



International  
Labour  
Organization



# ILO GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

2019 progress report







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# FOREWORD

## The Centenary commitment

The ILO was created in 1919, based on a vision where workers, employers, and governments, could together build a world of universal peace, based on social justice. The ILO has pursued this mandate for 100 years, setting international labour standards and promoting decent work for all.

In this year of Centenary celebrations, a major highlight has been the adoption by the 108th International Labour Conference of the ILO's Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work. It has once again reaffirmed the crucial role that the ILO plays in the world of work laying the sound foundations for decent work and social justice not only in the past, present but also for the future. The transformative changes in the world of work driven by technological innovations, demographic shifts, climate change and globalization provide opportunities that need to be seized and challenges that need to be addressed. A human-centred approach to the Future of Work is not possible without social protection as a central pillar for a just and sustainable future for all.

The Centenary celebrations have also provided a valuable opportunity for the Office and constituents to look at the past, present, and future of social protection. The Centenary has presented an ideal occasion to provide greater visibility and recognition for the work we are all doing in social protection, and that collaboration can allow us to multiply our achievements, and in turn increase worldwide support for the achievement of universal social protection, and the achievement of the SDGs on social protection.

The ILO Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All was conceived to deliver on the promise of the SDGs. It employs a coherent approach to the design and implementation of development cooperation, enabling us to consolidate results achieved, learn from what works and replicate good practices to reach scale, identify and develop experience and skills in new policy areas (such as social protection and climate change) , all while creating tangible, lasting improvements in people's everyday lives.

The Programme brings together diverse stakeholders, including governments, social partners, business and civil society, who share a responsibility for realizing the SDGs. It provides a platform for exchange and collaboration, allowing important development actors to identify and pursue common interests with far-reaching benefits.

Today, the consensus around the need for social protection coverage has never been stronger. In its first five years (2016-2020), the flagship programme has committed to an ambitious set of targets to be met in priority countries. Based on its relevance and preliminary results new funding to support more countries has been raised in 2019. It is hoped that with continued participation and the necessary resources, we build on the successes we have had to date, and push onward to make social protection a reality for all.



Valérie Schmitt  
Director ad interim, Social Protection Department



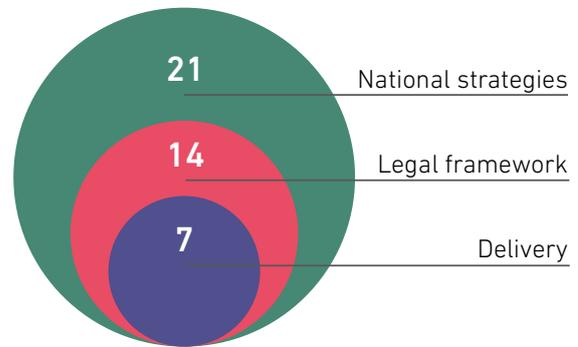
# STRATEGY

A strategy to change millions of lives

## Institutional changes in all target countries...

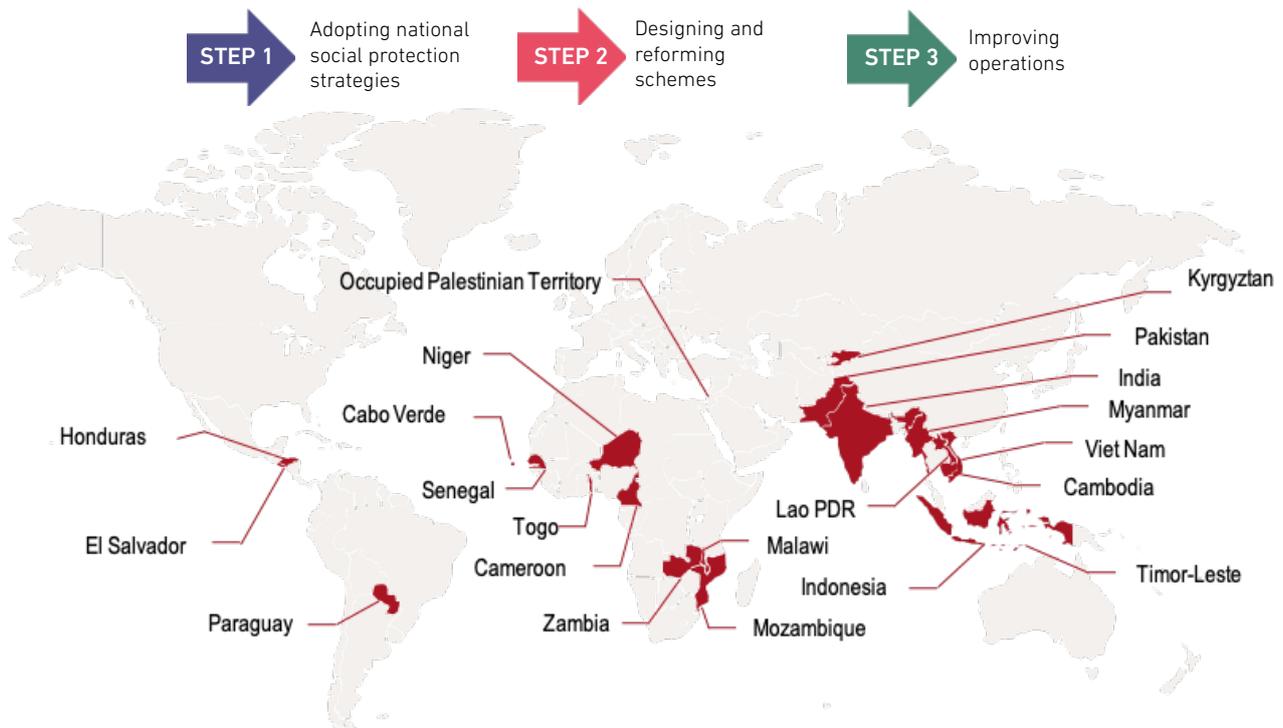
Our aim is that by 2020:

- a national social protection strategy and/or a practical strategy implementation plan will be adopted in the 21 countries;
- 14 of the 21 countries will have designed or reformed social protection schemes and adopted or revised the corresponding law; and
- 7 of the 21 countries will have improved their operations including delivery mechanisms for their social protection floors.



... to improve the social protection situation for millions of people

## 1 In-country support to implement nationally defined SPFs



## 2 Cross-country policy advice

The Flagship Programme provides specialized policy and technical assistance to address vulnerabilities related to: children, climate change and disasters, domestic workers, health care for the poor and women, maternity and paternity, migrant workers, older persons, persons with disabilities, refugee crisis, self-employed, informal and rural workers, and unemployed persons.

## 3 Practical knowledge development

The in-country support and the cross-country policy advice inform the development of methodologies and tools including: Assessment-based National Dialogue exercises; costing and financing of social protection schemes; design of specific policies; legal drafting; coordination and administration; ratification of ILO standards and development of a culture of social protection.

## 4 Partnerships in the countries, at the regional and global levels

As much as the 2030 Agenda is a responsibility shared by all actors of society, the development of social protection systems including floors requires a strong commitment by a variety of actors and stakeholders.

To make the right to social protection a reality for all, the Flagship Programme follows a tailor-made and step-by-step approach. In all 21 countries, it supports the **development of national social protection strategies**, the **design or reform of social protection schemes** and the **strengthening of their administrative capacity**.

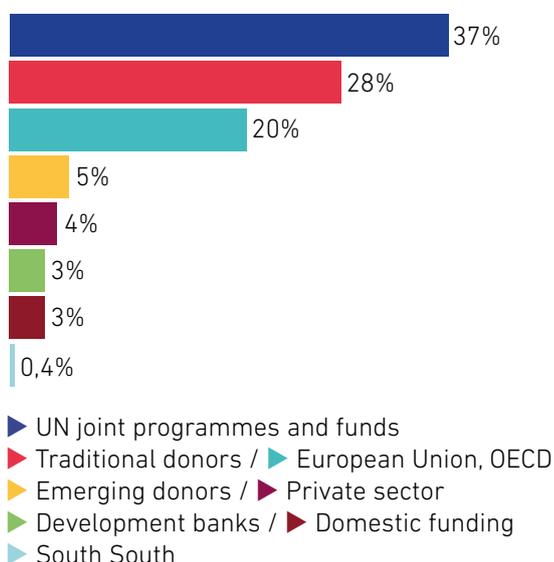
The Flagship Programme is partially financed by ILO's Regular Budget and Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA).

To fulfil the ambition of the Flagship Programme the ILO is mobilizing additional resources from:

- governments;
- development banks;
- global funds;
- triangular and South-South cooperation;
- foundations and the private sector; and
- General public (crowd-funding).

The ILO has led the development of the Social Protection Floors Window under the UN Joint Fund for Agenda 2030. Thanks to ILO's advocacy efforts, the first call for proposals launched in 2019 focused on social protection. The ILO managed to increase funding in 27 of the 36 countries receiving resources from the Fund.

