



International
Labour
Organization

▶ **Building
social
protection
floors for all**

ILO Global Flagship
Programme

2021-22 Report



▶ **Building social protection floors for all**

ILO Global Flagship Programme

2021–22 Report

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Building Social Protection Floors for All: ILO Global Flagship Programme, 2021-22 Report
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► Foreword

A pathway through and beyond recurrent crises

There is no doubt that the world today is at another crossroads facing renewed threats to global peace, rises in inequalities and in the cost of living, and the increasingly evident and deadly effects of climate change. These threats have come into sharp focus following a pandemic that wreaked havoc on the global economy and upended many working lives seemingly overnight. In all, hundreds of millions lost their jobs outright. Since 2021, we have witnessed a strong but deeply uneven economic recovery, with fewer hours worked than before the pandemic struck and a sharp increase in the wealth of the world's billionaires not seen in decades.^{1,2}

Unfortunately, these recent developments now threaten more than ever the prospects of more inclusive global development and the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, including the priority of extending social protection to the more than 4 billion individuals currently without it.

As of 2020, only half of the world's population enjoyed some type of social protection benefit, leaving the other half without recourse against economic shocks or everyday lifecycle risks. The ILO estimates that developing countries will need some US\$1.2 trillion of additional investments to close this social protection gap and ensure minimum income security and health care for citizens.³

Closing the social protection financing gap may not be feasible by 2030 for low-income countries without significant assistance from the international community to complement and support temporarily domestic resource mobilization efforts achieved through

1 ILO. 2022. ILO Monitor on the world of work. Tenth edition. Geneva: ILO.

2 Christensen, et al., 2023. Survival of the Richest: How we must tax the super-rich now to fight inequality. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxfam International.

3 Durán-Valverde, et al., 2020. Financing gaps in social protection: Global estimates and strategies for developing countries in light of the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. ILO Working Paper 14, Geneva: ILO.

budget reallocations, tax reforms, and public financial management improvements.⁴

At the same time, sizable shares of many economies remain in the shadows and revenues needed for critical public investments are regularly lost. Formalization of employment and enterprises is not only key to realizing a wider enjoyment of labour protection among workers, but also to the generation of the financial resources needed for countries to build up their economies and societies, including strong social protection systems, in the face of current and future challenges.

Among the most pressing of these challenges is how to address the climate crisis in a manner that reduces our contributions to it and protects people, in particular those most vulnerable to its effects. Changes in how we produce and consume are necessary and will have impacts that reverberate throughout the world of work. It will require agility on the part of both businesses and workers, made possible by strengthening social protection systems, including unemployment insurance mechanisms, to provide income security to workers as they transition to new and greener jobs.

Also on the horizon is the increasing presence of digitalization and automation in our everyday lives. The changing organization of work and productivity gains brought about by these technological advancements will require revisiting policy orientations conceived in different areas, as well as innovative approaches to social protection administration and financing that foster inter-sectoral solidarity among disparate groups of workers and ensure adequate redistribution within systems.

For these profound economic transformations to be accompanied by social justice, they require robust and adapted social protection systems. At the same time, these economic transformations offer a potential for new wealth creation that it seems essential to share through the adequate financing of national social protection systems and other mechanisms. Linking social protection policies to other policies (climate,

4 Bierbaum, M. and Schmitt, V. 2022. Investing more in universal social protection: Filling the financing gap through domestic resource mobilization and international support and coordination. ILO Working Paper 14, Geneva: ILO.

fiscal, sectoral, employment, etc.) seems more necessary than ever for social protection to accompany and benefit from these transformations.

As we reflect on the first two years of the Flagship Programme's second phase, we must strengthen our efforts going forward in the key areas of supporting domestic resource generation for social protection expansion, addressing the climate crisis through the lens of social justice, and preparing for sweeping technological change in the world of work, building strong social protection systems both to prevent deprivation and respond to it.

With this redoubled focus, the ILO and its development partners are prepared to support Flagship Programme countries and others to better anticipate and prepare for pending transitions and more effectively and equitably manage their outcomes in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

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► Abbreviations⁵

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| COVID-19 | coronavirus disease |
| CRVS | civil registration and vital statistics |
| DCI | Digital Convergence Initiative |
| DCO | United Nations Development Coordination Office |
| ECOSOC | United Nations Economic and Social Council |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization |
| GBN | Global Business Network |
| GTAC | Global Tripartite Advisory Committee of the Flagship Programme |
| GTT | ILO Global Technical Team on social protection |
| HIV | human immunodeficiency virus |
| IDP | Internally Displaced Person |
| IFI | International Financial Institution |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IOE | International Organization of Employers |
| ISPA | Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment |
| ISSA | International Social Security Administration |
| ITC-ILO | International Training Centre of the ILO |
| ITUC | International Trade Union Confederation |
| MIS | Management Information System |
| MOOC | massive open online course |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| P4H | Providing for Health Initiative |

⁵ Acronyms specific to national institutions are defined in their respective entries under sections 2.1 (country results) and 2.3 (strategic partnerships).

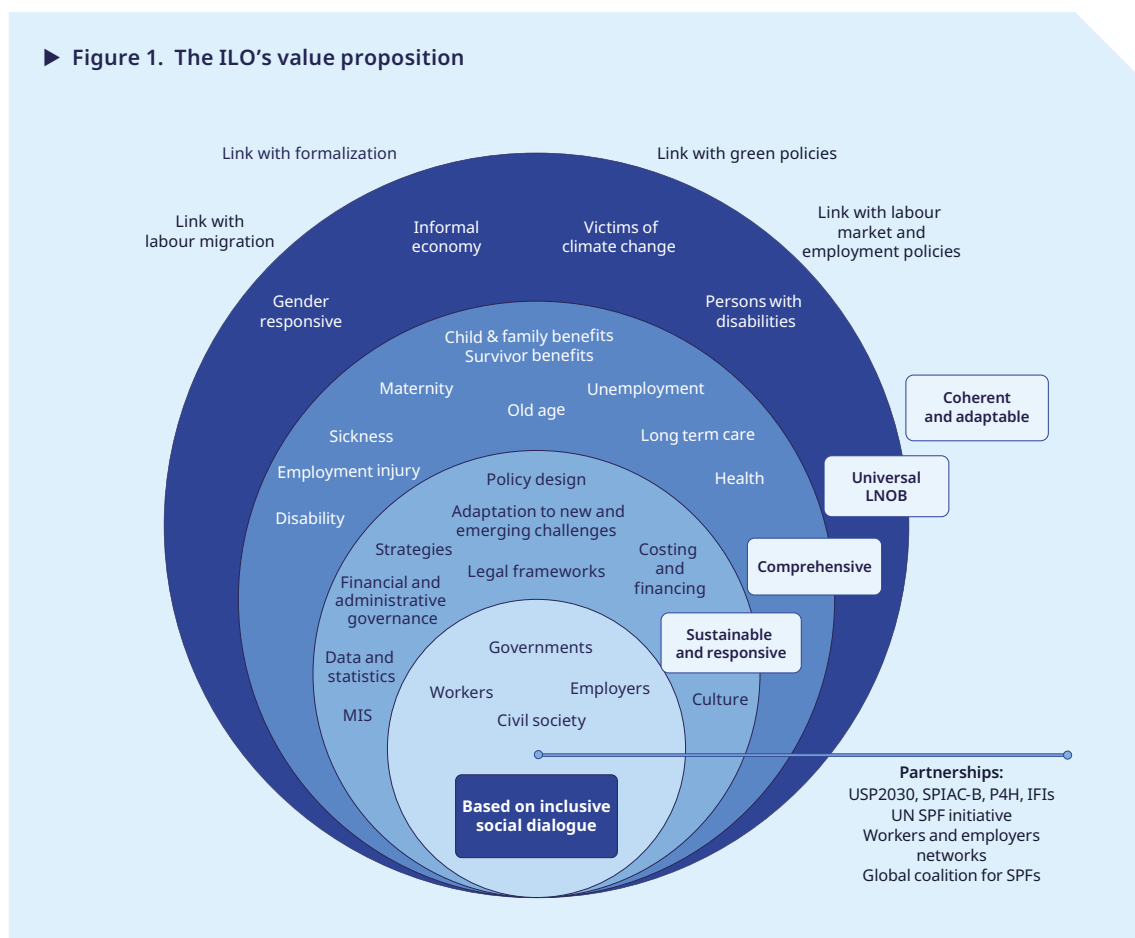
| | |
|----------------|---|
| PES | public employment services |
| PFM | public finance management |
| RAP | Rapid Assessment Protocol |
| RBSA | Regular Budget Supplementary Account |
| RCCC | Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre |
| RMT | Results Monitoring Tool |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SHP | Social Health Protection |
| SME | small and medium-sized enterprises |
| SPARKS | Social Protection Action Research and Knowledge Sharing |
| SPF | Social Protection Floors |
| SPF-I | United Nations Social Protection Floors Initiative |
| SPIAC-B | Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board |
| SP-PER | Social Protection Public Expenditure Review |
| TEG | Technical Exchange Group of the Providing for Health Initiative |
| TSF | Technical Support Facility |
| UHC | Universal Health Coverage |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFCCC | Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNRC | United Nations Resident Coordinator |
| UNSDCF | UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| UNSG | United Nations Secretary-General |
| US\$ | United States dollar |
| USP | Universal Social Protection |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |



► 1. Introduction

Launched in 2016, the [ILO's Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All](#) (Flagship Programme) supports ILO Member States in developing their national social protection systems and achieving universal social protection. The Flagship Programme offers a coherent framework to support countries, consolidate results and impact, and mobilize development partners' technical and

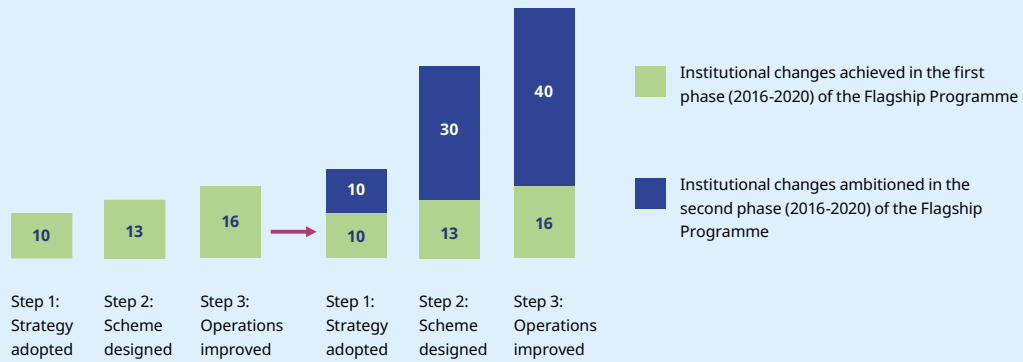
financial assistance. It contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on social protection (in particular SDG targets 1.3 and 3.8) and promotes the application of international social security standards, notably the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). Figure 1 presents the ILO's value proposition.



Phase II (2021–25) of the Flagship Programme was launched in 2021, aiming to build on the success of Phase I (2016–20), which contributed to 39 institutional changes across 21 priority countries, including increasing legal and effective coverage for over 25 million people (see figure 2).⁶ Phase II is now working across an expanded list of [50 priority countries](#), aiming to achieve a further 80 institutional changes while increasing the legal and effective coverage, as well as the comprehensiveness and adequacy of social protection, for an additional 60 million people.

6 See [Building Social Protection Floors for All: ILO Global Flagship Programme, Report of the first phase \(2016-2020\)](#).

► Figure 2. Institutional changes achieved during the first phase of the Flagship Programme and ambitious during the second phases



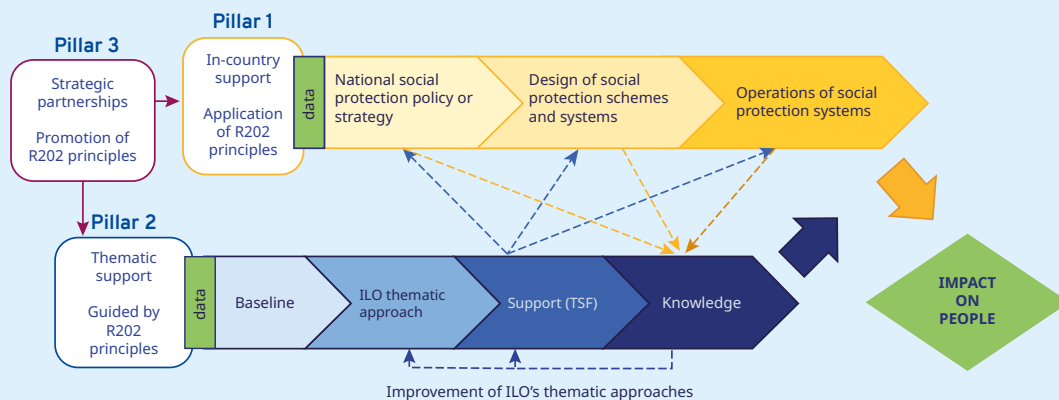
Source: ILO, "Results Monitoring Tool" and country strategies.

► Strategy

Guided by a three-pillar approach of i) in-country support ii) thematic support and iii) strategic partnerships for success, ILO policy and technical support are based on international social security standards, which provide common guidance to

countries in shaping their national social protection systems, following a rights-based approach, and using inclusive social dialogue throughout the process. Figure 3 presents the theory of change of the Flagship Programme.

► Figure 3. Theory of change of Flagship Programme



Source: ILO. 2021. Building Social Protection Floors for All: ILO Global Flagship Programme, Strategy for the second phase (2021-2025).

Pillar 1: A three-step approach at country level.

The Flagship Programme supports the implementation and strengthening of rights-based, country-specific, robust, resilient and universal social protection systems in [50 countries](#) through a step-by-step approach which is flexible enough to respond to country situations and

needs for support; this step-by-step approach is not necessarily chronological and linear, as several steps may be carried out in parallel (see table 1).

- Step 1: Adopting a national social protection strategy
- Step 2: Designing and reforming schemes
- Step 3: Improving operations

Table 1. List of priority countries and territories receiving in-country support during Phase II of the Flagship Programme

| Africa (26) | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| Angola | Democratic Rep. of the Congo | Kenya | Nigeria | Sudan |
| Burkina Faso | Egypt | Madagascar | Rwanda | United Republic of Tanzania |
| Burundi | Eswatini | Malawi | Senegal | Togo |
| Cabo Verde | Ethiopia | Morocco | Sierra Leone | Uganda |
| Cameroon | Ghana | Mozambique | South Africa | Zambia |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | | | |
| Americas (5) | Arab State (4) | Asia (10) | | Europe and Central Asia (5) |
| Barbados | Iraq | Cambodia | Pakistan | Albania |
| Ecuador | Jordan | India | Philippines | Kyrgyzstan |
| El Salvador | Lebanon | Indonesia | Samoa | Ukraine |
| Paraguay | Occupied Palestinian Territory | Lao People's Democratic Republic | Timor-Leste | Tajikistan |
| Suriname | | Nepal | Viet Nam | Uzbekistan |

Source: ILO. 2021. Building Social Protection Floors for All: ILO Global Flagship Programme, Strategy for the second phase (2021-2025).





Pillar 2: Supporting countries in 16 thematic areas and strengthening the knowledge base.

