

# BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES OF REFUGEES



International  
Labour  
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## SOCIAL PROTECTION AS A DURABLE SOLUTION

A combination of armed conflict, deterioration of security and human rights concerns are the main reasons for asylum seekers or refugees to flee their countries and claim asylum in another.

The influx of refugees and their stay in respective host countries have important impacts on available services and resources. Providing social protection to refugees can address their basic and longer term needs and provide more durable and cost effective solutions to often protracted situation while reducing potential social and economic tensions with host communities.

In addition, establishing sustainable social protection systems in countries of origin can facilitate refugees' return and integration, act as economic and societal stabilizer and contribute to preventing further crises.

## RIGHT TO LIVE A LIFE IN DIGNITY

As members of society, refugees have the human right to social security, as well as to an adequate standard of living, including access to food, clothing, housing, medical care, and other necessary social services as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and echoed in other legal instruments.

## ENHANCING CAPACITIES AND REDUCING VULNERABILITIES

The adoption of the Social Protection Floor Recommendation (No. 202) by ILO Member states in 2012 was a watershed event as countries from all over the world recognized the need to extend social protection to all.

By supporting the development of nationally defined social protection floors, together with adapted social protection mechanisms, the ILO aims to enhance the capacities and reduce vulnerabilities of refugee populations, host communities and returnees.



This entails a progressive shift from humanitarian assistance where food, health and education are handed over to refugees to the development of sustainable social protection systems embedded in national law and accessible to all. Subsidizing refugee's contributions from external resources while strengthening national schemes provides the necessary critical support for host countries following a massive influx of refugees.

## AN INTEGRATED DECENT WORK APPROACH FOR REFUGEES, HOST COMMUNITIES AND RETURNEES

The action is part of a broader modular ILO approach focused on several axes of action that would ensure policy coherence and link social protection with skills development, the creation of employment opportunities as well as the promoting of social dialogue.

As the lead UN agency in the field of social protection, the ILO actively collaborates with other UN agencies and development partners including through UN country and global teams, effectively combining different fields of technical expertise to multiply results in the daily lives of millions.

## THE REFUGEE CRISIS: A QUESTION OF SOLIDARITY

The Social Protection Floor Initiative calls on leaders of governments, trade unions, employers and development partners around the world to objectively engage in dialogue.

We have the resources. We have the technology. We just need to figure out how to mobilize ourselves progressively to set up systems where nobody has to worry about coping with illness or how to put food on their table each day. Current times are calling for a change. It is only together that we can make a difference.

Countries agreed to establish social protection for all but many feel they can't afford it. In reality, we can't afford to be without it.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu, December 2014



## FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

With its experience in the field and technical support ILO provides, it plays a pivotal role in the promotion of social protection for refugees. We can help more people in more countries across the globe.

You can support us to:

- Establish social protection schemes in host countries and countries of origin that are inclusive of refugees and returning refugees.

US\$ 350,000 per year

- Set up effective administrative delivery and referral mechanisms (Single Window approach) facilitating synergies across social protection, skills development and income generation interventions.

US\$ 250,000 per year

- Support legal reforms aimed at incorporating the principles enshrined in UN and ILO legal instruments such as the principle of equality of treatment with nationals.

US\$ 100,000 per year

- Build national institutional capacities and fill knowledge gaps through a multilingual how-to guide, trainings and South-South exchanges, in close partnership with ongoing initiatives in countries.

US\$ 100,000 per year

- Develop effective and free-of-charge legal counselling, social assistance, and complaints and appeals mechanisms in camps and urban areas.

US\$ 90,000 per year

- Information and awareness raising campaigns on refugees' rights to social protection, existing social protection programmes.

US\$ 30,000 per year

## 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 improve millions of lives, you can contact:



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