



International
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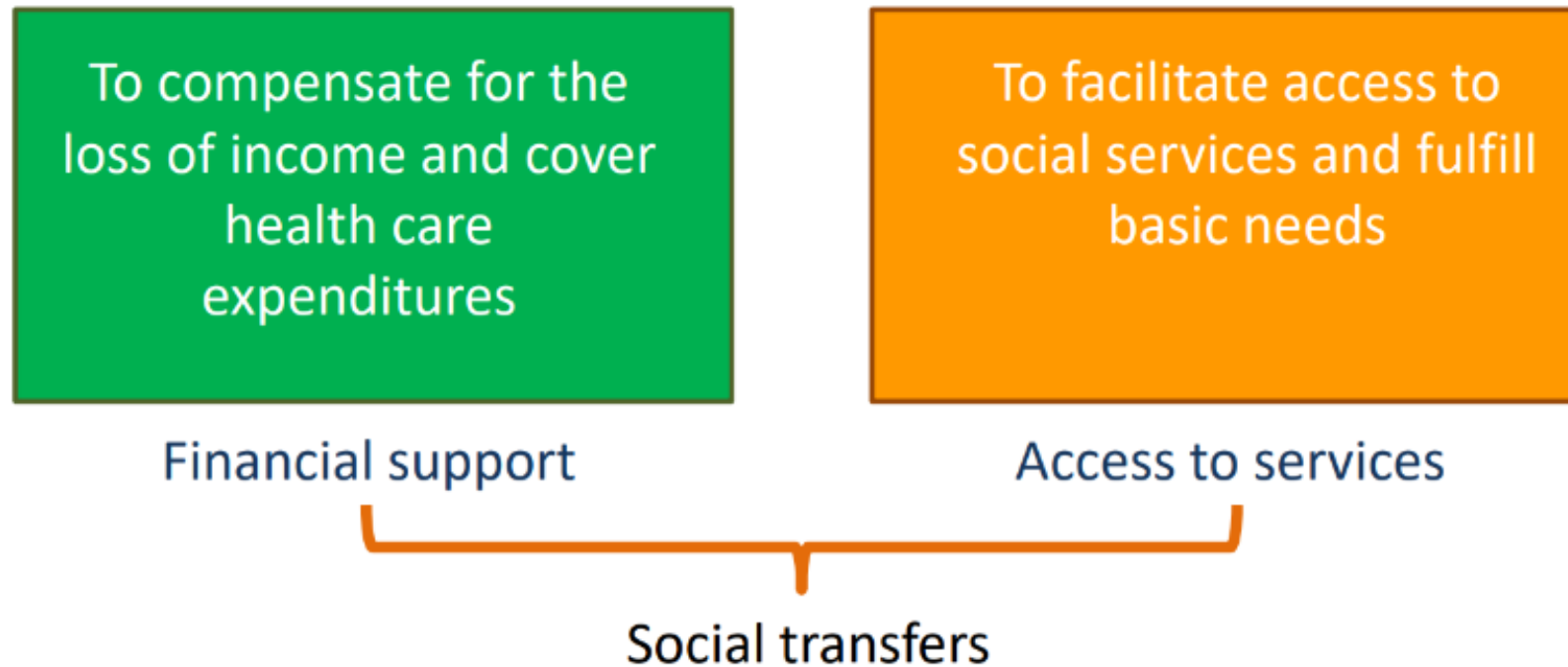
Introduction to social protection: international concepts and current status globally and in Africa

Workshop on extension of social protection to
informal workers

Kigali, 5 December 2023

What is social protection?

Protection provided by society against **life cycle risks**



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)



Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security (...)

Article 25

(1) Everyone has the **right to a standard of living adequate** for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including (...) **medical care** and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of **unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age** or other **lack of livelihood** in circumstances beyond his control. (...)

(2) **Motherhood** and **childhood** are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, (...) shall enjoy the same social protection.

Rights-Based Social Protection Systems and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



► Protection across the life-cycle

- People face risks during their life-cycle, which have financial consequences

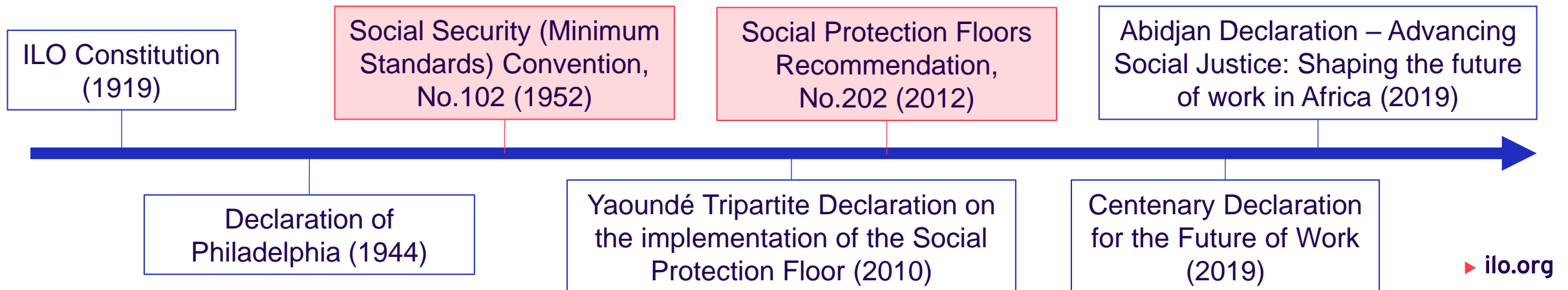


- Social security is provided to members of a society against the economic and social distress caused by such contingencies