Since 2016, the Global Flagship Programme mobilized a total of \$83.8 million. This includes among others funding from UN Joint Programmes and Funds (37%) as well as from Traditional Donors (28%) and the European Union and OECD (20%).



### By 2020:

HIGHER COVERAGE

30 million people previously excluded will be covered.

MORE ADEQUACY

50 million people previously partially covered will have higher levels of protection.

BETTER ACCESS

130 million people will have better access to social protection.

# The Flagship's Global Tripartite Advisory Committee

The ILO convened the first meeting of the Global Tripartite Advisory Committee (GTAC) for the ILO's Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All on 10 April 2019 in Geneva. The tripartite GTAC was composed of 11 nominated members, namely 4 government representatives from countries where the Flagship programme is being implemented, 3 government representatives from donor countries, 2 representatives from the Employers' Group and 2 representatives from the Workers' Group. With the objective to stocktake progress achieved on the Flagship programme, the GTAC focused its efforts:

- to provide advice to the ILO's Flagship Team on the overall Flagship Programme direction;
- to consider questions for the further enhancement of the Flagship Programme, specifically related to increasing the participation of social partners in the implementation of interventions in flagship priority countries;
- to take stock of the results and impact of the ILO's Global Flagship Programme on Social Protection Floors (SPFs) and its contribution to the achievement of SDG 1.3.

Taking note of the activities and achievements of the SPF Flagship, the GTAC highlighted amongst others the need to continue to promote its principles and values in its partnerships; to systematically ensure the participation of social partners in the roll-out of the SPF Flagship; and to strengthen the communication and branding of the SPF Flagship especially at country-level.





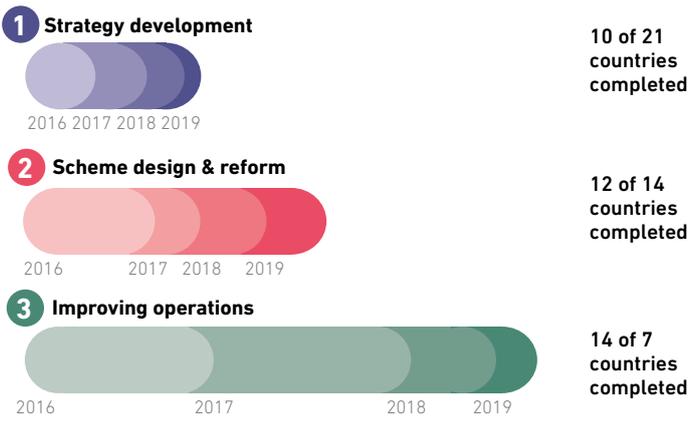
# FLAGSHIP COUNTRIES

## In-country support to implement nationally-defined social protection systems including floors

The programme for social protection floors identified 21 target countries\* selected on the basis of a set of enabling factors, assessed by means of discussions with the regions including management and field specialists, ILO headquarters including management, policy departments and the Bureaux for workers and employers' activities.

The factors included a strong political will and commitment, the potential to achieve substantial coverage extension within the next five years, presence of partners with capacity for co-implementation, and scope for donor support, among others.

<p><b>Africa</b></p> <p>Cabo Verde Cameroon Malawi Mozambique Niger Senegal Togo Zambia</p>	<p><b>Asia</b></p> <p>Cambodia India Indonesia Lao PDR Myanmar Pakistan Timor Leste Viet Nam</p>
<p><b>Arab States</b></p> <p>Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)</p>	<p><b>Europe and Central Asia</b></p> <p>Kyrgyzstan</p>
	<p><b>Latin America</b></p> <p>El Salvador Honduras Paraguay</p>



\* 20 countries and 1 territory

The technical support provided in these countries is organized into three strategic areas.

## 1 Develop national social protection strategies

*Our goal is to assist all 21 countries by the year 2020 to create clear and ambitious national strategies, which identify key priorities for improvements in social protection policies and programmes, developed through social dialogue.*

The programme draws upon the organization's fundamental adherence to tripartism and social dialogue as a methodology to devise a vision shared by all relevant stakeholders, and whose success will be ensured by their participation and commitment. These assessment-based national dialogues (ABND) begin with an extensive inventory of the social protection system, as well as an assessment that identifies gaps using the body of ILO labour and social security standards as benchmarks. Through a series of consultative workshops, participants prioritize the areas of the system to address, and costing and fiscal space analyses are conducted for different scenarios. A full report with agreed recommendations is then submitted for endorsement by the highest levels of government.

In 10 of the 21 target countries, ABNDs or similar exercises have led to the development of national social protection strategies since the inception of the flagship programme in 2016.

## 2 Design and reform schemes with a basis in law

*By 2020, our goal is to provide technical advice to 14 countries for the design and reform of individual programmes with a basis in national law or regulations, offering citizens and residents legal rights to social protection they can claim.*

Through its social protection flagship programme, the ILO provides countries with policy design, costing and financing assessments, actuarial analysis, institutional design and legal advisory services to support the introduction or reform of individual social protection programmes. This includes the enactment or revision of social protection programmes aimed at the unemployed, older persons, those living with disabilities, new mothers, families with children and others, in line with ILO labour and social security standards.

In 12 of the 14 target countries, ILO legal advisory services have enabled legal or regulatory reforms ensuring that more people have access to adequate social protection under the flagship programme.

## 3 Improving operations and governance

*Our goal is to assist at least 7 countries by 2020 in improving the administration and levels of participation in the governance of the social protection system, including through streamlined service delivery models, monitoring and evaluation systems, and financial governance.*

Streamlining business processes, increasing information sharing, and leveraging emerging technologies are key components of the support provided through the flagship programme to improve social protection administration. But beyond technocratic improvements, the ILO's commitment to social dialogue and tripartism is also reflected in the advice it provides to authorities, working to build participatory, representative and inclusive oversight of social protection systems.

In 14 countries — beyond the original target of just 7 countries — the ILO has supported improvements in administration and participatory governance of social protection systems as a result of flagship programme interventions.

## 2019 key results

### Africa

#### CABO VERDE

TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: **3**

In Cabo Verde, the ILO supported the effective implementation of the Single Social Registry (SSR) through a series of interventions and capacity building measures. In 2018/19 more than 270 people across 22 municipalities were trained on the new beneficiary identification system and on monitoring and quality control mechanisms. Moreover, the National Assembly of Cabo Verde, approved, by resolution, the ratification of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) in July 2019 and in particular Part III (sickness benefits), Part V (Old-age benefits), and Part VII (Family benefits).



*In July 2019, the Government National Assembly of Cabo Verde ratified approved the ratification of Convention No. 102, underlining its commitment to the extension of social protection and aligning of its practises system with international standards.*

In addition to workshops and capacity building activities, the ILO, in collaboration with the national social protection institute, prepared a comparative analysis on the national law and practice with a view to ratifying Convention No. 102 in 2012.

*These and other activities in Cabo Verde have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Portugal.*

#### CAMEROON

TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: **1** **3**

In Cameroon, the organisational, technical and financial characteristics of the national universal coverage system were approved in March 2019 by the national committee tasked to steer the process. The ILO has been providing support to the operation of the National Committee, which included inputs to the development of the legal framework, characteristics of the benefits package, financial plan, administrative and operational manuals for the scheme.

Furthermore, the ILO continued its support in the extension of social protection to people working in the informal economy through a study and concrete guidance on integrating measures. Tools for registration and operationalizing mobile contribution payment have been developed.

Furthermore, activities involving the extension of voluntary counselling and HIV testing (VCT) at the workplace, which allowed 47,553 people (men 28,532, women 19,021) to be tested and for those tested positive to receive access to ARV treatment.

*These and other activities in Cameroon have been made by contributions from ILO AIDS, the contributors to the ILO Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA), Government of the United States, the World Bank, World Health Organization and UNICEF.*

*The Government of Cameroon extended voluntary counselling and HIV testing at the workplace, which allowed 47,553 people to be tested and for those tested positive to receive access to ARV treatment.*

## MALAWI

### TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: 2

In Malawi, the ILO has been supporting the Government together with other UN agencies in the elaboration of the Universal Social Old Age Pension Bill, which was passed in 2019. When the pension scheme is rolled out it is expected to support over 600,000 people aged 65 and above. Moreover the ILO provided capacity building support enabling heads of the parliamentary committee and political parties' representatives to be trained on basic concepts of social protection.

*Malawi established a new Universal Social Old Age Pension scheme, which following the roll out is expected to support aged 65 and above, and change the lives of more than 600,000 people.*

Last but not least, between July, 2018 and June, 2019, 23 officials of central Government, 60 district officers, 15 directors and deputy directors, and 13 officials from the Government, CSOs and Development partners were trained in on the TRANSFORM concept. The national rollout plan is to reach all 28 districts by 2021.

