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Short Bio

Michael Samson is the Research Director of the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), a global research institute with offices in Thailand, South Africa, Ethiopia, Belgium and the United States. He has 34 years of experience working in social protection, and specialises in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes and policies, with a focus on developmental initiatives (including labour markets and public works). His experience in these areas includes work in 41 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific as well as many related publications, including with South Africa's EPWP, Tanzania's Social Action Fund (TASAF) public works programme, Bangladesh's BRAC's "graduation" livelihoods programme and others. Michael has implemented both impact assessments and *ex ante* evaluations of social protection, livelihoods and public employment programmes in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, including an ongoing evaluation of Thailand's Child Support Grant. He was the lead author of the policy guide *Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes*, which included a chapter on public works, he wrote the OECD's policy guidance on social protection and employment, and he convenes courses annually in South Africa, Thailand and Kenya on this topic. His current research focuses on how comprehensive social protection strengthens cross-sectoral public investments delivering inclusive social development and equitable economic growth. Michael 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, and he has a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.