The development of national social protection systems requires knowledge and expertise across several thematic areas in order to strengthen countries' capacities to innovate, develop and improve the design and implementation of their social protection systems so that they can adequately prepare for and respond

to existing and emerging challenges in the world of work, including climate change, related extreme events or other covariate shocks and stresses.

The Flagship Programme works in 16 specific thematic areas to further advance technical knowledge, build capacities and develop relevant tools, in line with international social security standards and good practices, in order to inform the technical assistance provided to countries, capacity-building and knowledge development and sharing, including through South-South exchanges (see table 2).

Table 2. Thematic areas prioritized in the Phase II of the Flagship Programme

| Realizing the human right to social security for all ¹ | Robust and sustainable social protection systems |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Expanding social health protection towards universal health coverage (including health, maternity, sickness and long-term care) ▶ Unemployment protection ▶ Old-age pensions <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Expanding social security to workers in the informal economy and protecting workers in the types of employment ▶ Disability-inclusive social protection systems ▶ Social protection for migrants, refugees and host communities ▶ Just transition to a more environmentally sustainable economy and society ▶ Leveraging social protection to promote gender equality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Inclusive and effective social dialogue ▶ Building national systems of social protection statistics and monitoring and evaluation frameworks ▶ Financing social protection ▶ Building rights-based social protection systems (including a ratification campaign) ▶ Financial governance and sustainability - actuarial valuations ▶ Digital transformation ▶ Adaptation of social protection system to new and emerging challenges ▶ Culture of social protection |

¹ Other branches of social security (child and family benefits, maternity, invalidity and so on) are still covered by the Flagship Programme and supported through country projects, although Phase II will not develop a specific approach on them

Each thematic work stream further develops an approach based on ILO principles, which will be implemented at country level, as and where appropriate, and further developed based on

lessons learned. [Thematic pages](#) on the ILO's social protection platform provide in-depth information on each thematic stream of work, including the support provided to countries in this thematic area.

Pillar 3: Working with social partners, development partners, the UN family, international financial institutions (IFIs) and the social protection community.

To support pillars 1 and 2, the ILO has further strengthened partnerships with development partners, UN agencies, IFIs, employers’ and workers’ organizations, civil society organizations and academia.

Through initiatives such as USP2030, the UN Social Protection Floors Initiative and the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (see Figure 4), the ILO is able to multiply its impact; work towards providing harmonized and joint messaging on social protection and coordinated support to countries; and increase the dissemination channels for the learning outcomes of the Flagship Programme.

► Figure 4. Selection of logos from various Flagship Programme partnerships



► **Budget**

The budget for implementing the second phase of Flagship Programme from 2021 to 2025 is US\$160 million of which 81 per cent (US\$130 million) will be allocated to in-country support, 15 per cent (US\$24 million) to cross-country policy advice and 4 per cent (US\$6 million) to the management of the Flagship programme (see Figure 5).

The Flagship Programme is partially financed by ILO’s Regular Budget. The additional funding is expected to be covered by voluntary contributions from partners (extra budgetary resources).

Our resource gap is currently US\$53.6 million. The Flagship Programme allows development partners to help achieve much wider and sustainable changes than through stand-alone projects, all while focusing their support on countries and thematic areas in line with their priorities. The Flagship Programme has even created a new initiative, the Multi-donor Programme, where donors can pool lightly earmarked funds to facilitate swift and strategic responses with reduced administrative burden.

► Figure 5. Breakdown of Flagship Programme estimated budget and budget distribution, in US\$ millions

Breakdown of estimated Flagship Programme budget of US\$160 million (as of 31 December 2022)



Budget distribution country/thematic support - in US\$ millions





► 2. Programme results 2021-22

During the first two years of the Flagship Programme’s second phase (January 2021– December 2022) it supported 50 countries and territories in building and strengthening their national social protection systems, achieving 56 institutional changes in 40 countries across the three pillars of action described in the section 2.1 below. It also provided support to many more countries through on demand technical assistance on 16 thematic areas, and built good practices guides that were widely shared with policy makers, social partners and social protection practitioners. The development and implementation of strategic partnerships were also instrumental in progressing towards Universal Social Protection (USP). A summary of on-going and recent activities in each of the 50 priority countries is described below, along with the results achieved during the 2021–22 period.

2.1 Summary of country-level results 2021-22

The Flagship Programme supported 50 countries and territories in developing their national social protection systems following the aforementioned three-step approach: i) Step 1: Adopting a national social protection strategy; ii) Step 2: Designing and reforming schemes; and iii) Step 3: Improving operations.

It was envisaged that each step might lead to a sustainable and long-lasting change in the social protection system (such as the adoption of a particular law or its implementation), and in some cases impact on people, with people who were

excluded but now have access to at least one type of social protection benefits, or people who had access to limited protection and now have access to a more comprehensive package of social protection.

Through its support to 50 countries, the Flagship Programme contributed to 56 institutional changes in 40 countries (see table 3) and impact on millions of people. This was made possible thanks to daily support to policy making and implementation of social protection systems as described in the summary notes prepared for each country.

Table 3: Institutional results summary, by result type (2021–22)

| | Result 1 Policies and strategies | Result 2 Introduction, reform of scheme | Result 3 Improving operations |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Africa | | | |
| Angola | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Burkina Faso | 1 | | 3 |
| Burundi | 1 | | |
| Cabo Verde | 1 | | 3 |
| Cameroon | | | 3 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | 2 | 3 |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the | | 2 | |
| Egypt | | 2 | 3 |
| Eswatini | 1 | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Ethiopia | | | 3 |
| Ghana | | | 3 |
| Kenya | | 2 | |
| Madagascar | 1 | | |
| Malawi | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Morocco | | | 3 |
| Mozambique | | | 3 |
| Nigeria | | 2 | 3 |
| Rwanda | | | |
| Senegal | | 2 | 3 |
| Sierra Leone | 1 | | |
| South Africa | | | |
| Sudan | | | |
| Tanzania | | | 3 |
| Togo | | 2 | 3 |
| Uganda | | | |
| Zambia | | | 3 |
| Americas | | | |
| Barbados | 1 | | |
| Ecuador | 1 | | |
| El Salvador | 1 | | |
| Paraguay | 1 | | 3 |
| Suriname | | | |
| Arab States | | | |
| Iraq | 1 | | |
| Jordan | | | 3 |
| Lebanon | | | |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | | | 3 |

| Asia and the Pacific | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cambodia | | 2 | |
| India | | | |
| Indonesia | | 2 | |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | | | 3 |
| Nepal | | 2 | 3 |
| Pakistan | | 2 | 3 |
| Philippines | | | 3 |
| Samoa | | | |
| Timor-Leste | 1 | | 3 |
| Viet Nam | | 2 | |
| Europe and Central Asia | | | |
| Albania | | | 3 |
| Kyrgyzstan | | | |
| Tajikistan | | | 3 |
| Ukraine | | | |
| Uzbekistan | | 2 | 3 |
| 56 results achieved 2021-22 | 14 | 15 | 27 |



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El Salvador

Ecuador

Paraguay

Suriname

Barbados

Cabo Verde

Morocco

Senegal

Sierra Leone

Côte d'Ivoire

Burkina Faso

Ghana

Togo



► Africa

Angola 1 2 3

The Government of Angola aimed to increase social protection coverage of the economically active population to 40 per cent by 2022 via its National Development Plan (NDP) 2018–22, which in turn aimed to modernize the social insurance system, with a priority to formalize the informal economy through social insurance, taking lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Flagship Programme has specifically focused on improving coordination and building capacities among key actors and worked to enhance the management of public finances for sustainable investments in the social protection sector.

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO has brought together various national social security institutions and social partners to develop an action plan for the implementation of the National Social Action Policy with a first meeting of the coordination group held in April 2021. It has also developed and implemented a variety of training activities to build capacities in social protection statistics (November 2021) and increase the technical knowledge on targeting, financing and administration of social protection schemes among policymakers from the current Government and representatives from several parliamentary committees (September 2021), which follow trainings on enhancing social budgeting and financial sustainability for social protection conducted in previous programme years. In 2022, public resources allocated for social protection rose by nearly 80 per cent to over 6 per cent of the public budget, up from just above 3.5 per cent in 2021.

Elsewhere, the ILO organized three round table discussions (throughout 2021 and 2022) jointly with UNDP to elaborate the Government's formalization efforts and its ambition to extend social protection to workers of the informal economy. In 2021, the Government revised two regimes within the National Contributory System under the National Institute of Social Security with ILO support aimed at expanding access to social insurance among low-income and older workers. The Government also established through a decree two additional schemes of the National Contributory System aimed at workers without formal labour contracts and the self-employed, which were adopted in 2022.

The results in Angola were achieved thanks to the contribution of the ACTION/Portugal project and the European Union (EU) funded project on social protection and public finance management. The

latter ends in 2023, and the ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships, including with the EU, to further extend its support in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Burkina Faso 1 3

In Burkina Faso, the ILO, in collaboration with UNICEF, supported the Government in developing the National Social Protection Strategy 2023–27, which will be submitted for final approval in 2023. Aiming at ensuring trade unions' effective and informed participation in the development of the new strategy, the ILO trained 24 trade union representatives on social protection and supported the establishment of an inter-union committee on social protection, bringing together focal points from the six central trade unions that are members of the Unité d'Action Syndicale.

The ILO and UNICEF's high-level advocacy led to the adoption of the decree for the creation of a single social registry, which is a necessary condition for the strengthening of the national social protection system. The ILO, together with UNICEF, the World Bank, the EU Delegation, the WFP and the FAO are also supporting the Government in the social registry's implementation.

The ILO continued its technical support to the Ministry of the Civil Service, Labour and Social Protection (MCSLSP) for the operationalization of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (RAMU). In this framework, three draft decrees were produced with ILO legal advisory services and validated by the Government and social partners. The respective decrees had the following objectives: (i) approving standard models for agreements between the universal health insurance management body (AMU) and health care providers; (ii) establishing the conditions and modalities of administrative control and (iii) establishing the terms and conditions of affiliation and registration of those subject to the RAMU and their dependents. The decrees are being finalized to be adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2023. The ILO supported the development of a national strategy to extend the RAMU to workers in the informal economy and rural workers, as well as a communication strategy. A Colloquium on the extension of social protection to the informal economy workers organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Employment and the National Council for the Informal Economy reinforced the capacities of 200



representatives of informal economy organizations on the extension of social protection.

The ILO also supported the development and validation of the institutional diagnosis of the Universal Health Insurance Fund (CNAMU); a national inventory of social mutuels and a tool for the periodic census of mutual health insurance organizations. The CNAMU operation was improved through the development of the information management system using the open-source platform openIMIS and technical assistance to the Technical Committee of Mutual organizations for improving the registration of social mutuels in the CNAMU. An actuarial study, with the collection of data on the costs of health services, was launched to update the assumptions of the RAMU and formulate scenarios for the definition of the basic health insurance basket. A repository of health professionals' activities and pharmaceutical health products was produced.

The ILO reinforced the capacity of four Government officials from the Ministry of the Civil Service, Labour and Social Protection (MCSLSP) in managing and supervising national social security schemes via the Social Security Academy at the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO), and also of four CNAMU officials on social health protection (via ITC-ILO). A training session on designing, monitoring and financing social health protection systems reinforced the capacity of 86 Government officials, social partners, mutuels and civil society representatives involved in the RAMU.

The results in Burkina Faso were achieved thanks to the contributions of the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, as well as contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Burundi ¹

In Burundi, the ILO supported the review of the National Social Protection Policy, which was validated by the Government and social partners and submitted to the competent authority for final approval. The policy identifies gaps in protection and strategies towards more comprehensive social protection schemes and provides an overarching framework for the social protection sector for the next ten years bringing together contributory and non-contributory schemes. The ILO has also been providing support to the revision of the National Social Protection Strategy which will be submitted to the Government for final approval in 2023.

Consultation meetings conducted by the ILO with relevant stakeholders, especially the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender and the members of the permanent executive secretariat of the National Social Protection Commission, stimulated greater awareness of international social security standards, including the requirement for them to be the primary responsibility of the State, a rights-based approach to social protection and the need for adequate benefits.

A feasibility study on the extension of social security to workers in the informal economy, drawing linkages and lessons from existing health insurance schemes and other interventions in the informal economy, commenced in 2022, and a training session on social health protection took place in January 2023, in collaboration with the WHO under the P4H network.

The results in Burundi were achieved through the support of the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Cabo Verde 1 3

The Government of Cabo Verde aims to create an inclusive and gender-sensitive social protection system that can provide coverage against social risks throughout people's lives and achieve the SDG target 1.3 by 2030. Immediate priorities include preparing for future shocks, improving social assistance programmes' harmonization, formalizing workers in the informal economy, and eradicating extreme poverty.

To this end, the ILO contributed to the articulation of the new National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty in Cabo Verde (2022–26), which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 2022, and will continue its support throughout implementation. The strategy was brought into being through several streams of ILO support, including a “zero report” on the status of entry into force of the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) in the country, review provided to the National Social Security Institute (INPS) to strengthen its sickness and maternity benefits branches, and an analysis of available fiscal space for social protection launched in October 2022.

The ILO has also provided support to the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development (MFISD) to reassess the vulnerability status of existing beneficiaries of social assistance programmes and to identify 17,000 new beneficiaries, hence allowing for the updating and expansion of the Single Social Register (CSU) to a total of 65,000 persons, over half of whom are women, by November 2021. Similarly, the Flagship Programme also assisted in the development of additional information technology tools that manage information related to employment, family support, and participation in mutual funds. Moreover, the ILO supported the development of alternative payment mechanisms for social benefits by the National Social Benefits Centre (CNPS).

Finally, in June 2022, the first Statistical Bulletin of the Cabo Verde Social Protection System (2016–20) was released. The work that has been carried out by the ILO, encompasses the training provided to partners on social protection statistics and the creation and support to the Inter-institutional Working Group on Social Protection Statistics (Grupo Interinstitucional de Trabalho sobre as Estatísticas de Proteção Social - GITEPS).

These results and activities have been made possible by generous contributions from the ACTION/Portugal project, the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, and the Joint UN SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Cameroon 3

In Cameroon, the Government continues efforts to implement a National Social Protection Policy and Strategy, developed in 2016 with support from the ILO and UNICEF, with the aim, among others, of achieving universal health coverage and social insurance for short-term risks to workers in the informal economy. Implementation of the strategy also requires the enhancement of operations among non-contributory programmes for people with disability and other vulnerable groups, which has also been supported by ILO efforts.

In June 2021, the findings from a review of the national social security system in Cameroon was validated by tripartite constituents. The study, for which the ILO provided technical and financial support, assessed the various actors and institutional arrangements within the social security system and the range of social benefits offered by different schemes. The study points both to progress and remaining deficits in Cameroon's social security system that will inform future reform efforts. Meanwhile, to improve administration of all social protection programmes, the ILO has supported the establishment of a statistical data collection system and trained data collection teams and managers using new digital tools for data collection. In May 2022, Cameroon established its unified social registry, merging various mechanisms for identifying vulnerable individuals, pregnant women and children under 5 years of age.

To date, the ILO has trained 24 officials (12 women and 12 men) from the East and Adamawa regions, including from the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women and Family, the Ministry of Economy and Planning, UNICEF and the National Social Insurance Fund, using the TRANSFORM curriculum developed by the ILO in collaboration with other agencies. The trainings have enabled participants to identify and register socially vulnerable and extremely poor individuals more effectively. Training manuals and guides have also been developed to enable the mainstreaming of those efforts.

