



BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN the Occupied Palestinian Territory

EXTENDING SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE

Home to 4.5 million Palestinians, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is in the process of rolling out its first comprehensive social security system to cover all private sector workers and their households.

Today, only public sector workers and households benefit from social protection benefits, while most private sector workers are effectively not covered in cases of maternity, workplace injury, or old age. According to official figures, private sector workers make up 66 per cent of the workforce, relative to 22 per cent in the public sector and 12 per cent in Israel and West Bank settlements.

With support from the ILO, the framework of the current social security system was developed in 2013 by the tripartite National Social Security Committee in consultation with workers' and employers' organizations, government officials, as well as other stakeholders. In order to ensure its efficacy in combating poverty as well as social exclusion, the system was modelled on an ILO actuarial evaluation which assessed the system's parameters and sustainability. In addition, the system built on the Civil Servant Pension Scheme (Law of Public Retirement No. 7 of 2005), Labour Law No. 7 of 2000, the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and international good practices.

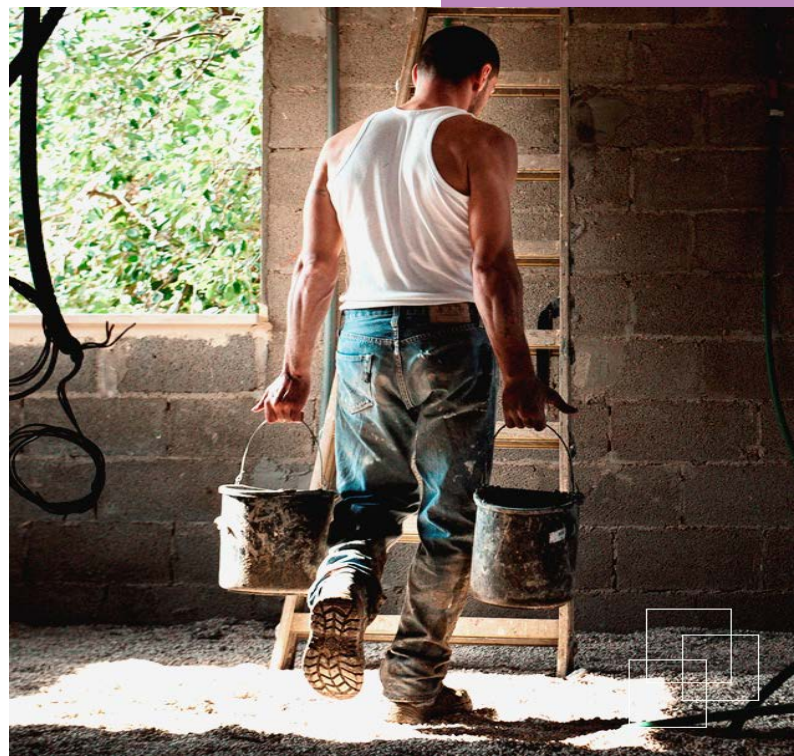
A NATIONAL TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

Established by the Palestinian Prime Minister in 2012 with ILO support, the National Tripartite Social Security Committee is mandated to:

- develop a social security strategy with clear priorities;
- conduct actuarial studies for the establishment of a new social security scheme;
- draft new social security legislation, and
- build a tripartite institutions for the establishment of a new social security administration.

A NATIONAL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

Between October 2015 and March 2016, the Council of Ministers and President of the OPT introduced amendments to a new draft Social Security Law, adopted in March 2016.



However, these amendments were not fully supported by Palestinian civil society or aligned with the ILO recommendations. Subsequently, a Ministerial Committee was established to study the effects of the amendments introduced to the new law, hold wider consultations and propose alternative provisions that are built through national consensus and with technical support from ILO.

"A comprehensive social security scheme is a genuine national achievement, no less important than the breakthrough at the UN General Assembly when Palestine became a non-member observer state of the United Nations."

- Buthaina Salem, Legal Advisor to the Palestinian

Minister of Labour

On September 26 2016, the Council of Ministers endorsed the amendments to the Social Security Law which were in line with ILO recommendations, International Labour Standards and best practices and were signed into law by the Palestinian President on 30 September 2016. The OPT now has an appropriate legal framework for its first private sector social security system.

Building on these achievements, the ILO is currently working with Palestinian tripartite stakeholders to establish an independent social security institution—governed by a tripartite board or directors—which will administer and implement the new social security system.

FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Social security is not only a universal human right. It also plays a pivotal role in alleviating poverty, fostering decent work as well as facilitating economic and social development.

“Ensuring a decent living through pensions and other benefits not only serves the interests of the workers and their families, but also those of employers.”

- Jamal Jawarbeh, Secretary General of the Palestinian Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (PFCCIA)

Social protection is one of the key areas of the newly adopted Palestinian National Policy Agenda for the years 2017-2022, and the ILO's Palestinian Decent Work Programme 2013-2016, which prioritises the development of an integrated social security system as well as the extension of social protection to all those in need in the OPT. Social security is also an important element of the OPT United Nations Development Agreement Framework (UNDAF) for Palestine, which aims to alleviate the social and economic impacts of the Israeli occupation.

At a Glance: The new National Social Security Scheme

Coverage	82,646 workers in 2016-17, increasing to 336,440 workers by 2025
Contributions	Workers and employers
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◇ Old-age, disability and death pensions,◇ Funeral grants◇ Employment injury benefits and medical care benefits◇ Maternity cash benefits◇ Minimum pension of at least 75 per cent of the minimum wage or the national poverty line

The ILO has unparalleled experience in supporting countries to provide and extend social protection to all, not least in the OPT. With your support, we can extend social security coverage to more than 80,000 workers by 2018 and more than 330,000 by 2025; thus making the right to social security a reality for the majority of Palestinian workers and their families.

With your support, we can:

- Introduce and promote the OPT's new social security scheme through raising public awareness, capacity building for the preparatory teams and the Institution's Core Team, establish international and bilateral cooperation, and creating an online presence.

US\$ 1,320,000

- Develop the new social security administration including the design of organizational structures, business process mapping, information technology and human resource infrastructure.

US\$ 879,500

- Pilot the new social security institution's activities, with two benefit schemes for certain categories of workers in selected geographical areas.

US\$ 1,315,000

- Launch the new social security institution, including formal inauguration and extension of the social security scheme as well as its administrative functions across the OPT for all categories of workers and prescribed benefits.

US\$ 201,000

“This scheme lays the foundations for a society premised on social justice and decent living standards for Palestinian workers.”

- Shaheer Saad, Secretary General of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU)

LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

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

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can support Palestinian stakeholders and improve the lives of workers and their families, you can contact:




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