*These and other activities in Malawi have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Ireland. The Malawi UN joint programme on social protection has received 2 million USD from the UN Joint Fund for Agenda 2030. Implementation will start in 2020 with ILO's involvement.*

## MOZAMBIQUE

### TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: 1

In Mozambique, the ILO has been supporting the Government together with other UN agencies, in the drafting of the National Strategy for Contributory Social Security 2019-2024 (ENSSO). The ILO moreover continued its support in the software development and roll-out of the Management Information System (MIS) for basic (non-contributory) social protection programmes implemented by the National Institute of Social Action (INAS), the "e-INAS".

The ILO also strengthened the Government's capacities to monitor and measure the progress made towards achieving SDG target 1.3.1, through two rounds of trainings in 2018 and 2019 to twelve key senior staff from the National Institute of Social Security (INSS). Last but not least the ILO provided support in the design of the M&E system, among others through the delivery of the TRANSFORM training package.

*ILO produced a report capitalizing good practice from the development of the MIS (e-INAS), enabling knowledge-sharing and exchange of experiences*



*These and other activities in Mozambique have been made possible by contributions from the Governments of Ireland, Portugal and the United States, as well as a UN Joint Programme financed by the Swedish and Dutch Embassy and by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.*

## **NIGER**

TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: **2**



In 2019, the ILO supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Niger to consolidate its social security legal framework into a unique code to ensure alignment with international social security standards. The drafting of the code represents an opportunity for consolidating the existing legal framework, enshrining a systemic approach and extending social protection coverage notably to persons currently not covered and improving and expanding benefits. The drafting of the code also enriched a Good practices guide on legal drafting that is planned for publication in 2020.

*These and other activities in Niger have been made possible by contributions from the contributors to the ILO Regular Budget for Technical Cooperation (RBTC).*

## **SENEGAL**

TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: **3**

In 2019, the ILO supported the Government of Senegal and key actors of the sector to complete an overall review and evaluation of its social protection system, in view of consolidating existing programmes and accelerating its extension. The exercise applied the inter-agency social protection assessment tools such as CODI (Core Systems Diagnostics Instrument) and SPPOT (Social Protection Policy Options Tool). In 2020, the ILO will support the design of sustainable financing strategies for universal social protection in Senegal by 2035. Through the review and a number of training activities, ILO contributed to reinforce national capacities on social security policies and laws, social

protection statistics, including SDG indicators, key performance indicators of social insurance systems, monitoring and evaluation system, and quantitative assessment of the cost of social protection reforms using the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP). The review and its data have served as a basis for the annual social protection sectoral review conducted by national stakeholders.



*ILO is leading the technical and financial partners' Thematic group on social protection which includes UNICEF, FAO, WFP, EU and the World Bank, in supporting Senegal in its endeavours to strengthen and extend its social protection system.*

The ILO also supported the Ministry of Labour of Senegal to consolidate its social security legal framework into a unique code. The drafting of the code represents an opportunity for extending social protection coverage and improving benefits. The drafting of the code also enriched a Good practices guide on legal drafting that is planned for publication in 2020.

*These and other activities in Senegal have been made possible by contributions from the European Union in the context of a project supporting the review of the social protection system in Senegal. Senegal is one of the target countries of the new EC DEVCO Action on social protection and public finance management (starting in 2020).*

## TOGO

### TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: 1

Since 2017, the ILO has led the inter-agency efforts to develop a system-wide assessment of social protection, with the aim of updating the national social protection strategy. In partnership with the EU and the OECD and in collaboration with UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS, WFP, FAO, WHO, EU, GIZ, World Bank and the African Development Bank, the application of the inter-agency Social Protection Policy Options Tool (SPPOT) provided recommendations for the extension of social protection and the implementation of a social protection floor in Togo. Those recommendations formed the basis for the formulation of the National Development Plan (PND) (2018 – 2022), launched in March 2019. On this basis, the national strategy for the formalisation of the informal economy that is currently being developed includes social protection as a key priority measure for the achievement of formalisation. Additionally,

*With the new National Development Plan (PND) (2018 – 2022), the Government of Togo aims to ensure that, by 2022, more than 50,000 persons in the informal sector, women in particular, receive social insurance benefits.*

the recommendations have contributed to relaunching the process to develop the legal framework for universal health insurance.

*These and other activities in Togo have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Finland and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) under the EU Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS).*

## ZAMBIA

TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: **2** **3**

The ILO continued its support to the drafting of the National Health Insurance (NHI) bill, that was signed into law in April 2018, establishing the National Health Insurance Scheme. The scheme aims to provide health care to eligible workers in Zambia, including many of those working in the informal economy, and is advancing the country's ambition to achieve universal health coverage. The ILO in partnership with UNICEF, FAO and WFP, the ILO has supported the Government of Zambia in the process of development of the Integrated Framework for Basic Social Protection Programmes (IFBSPP). Moreover, throughout 2018 and 2019, the ILO provided direct technical assistance to the development of single-window service (SWS) mechanisms in two of the pilot districts (in Lunga and Samfya districts in Luapula province). In 2019, more than 270 participants received training on the SWS delivery nationwide, among others through the TRANSFORM Social Protection Learning Package.

*These and other activities in Zambia have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Ireland as well as a UN Joint Programme financed by the Swedish development agency (SIDA), Ireland and the Finnish Embassy and by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. A new phase of the UN joint programme in Zambia was signed in 2019 to support social protection programmes until 2022.*

*The Government of Zambia established a National Health Insurance Scheme in April 2018, aiming to extend health care to informal economy workers among others.*

## Arab States

### OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: **2**

The ILO supported the Palestinian Authority together with other UN agencies to put in place a roadmap for a national social protection floor through a number of studies, including an impact assessment of the proposed social protection scheme on poverty and vulnerability, a fiscal space analysis with a view to finance the Social Protection Floor, and a costing study.

*These and other activities in the occupied Palestinian territory have been*



made possible by contributions from the Governments of Kuwait and Qatar, as well as contributors to the ILO Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) and support from ILO member States for South-South and Triangular cooperation. oPt UN joint programme on social protection has received 2 million USD from the UN Joint Fund for Agenda 2030. Implementation will start in 2020 with ILO's involvement.

## Asia

### CAMBODIA

#### TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: 2

The ILO provided continued technical assistance together with other UN agencies to the Government of Cambodia and to social partners during 2019. The cumulated support during the past years, has contributed to the draft law on social security which was adopted by the Kingdom of Cambodia on 5th November 2019. This new law covers public sector employees, persons defined by the provision of the labour law including personnel serving in the air and maritime transportation and household servants; and the self-employed (voluntary basis). Moreover the office provided training to the Government on the Monitoring and Evaluation for social protection in line with SDG 1.3 and in the production of a number of communication tools to support the education and awareness campaigns on social protection, and on-going development of the administration modernization plan for the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

*The National Assembly of Cambodia adopted the new law on social security in 2019, providing coverage to public sector employees and persons defined by the provisions of the labour law.*

*These and other activities in Cambodia have been made possible by contributions from the Governments of Cambodia, the Republic of Korea, the European Union (2017-2018), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund, the French Development Agency (AFD) (2016-2018), and the Weave Our Future Foundation of the Auchan Group (2017-2018). Cambodia is one of the target countries of the new EC DEVCO Action on social protection and public finance management (starting in 2020). Cambodia's UN joint programme on social protection has received 2 million USD from the UN Joint Fund for Agenda 2030. Implementation will start in 2020 with ILO's lead.*

### INDIA

#### TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: 2

The ILO assisted the Government of India in the development of a National policy framework on TB-HIV in the world of work with strong linkages with social protection, especially health care. The ILO provided technical support for the revision and finalization of the draft policy framework and preparation and dissemination of good practices documents and advocacy with social partners. The new framework was launched in September 2019 and aims to improve institutional policies and responses to TB and HIV in India. In addition, the ILO provided comments to the draft new social security Law that is scheduled for adoption in Parliament by the end of 2019. This umbrella Law is the first attempt to streamline and consolidate a myriad of social security laws and to promote the extension of coverage to uncovered groups.

*A new project financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation was approved in 2019 to support the extension of access to health care services in India and contribute to the formalization of unorganized workers. Implementation started in September 2019.*



## INDONESIA

TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: **2** **3**

The ILO supported the Government of Indonesia in undertaking awareness raising campaigns aiming at the extension of coverage to informal workers, non-wage earners and marginalised groups. The Office jointly organised a sensitisation workshop with BPJS and social security agents (PERISAI) in East Java in May 2018 and supported the drafting of a publication, exploring to what extent social protection is associated with better firm level performance.

Moreover the ILO facilitated trade unions and civil society organisations (CSOs) to consolidate inputs during the development of a new Ministerial Decree (No. 18/2018) on Social Security for Migrant Workers.