► ILO's mandate on social protection

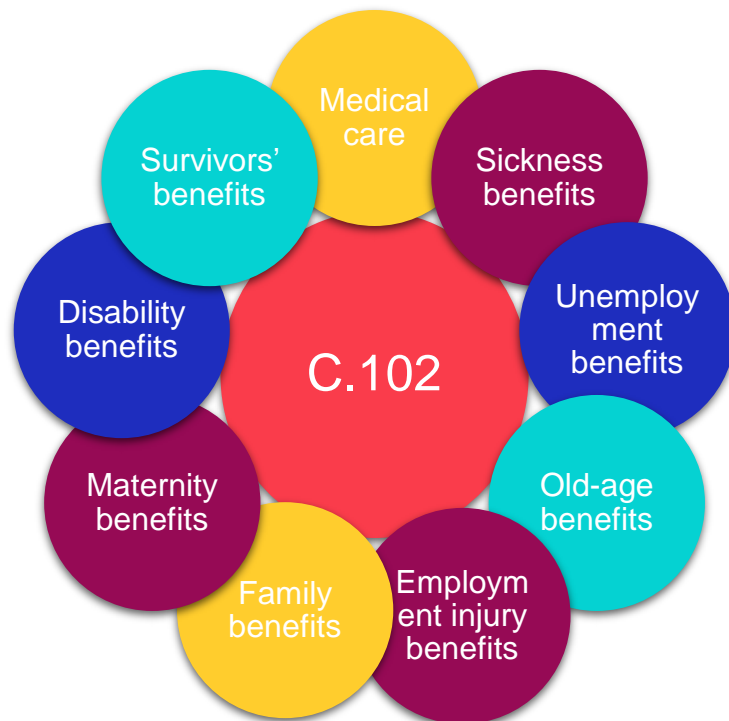
The International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Brings together governments, employers and workers from its 187 member states
- Is the United Nations agency for the world of work
- Founded on the conviction that universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice



Defining social protection

Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). Nine branches:

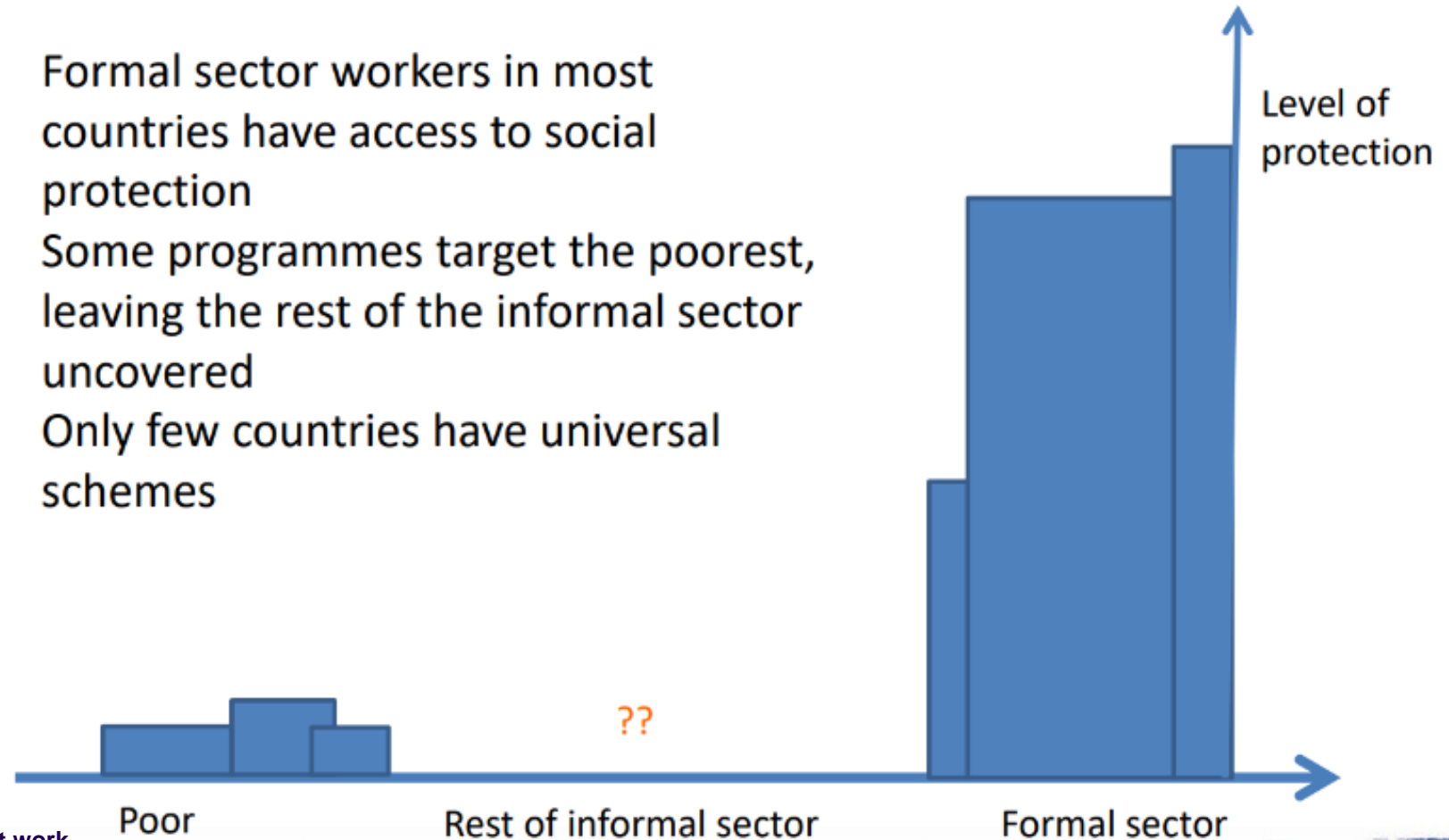


Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). Four basic social security guarantees:



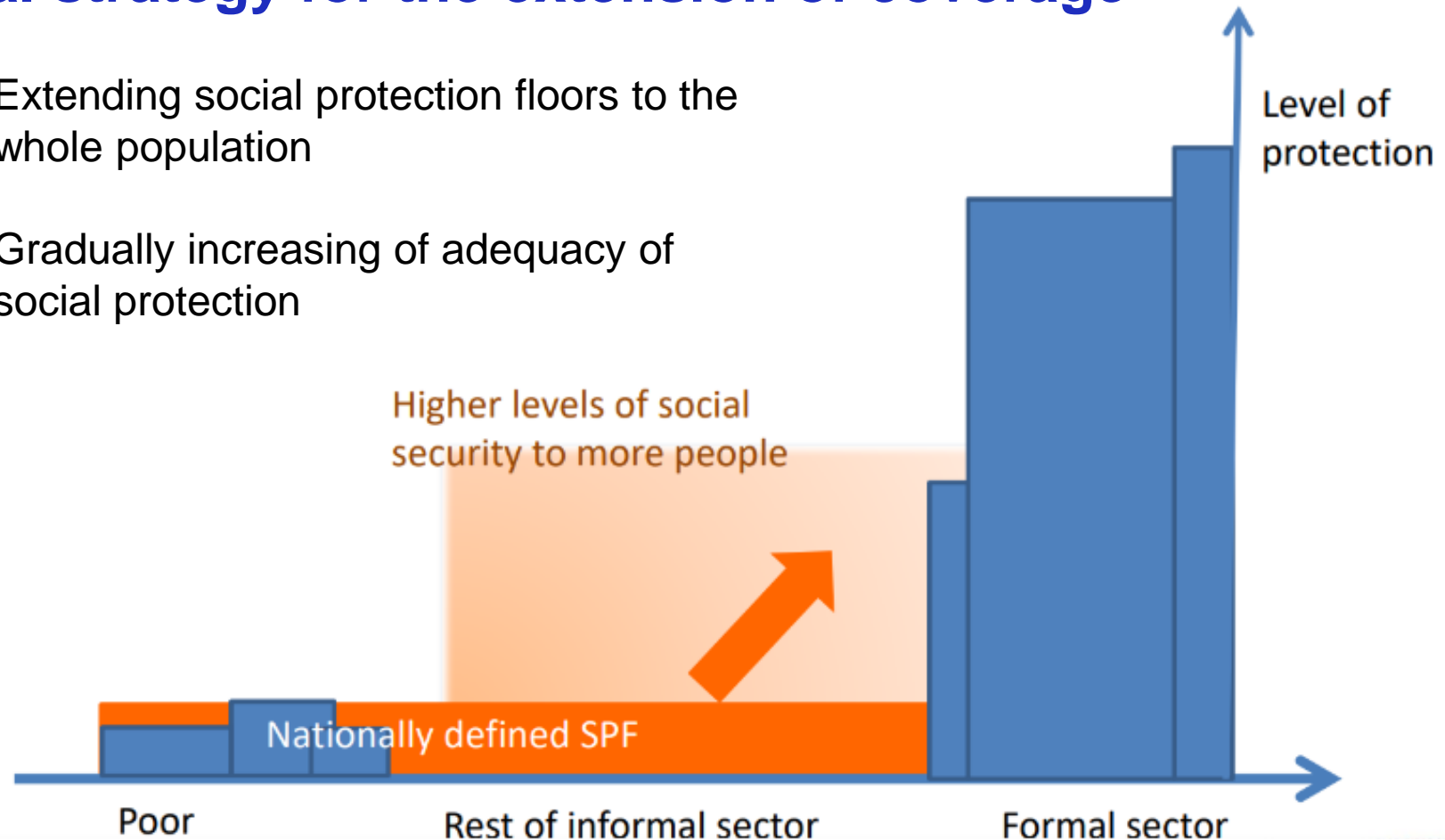
Two dimensions of social protection

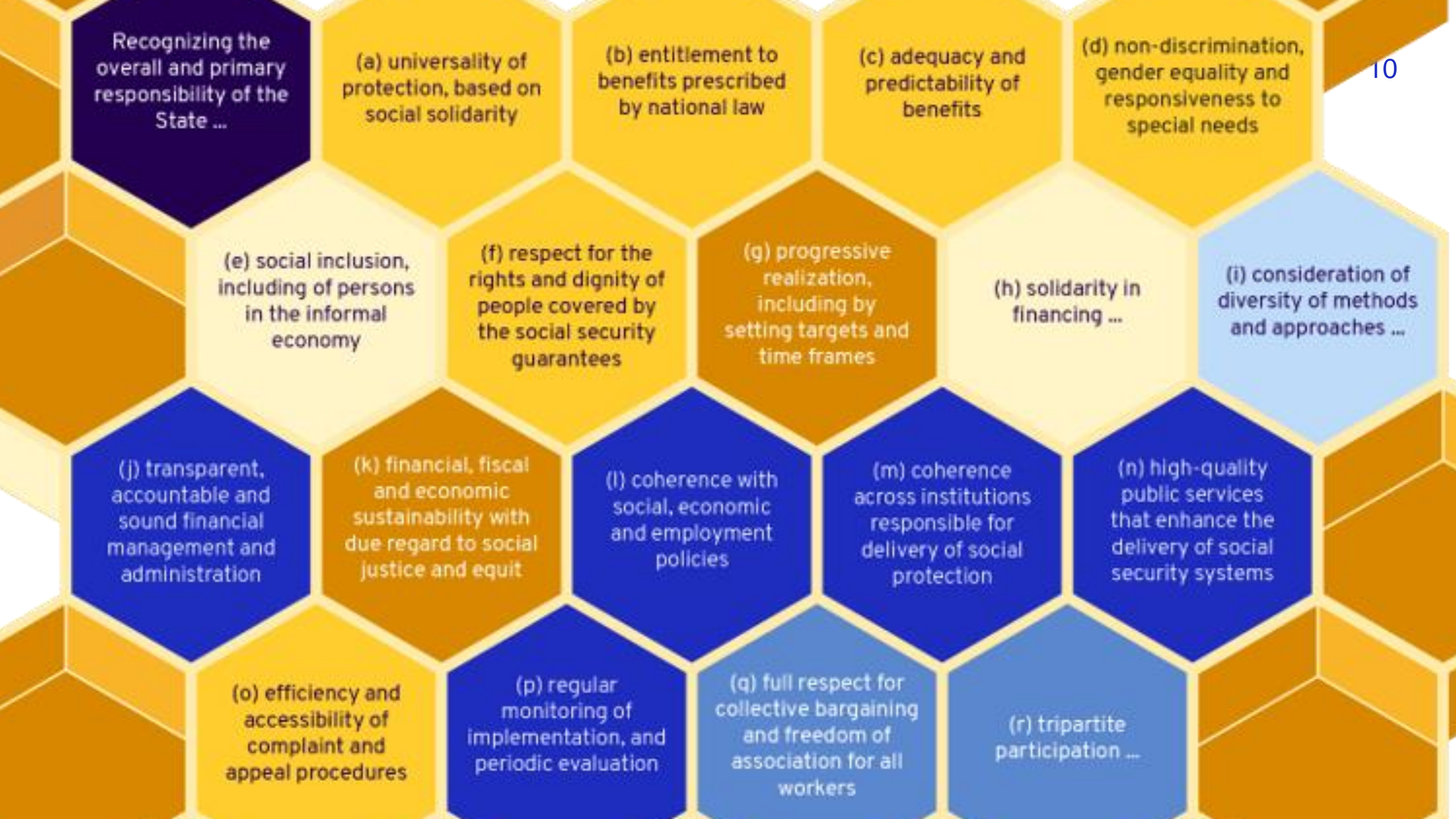
- Formal sector workers in most countries have access to social protection
- Some programmes target the poorest, leaving the rest of the informal sector uncovered
- Only few countries have universal schemes



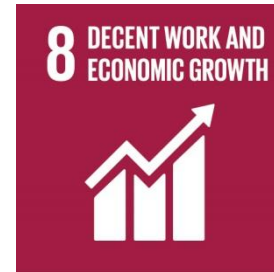
Two-dimensional strategy for the extension of coverage

- Extending social protection floors to the whole population
- Gradually increasing of adequacy of social protection





► Social protection in the 2030 Agenda: SDG 1 on poverty



Target 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

- Recognition of the role of social protection in sustainable development is a major step forward from the MDGs
- Importance of social protection systems, and within those, social protection floors acknowledged
- Emphasis on national ownership (by extension: national responsibility and accountability)

World Social Protection Report 2020-22



Advancing social justice, promoting decent work

- ▶ Gives a global overview of recent developments in social protection systems, including social protection floors, following a life-cycle approach.
- ▶ Covers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Identifies critical protection gaps.
- ▶ Sets out key policy recommendations, and how to achieve the 2030 SDGs.
- ▶ Based on improved statistical data (available online in the World Social Protection Database) with greater country coverage compared to previous edition.
- ▶ Regional deep dives provided in the regional companion reports



[Link to video \(YouTube\)](#)

