialprotection.org
- World Social Work Day at the United Nations Office at Geneva

- The Care Economy
- Climate and Care Nexus
- Feminist Foreign and Development Policy
- Cultural Change and Caring Masculinities
- Gender and LGBTQIA+ Backlash

- Sustainable Development Performance Indicators (SDPI)
- Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)
- Life Economies for Sustainable Development
- International Forum “We, the Youth”
- Advanced Programme on Human Rights and Sustainable Development (APOHS)

- Just Transition Research Collaborative—Assessing Just Energy Transition Partnerships in the Context of Multilateral Climate Policy
- State of Resilience in Africa
- Network for Equity in Transitions from Fossil Fuels
- Global Just Transition

- Integrating Knowledge and Capacity Development for the SDGs
- Global Research and Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract (GRAN-ESC)

www.unrisd.org/tsp
www.unrisd.org/gjd
www.unrisd.org/ae4t
www.unrisd.org/ecj
www.unrisd.org/trpp

UNRISD

 UNITED NATIONS
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

**Partner
with us**
www.unrisd.org
info.unrisd@un.org