Under an initiative supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), a mapping study has been carried out to assess formal and informal social protection schemes and benefits throughout the East and Adamawa regions, with a view to enabling the project to provide durable solutions and facilitate access to services for refugees, host communities and internally displaced persons. The project anticipates that more than 5,000 beneficiaries will enjoy easier access to social protection benefits between 2022 and 2024.

The results in Cameroon were achieved thanks to the support from a project funded by the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) and the Republic of Korea. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships in Cameroon, to further extend its support in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Côte d'Ivoire 2 3

The Government in Côte d'Ivoire is committed to implementing and renewing its national strategy for social protection, which has focused on attaining universal health coverage and establishing a legal basis, completed in 2019, for new social security schemes responsive to the needs of the self-employed, particularly those working in the informal economy. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the Flagship Programme has supported the strengthening of policy, financing and operational frameworks to achieve those objectives.

In March 2021, the ILO delivered its analysis of key barriers faced by community members in accessing health services and it disseminated guidance to practitioners on methods for extending coverage to those working in the informal economy. The ILO then organized an awareness-raising campaign for workers in 17 markets in the city of Abidjan, and trained leaders of informal economy organizations to head efforts to promote registration with social insurance institutions.

In May 2021, the Directorate-General of the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) validated new mechanisms for access to health coverage by communities in target cocoa-growing areas, following consultation with stakeholders in the

sector. A pilot phase of these mechanisms was implemented in the Mbatto and Soubré communities, from August to December 2021. Based on the results of this pilot phase, other affiliation campaigns were also carried out through a partnership between the CNAM and cooperatives, allowing a total of 7,000 additional workers to be covered by the universal health coverage scheme.

Moreover, in 2021 the National Social Insurance Fund (CNPS) launched the operationalization of the Social Security Regime for the Self-Employed based on tools and approaches drawn and adapted from international best practices. Mechanisms for access by workers in the informal economy to the regime were defined, and more than 65,000 self-employed persons were enrolled by CNPS throughout 2021.

Côte d'Ivoire has also placed the ratification of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) among its priorities and the Office is collaborating with the Government to this effect notably by carrying out a comparative assessment between the National Social Protection Framework and the requirements of this ILO Convention and assessing the social protection system in its entirety based on the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202).

The results in Cote d'Ivoire were achieved thanks to the support from France, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a project funded by UNICEF and the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to further extend its support to Côte d'Ivoire in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).



Democratic Republic of the Congo ²

The extension of social protection coverage, particularly social health protection, has become a priority in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with the establishment of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) system. With the technical support of the ILO, the country has set up an institutional architecture for UHC. A decree for the creation of the UHC's institutional structure of governance and operation was adopted, and the National Council for Universal Health Coverage (CNCSU) was inaugurated. In 2021, a strategic plan for the implementation of the UHC was developed with the participation of social partners.

The Flagship Programme has supported the Technical Coordination Committee of the National Council for Universal Health Coverage in setting up the legal framework, particularly through the revision of the draft law amending and supplementing Law No. 18/035 of 13 December 2018, which is currently being examined by the national parliament. This draft law lays down the fundamental principles relating to the organization of public health and includes the UHC dimension. The capacity of 35 parliamentarians and 24 senators on UHC was enhanced, allowing a better understanding of the new draft law under analysis.

Furthermore, the Flagship Programme supported the extension of UHC in two provinces of the country (Central Kongo and Eastern Kasai) enabling stakeholders at the decentralized level not only to be informed about the new system, but also to adhere and contribute to it. The Flagship Programme likewise supported the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security in strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework for the implementation of mutual health insurance in Democratic Republic of the Congo, by developing several management tools, such as standards for the approval of mutuals and conditions of eligibility and performance indicators for the control and monitoring of mutual health organizations. These tools were validated by 54 Government officials and representatives of the mutual health organizations.

The results in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were achieved through the support of the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Belgium and Luxembourg and through ILO's RBSA. Visit our [country page](#).

Egypt ² ³

In 2021, the Executive Regulation of the Social Insurance and Pension Law 148/2019 was approved by the Prime Minister. Developed with ILO legal advisory

support, it will accelerate the implementation of the new social insurance and pension law which is more inclusive and covers workers in all types of employment, including workers in the informal economy, and will help increase the coverage of the social protection system in Egypt.

The ILO supported the establishment of an Experts Committee at the National Organization for Social Insurance to ensure better financial governance and planning for the social insurance system. The merge of the two pension funds (the Government Social Insurance Fund - GSIF and Private Social Insurance Fund - PSIF) foreseen in the new Social Insurance and Pension Law has been implemented with ILO support in Al-Sharkia and Cairo, thus enhancing the consistency and sustainability of the social insurance system.

In 2021 and 2022, the ILO supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) to conduct a study on the situation and social protection coverage of workers in the informal economy, as well as a database for this category of workers. In 2022, the ILO also supported MOSS in designing a pilot scheme to extend social protection to domestic workers, which will enable them to gain access to social assistance and economic empowerment programmes.

In 2022, the ILO and UNHCR conducted a study on the feasibility of extending health insurance to refugees in Egypt under the new social insurance reform of 2018. The study, which highlights the cost of this extension, was conducted in consultations with the Ministry of Finance (MOF), MOSS, Universal Health Insurance Authority, and the refugee communities in Egypt.

The ILO has been supporting the national social protection stakeholders to face the emerging challenges, particularly through an ongoing actuarial study of the old-age pension scheme managed by the National Organization of Social Insurance (NOSI), which will factor in the 13 per cent increase in pensions implemented in April 2022 as a result of the economic crisis. In the context of the UN Joint SDG Fund support to Egypt, the Integrated SDGs Financing project, several capacity-building activities and training sessions have been provided to the MOSS, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MEPD), MOF, Ministry of Manpower and the NOSI on social protection extension and shock responsiveness, through the ITC-ILO.

The ILO's support to Egypt was made possible thanks to the contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme funded by Germany (GIZ), the PROSPECTS Opportunity Fund project funded by the Netherlands and contributions from the UN Joint SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Eswatini ¹

The Government of Eswatini aims to establish a comprehensive social security system by implementing its National Social Security Policy (NSSP), which was formally adopted in 2021 by Cabinet and provides a framework for comprehensive social security. To this end and through Flagship Programme interventions, the ILO finalized in June 2021 a series of actuarial valuation studies for the design of an unemployment insurance scheme, testing a variety of different scenarios using the ILO unemployment insurance model. To inform the valuation, the ILO commissioned a labour market diagnostic study delivered in April 2021 to examine key economic and labour market situations that could impact on the implementation of an unemployment insurance fund in Eswatini. Technical support was also provided towards exploring unemployment protection in the informal economy and, at the request of the Government, the ILO further expanded the actuarial inquiry, completed in October 2021, to include additional benefits pertaining to maternity, sickness and family contingencies. All the studies were approved by the Government and the social partners in August 2021, which allowed for the development of the Unemployment Benefits Fund (UBF) whose design is now finalized and has been approved by the tripartite Labour Administration Board. The draft legislation to advance the UBF is currently with the Attorney General's Office for onward approval by Cabinet and, subsequently, by Eswatini's parliament.

Meanwhile, the ILO has also assisted the Government in its efforts to convert the current Eswatini Provident Fund to a national defined-benefit pension scheme as a critical component of this agenda. Flagship Programme activities provided legal and actuarial advice to ensure the long-term protection of fund members under new scheme rules and to provide options for extending coverage to workers in the informal economy and non-citizens, as well as to ensure portability of benefits. The draft National Pension Fund Bill aimed at converting the provident fund into a pension fund is currently with Cabinet for approval.

To strengthen the capacity of the social partners to engage effectively in the social protection policy reforms processes, constituents' enrolment was facilitated in a number of courses at the ITC-ILO, running from May to September 2021, including courses on institutional leadership for social protection, aspects of good social protection governance, and actuarial work for social security. The ITC-ILO in September 2020 facilitated training support for the National Tripartite Technical Working

Group formed to oversee the unemployment insurance reform process and other policy reform measures for social protection.

The ILO team has provided technical support and advisory services towards ensuring that UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Joint Work Plan 2021-25 for Eswatini integrates an output on strengthening institutions and capacities for delivery of an effective and a responsive Social Protection system in Eswatini. Participating Agencies for the implementation of the UNSDCF Joint Work Plan include the UNDP, World Food Programme (WFP) United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations.

These and other activities in Eswatini have been made possible by the contributors to the ILO's RBSA. Visit our [country page](#).

Ethiopia ³

The Government of Ethiopia aims to extend and improve the sustainability of social assistance and to expand access to social insurance, including its community-based health insurance (CBHI) scheme, to those working in the informal economy. To support this vision, the ILO developed a study for the Private Organizations Employees' Social Security Administration (POESSA) to explore and assess policy options for the extension of coverage to uncovered workers across the various legal, financing, benefit design and administrative aspects to inform potential reforms. A working group was established during a validation workshop held in April 2022 to carry the work forward, including through awareness raising among target populations and capacity building exercises for POESSA and other public officials.

The ILO has also been working to ensure the fiscal sustainability of social security funds in Ethiopia as they consider ways to improve operations and expand coverage. In November 2021, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) officially received the actuarial evaluation report on both the Public Servant's Social Security and the POESSA schemes. The findings of the report were then discussed at a dissemination workshop in May 2022, and will continue to inform – together through additional ILO support – options to safeguard the funds' sustainability, refine the investment strategies, and explore modalities for extension of coverage to additional workers.

Meanwhile, the Flagship Programme has also supported capacities to monitor the achievement of social protection-related SDG targets by the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), which formally adopted the ILO's Social Security Inquiry (SSI) for monitoring and reporting against the

framework. The ILO also supported the preparation of an unemployment insurance discussion paper by MoWSA, which presented the paper in December 2022 together with the ILO to tripartite partners and social security institutions, who agreed to conduct a further feasibility study before eventual piloting of an unemployment insurance scheme in Ethiopia.

The ILO's support to Ethiopia was made possible thanks to the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, the PROSPECTS project funded by the Netherlands, as well as contributions from Germany (BMZ). ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Ethiopia in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Ghana 3

The Flagship Programme aims to enhance the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) capacities in the areas of digital administration, actuarial review and research, as well as monitoring and evaluation using existing analytical tools and data more effectively.

To this end, the ILO provided technical support to the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) for the development of a digital platform for registration and contribution collection in 2020. Training of SSNIT staff on the use of the digital platform was also conducted. The NHIA has now implemented the digital platform to facilitate registration and contribution collection among its members, increasing access to and means of compliance with the scheme and its eligibility requirements.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from Ghana. Visit our [country page](#).

Kenya 2

The social protection sector in Kenya has witnessed considerable progress, with policies shifting towards universal programmes with a lifecycle approach. However, coverage of social security and benefit levels remain limited and the adequacy of benefits needs to be addressed. The ILO supports the Government in its efforts to strengthen Kenya's social protection system, in alignment with ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102).

In 2021, the ILO enhanced the capacity of the tripartite partners on unemployment protection through provision of technical guidance in the consensus building processes and in the development of the roadmap for the establishment of the Unemployment

Insurance Fund. As a result, in March 2021 the Government approved the establishment of the Unemployment Insurance Fund; a multi-agency, tripartite committee was established to support the process and a roadmap for its development is in place.

In 2021, the ILO also offered technical support to the State Department on Social Protection to incorporate disability indicators into the Single Registry from the household listing stage, thus ensuring that people with disability are identified across all social assistance programmes countrywide. An advocacy brief for HIV-sensitive social protection was developed in July 2021 to enhance inclusive social protection programmes. This support allowed the Government to enhance and adopt the "Single Registry for Social Protection and Harmonized Social Assistance Targeting Tools," for the purpose of including disability indicators within it.

Since 2022, the ILO has been working with the Government on a national strategy to extend social health protection coverage to workers in the informal economy and vulnerable groups. It has also engaged with the Government in exploring an expansion of coverage under the National Health Insurance Fund (Amendment) Act, 2022, as well as the possible introduction of a new universal maternity income benefit and voluntary saving schemes for old age (Haba Haba).

In the framework of the ILO's support, a technical report on the design, costing and feasibility of the introduction of a maternity cash benefit in Kenya was conducted based on several rounds of consultations with social partners and the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). The new benefit would particularly cover women working in the informal economy by aiming to provide income security after delivery and thereby ensuring the health of mother and child. The ILO is now supporting the decision-making national dialogue by involving the NHIF, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Treasury, Attorney General, Federation of Kenya Employers, and the Central Organization of Trade Unions in Kenya alongside Informal Economy Associations and development partners amongst other stakeholders.

The results in Kenya were achieved thanks to the support from the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, the PROSPECTS project funded by the Netherlands, the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), and a project funded by the UN Joints SDG Fund. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to further extend its support to Kenya in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Madagascar 1

The Government of Madagascar has prioritized the implementation of its National Social Protection Strategy (SNPS) 2019–23, which aims to ensure the provision of cash transfers, access to basic social services, livelihood support programmes, and contributory social insurance schemes. Its immediate objective is to triple the number of beneficiaries of conditional cash transfer programming by the end of 2023 and to achieve universal health coverage through a combination of contributory and non-contributory health protection measures.

Through ILO interventions, the national dialogue on social protection in health has been strengthened, and useful data was generated to support the design of the social protection system in health and advocate for the extension of social health protection in the country. On the basis of the national health financing strategy developed with ILO support and adopted at the end of 2021, a joint intersectoral work plan for the extension of social protection in health was developed, informed by ILO costing estimates and it was discussed in the course of a high-level meeting with the Ministry of Public Health in November 2022.

Practical interventions to experiment with various insurance affiliation and registration modalities have also been supported under the Flagship Programme. For example, the ILO supported a pilot to identify vulnerable households via single registries and affiliate them with a health mutual fund with subsidized contributions for a period of 12 months. The ILO also supported operationalization of health funds administered by local NGOs in the Anosy and Androy regions and helped to make affiliations more accessible through the enhancement of a digital registration platform and training for local health and community agents to raise awareness among target populations. The ILO also piloted the affiliation of temporary workers to occupational health services during public works interventions to clean canals in Antananarivo. In the same vein, the ILO also trained 70 health agents in the Amboasary district on improving the quality of healthcare services and health mutuals.

These results and activities were made possible through a project funded by the UN Joint SDG Fund, contributions from Germany (BMZ), Switzerland and the ILO's RBSA. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Madagascar in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).



Malawi 1 2 3

In Malawi, the Flagship Programme supported the lead ministry for social protection, the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MGCDWS), to develop a strategy for social cash transfers between October 2020 and June 2021, when the strategy was formally launched. The strategy aims to improve the administration of the main cash transfer programme in the country and improve linkages with other key social services for vulnerable populations. At the same time, the ILO is supporting the process of reviewing the broader social protection framework currently in place through a comprehensive national dialogue that will focus on providing social security for the working-age population, promoting productive and decent job opportunities, and formalization of workers in the informal economy. Once updated, the framework could improve access to benefits for almost 1.3 million current beneficiaries, while the extension of social insurance could potentially reach millions of workers uncovered today.

The ILO has also provided support to the Government to develop a rapid assessment and registration criteria for its social protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new methodology uses innovative targeting techniques by applying a blend of geographical targeting and on-the-ground vulnerability assessments. Between March and July 2021, over 95,000 households, representing 380,000 individuals, were assessed and enrolled into the COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention (CUCI) registry in Malawi's two major cities, Lilongwe and Zomba.