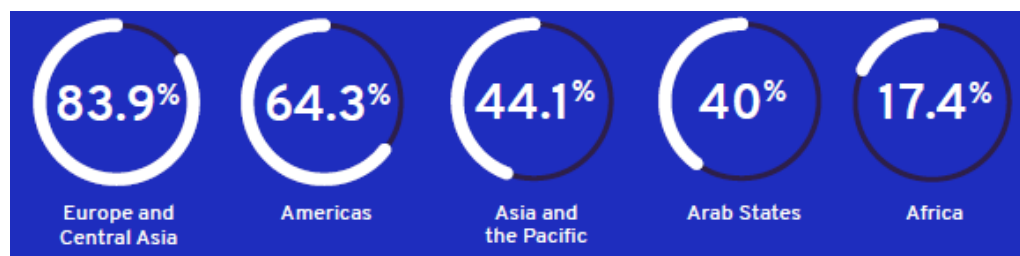
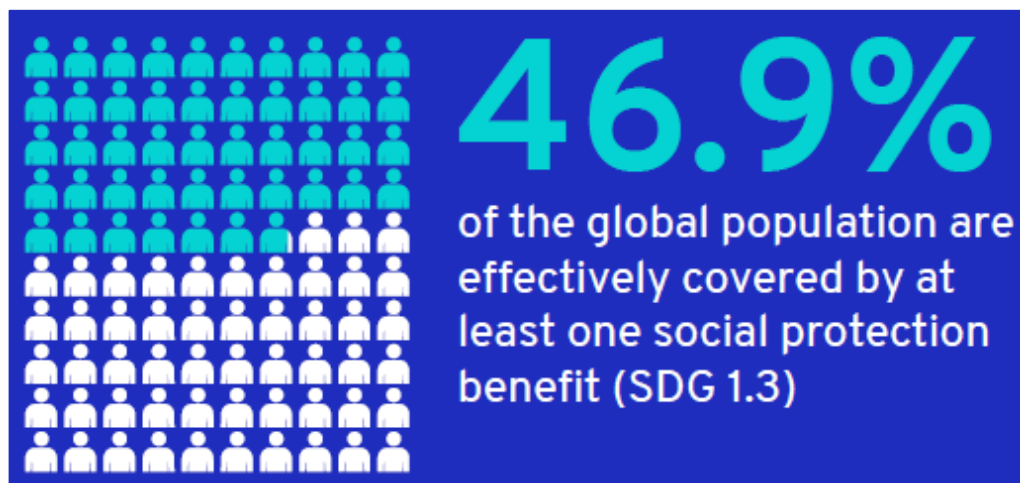


Key messages of the 2020 – 2022 report

- ▶ The pandemic has exposed **deep-seated inequalities** and **significant gaps** in social protection coverage, comprehensiveness and adequacy across all countries.
- ▶ COVID-19 provoked an **unparalleled policy response**.
- ▶ Socio-economic **recovery remains uncertain** and enhanced social protection spending will continue to be crucial.
- ▶ Countries are at a **crossroads** with regard to the trajectory of their social protection systems for the future.
- ▶ Pursuing a '**high-road**' approach to accelerate progress towards **universal social protection** is key for greater resilience, decent work and social justice.