*These and other activities in Indonesia have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Japan. A new project financed by UNIQLO on unemployment protection will start its activities in 2020.*

## LAO PDR

TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: **1** **3**

In Lao PDR, the ILO has continued providing technical support to the development and finalization of the first national social protection strategy and its implementation plan during 2018/2019. The technical support involved among others, capacity development to the national drafting committee team during workshops organized for the drafting of the strategy. The strategy aims to be a guiding document for implementing social protection policies in the Lao PDR until 2025.



*The National health insurance scheme covers 94% of the total poor population of the country in 2019.*

From 2018, ILO has provided support to the design of the institutional, technical, financial and operational features of the merged health insurance scheme, including piloting in the two provinces (Sekong and Vientiane provinces). Starting in March 2019, the support also includes the costing of the health benefit package and health facilities with collaboration with other Development Partners.

*These and other activities in Lao PDR have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Luxembourg. Lao PDR UN joint programme on social protection has received 2 million USD from the UN Joint Fund for Agenda 2030. Implementation will start in 2020 with ILO's lead.*

## MYANMAR

TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: **3**



The ILO supported the Government of Myanmar through a variety of technical assistance measures. More concretely, the ILO provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare in their effort to develop a Social Protection Management Information System and supported the development of a comprehensive M&E Framework for the Social Security Board (SSB) during 2018 / 2019. The ILO has also supported the Social Security Board and Trade Unions in factories in the townships of Mandalay and Yangon to raise

awareness on increasing registration to social security.

*These and other activities in Myanmar have been made possible by contributions from the Governments of Korea and Luxembourg.*

## PAKISTAN

TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: **1**

The ILO assisted the Government of Pakistan in the preparation of the National Poverty Alleviation policy framework called EHSAAS, which was launched in March 2019. The programme focuses on reducing issues of fragmentation and overlaps in the coverage of social protection. The programme has four pillars including: addressing inequalities; safety nets for disadvantaged segments of the population; jobs and livelihoods; and human capital development. The ILO has also provided technical assistance in strengthening the capacity of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD, established under EHSAAS) and provided training on data collection and analysis in relation to SDG 1.3. Last but not least, the ILO supported awareness raising for 300 Households on One Window Office Services.

*These and other activities in Pakistan have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Italy, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund, and through Regular Budget Technical Cooperation (RBTC) funds.*

*National  
Poverty  
Alleviation  
policy framework  
EHSAAS, launched by  
government in March  
2019, addressing  
social protection and  
poverty alleviation  
measures.*

## TIMOR-LESTE

### TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: 1

The ILO supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity in the development of the National Social Protection Strategy that was finalized in December 2018. Support was also provided to the establishment of the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) which took office in January 2019, and manages and supervises the contributory social security in Timor Leste. The ILO supported and gave extensive feedback on the documents formalizing the operationalization of the INSS.

*These and other activities in Timor-Leste have been made possible by contributions from the Government of Portugal.*

*Since the launch (January 2019) of the new social security system in Timor Leste, more than 70,000 public and private sectors workers, and over 1,000 employers have been covered, with benefits for old age, death, disability, maternity/paternity.*

## VIET NAM

### TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: 1

With support of the ILO, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) of Vietnam developed evidence-based knowledge on social protection coverage extension. The ILO delivered 10 major technical notes and conducted a series of technical meetings to assist MOLISA in the Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR) development, which was launched in May 2018. The MPSIR is a commitment to achieve universal social protection coverage through multi-tiered systems. It plans a gradual extension of social insurance coverage to both wage and non-wage workers including those in informal employment, while extending coverage of long-term benefits (old-age pension and survivors' pension) and short-term benefits (sickness, maternity and family benefits).

The Action Plan for implementation of the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform (MPSAR), benefitted from recommendations provided by the ILO on the integration of contributory and non-contributory schemes as the key to move to a coherent multi-tiered social protection system.

*With the launch of the Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR) in May 2019, the Government of Vietnam aims to cover 60% of the working population by 2030, which is double of the number of people covered presently..*



Last but not least, the ILO supported the review and preparation for the Health Insurance Law revision through a stock-taking of gaps and overlaps in the existing legal framework on health insurance as well as large-scale national orientation workshop in Oct 2018 on the key elements of the reform.

*These and other activities in Viet Nam have been made possible by contributions from the Governments of Ireland, Japan and Luxembourg. Vietnam's UN joint programme on social protection has received 2 million USD from the UN Joint Fund for Agenda 2030. Implementation will start in 2020 with ILO's lead.*

## Europe and Central Asia

### KYRGYZSTAN

TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: **2**

Following the acceptance of the 2018 findings and recommendations of the Assessment based National Dialogue on Social Protection Floors carried out under the leadership of ILO, in 2019 the Government of Kyrgyzstan moved forward to implement a number of recommendations regarding maternity protection and actuarial assessment of the pension system. The ILO also provided support in reviewing the Kyrgyz national legislation on maternity protection, with a view to preparing for the ratification of ILO Convention 183.

*These and other activities in Kyrgyzstan have been made possible by contributions from the European Union and contributors to the ILO Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA).*

## Latin America

### EL SALVADOR

TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: **2**

The Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) has extended coverage to dependent children of insured persons. The ILO contributed through preparation of an actuarial study of the schemes under the ISSS, including recommendations for the extension of social security coverage to dependents between 12 and 18 years of age which formed the basis of the extensions adopted by the ISSS. The measure will be effective from 2020.

*These and other activities in El Salvador have been made possible by contributions from the Government of El Salvador and contributors to the ILO Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA).*

*El Salvador extends social security coverage to dependents of workers between the age of 12 and 18. The measure will be effective from 2020 and will increase coverage by about 75 thousand people.*

### HONDURAS

TARGET ACHIEVED IN 2019: **3**

The ILO supported the Government of Honduras and its social security institution in 2018-19 to strengthen the financial governance of its public pension scheme. An actuarial financial model for the public pension scheme was developed by the ILO which provided recommendations on parametric reforms required to ensure the sustainability of the scheme. The model was transferred to the Actuarial Department of pension scheme and training was provided to



technical staff members of the fund on the use and application of the actuarial model.

*These and other activities Honduras have been made possible by generous contributions from the Government of Honduras and contributors to the ILO Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA).*

## PARAGUAY

### TARGETS ACHIEVED IN 2019: 3

The ILO contributed to the strategic plan of the Paraguayan pension Institutes (IPS) which was adopted in 2019. It included advice for the improvement of the registration and contribution collection. The ILO moreover strengthened the capacities of staff at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MTESS) in the collection, analysis and harmonization of social protection information and data to improve the management of the social protection system. This was enabled through a number of international capacity building measures on social security policy development and on how to promote social security culture. In 2019 the ILO moreover supported the Government of Paraguay in preparing a comparative analysis of national law and practice with a view of possible ratification of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No.102) and participated in a tripartite validation workshop in April 2019 which concluded with the endorsement of a plan of action for the ratification of Convention No. 102.

## Programme results

<i>Africa</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	3	3	2	3
<b>Cameroon</b>		3	1 3	
<b>Malawi</b>			1	2
<b>Mozambique</b>	1 2		3	1
<b>Niger</b>			2	
<b>Senegal</b>				3
<b>Togo</b>				1
<b>Zambia</b>		1	2 3	3
<i>Arab States</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>oPt</b>	2	3		

<i>Asia</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Cambodia</b>	2 3	1 3	2	2
<b>India</b>	2			2
<b>Indonesia</b>		3		2 3
<b>Lao PDR</b>	3			1 3
<b>Myanmar</b>		3		3
<b>Pakistan</b>	1	3		1
<b>Timor Leste</b>	2	2		1
<b>Viet Nam</b>		1	1	1
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>			2	3
<i>Latin America</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>El Salvador</b>		2		2
<b>Honduras</b>				3
<b>Paraguay</b>				3

### Legend:

- 1 a national strategy is adopted
- 2 legislation or regulation adopted
- 3 operational improvements made



# SOME THEMATIC PROJECTS

From cross-country policy advice to the development of practical knowledge

In addition to its work in the target countries, the flagship programme provides on-demand policy and technical advice to countries across a wide range of issues. A team of specialists is focused on the key challenges facing many countries in their efforts to expand coverage and improve operations. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some of the focus areas.

## Work on Informal Economy

Based on the experience gained in supporting countries in the development of social protection for workers in the informal economy, notably in countries such as Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Mongolia, Mozambique, Paraguay, Senegal, Viet Nam and Zambia, the Office has developed a comprehensive policy resource package on Extending Social Security to Workers in the Informal Economy.

