

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN'S LIVES



International
Labour
Organization

REACHING OUT THROUGH CHILD-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

Today, around 1 billion children across the world live in poverty. This situation is unacceptable and has long-lasting consequences. A child who falls into poverty is likely to remain poor for a lifetime. Without adequate nutrition, health care, education, and care, children cannot develop physically and intellectually. This also affects their ability to engage in productive employment later in life. Poor children are also at greater risk of child labour. Breaking the vicious cycle of child poverty is key to achieving sustainable development and is particularly addressed in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1.3, 4, 8 and 10.

Child-sensitive social protection responds to the specific problems faced by children and their families. It combines financial support for families, essential nutrition, health care, child care services, and education. It also ensures that care workers have good working conditions. Child-sensitive social protection can help to alleviate poverty, realize children's basic rights, and reduce future gender gaps at work.

Particular attention should be paid to children who are especially vulnerable, such as orphans, children growing up in families affected by HIV/AIDS, street children, and children with disabilities. Girls are often more vulnerable to health and economic risks and affected by traditional norms and gender stereotypes.

Several countries have implemented child-sensitive social protection programmes. Bolsa Familia in Brazil, Oportunidades/Prospera in Mexico, the Child Pantawid Pamilyang in the Philippines, and the Child Support Grant in South Africa enhance families' economic security through cash transfers and promote access to education and health-care services. Other types of programmes may also have positive effects on children. The Expanded Public Works Programme in South Africa develops childcare centres and services, reduces unpaid work, and improves parents' access to economic opportunities.



JOINT RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first international instrument to incorporate a complete range of human rights for children, including social protection, and provides guidance to countries on protecting their children. The ILO Social Protection Floor Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), provides for child-sensitive social protection. One of the four social protection floors aims at ensuring access to nutrition, education, and care through cash and in-kind benefits. The Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), and the Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156), also call for the provision of adequate childcare services to promote gender equality and employment opportunities and to enable the transition to the formal economy. Several UN agencies, NGOs, the World Bank, and other development partners have also committed to support child-sensitive social protection.

CHILD SUPPORT GRANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Roughly 60 per cent of children in South Africa are poor. This makes social protection essential and is why 11.8 million children and their families are now receiving social assistance grants administered by the Government of South Africa.

The Child support grant provides 330 South African rands (US\$27) monthly to poor children up to 18 years of age. The grant is complemented by other benefits, including the Foster Care Grant, free education, school feeding, and affordable health services.

Elizabeth Mkase has been taking care of her nephew in a



poor South African neighbourhood.

“ I can't even remember how many years my nephew has been with me since his parents died. Life was difficult because I did not have a job. I am grateful for the support that I was given through the grant as I didn't know how I was going to cope, she recalled.

FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Together with other UN agencies, such as UNICEF and UNESCO, the ILO supports countries to ensure that children can access social protection in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. You can support us to:

- Raise awareness by carrying out global, regional, and national campaigns on the importance of child-sensitive social protection, including childcare services with good working conditions for care workers.

\$ 200,000

- Provide technical support to governments and national stakeholders to build child-sensitive social protection systems and provide decent working conditions for childcare workers.

\$ 150,000 per country

- Develop technical capacities among governments and national stakeholders.

\$ 50,000

- Develop knowledge and evidence by collecting and analysing information on children's needs, barriers to inclusion, and the effectiveness of different interventions, as well as developing evidence-based tools to estimate the cost and measure the impact of child-sensitive interventions.

\$ 100,000

- Disseminate knowledge by documenting and sharing good practices and lessons from country experiences

through guides, brochures, web platforms, videos, and social media.

\$ 150,000

LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular progress reports and can access ongoing project activities and performance indicators. To further discuss your objectives and ways in which you can contribute, you can contact:



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