Meanwhile, the TRANSFORM training curriculum whose development was led by the ILO throughout Southern Africa, has been adopted as Malawi's premier social protection training package for social protection practitioners and policymakers. Through a collaboration between the Government and the Magomero Community Development College, a road map for institutionalization of the curriculum within the public administration is under development. In April 2021, 15 senior Government officials were trained using the new TRANSFORM Shock Responsive Module, and additional introductions for practitioners to shock-responsive social protection concepts took place in nine districts. Additionally, nearly 2 million

people were reached with messages on social protection through radio campaigns supported by the Flagship Programme, aimed at boosting knowledge of social protection principles and rights among the general population.

The ILO's support to Malawi was made possible thanks to the contribution of Irish Aid and the EU-funded project on improving synergies between social protection and public finance management. The Multi-donor Programme of the Flagship Programme, funded by Irish Aid will support Malawi in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Morocco 3

The ILO supported the Government of Morocco and its social partners in implementing the social protection reform launched with the approval of the Decree-law No. 2.21.532 of 29 November 2021. Studies conducted and financial tools developed under the Flagship Programme supported decision-making in social protection and allowed the Government to identify and adopt the financial options and mechanisms for ensuring sustainable implementation of the social protection reform. In this context, an actuarial model specifically catering for unemployment insurance in Morocco was developed; similarly, an actuarial study on unemployment insurance was carried out, and scenarios for the extension of family allowances were jointly costed with UNICEF, using the ILO Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP).

The ILO has complemented these activities by strengthening the capacity of 122 Government officials from the ministries involved in the reform, in particular: the Ministry of Economy and Finance; Ministry of Health and Social Protection; and the Ministry of Investment, of Convergence and Evaluation of Public Policy and National Social Security Fund. Eight capacity-building activities were implemented, covering topics such as international social protection standards and actuarial modelling and financing of social protection, in particular, for social insurance (old-age and unemployment) and health insurance.

The ILO's support to Morocco was made possible thanks to contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Germany (GIZ). The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and maintain its support to the national social protection reform in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Mozambique 3

In Mozambique, the ILO has supported the capacities of various national social protection institutions in statistical data collection and analysis and the publication of a fourth Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection, launched in November 2022 during Mozambique's Social Protection Week. The Bulletin brings together the latest data from across contributory and non-contributory schemes to provide a solid basis for policy and decision-making in social protection planning and administration and contributes broadly to more transparent public financial management. The Flagship Programme also provided technical and financial assistance for a series of policy briefs developed by the Ministry of Finance, which analysed potential impacts on households' well-being under various policy options for enhancing social protection using Mozambique's tax-benefit microsimulation model (MOZMOD), which was developed with ILO support. The publications are expected to provide a stronger evidence base for more informed policy and decision making in guiding the planned expansion of the social protection system, including the necessary fiscal space.

Flagship Programme activities have also supported the mid-term review of Mozambique's National Strategy for Basic Social Security 2016–24 (ENSSB II), which was approved by the Consultative Council of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Action (MGCAS) and published in September 2022. The review examines the effectiveness of the social protection system regarding social impacts of benefits and the efficient implementation of various programmes. To this end, the ILO also published a diagnostic assessment of interoperability among existing management information systems on social protection in December 2021. The analysis aims to support the ongoing deliberations of an inter-institutional working group tasked with making recommendations for improving efficiency within the system, the timeliness of benefits delivery and overall access to social protection enjoyed by beneficiaries. Additionally, the Flagship Programme has supported an advocacy campaign led together with national trade unionists to promote the adoption of the National Strategy for Mandatory Social Security (ENSSO), which aims to support the eventual extension of social security to workers in the informal economy. The campaign included a series of public debates, TV reports, interviews, and radio spots throughout the period under review.

In the last quarter of 2021, Mozambique was selected as one of four countries to take part in a pilot project between the ILO and the IMF with collaboration to develop social protection systems with adequate

fiscal space. The country-level collaboration focused on the need to expand the financing available to the National Social Assistance Institute (INAS), which participated in meetings together with ILO staff, the IMF delegation to Mozambique and the Ministry of Finance. The collaboration resulted in 2022 in the insert into the IMF Article VI report for Mozambique of a reference to the importance of social protection, which led to the inclusion of a minimum expenditure target for social assistance in the Extended Credit Facility Agreement between the IMF and Mozambique signed in 2022. The expenditure target will increase the fiscal space – the “social expenditure floor” – for the National Social Assistance Institute (INAS) from 0.2 to 0.5 percent of GDP over the next three years. The cooperation between the ILO and IMF will continue beyond the actual end of the ILO-IMF pilot project to monitor whether the new minimum expenditure targets are being met and to support the country towards attaining its goal.

The results were achieved thanks to the contributions of Irish Aid and the ACTION/Portugal project, as well as the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Visit our [country page](#).

Nigeria 2 3

The Flagship Programme in Nigeria is supporting efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks of the social protection system in line with the ILO's rights-based approach to social protection and to secure the system's financial sustainability, including by enhancing actuarial capacities within the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Toward this end, the ILO has organized capacity-building activities for the NHIS technical team on the use of the ILO/HEALTH model for actuarial valuation of social health insurance schemes. Eight technical training sessions were organized between January 2021 and April 2021, which allowed for an actuarial valuation of the Nigerian NHIS to be carried out after consultations with tripartite stakeholders. The valuation findings were adopted by the NHIS board in December 2021.

The Flagship Programme also carried out a comprehensive diagnostic of the NHIS and provided legal drafting advice and public advocacy support for a new National Health Insurance Authority Law, which was adopted in 2022. It also supported policymaking efforts for a broader range of social protection programming through a legal mapping of existing social protection-related legislation and capacity-building on international social security standards provided to drafters responsible for crafting Nigeria's National Social Protection Bill, which is currently pending approval by the Federal Executive Council.



In support of the Bill, the ILO developed nearly 20 costing scenarios with implications for various social protection policy options using the ILO RAP (Rapid Assessment Protocol) model and trained officials at the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning (MFBNP) to utilize the tool and adjust parameters as needed in order to model alternative proposals.

Elsewhere, the Flagship Programme supported the National Social Safety Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO) in articulating linkages between the Unified Registry of Beneficiaries (URB) and the Rapid Response Registry (RRR) database used to leverage social protection measures in response to shocks. An interoperability framework has been established to integrate both databases under the National Social Registry (NSR) umbrella. As a result of Flagship Programme activities, the RRR now includes registered internally displaced persons residing in project locations. The total number of persons registered in Adamawa and Yobe States, for example, has increased by more than 50 per cent, adding 189,330 new individual records to the database. Capacity needs assessments and building efforts were concurrently provided to local authorities in these areas and in Sokoto State.

The results were achieved thanks to the contributions of the EU funded-project on social protection and public finance management and the UN Joint SDG Fund. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Nigeria. Visit our [country page](#).

Rwanda

Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (2018–24) reaffirms the central role of social protection in eradicating poverty and enhancing the standard of living of Rwandans. Nevertheless, while social health coverage reaches over 85 per cent of the population, coverage of other schemes remains low. The Rwanda Social Security Board's (RSSB) contributory schemes reach only formal workers accounting for less than 10 per cent of the population. The COVID-19 pandemic also underlined the vulnerability of workers in the formal economy who currently do not have unemployment protection.

Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO is supporting the Government of Rwanda in conducting a study on the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy. Technical discussions with the Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA) and the RSSB were organized around the design of an unemployment insurance, defining as the first step a study on existing active labour market and employment promotion policies. The capacity-building needs of tripartite constituents to effectively implement social protection schemes and to advocate for their sustainable financing were identified. The training sessions were conceived and will be implemented in 2023.

The ILO's support to Rwanda is made possible thanks to the contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Rwanda as indicated on our [country page](#).

Senegal 2 3

The Government of Senegal considers the extension of social protection coverage a fundamental element of its economic and social development strategy. The ILO supports Senegal in its efforts to establish a comprehensive social protection system that ensures effective coverage to workers in the informal economy and people with disability and is supported by adequate and sustainable financing.

The ILO supported the effective roll-out of the Simplified Social Security Scheme for workers in the informal economy (RSPC) by developing innovative measures to create incentives for registration in it and operational recommendations for including a gender dimension in the Scheme and a communication strategy. Technical advice and capacity-building were provided to the Government of Senegal in the design of its health branch, enabling the creation and operationalization of the National Social Mutual of Artisans (for craft and related trades workers), which is responsible for the extension of social health protection to artisans, and currently has 8,000 members. Craft and related trades workers in Senegal now have access to a social health insurance package adapted to their needs and contributory capacity.

The ILO has also contributed to the administrative improvement and extension of the Equal Opportunities Card programme to better include people living with a disability in the social protection system. A study provided concrete recommendations, including on how to better define the service package and improve the adequacy of benefits. The ILO also supported the Government in conducting an evaluation of the utilization of the Single National Registry (SNR) in response to shocks and collaborated with the World Bank to update the SNR, resulting in action to increase beneficiary households from 330,000 to 1,000,000. The ILO and World Bank have also worked together in strengthening the coordination and delivery of social protection programmes, in particular in the design of a new component of the Government's cash transfer programme (Programme National des Bourses de Sécurité Familiale (PNBSF).

Regarding social insurance, support was provided to the General Directorate of Labour and Social Security towards improving communication and transparency of information with the general public, as well as towards the drafting of a new version of the Social Security Code.

A technical study on fiscal space for social protection in Senegal was conducted and presented to the representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Planning

and Cooperation and the General Delegation for Social Protection and National Solidarity. Technical training for 26 members of the High Council for Social Dialogue on social protection financing and advocacy led to agreement over a letter of commitment to promote sustainable funding and for the Council to become the major architect of the national dialogue forum to foster national consensus on social protection financing. A total of 175 Government representatives, parliamentarians, civil society and trade union representatives had their capacities strengthened on public finance management and social protection financing. This enabled civil society and trade union representatives to develop a Charter of Commitment by local authorities (elected communal officials) to ensure adequate financing of social protection.

The ILO's support to Senegal is made possible thanks to the contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Belgium and Luxembourg, the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, and other contributions from France and Germany (GIZ). ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Senegal as indicated on our [country page](#).

Sierra Leone 1

In Sierra Leone, the Government has outlined several ambitious targets and policy actions to enhance social protection within the Medium-term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019–23. These include system strengthening and improving shock responsiveness, extending contributory social security to self-employed workers, and expanding social assistance to cover 30 per cent of the country's vulnerable population. The Flagship Programme aims to support Government efforts through improving coordination and coherence among different schemes in line with international standards and international best practices and promoting the extension of coverage to workers in the informal economy through the National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT). In 2022, Sierra Leone ratified the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No.102) agreeing to those parts of it that pertain to medical care and sickness, old age, employment injury, invalidity and survivors' benefits.

The ILO has built capacities among constituents, including on financing, governance, monitoring and evaluation with a view toward strengthening and progressively extending the coverage of the social protection system to the informal economy. To this end, the ILO supported the establishment of the Tripartite Steering Committee for the extension of

social security to workers in the informal economy and a concept note was developed and validated by Steering Committee members to carry out an assessment of coverage status, as well as of existing barriers to access, priorities and needs among workers in the informal economy. The ILO has contributed to the draft National Social Protection Bill through provision of technical inputs, trainings on legal drafting and international labour standards, and fiscal space assessments to identify innovative financing mechanisms.

Current ILO support to Sierra Leone is provided through core budget resources of the Office. However, the ILO is seeking to increase its presence in Sierra Leone so that it might respond to the needs of constituents and support the effective extension of social protection. Visit our [country page](#).

South Africa

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) administers a longstanding set of social grants to the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups. Social insurance is used in limited form to manage risks related to unemployment and employment injury. The Government's primary focus is on expanding social protection coverage by extending existing social security schemes to uncovered populations and improving social security systems. To this end, in March 2021 the ILO presented the findings of a Green Paper to the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the tripartite partners of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC). The paper, which was published in August 2021, presents a case for the creation of a National Social Security Fund (NSSF) informed by actuarial studies summarizing options for introducing mandatory social insurance to cover old-age, disability and survivorship risks. Following public comments, the DSD requested a revision to the study, which was completed by the ILO in 2022. The revised version addresses key questions, including risks of low coverage and financial sustainability considerations, and is currently undergoing internal consultations before being gazetted once more for public comment. Meanwhile, the ITC-ILO has provided additional training support for public officials in the areas of social security governance, actuarial valuations, and monitoring SDG 1.3 and other social protection indicators.

Elsewhere, the ILO led, in collaboration with other UN agencies (through the UN SDG Fund) feasibility assessments, the first of which was concluded in 2021, on a Basic Income Scheme (BIS). The BIS aims to provide income security to the unemployed in the working-age population, who represent a glaring gap

in the social protection system in South Africa. The findings suggest a BIS could have significant direct and positive impacts on poverty and inequalities, some of which could, however, be offset by weaker growth and employment. Additional findings from econometric modelling produced by the group were launched in December 2022, as DSD led a series of policy discussions on BIS among various stakeholders.

ILO's support to South Africa was made possible thanks to contributions from the UN Joint SDG Fund and South Africa. Visit the [country page](#).

Sudan

The Government of Sudan has identified the development of a national social protection policy and strategy as a key priority, ranking alongside improving the management information systems of the pension and health insurance funds and enhancing their inter-operability. The country also aims to extend health coverage to those working in the informal economy, including expanding social health protection for both hosts and the forcibly displaced, and strengthening community-based social assistance.

Since October 2021, after the dissolution of the Sovereignty Council of Sudan and takeover of the Government by the military forces, activities have been de-escalated and kept at a strictly technical level, through the contributing to knowledge generation and capacity-building of technical-level staff among stakeholders. In this vein, a report on the extension of social protection coverage to workers in the informal economy in Sudan was produced in September 2022. Further assessments on this topic, as well as on the improvement of the financial situation and processes at the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), are currently being carried out.

The ILO's support in Sudan was made possible thanks to contributions of the PROSPECTS project funded by the Netherlands, and other contributions from the European Union and the African Development Bank. Visit our [country page](#).

Tanzania (United Republic of) 3

The Tanzanian Government has prioritized the extension of social protection coverage to workers in the formal and informal economies, empowerment, and inclusion of people with disability, and strengthening of social welfare services, including access to health care. The Flagship Programme aims to enhance the design and administration of non-contributory schemes, such as the Productive Social

Safety Net Programme (PSSN II), and to strengthen and expand social insurance, including for workplace injury and health risks. To this latter end, the ILO, together with other development partners, has provided technical and financial assistance to the Government in the design of a legal framework for social health insurance, which establishes a Single National Health Insurance Fund and outlines modalities for the collection and management of social contributions intended to finance benefits. In September 2022, a draft bill was presented to parliament and is now with the Social Services and Community Development Committee, where it is undergoing further tripartite review.

Since June 2022, the ILO has also been supporting the second actuarial valuation of the Workers Compensation Fund of Tanzania (WCF), which provides concrete recommendations to ensure the scheme's long-term financial sustainability and assesses the financial impact of policy options under consideration to improve the adequacy of benefits. WCF officials were trained on data formats and analytical procedures, setting of assumptions and the overall structure of the actuarial model as part of capacity-building efforts. Meanwhile, the TRANSFORM training curriculum was translated into the Kiswahili language and rolled out to key government officials and social partners to strengthen their capacities on social protection legal frameworks, planning, designing, implementation, coordination, and monitoring of social protection interventions. This work has fed into an on-going review of the 2003 National Social Protection Policy being undertaken by ILO in coordination with other UN agencies. The revised policy is expected to be launched in 2023.