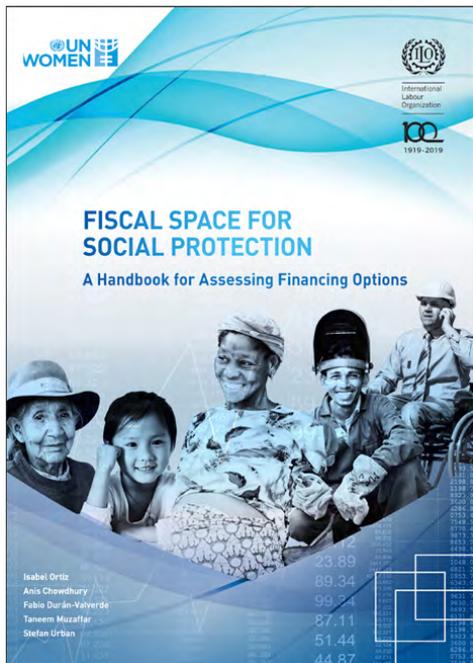
The policy resource package aims to provide policy makers, workers' and employers' organizations and other stakeholders with a practical tool that can help them in developing viable policy options to address the multi-fold challenges of extending social protection to workers in the informal economy and facilitating transitions to formality. The policy package highlights key lessons learnt from country experiences with regard to extending social protection to workers in the informal economy and provides practical guidance based on ILO standards and principles. It highlights in particular the importance of integrated policy responses that address the specific needs and circumstances of the uncovered groups, so as to effectively enhance their access to social protection and facilitate their transition to the formal economy.



This policy resource package is particularly relevant for national dialogues on social protection policies and strategies and has been already applied during the drafting stage in various regional and national capacity-building seminars, including in a number of flagship countries, including during a regional training in Bangkok (4 – 5 July, 2019), with participation of government, workers' and employers' organization representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam, as well as during

the Social Security Academy (16 – 27 September, 2019) and the Global Knowledge Sharing on the Transition to the Formal Economy (25-29 November 2019) in Turin with participants from across all regions of the flagship programme.

## Work on Fiscal Space



Responding to the growing needs of constituents, the Office has produced a comprehensive handbook to support countries in assessing financing options for social protection. Discussions among practitioners have identified eight financing options which are presented in the handbook.

The new handbook will guide ILO's work in the area of fiscal policy and has been already applied in its draft form during training sessions such as the Social Security Academy in Turin (16 – 27 September, 2019) with Flagship programme participants from Cambodia, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Vietnam and Zambia. It was also used to devise options for extending the fiscal space for social protection in Egypt and will be further used and enriched through the new EC DEVCO project on social protection and public finance management that is starting in 2020 that will provide support on financing social protection in 10 to 15 countries.

## Work on migrant workers, refugees and their families

Extending social protection to all including for migrant workers and their families, is key to ensuring income security for all, reducing poverty and inequalities, achieving decent working conditions, reducing vulnerabilities and social exclusion. The How-to Guide developed by the office aims to provide a broad overview of the legal and policy aspects related to migrants' and refugees' access to social protection. It further aim to provide practical guidance to support the extension of social protection to migrants and refugees, through analysis of the main challenges and protection gaps, practical training, self-learning tools, sharing good practices and promoting relevant policies. While the guide is expected to be launched around the beginning of 2020,



its draft version has been already applied in numerous trainings, including during the Labour Migration Academy at the International Training Center in Turin, involving participants from a number of flagship countries. The development of the guide benefited from the practical experience gained through a regional project on improving social security access and portability of benefits to migrant workers and their families through selected regional economic communities in Africa.

## Persons with disabilities

Disability is prominent on the social protection agenda: both the 36 Joint SDG Fund programmes on integrated policies to leave no-one behind and social protection as well as the 8 countries included in the new EU programme on creating synergies between social protection and public finance management, address disability issues as a key aspect. Moreover, the ILO is implementing, jointly with UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance, a project on disability inclusive social protection financed by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD).

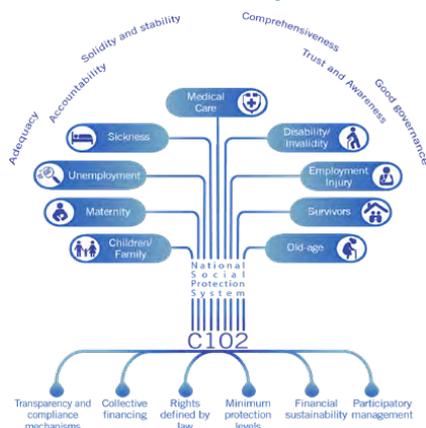
The initiative seeks to develop practical guidance for countries, development agencies and Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) for the reform of different critical aspects of social protection systems. The main components of the project are:

- Collaborative production of thematic background papers reviewing recent or on-going reforms and proposing possible technical solutions to a wide range of relevant technical issues such as accessibility and non-discrimination, disability assessment and eligibility determination, data collection and information systems, extra cost of disability, gender equality, interlinkage with employment, access to support services and health; humanitarian contexts. A first draft of the working papers will be available as of December 2019.
- Joint learning with countries engaged in reform towards inclusive social protection through provision of technical assistance. The project will provide support to a selection of countries that are launching social protection activities in the context of the first round of financing from the Joint SDG Fund and the EU programme on creating synergies between social protection and public finance management, both of which have a focus on disability.
- Support to effective DPO engagement in reform of social protection systems through capacity building of DPOs. One learning event has taken place during the Asia Pacific Social Protection Week in Manila in September 2019 using a blended learning methodology of attending designated technical sessions, peer exchange sessions and meetings with social protection experts. Another regional training is planned to take place in April 2020 in Africa.
- Mainstreaming disability into the Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools and development of technical guidance documents and training modules that will be piloted in collaboration with the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of applied science.
- Advocacy and knowledge sharing through the engagement in a number of awareness raising activities such as the organization of a side event during the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP) in June 2019 in New York.



# Toolkit on ILO Social Security Standards

## Learn, Ratify and Apply



A toolkit was developed with the aim of raising awareness about ILO social security standards and promoting their ratification. By bringing together information and resources on these standards, the toolkit further serves to increase their impact and application in national contexts. The toolkit provides very practical and useful insights as to the ratification procedure, model instruments of ratification, as well as interactive information on the key provisions of these standards. Resources from the Toolkit had been applied in the context of the Flagship programme to promote the ratification of Convention No. 102 as for example in El Salvador, Mali and Paraguay.



[ratification.social-protection.org](http://ratification.social-protection.org)

## Statistics and Data Monitoring

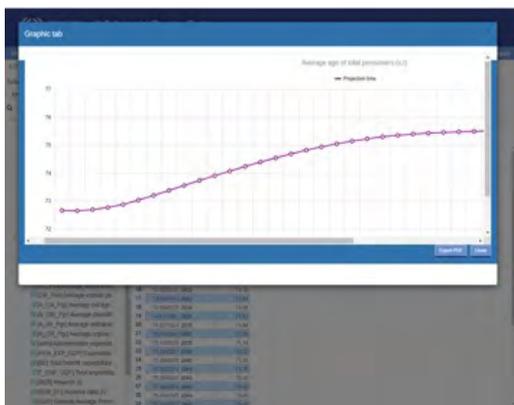
Since having been assigned the custodianship for SDG 1.3.1 in 2017, the ILO has enhanced its statistical support to constituents, providing general statistical support, reporting on social security indicators through the Social Security Inquiry (SSI). As the unique source for SDG 1.3.1 monitoring, ILO social protection data is included in Global reports including for the 2019 UN Secretary General's Report on monitoring SDG Monitoring. The database is the source of the UN Secretary General report on monitoring of SDGs.



A number of trainings on SSI and SDG reporting have been carried out through national and regional workshops covering more than 30 countries in Asia and Africa between 2018 - 2019. As part of this initiative, the Office has revised the Social Security Inquiry (SSI) questionnaire, produced a manual (How to guide), created a specific SSI module on social protection for migrant workers and launched the public World Social Protection Database online and country dashboards. The statistical and data related knowledge products as well as the trainings mentioned above have strengthened constituents capacities to monitor and evaluate progress towards SDG 1.3 and to better assess the overall development in relation to social protection, including the social health protection dimension in relation to SDG target 3.8.

[www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=13](http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=13)

# Actuarial models for Pensions and Health system assessments



The ILO has updated quantitative modelling tools for actuarial valuations of pension and health systems. The new models are more powerful in terms of their mathematical formulation, functionalities, processes, computational capacity and results. They also offer an end-user oriented working environment, which will allow social security institutions to develop their actuarial valuations in a more autonomous way. During 2018-2019, the development of the new tools was accompanied by their pilot application in several countries.

The new actuarial valuation model for pension systems, ILO/PENSIONS, was applied in actuarial valuations for Ecuador and Mozambique, and work is in progress in Kyrgyzstan. The model for actuarial valuations of health systems has been piloted in Ecuador and is in progress in Peru. Pilot tests of both models have been accompanied by training of officials from beneficiary institutions in the use of the tools. For example, in the context of the ACTION/Portugal project, two trainings have been held in Maputo for staff of the National Social Security Institution (INSS).