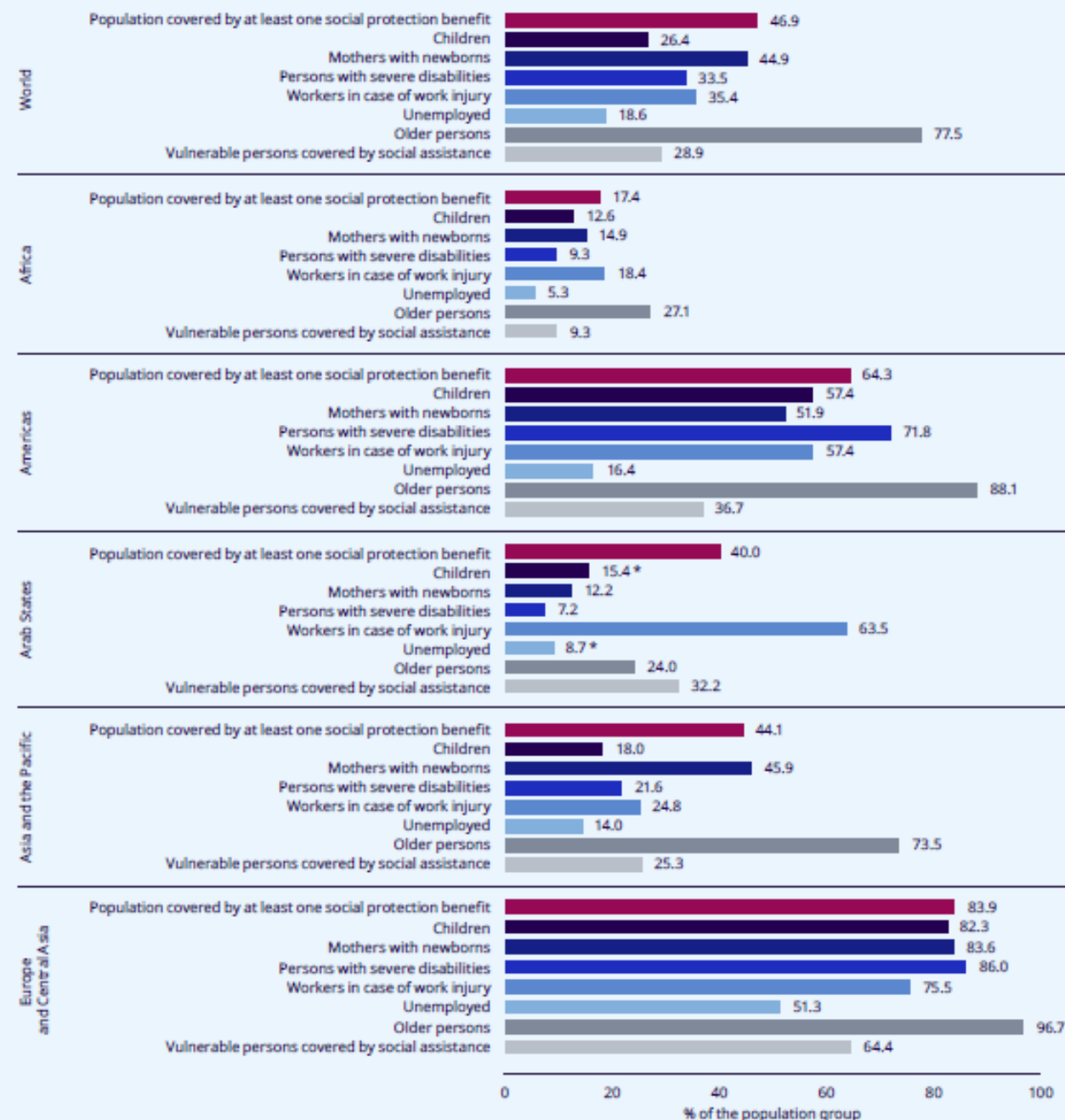


Overview of effective coverage across the lifecycle (SDG 1.3)



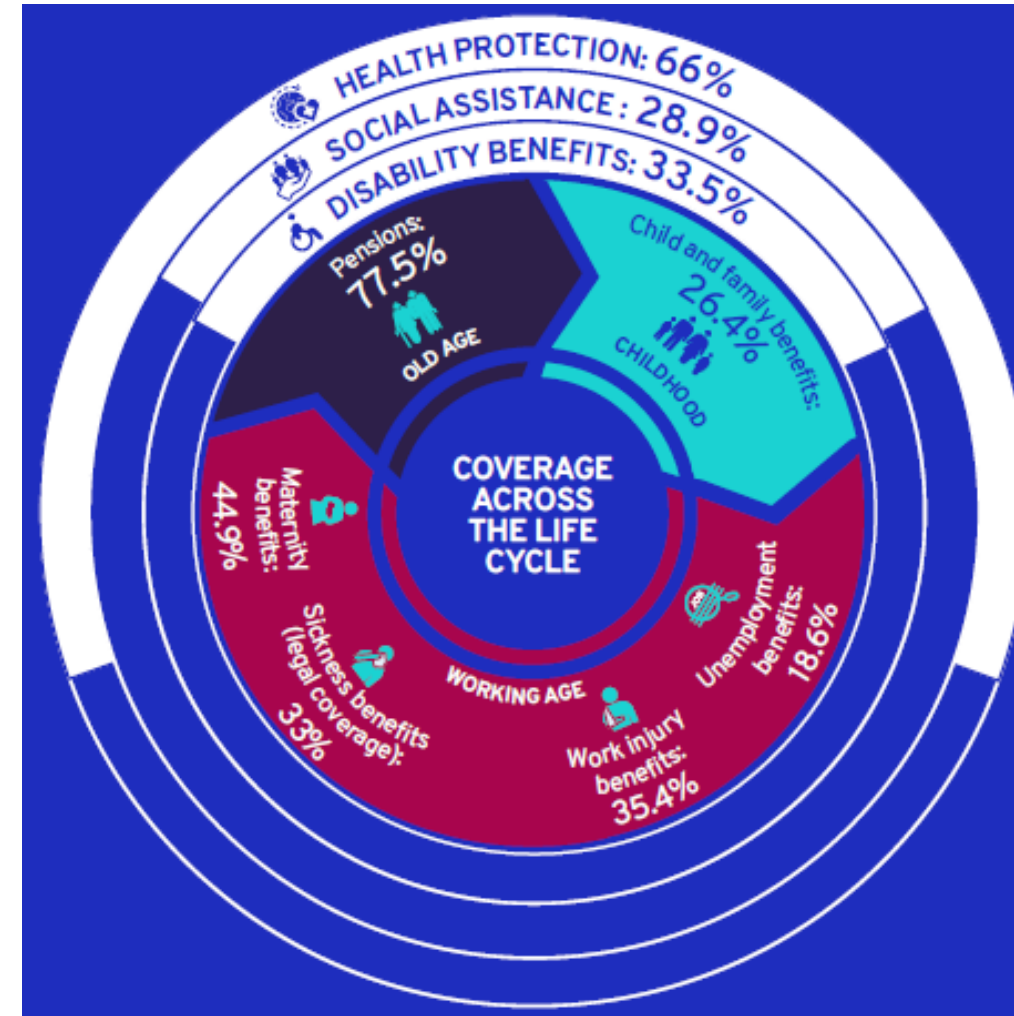
Advancing social justice, promoting decent work

► Figure 2.4 SDG indicator 1.3.1: Effective social protection coverage, global and regional estimates, by population group, 2020 or latest available year