The ILO also supported the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) to enhance the delivery of the PSSN II through public works and livelihoods enhancement, as well as its provision of business and enterprise development services. Potential links with the private sector were explored specifically in Zanzibar through a survey and workshops organized in September 2022 for the Employers' Association of Zanzibar (ZANEMA)

that allowed for gathering views and opinions on further strengthening the social protection system in support of human development and decent work generation.

The ILO's support to the United Republic of Tanzania benefited from the contributions of Irish Aid and Tanzania. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support. Visit our [country page](#).

Togo 2 3

The current social protection system in Togo is characterized by limited coverage and a low level of public expenditure on social protection. To address this coverage deficit, the Government gave a priority to the extension of social protection in its National Development Plan (PND 2018–22) and adopted in October 2022 the Law on Universal Health Insurance. This law, developed with ILO legal advisory support, creates a compulsory and universal health insurance scheme for employees of the National Social Security Fund and progressively for workers in the informal and rural economies. It extends the legal coverage of social health protection to over three million people, 52 per cent of whom are women. Since then, the ILO has been assisting the Government of Togo to achieve the target of 60 per cent of health coverage by 2025, in two ways: by enhancing its capacity to increase financing for social protection and by providing technical support to implement the new law on universal health insurance.

In this framework, the ILO supported the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health in advocating for increased financing for social protection and specific budget support for achieving universal social health protection, with the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The ILO and the IMF selected Togo as one of four pilot countries for collaboration on the development of social protection systems and fiscal space. Under this collaboration, the ILO has participated in consultations between the Government and the IMF on the negotiation of an Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme, having provided technical advice to the





discussion on the definition of social spending, including social protection expenditure. A consensus on the definitions was reached in September 2022, though this has not yet been achieved with the ECF programme. The definition will be the basis for the development of the analysis of the budget allocation and public spending on social protection should the ECF programme between Togo and the IMF materialize, and if indeed so, it would also include the extension of coverage of health protection as a priority. In this regard, the ILO initiated in 2022 an actuarial health evaluation to support the Government plans related to the promotion of universal health coverage, with the expectation that it will probably be concluded in the second quarter of 2023. Also worth of mention is that the IMF mission to Togo in 2022 held a meeting with ILO constituents (workers and employers) to hear their views on the topics under discussion. Furthermore, in 2022 the ILO supported the Ministry of Labour in restructuring the National Social Protection Committee and, in a second phase, supported this committee for the development and validation of the regulatory texts for the implementation of the universal health insurance law.

The ILO has also supported the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) in policy design and definition of financial parameters for the extension of the old-age pension scheme to workers in the informal economy and to the self-employed. The proposal was approved in 2022 by the Social Security Board. The ILO has also contributed to actuarial simulations for establishing the design and parameters of the old-age pension extension to those workers; a study on the contributory capacity of the workers in the informal economy; the design of simplified procedures for registering workers in the informal economy and self-employed in the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) as result of lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis. The capacities of 428 key stakeholders (mayors, workers and employers, and government officials) were strengthened on approaches and mechanisms for extending coverage to workers in the informal economy, the principles of social protection and modalities for affiliation to the National Social Security Fund.

The ILO's support to Togo benefited from contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme funded by Germany (GIZ), the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, and the ILO's RBSA. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Togo. Visit our [country page](#).

Uganda

In Uganda, the ILO is working with the Government and other stakeholders to improve the design and financing of the social protection system with a view to progressively achieving coverage for all, and most urgently for vulnerable and marginalized groups. In collaboration with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), the ILO commissioned a feasibility study for the extension of NSSF-administered benefits to workers in the informal economy. The study

provides recommendations on how the NSSF can reach workers in the informal economy and the self-employed through the design of differentiated benefit packages responding to their short- and long-term needs. It also provides information on the financing framework and operational preparedness of the NSSF to broaden its current coverage to those workers. It is intended that the NSSF will apply some of the findings toward piloting enrolment of workers in the informal economy at the beginning of 2023. This analysis also provides critical evidence for use in further informing Uganda's national strategy on coverage extension to the informal economy, currently under development by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and for which the ILO provided technical assistance. With the aim of capacity building on social protection policy, MGLSD officials also attended trainings on social protection policymaking and administration at ITC-ILO, supported by the Flagship Programme. At the same time, the push to extend coverage to all workers including the self-employed has been further bolstered by an amendment to the National Social Security Fund Act in 2022 providing for mandatory contributions by all workers, regardless of the size of the enterprise or number of employees.

In addition to supporting the Government's capacities in this regard, the ILO also supported the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) in conducting a study on compliance with social security obligations in order to identify drivers of non-compliance and challenges to existing inspection and enforcement mechanisms, and also to provide recommendations for enhancing adherence of FUE private sector members to NSSF obligations. Meanwhile, the National Organization for Trade Unions (NOTU) benefited from ILO support in conducting an awareness-raising exercise among their membership, including workers from the informal economy with the overall aim of facilitating information sharing and eventual buy-in to the envisaged coverage extension drive by the NSSF in 2023.

Elsewhere, the Flagship Programme has worked to strengthen capacities through the delivery of its TRANSFORM training curriculum to local government officials working on social protection and refugee-related issues in Isingiro district, which hosts more than 100,000 refugees in the settlement of Nakivale.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, and the PROSPECTS project funded by Netherlands. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Uganda in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Zambia 3

The Flagship Programme in Zambia has been instrumental in operationalizing the country's new National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), following its enactment into law in 2018. The scheme provides compulsory social health insurance coverage for all workers of the formal sector, while allowing for voluntary participation by workers of the informal sector at subsidized rates. Moreover, beneficiaries of the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme are entitled to no-cost coverage, and the ILO continues to provide actuarial advice regarding subsidization of schemes. Thus, by the end of 2022, NHIS had increased enrolment among workers to over 1.8 million beneficiaries, an increase of more than 60 per cent on its 2020 enrolment figures. Currently, workers of the informal economy account for 40 per cent of total membership.

The ILO, in collaboration with other partners such as UNICEF under the UN Joint Programme, has been supporting the Government to increase knowledge and skills in the area of social protection. The TRANSFORM initiative, a regional capacity-building programme on leadership and management of social protection systems that is hosted by the ILO in Lusaka, has been instrumental in raising the profile of social protection in Zambia and increasing investments in social protection programmes through a targeted training programme aligned with the Single Window initiative. During the last two years, over 550 district staff officials selected across 44 districts have received TRANSFORM Leadership training through district-level application of the initiative.

During 2022, the ILO also continued its support for modernization of the administration of the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) through the enhancement of its management information systems and mobile registration capacities. Through upgrading of its district-level systems and capacitation of local officials, ZAPD together with the Ministry of Education, Health and Community Development and Social Services, was able to conduct mobile disability certifications and issue disability cards for an additional 50,000 eligible individuals now registered in the Disability Management Information System (DMIS). The disability certification is one of the key requirements for households with people with disability to become eligible for SCT benefits.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the European Union, Irish Aid, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Zambia. Visit our [country page](#).



► Americas

Barbados 1

The Government of Barbados is focused on establishing a social protection floor that is gender and shock-responsive, comprehensive and coherently designed. The Flagship Programme is supporting this endeavour, beginning with the modernization of the country's policy and legal framework for social protection. Together with other UN agencies, the ILO and the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs led the application of an inter-agency diagnostic tool – the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) – to evaluate the social protection sector in 2021 in consultation with tripartite partners. Based on the findings of that assessment, the ILO and other agencies supported the drafting of the Barbados Social Protection Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan for a Rationalised National Social Protection System (BARSPIP) 2021–24, which was then officially adopted by the Government.

The ILO and the ITC-ILO also reinforced the capacities of 34 policymakers and stakeholders through the E-Training program on Social Protection Policy and Quantitative Techniques, which was custom-designed to meet the learning needs of Barbadian stakeholders and took place over eight months. Moreover, the UN Joint Programme has contributed to strengthening national capacities through the publication and dissemination of knowledge, policy and awareness-raising products.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions of the UN Joint SDG Fund. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Barbados in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Ecuador 1

In Ecuador, the Flagship Programme aims to support the poverty reduction and social security extension targets contained in the Government's Opportunity Creation Plan 2021–25. As part of these efforts, the ILO, together with other members of the UN Inter-agency Group on Social Protection, provided regular technical assistance to the Government's National Social Cabinet to design and cost the National Social Protection and Recovery Strategy, which was formally adopted in May 2021. To inform the strategy's development, the ILO conducted two studies to estimate social protection gaps and calculate the financing required for establishing a social protection floor to ensure a minimum level of income security for children, people of working age

(e.g. pregnant women and people with disability), and elderly persons, in line with the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). Meanwhile, a second study was developed and disseminated to determine the country's available fiscal space and various alternative options for unlocking additional financing for social protection initiatives articulated in the strategy.

The Flagship Programme has also been supporting the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) and the Ministry of Labour to address informality and expand access to contributory coverage to those currently uncovered, namely to independent workers and those working in the informal economy. Thus, with ILO support, the two institutions developed a nationwide strategy to reduce informality and extend social security coverage to more than 400,000 independent workers and those working in the informal economy. At the same time, the ILO also carried out an assessment of the legal and institutional framework for unemployment protection and provided reform options to increase the existing IESS unemployment scheme's coverage and responsiveness to future crises based on the results of an ILO actuarial valuation and existing international social security standards. The Flagship Programme also released a series of knowledge products and awareness-raising publications throughout 2021 and 2022, providing additional context to the recent and planned Ecuadorian social security reforms.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the UN Joint SDG Fund, the EU-funded project on improving synergies between social protection and public finance management, Ecuador and the ILO's RBSA. Visit our [country page](#).

El Salvador 1

The Flagship Programme is supporting the Government of El Salvador to realize its ambitions for a more equitable and inclusive society through the enhancement of its social protection programming. In 2020, the ILO conducted an analysis of various national social protection legislation and practices using the parameters and principles established by the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). The report provided technical advice and concrete recommendations, including on parametric adjustments to its pension system and several minor amendments needed to bring national legislation and practice further into line with the Convention. The review provided was instrumental in laying the requisite groundwork that

paved the way to successful ratification of Convention No. 102 in June 2022.

Since 2022, the ILO has also been supporting the Social Security Institution (ISSS) in improving the administrative and financial governance of the Health and Professional Risks Systems through the preparation of an institutional diagnosis and actuarial valuation. At the beginning of the second semester of 2023, the actuarial valuation will be delivered to leadership along with the diagnosis report of the ISSS management. Meanwhile, several training activities on the ILO Health Actuarial Model (ILO/HEALTH) have also been conducted in order to develop the national capacities of ISSS officials to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the risk systems internally over the long term.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from El Salvador and the ILO's RBSA. Visit our [country page](#).

Paraguay 1 3

The Flagship Programme interventions of the ILO in Paraguay have aimed at supporting Government initiatives to expand access to its ¡Vamos! Social Protection System (SPS ¡Vamos!), adopted in 2018, and at including more programmes in the Results-based Budget (RBB). Together with UNICEF, the ILO has supported the Government in articulating and implementing the first phase of SPS ¡Vamos! in several priority administrative regions, where the development of Local Social Protection Committees was supported to help in identifying gaps in the services offered and in developing criteria and mechanisms for identifying local vulnerable populations to be targeted for assistance. The support also enabled the development of a digital app to increase beneficiaries' understanding of the available SPS ¡Vamos! services.

At the national level, interventions under the Flagship Programme also provided support for the requisite legal analysis, capacity building and advocacy efforts, which led up to the ratification of the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) in October 2021. The ratification process was concluded with the enactment of Law No. 6791 of September 2021, reflecting almost ten years of the ILO's continuous engagement with the Government and social partners on the application of international labour standards related to social security.

Meanwhile, the Flagship Programme also trained more than 30 civil servants during 2021 and 2022

from the Ministries of Finance, Health, Women, Social Development, and the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, as well as social partners on public finance and social protection through courses at the ITC-ILO, including through the development of a Spanish-language adaptation of the course now part of the regular curricula in Spanish at the centre since 2022. The Flagship Programme also developed a Diploma on Designing and Managing Social Projects in an RBB context, and trained 100 civil servants and stakeholders on the linkages between social protection, public finances and the design and monitoring of these programmes again within an RBB context. The Diploma has been transferred to, and institutionalized within, the Universidad Católica "Nuestra Señora de Asunción" for continued implementation in 2023 and beyond.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions of the EU-funded project on social protection and contributions from Paraguay. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Paraguay in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Suriname

Since June 2022, the ILO has been supporting the Government of Suriname in conducting a comprehensive review of its social protection system, including the legal and operational framework, financing structures and coordination mechanisms. The assessment will provide valuable input to eventually introduce a social protection floor in the country, and for prioritizing the legislative and institutional reforms required to increase coverage and strengthen the system's adequacy, sustainability, and responsiveness. The National Development Plan cites fragmentation as a significant weakness in the country's social protection system. Therefore, the assessment will also explore mechanisms to enhance coordination and coherence between social protection programmes and interventions as well as with social, economic and employment policies led by different Government departments and ministries.

The dialogue between the different stakeholders has already begun and capacity building sessions took place in July 2022 for a very diversified public, including different ministries, national institutes, workers' and employers' organizations.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the contributors to the ILO Regular Budget for Technical Cooperation (RBTC). Visit our [country page](#).



► Arab States

Iraq 1

The Government of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Regional Government, is committed to reforming the country's social protection system as evidenced in various Government strategies and policies, as well as in recent legal instruments aimed at extending coverage. Social assistance is comprised of the Public Distribution System providing food rations to almost the entire population and the Social Safety Net, a poverty-targeted programme, providing income support to about 12 per cent of the population. Meanwhile, social insurance schemes are divided between public sector and private sector workers, with the former achieving high coverage but being largely unsustainable under current rules and the latter covering less than 5 per cent of the workforce through limited benefits.

The ILO has provided actuarial and legal services to assess the federal and Kurdistan regional social security laws and has also supported parliamentary committees in both regions to hold a number of tripartite technical workshops to discuss and finalize the draft laws, which seek to expand the range of entitlements to include maternity and unemployment benefits and to extend legal coverage to an additional 3.4 million workers, including through the use of contribution subsidies. Other legal reforms supported by the ILO and passed in both parliaments have allowed Iraq to fulfil the national process for the

ratification of the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) with a view to having the ratification registered by the ILO in early 2023. The ILO has also strengthened capacities to implement provisions of the new laws and to improve efficiency in the delivery of social security and related employment services. It is also important to mention that Iraq is among the four pilot countries of the ILO-IMF collaboration for the period of fourth quarter 2021–first quarter 2023, during which ILO, IMF and World Bank specialists have done joint technical work on preparing options for pension reform in the country and have met with national constituents, including workers and employers, concerning this topic.

Meanwhile, the Flagship Programme has provided trainings on social security principles, inspection, and pension reform and organized an exposure visit for tripartite partners to learn from the Jordanian experience in these domains. The ILO, together with other UN agencies, is also assisting in the drafting of a new National Social Protection Strategy, informed by several analytical studies solicited by the ILO from leading academics and practitioners on social security and more than 20 substantive and high-level tripartite discussions across the country to date.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the European Union. Visit our [country page](#).