## Work on gender responsive social protection

Based on the experience gained in a number of countries of the programme, the ILO is engaged with DfID and other partners under the umbrella of the SPIAC-B on developing a roadmap for gender-responsive social protection.

The ILO also contributed to the 2019 Commission on the Status of Women held in New York (11–22 March 2019) which focussed on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The Outcome document (E/CN.6/2019/L.3) highlights the importance of covering the gaps in social protection and emphasizes the need to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to gender-responsive quality health services.



[www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019](http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019)

## TRANSFORM

The “Leadership & Transformation Curriculum on Building and Managing Social Protection Floors in Africa - TRANSFORM” is the product of a large-scale collaboration between various institutions, conducted over several years. TRANSFORM has been developed and is implemented primarily by African experts, to speak more directly to the specific challenges of building and managing

social protection floors in Africa. The initiative aims at constant joint development and updating of the material, recognising the importance of growing regional expertise.

TRANSFORM is coordinated in Africa by the ILO, UNICEF and UNDP. It has received support from Irish Aid and the European-Union Social Protection Systems Programme funded by the European Union and Finland.

TRANSFORM has also been adapted to an e-course offered through the IPC UNDP [www.socialprotection.org](http://www.socialprotection.org) platform. As a result of the trainings, TRANSFORM now disposes of a network of 40 English and Portuguese accredited Master trainers from 13 countries in Africa.



## Work on social protection for children

In the spirit of coordination, knowledge-sharing and partnerships, the ILO organized, jointly with UNICEF and ODI an international conference on Universal Child Grants from 6-8 February 2019.



The conference provided a platform for national governments and policy practitioners, researchers and the international community for knowledge exchange and promoted informed policy debate and decision-making with regards social protection and the objective of reducing child poverty and achieving better outcomes for children.

The conference positively influenced governments such as the Royal Thai Government, who decided to expand their Child Support Grant scheme, extending the critical support to children under 6 from poor families with an annual income below

100,000 Baht (about US\$3,300).

[www.odi.org/events/4580-international-conference-universal-child-grants](http://www.odi.org/events/4580-international-conference-universal-child-grants)

## Work on access to health care

At global level, the ILO supported the development of the consensus on universal health coverage as well as its dissemination through various platforms. In particular the ILO provided support to the Universal Health Coverage 2030 Partnership (UHC 2030) and the Providing for Health (P4H) network in preparation of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health coverage which took place at the United Nation General Assembly on 23 September 2019.

At regional level, country experiences on the extension of social health protection in South-East Asia have crystalized the development of a Regional Technical Facility (RTF) on social health protection with the aim to provide technical and policy advisory services, in partnership with experts across the region, to Asian countries committed to achieving



universal health coverage by 2030. The RTF fosters South-South collaboration and the expansion of the regional knowledge base on social health protection to feed global knowledge for use in other regions. This model of Facility is meant to complement the technical expertise provided by the ILO. Once the model has been implemented with success in Asia, the aim is to replicate it for Africa.

The global and regional engagement is in line with support provided at country level towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal on Universal Health Coverage (target 3.8). Achieving universal health coverage has been high on the agenda of many member States. Technical assistance by the ILO has included reviews of current social health protection situation in the country, design of universal health coverage schemes, advocacy and capacity building with constituents.

In Asia, the Flagship Programme provides in-country support to build the institutional capacity and financial sustainability of social health insurance schemes in Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Myanmar with the support of the Grand Duché of Luxemburg. For example, in Lao PDR the ILO provided support since 2017 to the design of the institutional, technical, financial and operational features of the national efforts to merge existing social health insurance schemes which covered 91% of the total population in 2017 and increased coverage to 94% in 2019. In addition to this project, two new projects are starting in 2019 with the aim of reinforcing social health protection schemes and systems. In India, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the ILO supports the efforts of formalization of employment using social health protection as an entry point.



In West and Central Africa, the ILO supports countries' efforts to design and start the implementation of universal health coverage plans in an inclusive fashion. In the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Togo and Burkina Faso, support is provided to the architecture of the social health protection system and its extension strategies to reach the informal economy and the most vulnerable. In Cameroon, with ILO technical support, the National Committee on Universal Health Coverage, co-chaired by the Ministers of Health and Labour, including Representatives of Workers 'and Employers' Organizations, adopted the architecture of the universal health coverage system in its session of 9 April 2019. In Burkina Faso, technical advisory for to the implementation of the new universal health coverage scheme is starting with the support of the European Union.

In Latin America, support was provided to Ecuador and Peru with a view to assess the institutional capacity and financial sustainability of social health insurance schemes and opportunities for their extension. A similar initiative is starting in Paraguay.

Since 2017, the UNHCR and the ILO have been working on a partnership to scale-up access of forcibly displaced people and host communities to social health protection. Feasibility assessments were carried out jointly in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Sudan, Mauritania, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Djibouti and Senegal and have led to development of proposals for the integration of refugees into national social health protection schemes as well as to updating of the UNHCR operational guidance on social health insurance for refugees. With this support, Rwanda started the affiliation of urban refugees to the CBHI scheme, with over 8,000 people newly benefiting from the scheme. Considering the growing demand for this joint service, the ILO and UNHCR decided to scale up this partnership as part of the PROSPECTS project, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, which will look specifically at the role of social health protection as a gateway to more comprehensive access to social protection in eight countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Uganda) over a four years period. A similar approach is under development for Central America.

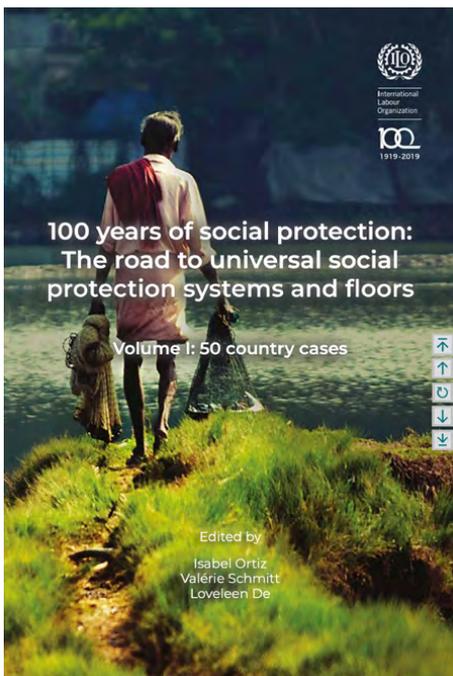
# KNOWLEDGE

## Practical knowledge development

The flagship programme aims to build practical knowledge, informed by concrete country experiences and thorough analysis of data collected from national sources. Throughout 2019, many new knowledge products and targeted training programmes were created including a number of good practices guides and practical toolkits already mentioned in the previous section.

During 2018/19, the office moreover published a total of 90 country briefs, 1 policy paper, 16 working papers, 8 issue briefs, 26 technical cooperation reports, 26 testimony videos and 8 newsletters.

## 100 years of social protection: The road to universal social protection systems and floors



In the framework of the ILO's 100th anniversary and in the spirit to reaffirm a shared commitment to achieving social justice, the Office is producing a compendium of inspiring country stories about building social protection systems and floors. It is composed of two volumes entitled "100 years of social protection: The road to universal social protection systems and floors".

The compendium includes stories about the historical development of social protection in countries, showing that building social protection systems is a progressive process that relies on national dialogue. It shows how international social security standards and the development of comprehensive legal frameworks can contribute to creating coherent social security systems that leave no one behind. It highlights that national ownership – enhanced through dialogue and the creation of a culture for social protection – is key to developing sustainable social protection systems and floors. It provides practical examples of how countries have significantly extended

coverage, or even achieved universal coverage, through cash transfers for children, maternity benefits, unemployment benefits, employment injury insurance, old-age and disability pensions and universal

health protection. It also provides practical solutions to the challenges of creating fiscal space for social protection and of reaching workers in the informal economy, rural workers, migrants, victims of climate-related events and workers in new forms of employment.

## Innovative approaches for ensuring universal social protection for the future of work

The ILO has contributed through various publications to the reflection on policy responses to challenges resulting from transformations in the world of work, in particular on social protection as a key element of the human-centered response for the future of work (FOW) promoted by the Global Commission on the FOW. Policy documents include:

- an ILO FOW Research Paper on Innovative approaches for ensuring universal social protection for the future of work;
- an Issue brief on Innovative approaches for ensuring universal social protection for the future of work which contributed as background research for the Global Commission on the Future of Work;
- an article on social protection for digital platform workers; and
- an article on Universal social protection.



The ILO FOW Research Paper assesses the challenges that social protection systems face around the world in providing full and effective coverage for workers in all forms of employment, including those in “new” forms of employment. While some emerging work and employment arrangements may provide greater flexibility for workers and employers, they may lead to significant gaps in social protection coverage, at a time when demands on social protection systems are increasing. Drawing on a wealth of international empirical evidence, it examines innovative efforts to address gaps in social protection schemes, particularly for workers in non-standard forms of employment.