Overview of effective coverage across the lifecycle (SDG 1.3)

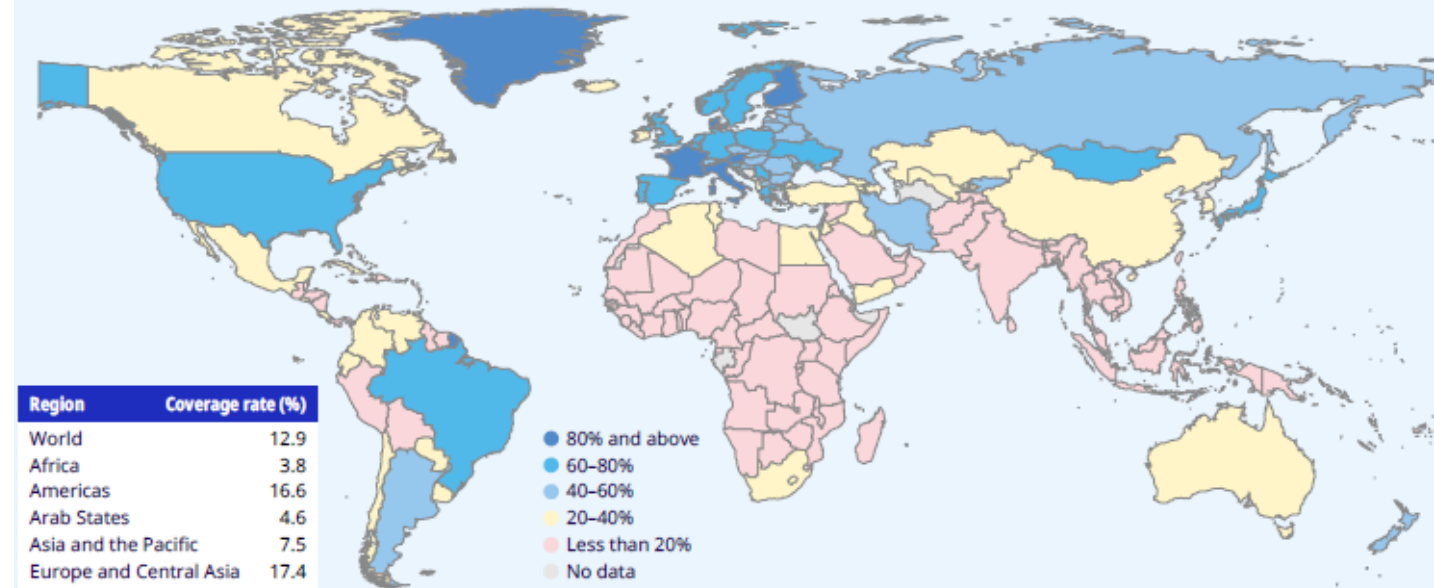
- ▶ The vast majority of **children** — **73.6% or 1.5 billion children aged 0-14** — receive no child or family benefits.
- ▶ Only **44.9%** of **pregnant and childbearing women** receive a cash maternity benefit — **71 million new mothers do not receive maternity benefits**.
- ▶ Just **33%** of the working-age population is **legally entitled to sickness benefits**.
- ▶ Only **35.4%** have **employment injury protection** — **2.1 billion employed persons uncovered**.
- ▶ Fewer than **one-in-five** unemployed workers actually receive **unemployment cash benefits** — **179 million unemployed persons do not receive unemployment benefits**.
- ▶ Just **33.5%** of people with severe disabilities receive a **disability cash benefit** — **150 million persons with severe disabilities do not receive disability benefits**.
- ▶ **77.5%** of persons above retirement age receive an old-age pension — **164 million older persons do not receive a pension**.
- ▶ Only **two-thirds** of the global population are protected by any kind of **health protection scheme** — **2.7 billion people uncovered**.



Underinvestment in social protection

- ▶ Social protection gaps are associated with significant **underinvestment**, especially in low-income countries.
- ▶ **Securing sustainable and adequate financing** is essential, usually through a combination of (progressive) taxation and social insurance contributions.
- ▶ Need for **well-coordinated policies**, including employment, macro-economic and fiscal policies, as well as policies to support transitions from the informal to the formal economy.

▶ Figure 2.9 Public social protection expenditure (excluding health), percentage of GDP, 2020 or latest available year

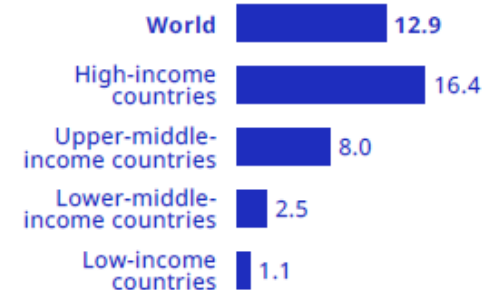


Note: Global and regional aggregates are weighted by GDP.