Jordan 3

Jordan is committed to the implementation of its National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) 2019-25, which prioritizes the generation of decent work, the extension of social security, and the provision of social assistance and essential social services, with an emphasis on improved targeting, institutional capacity-building and coordination across programmes. Specifically, the NSPS aims to establish a social protection floor while strengthening social insurance to address informality and address the needs of vulnerable workers such as refugees and migrant workers.

With ILO technical support, the Estidama++ Fund, a multi-donor fund for the extension of social security, was operationalized within the national Social Security Corporation (SSC), targeting vulnerable workers outside the social security systems, particularly those in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), refugee and migrant workers, and women. The Fund provides for phased contribution subsidies and a contribution reward to help transition workers into social security. A communication platform on WhatsApp was launched in September 2022 and other outreach mechanisms were piloted to enhance communication between the SSC and workers and to raise their awareness about SSC benefits and programmes. Similar efforts also continue in collaboration with the SSC, UNHCR, and cooperatives to reach workers, including refugees in the agriculture sector, with information about social security. As of December 2022, 3,000 workers had been prioritized to receive the phased subsidy, with subsequent rounds of applications planned for the first half of 2023.

Meanwhile, activities under the Flagship Programme have also supported the production of the Yearly Statistical Bulletin (data from 2020 and 2021) together with the Inter-Ministerial Statistical Working Group and coordinated by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC). In addition, a TRANSFORM Leadership training programme on social protection was delivered to key NSPS stakeholders and a training was conducted for Arabic-speaking applicants from Jordan and across the region to become TRANSFORM trainers.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the European Union, Norway, the United Kingdom and the PROSPECTS project funded by Netherlands. Visit our [country page](#).

Lebanon

Despite being faced by challenging political and economic conditions, Lebanon aspires to reform its social protection system. The Government is developing a national strategy to introduce a social protection floor, commencing with a disability allowance. At the same time, it is also seeking to reform its mandated end-of-service indemnities with a view to introducing an unemployment insurance scheme to protect workers when their employment relationship ends.

Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO has provided technical assistance to update a previous actuarial valuation for the proposed pension scheme and has provided legal support to the parliamentary sub-committee appointed to review the associated draft legislation so that it is in line with international labour standards. The ILO also provided support towards the establishment of the unemployment insurance fund through a costing exercise and review of the associated draft legislation that takes into account international labour standards as they related to social security. Additionally, the ILO assessed the financial position and short-term risks of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and likewise provided technical assistance for the carrying out of a financial assessment of the NSSF's three existing branches.

Meanwhile, the ILO also provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs and other line ministries in developing the National Social Protection Strategy. The strategy involved establishing a platform for organizations of people with disability (OPDs), co-facilitated by the ILO, to increase engagement and participation in national dialogues around social protection. OPDs were actively involved in the design of the new national disability allowance in Lebanon. Gender was also mainstreamed in the strategy, with initiatives aimed at eliminating discriminatory social insurance provisions based on gender and nationality and developing a national social assistance system to provide income security for women excluded from the contributory system. The ILO's technical assistance helped to support these initiatives and ensure compliance with international social security standards.

These activities have been made possible by contributions from the European Union, the PROSPECTS project funded by the Netherlands and contributors to the UN Joint SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Occupied Palestinian Territory 3

The Palestinian Authority has prioritized the strengthening of social protection, with a focus on establishing a social protection floor for vulnerable groups such as people with disability and older persons. The Ministry of Social Development's (MoSD) Social Development Sector Strategy (SDSS) 2021-23 emphasizes the importance of a rights-based approach to social assistance provision, while the Ministry of Labour (MoL) aims to update relevant labour and social security legislation and operationalize the Palestinian Social Security Corporation (PSSC) for private sector workers. A new development cooperation agreement between the ILO and the Occupied Palestinian Territory for 2023-26 will focus on creating sustainable employment opportunities for youth and women, supporting legal reforms, and reactivating the PSSC while strengthening the provisions of a Palestinian social protection floor.

Through the Flagship Programme's interventions, the ILO conducted a comprehensive review throughout 2021 of the social protection system, making recommendations to diversify social assistance and revise existing targeting and transfer value determination methodologies among other potential improvements. The Flagship Programme, together with contributions from other UN agencies, also conducted a social services mapping and costing of existing gaps in service coverage and quality with the of informing processes for improving access to essential social services for older persons and people with disability. To support improvements in cash-based programming, the group also carried out a cash transfer pilot for people with disability in the Hebron Governorate. Alternative mechanisms for identifying, selecting and paying target beneficiaries were developed, with a view towards expanding and institutionalizing them as eventual social allowances for people with disability and the elderly in line with the SDSS. An approach based on social allowances represents a potential alternative to the reliance by these vulnerable groups on poverty-targeted programming such as the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP); for, the ILO has carried out analysis of the targeting and transfer value determination mechanisms of the CTP, raising concerns about its efficacy under current programme rules.

Meanwhile, work on improving coordination of efforts at the humanitarian-development nexus have also been supported under the Flagship Programme. To this end, a working group under the Local Aid Coordination Secretariat (LACS) mechanism was created with support from the Flagship Programme

to improve coordination among social protection, cash and voucher-based interventions and relevant actors. This working group will focus on coordination and harmonization across four programmatic workstreams, including namely coverage, adequacy, comprehensiveness, and inter-programme referrals.

The ILO has continued support to the Ministry of Labour (MoL) and Palestinian Social Security Corporation (PSSC) by reviewing revisions to the draft social security law and also through the conducting in 2021 of an actuarial valuation for an unemployment insurance provision that will be part of the new draft law. Among other benefits, the draft law provides for the introduction of an unemployment insurance benefit for private sector formal workers, guided by ILO legal and actuarial advice. In October, the Council of Ministers approved a decision to launch a phase of national consultations on the basis of the revised draft of the social security law. These consultations will take place during 2023. In the same vein, the ILO trained over 20 civil servants and representatives from civil society and academia in the use of the TRANSFORM curriculum, and it supported two Palestinian candidates to undergo training to become TRANSFORM trainers for the wider Arab States region. The Flagship Programme also developed training curricula and materials to raise awareness of older persons' rights and delivered a 3-day training-of-trainers for 32 participants in the West Bank and Gaza.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the European Union, the UN Joint SDG Fund, the ILO's RBSA, and the State of Kuwait. Visit our [country page](#).





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► Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia 2

The Royal Government of Cambodia aims to reduce poverty and promote economic growth through the National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) (2016-25). The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted important gaps in coverage, which were partially addressed through the temporary COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme (CTP-COVID). For its part, the ILO assisted authorities to offer soft skills and occupational health training, as well as a one-off US\$90 grant to nearly 18,000 new mothers who lost their jobs during the pandemic. The Government is now committed to closing remaining gaps with the enactment of additional, institutionalized social security schemes and measures.

In 2021 and 2022, the ILO provided actuarial and legal advice to develop a new contributory pension scheme covering old age, incapacity or disability, survivorship, and funeral benefits. The new scheme, launched in October 2022, now effectively covers some 1.4 million workers of the private sector. The ILO also carried out support activities to sensitize and incentivize companies, enterprises, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to register employees with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). The ILO continues to assist the Government in its preparation of an operational plan to extend social security coverage to an estimated 3.1 million workers, closing the gap between effective and legal coverage. Flagship Programme activities also assisted in other areas of policy development and conducted actuarial studies to assess the fiscal position of existing schemes, including the National Health Insurance, with a view toward informing eventual reform options. The ILO

also engaged in capacity-building activities for the NSSF and social partners to improve organization, collaboration, and accountability, thus improving the user experience for the existing 2.56 million members of the NSSF. The ILO has also worked closely with the National Social Protection Council (NSPC) through the General Secretariat of the NSPC (GS-NSPC) to further build capacities within the Cambodian Government and support the development and implementation of policies to extend coverage.

Meanwhile, support from the Flagship Programme contributed to the completion in June 2022 of a review of the NSPPF in June 2022 and the Programme will also support the drafting process for a new version of the NSPPF based on lifecycle risks.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the European Union, the UN Joint SDG Fund, the UNDESA 2030 Agenda Sub-fund and Germany (BMZ). Visit our [country page](#).

India

In India, the central and state governments operate a network of contributory social protection schemes for different categories of workers, as well as social assistance initiatives aimed at poor and vulnerable groups. The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) provide social security coverage to formal workers with various benefits, while the Building Workers' Welfare Board and the State Unorganized Workers' Board provide support to workers in the large informal economy. Other forms of social support, including cash-based and in-kind measures supporting nutrition and health, are also available.

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO has been working closely with ESI to provide technical support for strengthening its service delivery capacities on health. Under this intervention, the ILO has developed two large-scale primary studies on current and potential beneficiaries, in addition to carrying out an in-depth diagnostic of the scheme's current performance. Meanwhile, as part of a South-South Technical Cooperation initiative in 2022–23, the ILO is facilitating cooperation between India and Brazil for mutual exchange and learning in good practices around issues related to social security financing and digitalization. In this vein, the ILO is developing a survey-based analysis providing evidence on the status and social protection coverage of workers of digital labour platforms in Delhi city. The ILO has also been carrying out a study on extension of social protection to informal economy workers in Uttar Pradesh. The study will provide technical inputs to the tripartite constituents addressing identified challenges.

These activities have been made possible by contributions from Japan, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Visit our [country page](#).

Indonesia 2

The Government of Indonesia is seeking to improve coordination and coherence among its various social protection programmes and institutions, building bridges between social assistance and social insurance to achieve comprehensive coverage throughout the lifecycle. The expansion of contributory benefits is a top priority and in addition, the Government intends to introduce an insurance mechanism to replace the current employer-liability provision for maternity and sickness benefits, following the successful implementation of an unemployment protection scheme.

Under the first phase of the Flagship Programme, the ILO provided the requisite legal and actuarial assistance to inform the design of an unemployment insurance scheme, which was ultimately adopted in February 2021 and provided legal coverage to an estimated 16 million workers by end 2022. Throughout the beginning of the second phase of the Flagship Programme in 2021 and 2022, the ILO continued to support the formulation of policies and facilitation of dialogues between social partners to promote universal social protection, with a focus on reform of the old-age pension system, introduction of maternity and sickness social insurance schemes, and strengthening the social protection system to address climate-related shocks and stresses. Furthermore, the ILO also contributed to the wage

subsidy programme implemented by the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, by distributing wage subsidy and salary compensation funds of US\$1.7 million to around 28,000 workers by August 2021. The ILO is also completing a comparative legal assessment between the national social protection framework and the requirements of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No.102) with a view to presenting this assessment to the national stakeholders.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from Germany (GIZ), Japan, and the Japanese “Fast Retailing Co., Ltd.”. Visit our [country page](#).

Lao People's Democratic Republic 1

The Flagship Programme has been supporting the Government of Laos PDR in its efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2025 through a financially sustainable national health insurance. Thus, in 2022, the ILO contributed to the Lao Social Security Office's (LSSO) efforts to increase compliance and effectiveness by offering support for the development of the Department of Inspection. Following the Government's endorsement of the Social Security Inspection Decision, which benefited from the Flagship Programme's support, work on the development of inspection guidelines commenced. Capacity-building was further enhanced with the participation of two Government officials at the ILO International Technical Forum in Valencia, Spain entitled “The new ILO guidelines on general principles of labour inspection and the future of work”. Technical support was also provided to the National Health Insurance Bureau (NHIB) in planning the training of officials at subnational level in the area of compliance with the national health insurance verification guidelines, with the objective of enhancing the claims processes and outcomes.

The ILO is also contributing towards improving the financial sustainability of the health insurance scheme, by compiling the requisite confirmatory data to inform the policy reforms that will be included in the revised Law on Social Security and the Law on Health Insurance in 2024. To that end, a comprehensive actuarial analysis of all social security branches, including health insurance, was initiated in 2022.

Furthermore, a review of the lessons learned during the implementation of the Community-Based-Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme by the Government of Lao PDR has begun and will be completed in March 2023. The study aims to document the legacy of the CBHI

and assess how it has helped to shape the country's current national health insurance scheme.

The ILO's support to Lao People's Democratic Republic is made possible thanks to contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Belgium and Luxembourg, the European Union, UN Joint SDG Fund, Luxembourg, and Germany (BMZ). The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Lao People's Democratic Republic. Visit our [country page](#).

Nepal 2 3

Social protection is a priority in Nepal's development agenda, recognized as a right for all citizens in the Constitution and as a crucial instrument for an equitable and just society. The 15th National Development Plan (2019–25) identifies social protection as a driver for transformation, and has set ambitious targets to cover 60 per cent of the population with basic social protection schemes and to allocate nearly 15 per cent of the national budget for social protection in the current fiscal year.

Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO provided support to the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security (MoLESS) and the Social Security Fund (SSF) to extend social security schemes to self-employed workers and those working in the informal economy, including through the facilitation of tripartite consultations and provision of actuarial analysis. In December 2022, the MoLESS launched the new regulations for contribution-based social security for workers in informal- and self-employment. The ILO continues to offer its support to MoLESS and SSF prior to the eventual implementation of the new regulations following the on-going judicial review of them.

Meanwhile, the Flagship Programme has also helped to strengthen the social security institution's ability to plan, budget, implement, and monitor its existing contribution-based social security systems. This assistance has included a review of the information and communication technology environment, as well as business processes, to improve workflow and service delivery; the conducting of capacity needs assessments; and the developing of a Human Resource Development Plan. Staff development activities supported under the Flagship Programme include capacity-building initiatives tailored to different audiences both within and beyond the social security institution. Thus, the ILO provided assistance to the Central Labour Advisory Council (CLAC), the formal tripartite dialogue mechanism in Nepal, to develop the Formalization Action Plan, in collaboration with MoLESS. The Plan was endorsed by the committee working under CLAC in August 2022 and it includes integration of social protection as part of enterprise registration and also the extension of social security to

workers in informal employment as one of its priority outputs.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from Germany (GIZ) and Japan, as well as the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management. Visit our [country page](#).

Pakistan 2 3

Throughout 2022, Pakistan prioritized social protection, including increased budget allocations, with a focus on universalizing social protection and reaching out to excluded groups. Similarly, several initiatives launched in 2021 aimed to extend social protection to workers in the informal economy, domestic workers, agriculture workers, home-based workers, as well as sanitation workers and street vendors. The establishment of the Social Security Coordination Forum (SSCF) by the Government offers a site for review of existing social security programmes, as well as for the formulation of plans for coverage expansion and improved governance of schemes. These developments in social protection took place within the context of the monsoon floods in June 2022 that affected around 84 districts, pushing an additional 9 million people into poverty.

In Pakistan, the Flagship Programme is supporting national and subnational authorities to simplify registration by enterprises and digitalize the payment of social security contributions by employers. A Social Protection Policy has been formulated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where an integrated management information system for social protection has been institutionalized to deliver relevant and timely benefits to beneficiaries. Meanwhile, the ILO has also supported the Punjab Bureau of Statistics to develop and conduct a survey on domestic workers with the aim of identifying the various types of employment and commercial relationships through which they are engaged. The survey has informed a series of pilot initiatives underway in Punjab Province to register 40,000 domestic workers, who are being offered a menu of health and cash benefits, with the ambition of ultimately reaching an estimated 400,000 domestic workers once fully implemented. At the same time, authorities in Sindh Province have also undertaken a legal reform to include all workers in the formal and informal economy under the purview of existing labour laws, and they have referred to the ILO's Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964 (No. 121) to guide the process of payment of compensation to victims of workplace accidents and their families, including those affected by the Baldia factory fire.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from Germany (GIZ) and the German "KiK Textilien und Non-food GmbH", as well as the ILO's RBSA. Visit our [country page](#).



