



Second World Summit for Social Development

Accelerating Inclusive Social Development through AI-enabled Evidence and Evaluation Synthesis

6 November 2025, 17.00-18.30 AST, Virtual

**Organized by: UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, UN Women,
UNESCO, Wellcome Trust**

Background on the event

This Solutions Session explored how AI-enabled evidence and evaluation synthesis can accelerate progress on social development priorities by improving timeliness, credibility, and accessibility of evidence for decision-making. The session showcased the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition's work, including findings from its first synthesis under the People Pillar on social assistance interventions, and introduced the Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative (ESIC), which aims to build global infrastructure for living, AI-enabled syntheses.

Key Issues discussed

- Need for timely, credible, and user-focused evidence to inform policy- and decision-making and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.
- Crucial role of evidence synthesis in transforming scattered data and evidence into actionable insights for complex evidence-informed decisions.
- Findings from the People Pillar synthesis on social assistance interventions (vouchers and in-kind transfers) and their impact on SDGs 1–5.
- Importance of gender-responsive and age-responsive interventions, and evidence gaps for persons with disabilities and multi-vulnerable households.
- Foundational investments by ESIC:

- sectoral hubs (including one on social protection) producing radically more timely, relevant and affordable evidence syntheses;
- regional hubs supporting evidence intermediaries working at country level;
- an open data system to support the sharing and reusing of synthesis data and evidence.
- Equity concerns in AI adoption and the need for inclusive infrastructure and capacity sharing.

Key recommendations for action

- Utilize evidence synthesis to deliver localized, actionable insights for policymakers and leverage and strengthen evidence synthesis infrastructure to connect global evidence with national decision-making.
- Support UN evaluation offices in producing and using evidence syntheses to inform social development decisions and foster evidence use across the UN system.
- Prioritize equity and inclusion in AI tools and synthesis processes, since AI can amplify existing language and cultural biases, leading to responses that fail to reflect the lived realities of marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- For Social Assistance initiatives:
 - Target women and youth with bundled social assistance programs (e.g., vocational training + financial support + childcare) to enhance employment and income opportunities, reducing poverty and improving household welfare.
 - Invest in skills development and structural support (transport subsidies, psychosocial services) to enable vulnerable groups—especially women, adolescents, and persons with disabilities—to access formal employment and decent work.
 - Design inclusive social assistance systems by addressing barriers for multi-vulnerable households and persons with disabilities, ensuring accessibility, equity, and cultural responsiveness in program delivery and AI-enabled evidence tools.