## Measuring financing gaps in social protection for achieving SDG target 1.3: Global estimates and strategies for developing countries

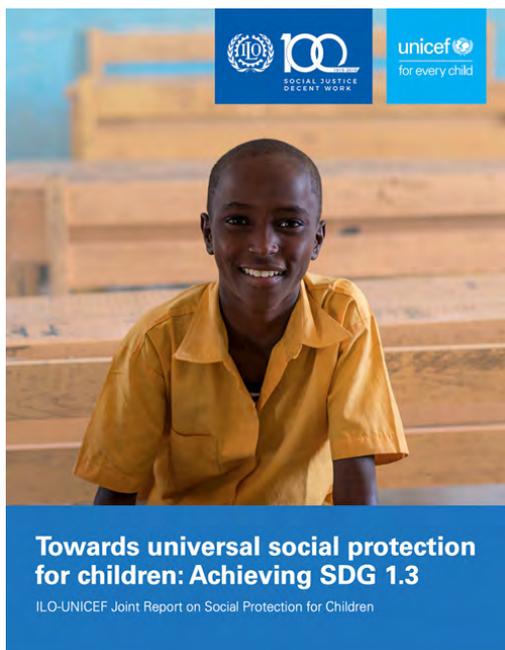
In order to comply with the 2030 Agenda on Social Protection, and notably SDG 1.3 “implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable”, the forthcoming years will require significant efforts, both at a national and international level, to build up social protection systems including floors for all in those countries where coverage gaps still exist. Low-income countries with a high level of vulnerable populations are a priority.

The ILO is publishing a working paper, which will be launched on 27 November 2019 at the High Level Conference of the Global Social Protection Week. The working paper aims to contribute to the analysis

of measuring coverage and financing gaps in SDG 1.3 and to provide information on regional and global estimates of the costs and financing gaps of providing universal coverage in social protection, and how to fill in the financing gaps using domestic and external resources.

Consult the working paper as of 27 November 2019 at: [socialprotectionweek.org](https://socialprotectionweek.org)

## Towards universal social protection for children: Achieving SDG 1.3



In the spirit of coordination, knowledge sharing and partnerships, the ILO organized, jointly with UNICEF and ODI an international conference on Universal Child Grants in early 2019, at the ILO. The report “Towards universal social protection for children: Achieving SDG 1.3” was published in the framework of the joint conference. The report calls for the rapid expansion of child and family benefits, with the aim of achieving universal social protection for children, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such benefits are a key element of policies to improve access to nutrition, health and education, as well as reducing child labour and child poverty and vulnerability. The report further notes that universal social protection for children is not a privilege of wealthy countries. A number of developing countries have made or achieved (or nearly achieved) universal coverage, such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mongolia and South Africa.





# KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships for success in countries, at the regional and global levels

Leveraging and implementation of strategic partnerships is essential for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and particularly important given the cross-country nature of social protection assistance.

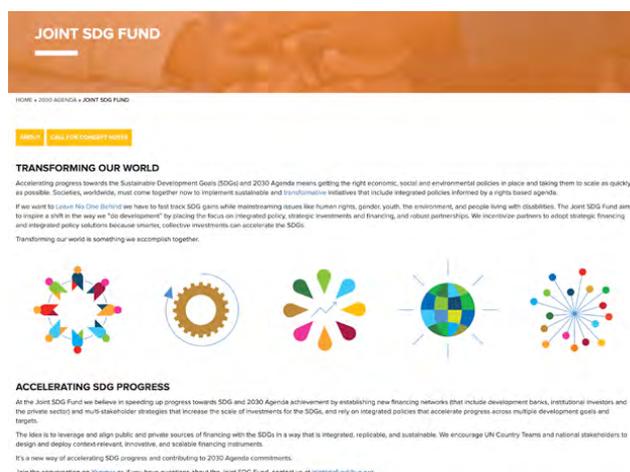
## Multi-stakeholder Partnership for SDG 1.3

A Multi-stakeholder Partnership for SDG 1.3 was announced in July 2017 at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York by ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder. It brings together under one umbrella the various networks that have been created over years to build common positions on social protection and enhance joint programming. Each network has its own agenda based on which its members make substantive contributions to SDGs on social protection through global advocacy and support to country implementation.

## UN Social Protection Floor Initiative (UN SPF-I)

Over the past 10 years, through the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative (UN SPF-I), that was launched in 2009 under ILO's and WHO's co-leadership, 17 UN agencies, and over 60 UN country teams, have worked as One on social protection. In countries such as Zambia, Pakistan, Viet Nam and others, UN agencies coordinate action through the joint development of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) including priorities on social protection, joint programming and delivery.

The first call for proposals of the Joint SDG Fund – Leaving No One Behind & Social Protection, launched in March 2019, focused on social protection. 114 UN Country Teams sent proposals in less than 5 weeks, showing not only the relevance of social protection for the UNDAFs but also the readiness of country teams to deliver as One on social



protection. The joint projects will enhance inter-agency collaboration with a variety of organisations (e.g. UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, WFP, IOM, etc.).

The selected projects focus on the identification and activation of policy accelerators that unleash rapid progress across the SDGs focusing on Leaving No One Behind, and specifically social protection. The Joint Fund will provide a total of **USD 72.46 million for projects in 36 countries** to take innovative approaches to integrated policy solutions, and leverage financing for social protection, including floors, paying special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including children, women, adolescents, people, living with disabilities and older people. Over a period of two years support will be provided to strengthen country efforts in extending social protection systems to those who are currently being left behind.

ILO is present jointly with other UN agencies (e.g.: UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, WFP, IOM, etc.) in 27 out of 36 country projects (in 9 ILO is the lead agency).

In the framework of the Joint SDG Fund, the ILO will support the extension of social protection in Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Gabon, Kenya, Lebanon, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Nigeria, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Africa, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

With the Joint SDG Fund projects covering a number of countries of the Flagship programme, they will be able to enhance already existing efforts and create synergies and potential multiplier effects to progress the development of social protection systems, including floors across the various regions.

For more information visit <http://un.social-protection.org>

## Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B)

The SPIAC-B is co-chaired by the ILO and the World Bank, and continues to develop useful inter-agency assessment tools under its Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) activities. As a platform for exchange on latest developments in social protection, the SPIAC-B meeting in Geneva in February 2019 allowed members to exchange information on ongoing or upcoming activities, research, trainings and events.



The Gender working group and the Digital social protection working group were launched and set out workplans for themselves. The gender working group issued a joint statement on the occasion of the Commission on the Status of Women (in March 2019) and organized a side event. The group is also working on a roadmap to 2030 and is organizing interventions during the ILO global social protection week. The digital social protection group is developing products in three work streams: i) Concepts and guidelines, ii) Global goods for digital social protection and iii) innovation and learning.

For the ISPA initiative, 2019 was a busy year. In terms of tool development, the Food Security and Nutrition Tool was finalized and is waiting for final approval and work on Social Assistance Cash Transfer tool, and the Social Information Systems tool progressed. In addition, the work on better mainstreaming gender issues and disability into the existing and upcoming tools has started. At the same time, the number of tool applications is growing, with CODI being particularly in demand. The ISPA secretariat also conducted a review study on ISPA to assess the value-added of these tools for countries and guide the future work on the tools.

## Universal Social Protection USP2030

Under the co-leadership of the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation, USP2030 partners work together to increase the number of countries that provide universal social protection, supporting countries to design and implement universal and sustainable social protection systems, in line with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, and in particular target 1.3 of the sustainable development goals (SDG 1.3). Actions include coordinating country support to strengthen national social protection systems, knowledge development to document country experience and provide evidence on financing options and advocacy for integrating universal social protection. In 2019, the USP2030 launched a joint Call to Action.

### USP2030 – Call for Action

The members of the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030), gathered in Geneva on 5 February 2019 at the International Conference 'Together to Achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030', call on all countries to live up to their commitment to develop nationally-owned social protection systems for all, including floors, as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Universal social protection is key to sustained inclusive economic and social development, for individuals, communities and nations. It is also a human right.