Philippines 3

The Philippines Development Plan (PDP) 2023–30 introduced a universal social protection floor as one of its outcomes, with a major strategy of establishing a standard menu of rationalized programmes for essential guarantees. To this end, the Flagship Programme has supported technical capacity building and tools development for formulating and implementing social protection policies and programmes.

Since 2018, the ILO has provided technical advisory services and operational support in the updating of a social protection landscape analysis and conducted several sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultations. On the basis of these inputs, recommendations were formulated and ultimately endorsed in March 2021 by the Technical Executive Committee, a sub-committee of the National Tripartite Industrial Council. Since that time, the recommendations received provisional approval in December 2022 from the National Economic and Development Authority at the Social Development Committee-Cabinet level and will serve as an operational basis for implementing priorities related to introducing a social protection floor under the Philippines Development Plan.

At the same time, Flagship Programme interventions have also supported the development of a pilot on enhancing service delivery mechanisms and implementation of programmes via one-stop shop or single-window service centres. The Flagship Programme has also supported capacity-building on the implementation of social protection floor components, including planning, individual programme design and monitoring, as well as on the development of tools for harmonizing criteria of different social protection programmes and schemes.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the UN SDG Fund and the ILO's RBSA. Visit our [country page](#).

Samoa

The ILO and other UN agencies have been supporting the Government of Samoa in its efforts to develop a National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) that aims to provide a national development agenda for improving and strengthening an inclusive, forward-looking, and sustainable social protection system. Existing social protection measures in Samoa are fragmented. The NSPP, however, seeks to place social protection at the centre of Samoa's social, political and economic development and envisages it playing an important part in achieving the SDGs by 2030. In particular, the Flagship Programme has provided technical support for the review of the draft NSPP and for the development of the requisite legislation for implementing the policy. In partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, and the Samoa UN Multi Country Office, the ILO is conducting a diagnostic review of the social protection system, which includes universal old-age benefits and several other protections limited to workers in the formal economy, through a national policy dialogue. Meanwhile, the partnership is also working to support ratification of the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and the implementation of the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) in Samoa and other Pacific Island nations.

The ILO has also been working to improve social protection systems as part of its wider efforts to strengthen policy and active labour market institutions in Samoa. This has resulted in the development of the Samoa National Employment Policy (2021–26), the amendment of the Labour Employment Relations Act of 2020 following a review of legislative aspects relevant to the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), and the establishment of the national Upgraded Job Seekers Registry and Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Registry to comply with international labour standards.

These activities have been made possible by contributions from the UN Joint SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Timor-Leste 1 3

The Flagship Programme provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion to develop the first Implementation Annual Plan 2022–23 of the National Strategy for Social Protection (NSSP) 2021–30, which will guide the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NSSP. The Implementation Annual Plan 2022–23 was approved in June 2022, following a participatory process of consultation, capacity building and training sessions supported by the ILO. A total of 20 training sessions were conducted in 2022, with the participation of 107 people from the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion; National Institute of Social Security; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Health; and the Secretary of State for Employment and Vocational Training. These training courses have contributed to increasing staff knowledge and understanding concerning the Strategy's implementation plan. The courses have also helped to strengthen staff capacity in the coordination of planning and monitoring.

The NSSP 2021–22 includes a chapter on the impact of the implementation of the Strategy on costs and the number of beneficiaries, based on the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP). In addition to updating the RAP with the policy reforms and new data from the Census and Labour Force Survey, the ILO is also supporting the drafting of a policy note on the sustainable financing of social protection, which will assess financing options in extending social protection coverage and benefits in Timor-Leste.

The Flagship Programme has also provided training and technical assistance to the key Government institutions and social partners responsible for social protection statistics with the aim of improving national capacity to monitor the extent to which SDG 1.3 is being achieved. To this end, an intersectoral group on social protection statistics comprising relevant Government institutions and social partners is being established, and a workshop on key social protection indicators has been conducted. The ILO online Social Security Inquiry (SSI) has been translated into Portuguese and adapted for application in Timor-Leste. In the same vein, the ILO has been supporting the National Institute of Social Security in compiling, harmonizing, and validating the contributory social security statistics, which will be supplied to the SSI and the Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection in Timor-Leste.

ILO's support to Timor-Leste benefited from the contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Germany (GIZ), the ACTION/Portugal project and the ILO's RBSA. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Timor-Leste. Visit our [country page](#).

Viet Nam 2

In 2017, the Government of Viet Nam adopted a Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform to expand the scope of beneficiaries of social assistance policies and raise the level of monthly allowances. Likewise, in 2018, it adopted a Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform to develop a multi-tiered social insurance system, reaching nearly half of the total workforce by 2025, and to expand social insurance coverage to the informal economy, with the aim of covering nearly all of the population by 2030 and reducing out-of-pocket health expenditure for many among it.

The ILO carried out a legal review and an actuarial assessment of the pension fund in support of planned revisions to the Social Insurance Law of 2014 and provided a series of policy options for increasing social insurance coverage, reducing lump-sum withdrawals, and improving pension coverage among the elderly. These recommendations, prepared with ILO support by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, were submitted to the Ministry of Justice and finally endorsed by the Government in December 2021. The Flagship Programme concurrently provided policy impact assessments and proposals for various policy reform options informed by existing global and regional practices to assist in the planned revision of the country's Health Insurance Law of 2014, including provision of public subsidies to new target populations, strengthened enforcement mechanisms for the formal sector, review of processes to facilitate registration, as well as expansion of the scope of benefits and network of providers, all while facilitating social dialogue among the Government and the social partners to achieve consensus in reforms.

Furthermore, the ILO contributed to efforts to expand social protection coverage through a gender-sensitive and multi-tiered expansion strategy. A gender impact assessment on adapting social insurance to women's life courses was developed, and two policy briefs were published advocating for increased adequacy and reduced gender gaps in coverage and benefits between men and women.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from Japan, Ireland and Luxembourg, as well as the UN Joint SDG Fund and the EU funded project on social protection and public finance management. Visit our [country page](#).



► Europe and Central Asia

Albania 3

The Government of Albania is committed to the development of a new national strategy on social protection that addresses critical issues such as implementing the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), extending coverage of social insurance to workers in all forms of employment, providing social assistance for basic income security, exploring fiscal scenarios for social protection, and building consensus through national dialogue with stakeholders.

The Flagship Programme has contributed to these efforts throughout 2021 and 2022, supporting the development and assessment of financing options for extending social protection coverage and benefits at both the national and municipal levels. The ILO carried out a series of training sessions to build the capacities of social protection administrators and social partners and reinforce the role of social dialogue in the design, financing and implementation of social protection programmes. In the area of health, the ILO carried out a feasibility study of long-term care benefits. It has worked to support the update of relevant legal frameworks, particularly the Law on Social Care Services, at the municipal level with regard to the design, implementation and management of integrated social services. It has likewise worked to institutionalize the cross-sectoral model of the integrated health and social care services, and to further develop social inclusion policy and priorities as well as care service models supporting older persons.

Moreover, the Flagship Programme has also sought to reinforce Albania's cash-based programming through an assessment of existing targeted cash assistance programmes and the further development of their shock-responsive capacities, including through the update of a fiscal space analysis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the earthquake of 2020. At the same time, ILO support has also focused on capacitating local officials through a series of trainings directed at decentralized officials from relevant ministries to improve contribution collection and social security coverage in rural areas, in collaboration with the International Social Security Association (ISSA).

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the UN Joint SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Kyrgyzstan

In 2021, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic addressed the impact of COVID-19 on social protection and initiated legal and policy reforms to create a more coherent framework for sustainable socio-economic development, with a focus on drafting a national social protection strategy, adopting an inclusive umbrella policy for people with disability, reforming the pension system, and extending social protection coverage to informal economy workers.

Toward these ends, the Flagship Programme has supported the Government in drafting a national social protection strategy on the basis of an assessment conducted using the Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) Core Diagnostic Tool (CODI). Technical assistance has been provided under the Flagship Programme through two capacity-building workshops to increase the capacity of constituents to use the CODI tool, collect data, and draft the strategy in a participatory process. A comparative review of national legislation with respect to international labour standards will also contribute to the identification of gaps in the draft strategy. A fully-fledged strategy is expected in the first half of 2023.

Similarly, technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Economy and Finance on the design of a strategy supporting transition from the informal to the formal economy with a dedicated approach to social protection as an entry point for formalization. Technical support was also provided on designing options for extending maternity and unemployment protection. This builds on results of a study "Towards and integrated strategy for the transition to formality: Road maps for Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan" conducted in the context of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) initiative in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It provides substantive recommendations and sets out the steps required of the Kyrgyz Republic in developing a coherent strategy to formalize the informal economy.

These activities have been made possible by contributions from the EU-funded project on social protection and public finance management, the ILO's RBSA and Regular Budget for Technical Cooperation (RBTC). Visit our [country page](#).

Tajikistan 3

The Government of Tajikistan has prioritized the extension of the coverage of contributory schemes to workers in the informal economy and to labour migrants, as well as the expansion of maternity benefits and child-care services and benefits, among other areas. It also aims to streamline administrative processes and coordination among social protection administrators to enhance the delivery of benefits and employment services to those in active age groups, supported by a modern management information system and with a view towards articulating a comprehensive national social protection strategy in the near term.

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO has provided technical assistance for the development of a national employment strategy to enable livelihoods and opportunities for the unemployed while emphasizing important links to social protection programming. In 2021, the ILO conducted three capacity-building activities on social security standards, including for members of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions and the Union of Employers, and provided methodological guidance and training to staff of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Agency for Labour and Employment, and the Social Protection Agency to enable them to better tailor responses to job seekers according to their specific social protection needs.

The ILO also concurrently supported the development of an institutional framework and mechanism for social protection service delivery to address the needs of informal economy workers and of women workers, in particular. Informing their development was a rapid survey conducted in 2021 about the situation of workers in the informal economy, which also identified policy options for extending social protection coverage in such contexts. Furthermore, a social protection budget review, which included an actuarial assessment of priority social protection schemes to be extended to workers in the informal economy, was prepared by the ILO in 2022. This technical support also included an assessment of existing coordination mechanisms between social protection and employment departments at the local level, as well as a review of national social protection budget and institutional arrangements.

These results and activities have been made possible by contributions from the ILO's RBSA. Visit our [country page](#).

Ukraine

Prior to the current crisis and to support on-going and planned efforts within the Ukrainian social protection sector, the ILO conducted in 2021 an assessment of the social security responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. The report reviews the social security measures extended in response to the pandemic, analyses their effectiveness and long-term implications and discusses future challenges for improving the social security system at large.

In February 2022, however, the Russian invasion caused massive disruption of economic activity and catastrophic damage to infrastructure, the environment and livelihoods of the Ukrainian people, upending a reform agenda that has yet to be reinstated. The situation is unpredictable and is likely to remain uncertain for the near future.

For many Ukrainians, social benefits are the main source of income, particularly among pensioners, those in need of social care, and families with children. The Government has committed to the payment of pensions and other social benefits, including the introduction of some new benefits for internally displaced persons (IDPs), while many international organizations are providing emergency cash assistance. These temporary interventions are critical for the Ukrainian IDPs and refugees to meet their immediate needs. However, in the longer-term, the country will need to rebuild a sustainable and shock-resilient social protection system. Despite current limitations, the ILO has been able to maintain a foothold in the country and has offered its assistance to the Government in future efforts to institutionalize social assistance and social security reforms, when appropriate.

These activities have been made possible by contributions from the ILO's Regular Budget and ILO's (RBSA and Regular Budget for Technical Cooperation (RBTC). Visit our [country page](#).

Uzbekistan 2 3

Uzbekistan, as a lower-middle-income country, emerged after 2000 with a pro-poor and equity-enhancing growth. Sustainable social protection financing, transition from an informal to formal economy, sustaining achievements in gender equality and the eradication of child labour are key Government priorities linked to strengthening the social protection system. The Flagship Programme supports Uzbekistan

in three ways: (a) facilitating the adoption and implementation of COVID-19 response measures (b) exploring options to extend social protection coverage by estimating investments needed in specific schemes and by linking contributory and non-contributory sources of financing and (c) providing technical support for the digitalization of the social protection system.

Uzbekistan continued implementing measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in 2021, including by extending social assistance benefits to an additional 2.86 million people. The ILO supported this through facilitating working groups and preparing technical reports analysing the social protection system and identifying fiscal space options., the ILO conducted a cost assessment for an unemployment insurance scheme in Uzbekistan that took into consideration contributory and non-contributory sources of financing and options for extension to workers in the informal economy. Two tripartite meetings conducted with representatives of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ministry of Finance, Pension Fund, Federation of Trade Unions, and Confederation of Employers resulted in a technical note consolidating the Government's priorities in unemployment insurance and suggestions from workers and employers.

In order to support Uzbekistan in developing a Social Protection Observatory (as an online interactive tool

that will allow monitoring of progress in attaining targets set in the National Strategy for Social Protection), the Flagship Programme provided technical support for mapping the existing databases of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Pension Fund, State Statistics Committee and the Agency for Medical and Social Services. A round table discussion on the digital aspects of the social protection system was also held with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Pension Fund and State Statistics Committee, UNICEF and GIZ. Mention may also be made of the fact that Uzbekistan was one of the four pilot countries of the ILO-IMF pilot project during the period 2021-23, to collaborate and develop joint advice on fiscal space and social protection development. The ILO contributed with text for the Article IV report on social protection and prepared a joint study supported by IMF contributions on fiscal space options in a context of previous tax and social security reforms adopted by the country in recent years.

The ILO's support to Uzbekistan benefited from contributions by the Multi-donor Programme to the Flagship Programme, funded by Germany (GIZ), as well as contributions from the UN Joint SDG Fund. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Uzbekistan. Visit our [country page](#).



2.2 Summary of thematic results

The development of national social protection systems requires knowledge and expertise across several thematic areas. The Flagship Programme provides thematic support on 16 special thematic areas of work to strengthen national capacities on the development of universal, comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection systems. This thematic support is provided to the 50 priority countries mentioned in section 2.1 but can also be provided to other countries based on their demand for specialized technical assistance. This year, the report

will focus on just six areas, including the improvement of social protection financing, social health protection, extending social protection to workers in the informal economy, leveraging social protection in the context of climate change and for a just transition, and digital transformation of social protection. A summary of ongoing and recent activities in each of the six priority thematic areas is described below covering the 2021-22 period. More information on each of the 16 special thematic areas is available on the [Social Protection Platform](#).



Financial governance and sustainability – actuarial valuations

During the years 2021 and 2022, the Flagship Programme continued efforts to build capacities in the area of actuarial sciences among social security institutions around the world, contributing to improving the financial governance of social security.

