

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF POOR PEOPLE IN NEED OF HEALTH PROTECTION



International
Labour
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PROVIDING INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO HEALTH PROTECTION: COVERING THE VULNERABLE AND POOR

The aim of universal health protection is to provide equitable access to health care to all in need. However, the ILO World Social Protection Report 2014/15 revealed the following facts:

- ▶ More than 90 per cent of the population living in low income countries lack health coverage.
- ▶ Globally, some 40 per cent of total health expenditures are shouldered directly by the poor.
- ▶ A global shortfall of 7 million health workers in rural areas largely excludes poor rural populations from receiving quality care when in need.

Thus, the poor and vulnerable populations are largely excluded from health protection and, in cases of sickness, exposed to a high risk of deepened impoverishment. Furthermore, the poor are deprived of their human rights to health and social protection, exposing them to unnecessary suffering and even death.

However, 88 countries globally have proved that equitable health protection is feasible and affordable. Health protection requires inclusive legislation, financial protection, the employment of sufficient numbers of skilled health workers, and a broader policy framework that addresses the root causes of poverty and vulnerability both within and beyond the health sector.

PROGRESSING TOWARDS EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH PROTECTION

The ILO's Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) offers such a framework. It provides guidance on universal health protection policies that are inclusive, rights-based, and have the potential to achieve equity in access to health care. Progressing towards universal health protection requires:

- ▶ in-depth assessments of the root causes of access



deficits;

- ▶ global, regional, and national evidence of the extent of coverage gaps;
- ▶ comprehensive policy frameworks that address the issues both within and beyond the health sector in a coordinated way; and
- ▶ support for the implementation of universal health protection in a selected number of countries.

MAKING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE A REALITY FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

“ Each disease is painful. However, it is even more painful if you are poor: I do not have enough money to pay doctors or drugs – my money is not even enough to feed my wife and my children. Since I had to stop working because of my sickness, my children had to stop going to school. I do not know if they worked or begged, but they did not bring enough money and we had to sell our animals. After some weeks we were all driven into despair given the high costs of my treatment and the loss of income.

A poor tuberculosis patient, Myanmar, 2014.

ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE HEALTH PROTECTION COVERAGE

The ILO and its UN partners have a great deal of experience in working as One and supporting countries to provide and extend social health protection to all in need.

With your support, we can help to ensure that more poor people across the globe are covered by health protection and have access to health care when in need.

You can support us to:

- Assess the root causes of health protection access deficits for the poor and vulnerable through in-depth evaluations.

US\$ 300,000

- Develop evidence on the exclusion of the poor and vulnerable, focusing on key areas of coverage and access gaps.

\$ 500,000

- Develop guidance on effective and efficient health protection policies that are inclusive and ensure the availability, affordability, and accessibility of quality health care, as well as financial protection for all.

\$ 300,000

- Support the practical implementation of selected universal health protection schemes.

\$2,000,000 per country

- Facilitate South-South exchanges and training.

\$ 300,000

- Develop a practical multilingual how-to guide on building universal health protection in close partnership with ongoing countries' initiatives.

\$ 150,000 per year

LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports detailing the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To discuss your support and the ways you can improve the lives of the poor and vulnerable without access to health care across the globe, you can contact:



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