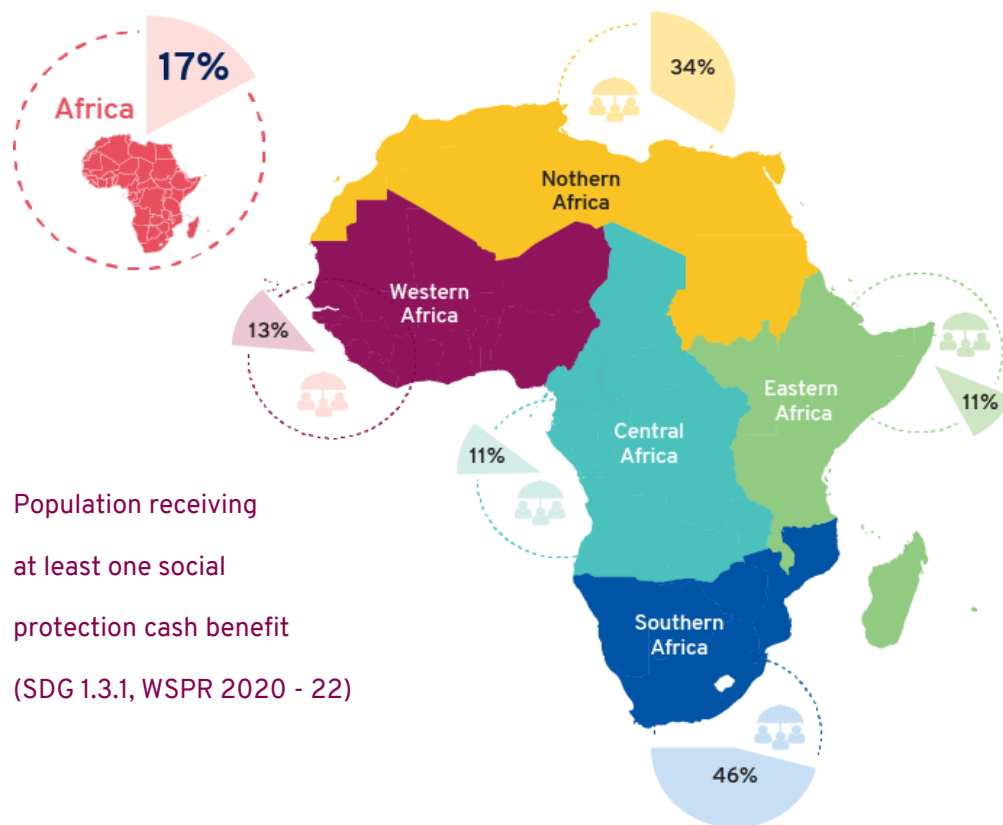
Sources: ILO, [World Social Protection Database](#), based on SSI; International Monetary Fund (IMF); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); national sources.

Link: <https://wspr.social-protection.org>.

Public expenditure on social protection (excluding healthcare) as a % of GDP

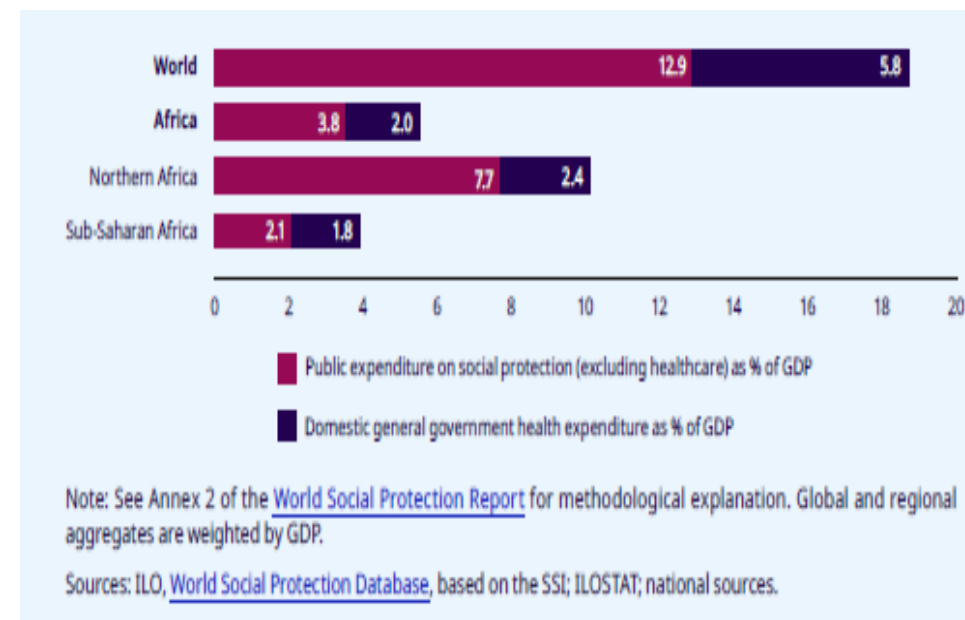


Africa: low social protection coverage and disparities across sub-regions



Low coverage associated with underinvestment in social protection

Public expenditure on social protection (excluding healthcare) as a % of GDP





Africa Regional Social Protection Strategy, 2021-2025

Towards 40 % – a social protection coverage acceleration framework to achieve the SDGs

ACTION AREA 1: Enhance coverage and adequacy through strong social protection strategies, legal framework and programmes

ACTION AREA 2: Close financing gap by ensuring adequate and sustainable financing for social protection

ACTION AREA 3: Develop strategic partnerships

Data is key in monitoring progress on the Regional Strategy

Current status of data availability in Africa is low ...



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► **Thank you very much for
your attention**