To date, countries in many parts of the world have made significant progress in the extension of social protection. Yet 55 per cent of the global population is still excluded from social protection. Urgent efforts are needed to ensure that the human right to social protection becomes a reality for all, and to achieve the goals set by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We urge countries and international partners to support the global commitment to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors (SDG 1.3) by 2030, through the following actions, centred around the core principles of universal social protection:

**ACTION 1.** Protection throughout life cycle: Establish universal social protection systems, including floors, that provide adequate protection throughout the life cycle, combining social insurance, social assistance and other means, anchored in national strategies and legislation;

**ACTION 2.** Universal coverage: Provide universal access to social protection and ensure that social protection systems are rights-based, gender-sensitive and inclusive, leaving no one behind;

**ACTION 3.** National ownership: Develop social protection strategies and policies based on national priorities and circumstances in close cooperation with all relevant actors;

**ACTION 4.** Sustainable and equitable financing: Ensure the sustainability and fairness of social protection systems by prioritizing reliable and equitable forms of domestic financing, complemented by international cooperation and support where necessary;

**ACTION 5.** Participation and social dialogue: Strengthen governance of social protection systems through institutional leadership, multi-sector coordination and the participation of social partners and other relevant and representative organisations, to generate broad-based support and promote the effectiveness of services.

## MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP USP2030



[www.usp2030.org](http://www.usp2030.org)

## Networks with social partners

The Social Protection, Freedom and Justice for Workers Network was initiated in 2017 by the ILO, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and in collaboration with members of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors. It aims to support workers' organizations to build their capacities for advocating to improve social protection and defending the right to social protection. The workers network will hold its first face-to-face meeting gathering over 62 workers representatives during the Global Social Protection Week in Geneva from 25 to 28 November 2019.

For more information visit [workers.social-protection.org](http://workers.social-protection.org)

The ILO's Global Business Network for Social Protection Floors, in operation since 2015, is a platform for enterprises to increase their involvement in the achievement of SDG 1.3 on building social protection systems and floors. Several partnerships have been developed with Global Business Network members notably L'Oréal, Geely, Auchan foundation WOF and Nestlé. Through these partnerships GBN members collaborate with the ILO on specific research, capacity building, communication and country projects.

For more information visit the [business.social-protection.org](http://business.social-protection.org)

# Improving synergies between social protection and Public Finance Management

A new joint ILO – UNICEF Action, in collaboration with the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, was launched on 1 October 2019. While the joint project is mainly financed by the European Commission, bilateral donors are invited to support the initiative at country or global level to enhance its potential impact.

The Action supports partner countries and EU Delegations in social protection policy formulation, and building of social protection systems, while putting a strong emphasis on its mutual interconnection with fiscal policies, public finance management (PFM), with an emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, digital and SDG strategies.

The activities will be implemented by ILO, UNICEF, the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors and other partners through a two-pronged approach:

**Approach 1:** Provision of medium-term in-country technical assistance, capacity and knowledge development, strengthening social protection aspects of EU budget support operations, carrying out a limited selection of rigorous research studies, aiming to consolidate existing cross-sectoral efforts and resources and to strengthen the national social protection systems. The approach 1 will be conducted in 8 partner countries, namely Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal, and Uganda.

**Approach 2:** Provision of on-demand shorter-term advisory services to other than the eight countries to extend social protection coverage and adequacy, increase system performance as well as domestic financing of social policies and identification of the factors that can maximize their beneficial linkage with ongoing and planned EU funded budget support operations in relevant contexts.

The advisory services of approach 2 will be provided on a global scope and strictly on-demand based upon requests from EU delegations and governments subject to approval by EU delegations, in priority in relation to ongoing or planned budget support operations. The activities will be implemented by the ILO's team of experts (or ILO subcontractors) on various technical issues pertaining to the development and financing of social protection systems and floors and their interrelationships with PFM and EU budget support operations.

All activities of the Action will follow a participatory process that involves all relevant stakeholders in a national dialogue process. All activities will also ensure a gender responsive and disability-inclusive design and implementation, which will be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation, as well as paying attention to also strengthening national capacities in building comprehensive social protection systems, including floors.

Total Project Funding: EUR 22.9 million; EU contribution: EUR 20 million; ILO co-financing: EUR 1.9 million; UNICEF co-financing: EUR 1 million. Project duration 1 October 2019 – 31 May 2023.



## Social Protection Digital Project Map

A Digital Map illustrating the portfolio of active and of some upcoming ILO social protection projects across the world has been published. The map displays country “snapshots” – providing a brief overview of social protection coverage, government priorities, recent ILO contributions, current and upcoming projects, and finally funding gaps for future areas of work.



The Digital Map includes countries that are part of the Global Flagship Programme for Social Protection Floors, the First Call of the UN Joint SDG Fund, the European Commission Development Cooperation Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

The Digital Map initially prepared as background for the Global Social Protection Week (25-28 November 2019) will form part of the information tools available to national stakeholders, and development partners.

## Tracking results and impact with the new ILO Results Monitoring Tool



A new results monitoring tool has been developed under the ILO flagship programme to track development cooperation and other social protection support activities, the results achieved and the number of persons impacted.

The new tool, launched in 2019, is gathering data from across funding sources and individual projects to create a long-run view of the often incremental, but fundamental, institutional changes achieved to build national social protection systems and create sustainable financing mechanisms.

Data from 214 social protection projects and programmes administered by the ILO since 2008, including the Flagship projects, have been collected.

The tool will allow, both donors as well as social partners, to track progress and identify coverage gaps in various regions, as well as country specific contexts and to consolidate results and impact across all or specific groups of interventions and countries.

The tool is currently being pilot-tested with the ILO's Social Protection Global Technical Team to fine-tune the details based on feedback. It will be made publicly available in early 2020.



# ILO CENTENARY

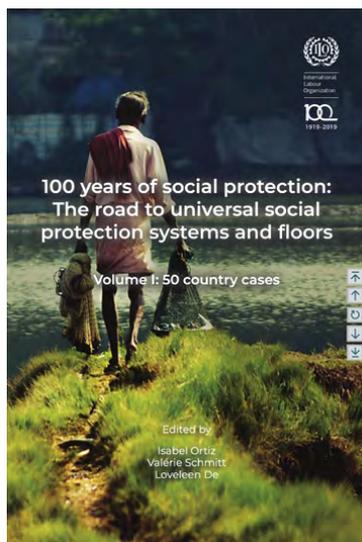
## 100 Years of Social Protection

In 2019, together with celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ILO, the Organization is also celebrating 100 years of ILO's mandate in the field of social protection. It is providing a unique opportunity to reflect on 100 years of social protection and raise-awareness to the need to accelerate the achievement of universal social protection by the year 2030.

Together with flagship programme partners, the ILO had launched a campaign "100 Years of Social Protection with the ILO: the Road to Universal Social Protection" to complete the work started 100 years ago.

7 principle activities are being carried out, which are featured on the website to mark the centenary

- To highlight history and achievements, **an exhibition on 100 years of social protection** is available in various languages and has been promoted through public events, in schools and universities, in Ministries of Labour and social security institutions around the globe throughout 2019.



- A compendium of **100 country cases** which offers insights into countries' successful experiences in developing social protection systems is being finalized for end 2019. A first volume with 50 country cases was published in early 2019.
  - A series of **testimonial videos** have been produced which raise the voices of women and men whose lives have been transformed by social protection, as well as policy makers, trade unionists, employers, united nations leaders, development partners and civil society organizations.
  - The "Ratify and Apply" initiative which provides information on ILO social security standards and their ratification continues. In 2019, 4 countries ratified ILO's Social Security Convention No. 102.
- **Communications activities** to support universal social protection have been ongoing to increase outreach and raise awareness on the right and reality of social protection, as well as donations for ILO projects to support countries in achieving universal social protection.
  - National and regional "**social protection weeks**" have been taking place to take stock of efforts to strengthen social protection and consider its future.

- Support for the **future of social protection** through the flagship programme have materialized to help fill the resource gap to achieve SDG 1.3 and contribute to build the future of social protection with the UN SDG Fund call bringing in US\$ 72.46 million to support countries in achieving SDG1.



These events are culminating in the Global Social Protection Week on “Achieving SDG 1.3 and Universal Social Protection (USP2030) in the Context of the Future of Work” from 25 to 28 November 2019 taking place in Geneva. The Global Social Protection Week starts with a two-day High-Level Conference followed by a two-day Technical Segment. It is foreseen that participants at the Global Social Protection Week will arrive at a set of endorsed conclusions stemming from each of the sessions. This will contribute to chart the way towards achieving universal social protection for all and provide a roadmap for the future of social protection within the framework of the recently adopted ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work.

It is anticipated that the event will bring together over 300 participants including ministers of labour and social security from countries that are striving towards the implementation of national social protection systems including floors, development partners, international financing institutions, regional bodies, the ILO and other United Nations agencies, workers’ and employers’ organizations, private sector, academia and civil society.

The two-day High Level Conference will be live streamed to increase outreach.



For more information see the website of the event at:

[ilo100.social-protection.org](http://ilo100.social-protection.org)

[socialprotectionweek.org](http://socialprotectionweek.org)

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AND SUPPORTING COUNTRIES  
TO REALIZE THE HUMAN RIGHT  
TO SOCIAL PROTECTION, YOU CAN  
CHANGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS,  
ALLOWING PEOPLE TO LIVE IN  
DIGNITY AND ENSURING THAT  
NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.

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