Well-designed social protection and social services can narrow gender gaps in poverty rates; enhance women’s income security and access to personal income; provide a lifeline for poor women, especially single mothers; and contribute to the reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work.

*Public works or Employment Guarantee Schemes are not strictly speaking social transfers, since the cash benefit is usually conceived of as a wage in exchange for work participation. However, because they aim to fulfil a similar role as traditional unemployment benefits—namely enhancing income security among the unemployed—they are treated under the category of social transfers in this chapter.