Through the ILO's Quantitative Platform on Social Security (QPSS) and its cloud-based actuarial tools ILO/HEALTH and ILO/PENSIONS, social security institutions and programmes have the opportunity to learn how to conduct valuations of their respective

social security schemes with ILO accompaniment, with a view toward progressively performing their own actuarial evaluations internally and with the possibility of external peer reviews if needed. Both tools were officially presented via two online courses offered in September 2021, with more than 1,100 participants from more than 90 countries. In 2022, on the basis of 12 country applications, further improvements to the tools were made, and an agreement was signed with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) to jointly launch the Actuarial Services Platform (ASP) providing open access to countries or institutions wishing to apply for the use of the tools with or without a deployment of training as of 2023. Visit our [thematic page](#).

► **Countries: Most significant results achieved in strengthening the financial governance and sustainability of social protection, including through actuarial valuations (2021-22)**



Any boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

- **1.** In the **Bahamas**, the ILO carried out an actuarial valuation of existing social insurance schemes.
- **2.** In **Cyprus**, the ILO conducted an actuarial valuation of the existing national social health insurance scheme.
- **3.** In **Dominica**, the ILO carried out a review of existing schemes and an actuarial valuation for the costing of a new unemployment scheme.
- **4.** In **Ecuador**, the ILO supported the actuarial review of the pensions schemes and a national social health insurance scheme.
- **5.** In **Egypt**, the ILO conducted national trainings on the ILO/PENSIONS and ILO/HEALTH online actuarial tools to reinforce capacities of social security officials.
- **6.** In **Eswatini**, the ILO carried out actuarial valuations and support the design of costing of a new unemployment insurance scheme.
- **7.** In **Ethiopia**, the ILO supported the actuarial review of two pensions schemes.
- **8.** In **Ghana**, the ILO supported the actuarial valuation of existing social insurance programmes.
- **9.** In **Honduras**, the ILO carried out actuarial analyses to review the existing health insurance scheme and an employment injury insurance programme, including review of risk classification and rate setting procedures.
- **10.** In **Indonesia**, the ILO conducted actuarial valuations for unemployment insurance and pension funds, as well as contributory maternity and sickness benefit schemes.
- **11.** In **Jamaica**, the ILO provided an actuarial analysis for the design and costing of a new unemployment insurance scheme.
- **12.** In **Jordan**, the ILO carried out an actuarial valuation for existing social insurance funds.
- **13.** In **Kenya**, the ILO provided actuarial analysis to support the design and costing of a new unemployment insurance scheme.
- **14.** In **Kuwait**, the ILO provided an actuarial review of existing social security funds.
- **15.** In **Lebanon**, the ILO carried out an unemployment insurance valuation to replace end-of-service payments with annuities in compliance with the minimum benchmark of the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102).
- **16.** In **Oman**, the ILO carried out actuarial studies in support of a comprehensive national social security reform.
- **17.** In **Peru**, the ILO conducted actuarial valuations for unemployment insurance and pension funds, as well as contributory maternity and sickness benefits.
- **18.** In **Saint Lucia**, ILO undertook an actuarial review of existing social insurance schemes and developed an actuarial valuation for a new unemployment insurance scheme.
- **19.** In **Sudan**, the ILO provided an actuarial valuation of the National Pensions and Social Insurance Fund.
- **20.** In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the ILO conducted an actuarial review of existing social security schemes and a valuation for a new unemployment insurance fund.



Financing social protection

The work on social protection financing under the Flagship Programme has combined global research and the production of tools, while strengthening country support and advisory services.

Through the EU funded project on improving synergies between social protection and public finance management (PFM), the global research agenda under this thematic area included the completion of the multiplier study on the impact of social protection expenditure on economic outputs, the preparation of a tool for fiscal space analysis and financial options

assessment for social protection, the development of training material on social protection and PFM, and further research to strengthen the link between social protection and PFM.

A global effort on knowledge management led to improved coordination on emerging key debates around social protection financing, most notably the macroeconomic instability and mounting debt pressure. The ILO has also grown the evidence base in support of advocacy for additional fiscal space for social protection. Visit our [thematic page](#).

► **Countries: Most significant results achieved in supporting sustainable and adequate financing for social protection systems (2021-22)**



Any boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

- **1. In Angola**, the ILO supported reform discussions through an application of its rapid costing tool, the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP).
- **2. In Burkina Faso**, the ILO supported the formulation of options for improving expenditure efficiency and increasing gender sensitivity of programmed-based budgets for social protection.
- **3. In Cambodia**, the ILO provided support for the review and formulation of options for improving funding and expenditures efficiency, as well as budget programming, classification, and delivery of social protection spending.
- **4. In Ecuador**, the ILO provided support for the design and implementation of the national social protection strategy that included increased spending to reach poor and vulnerable groups.
- **5. In Ethiopia**, the ILO conducted a fiscal space analysis to support domestic resource mobilization for social protection, including options for potential debt restructuring.
- **6. In Iraq**, the ILO produced analysis on necessary financing for contributory and non-contributory benefits, and engaged with the IMF and the World Bank on planned reforms.
- **7. In Jordan**, the ILO conducted a Social Protection Public Expenditure Review (SP-PER) in 2022 covering social assistance and social insurance expenditures, subsidy regimes and social services outlined in its national social protection strategy.
- **8. In Lao PDR**, the ILO and other UN agencies trained more than 160 parliamentarians on social protection policymaking and financing approaches.
- **9. In Nepal**, the ILO carried out capacity building on public financial management, social budgeting, and programme-based and performance-based budgeting principles.
- **10. In Pakistan**, the ILO produced a study on the “Multiplier Effects of Social Protection in Pakistan” to advocate for investing in social protection, allowing for a 45 per cent increase in social protection budget allocations.
- **11. In Paraguay**, a results-based budgeting framework has been implemented in the ¡Vamos! Social Protection System, and over 100 officials from 26 institutions have received training from the ILO in implementing the framework.
- **12. In Senegal**, the ILO conducted fiscal space analysis to support domestic resource mobilization for social protection, including options for potential debt restructuring.
- **13. In Timor-Leste**, the ILO carried out capacity building exercises on costing analysis and social protection statistics for national stakeholders.
- **14. In Uganda**, the ILO carried out capacity building on public financial management, social budgeting, and programme-based and performance-based budgeting principles.
- **15. In Uzbekistan**, the ILO is engaged with the IMF on social protection financing under an ILO-IMF pilot partnership initiative, and has trained national officials on various financing options.

Expanding social health protection towards universal health coverage (including health, maternity, sickness and long-term care)



The publication “Making universal social protection a reality for people living with, at the risk of, and affected by HIV or Tuberculosis” available [here](#).

The Flagship Programme’s portfolio of social health protection activities expanded substantially throughout 2021 and 2022 to respond to the array of requests which emerged following the COVID-19 pandemic. In those two years, the ILO supported the extension of social health protection through capacity building, policy and legal advisory services as well as economic and actuarial analysis in 25 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, a sample of which are outlined in this section.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed that preparedness, prevention and response cannot simply focus on biomedical. Social protection

programmes that facilitate access to health care services as well as income security in case of sickness and quarantine are crucially needed. At the global level, the ILO has compiled lessons learned in the framework of other pandemics, and in particular HIV and Tuberculosis, through the report “Making universal

social protection a reality for people living with, at the risk of, and affected by HIV or Tuberculosis” and its engagement within the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team on social protection and HIV. Meanwhile, new statistical indicators on social health protection were made available in the World Social Protection

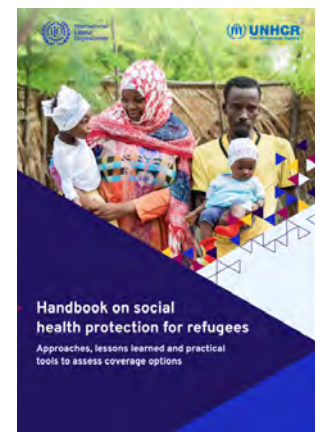
Report 2020-22, with a view to monitor progress on the social protection component of universal health coverage. Analyses at the regional level were also produced, including the report “Extending social health protection: Accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage in Asia and the Pacific”, which documents and analyses country experiences

and lessons on the extension of social health protection coverage in Asia and the Pacific. It was launched during a regional event on social health protection gathering over 300 practitioners in collaboration with the One UN Issue Based Coalition for social protection in the region. The ILO also co-organized a regional conference on social health protection alongside the WHO and Belgian Cooperation in Niger, building on the ongoing support to the expansion of social health protection in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Togo and Cote d’Ivoire.

Significant efforts in capacity building were also made by revamping existing and developing new tailored courses on health, including actuarial analysis, at ITC-ILO, as well as in Burkina Faso and Senegal. The ILO also developed a handbook on extending social health protection for refugees jointly with UNHCR and implemented inclusion studies in several countries. The ILO is now part of the coordination desk of the P4H network, contributes focal points, and collaborates with other organizations in its operations. The Flagship Programme also supported a webinar series with the WHO on social health protection for the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Meanwhile, the ILO also leveraged partnerships to extend social health protection globally and contributed to the Global Action Plan on Health and Well-Being for All and the Social Protection Action Research and Knowledge Sharing (SPARKS) network. [Visit our thematic page.](#)



The publication “Extending social health protection: Accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage in Asia and the Pacific” available [here](#).



The publication “Handbook on social health protection for refugees: Approaches, lessons learned and practical tools to assess coverage options” available [here](#).



The ILO co-organized a regional conference on social health protection together with WHO and Belgian Cooperation in Niger.



Kenya National Health Insurance Fund and ILO Workshop on Maternity Income Protection in Mombasa in November 2022.

► **Countries: Most significant results achieved in the extension of access to social health protection (2021-22)**



Any boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

- **1. In Burkina Faso**, the ILO supported an institutional architecture for the implementation of universal social health protection coverage and provided training on actuarial analysis to social health protection officials.
- **2. In Cambodia**, the ILO supported the development of an operational strategy to close remaining coverage gaps.
- **3. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the ILO supported the development of an institutional architecture for the implementation of universal social health protection coverage.
- **4. In Costa Rica**, the ILO supported the development of internal actuarial capacities within social health insurance institutions.
- **5. In Cyprus**, the ILO supported social health insurance institutions in the development of internal actuarial capacities.
- **6. In Ecuador**, capacities of officials within national social health protection institutions were supported through ILO interventions.
- **7. In India**, the ILO supported the development of a strategy to reach workers in the informal and rural economies and their families who are excluded from social health protection coverage.
- **8. In Jordan**, the ILO supported the creation of an operational strategy to close remaining coverage gaps.
- **9. In Kenya**, the ILO supported the creation of a strategy to reach workers in the rural and informal economies as well as the development of a feasibility study for a universal maternity cash benefit.
- **10. In Lao PDR**, the ILO supported the design of an operational strategy to close remaining coverage gaps.
- **11. In Madagascar**, the ILO supported the development of a strategy to reach workers in the informal and rural economies, as well as their family members, who are excluded from social health protection coverage.
- **12. In Niger**, the ILO co-organized a regional conference on social health protection alongside the WHO and Belgian Cooperation.
- **13. In Peru**, the ILO supported the development of internal actuarial capacities within social health insurance institutions.
- **14. In Senegal**, the ILO provided training on actuarial analysis to social health protection officials.
- **15. In Togo**, the ILO supported operational strategies to close remaining coverage gaps.



Extending social security to workers in the informal economy and protecting workers in all types of employment

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO has been able to respond to an increasing demand for technical support for the extension of social security to workers in the informal economy. To provide an evidence base and general principles for consideration by countries seeking to include workers from the informal economy into their social security system, namely in French-speaking Africa, the ILO's guidebook on Extending Social Security to Workers in the Informal Economy: Lessons from International Experience was translated and published in French, with additional content on social health protection based on experiences from several countries from the region. Efforts to mainstream these principles has also gained momentum, as the ILO continues to engage with other development partners and UN agencies

to co-generate knowledge and policy guidance on extending social protection to rural and self-employed workers. Further to this end, the ILO also co-chairs the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030) and developed one of the core focuses of the East Africa Learning Journey, a capacity-building and peer learning programme on extension to the informal economy.

In addition to knowledge products and the dissemination of upstream policy advice, the ILO has also achieved concrete results on extension of social protection coverage to workers in the informal economy in over 12 countries in 2021 and 2022. Visit our [thematic page](#).



In 2021, the ILO's guidebook on Extending Social Security to Workers in the Informal Economy was translated into French. The English-language version is available [here](#).

► **Countries: Most significant results achieved in the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy (2021-22)**



Any boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

- **1. In Chile**, the ILO supported the development of new non-contributory social protection programmes to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, improving income security for more than 1,330,000 workers in the informal economy (March 2020-December 2021).
- **2. In China**, the ILO carried out an assessment of workers in non-standard forms of employment (NSFE), with a focus on platform workers, migrant workers and women, which led to the adoption of new policy measures by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) to safeguard the social security rights of workers in NSFE.
- **3. In Côte d'Ivoire**, the ILO supported the adaptation of health insurance mechanisms for workers in the cocoa sector with the National Health Insurance Fund, and their subsequent piloting through representative workers' organizations and trade organizations.
- **4. In Egypt**, the ILO supported the revision and validation of executive regulations to accelerate the legal extension of social insurance, including pensions, to different categories of workers, including workers in the informal economy.
- **5. In India**, the ILO carried out an in-depth diagnostic of the Employee State Insurance (ESI) Scheme's performance and supported the adoption of the new Social Security Code, 2020, which gave the ESI Corporation the mandate to extend social protection to informal economy workers.
- **6. In Kenya**, the ILO has been supporting the development of a strategy to extend social protection to workers in the informal economy, including migrant workers and refugees.
- **7. In Malawi**, the ILO supported the development of a rapid assessment and registration criteria for the COVID-19 Urban Cash Interventions (CUCI) allowing for the environment and improved income security of over 378,000 individuals.
- **8. In Mexico**, the ILO supported the piloting of new legal provisions to extend coverage to domestic workers under the mandatory social security regime, leading to 32,899 new registrations.
- **9. In Pakistan**, the ILO supported the design and the launch of the Mazdoor-ka-Ehsaas (MKE) programme through tripartite consultations, to promote social protection for the 31 million informal economy workers in the non-agricultural and agricultural sector and their formalization. In addition, the ILO supported the amendment of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Employees Social Security Act 2021, which extends coverage of social security to construction workers and to workers earning 60 per cent higher than the prescribed minimum wage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
- **10. In Senegal**, the ILO supported the piloting of a simplified regime and the setting up of a new mutual fund for workers in the handicraft sector, providing effective coverage to more than 10,000 workers in the informal economy.
- **11. In Tajikistan**, the ILO conducted a rapid survey about the situation of workers in the informal economy which provided information on policy options for the extension of coverage.
- **12. In Togo**, the ILO supported the determination of a simplified insurance benefit package by the National Social Insurance Fund, in consultation with social partners, allowing workers in the informal and rural economies to register for social security.
- **13. In Uzbekistan**, the ILO has been supporting the development of a policy to facilitate transitions from the informal to the formal economy through the extension of social security to workers in the informal economy.

Social protection, climate change and just transition

Global warming and its consequences for the climate and the environment directly impact people's well-being and the sustainable development prospects for populations around the world – and their need for improved social protection. Adequate social protection for all throughout their lives, including throughout shocks and stresses, can only be achieved by systematically considering and mitigating the causes of climate change and anticipating and adapting to its impacts, while ensuring robust social protection systems.

The Flagship Programme's second phase 2021-22 therefore strengthened the **understanding of the implications of climate change and the transition on social protection** – internally among in the ILO as well as externally with countries and partners. In order to inform a just transition in countries, the ILO consolidated knowledge and further examples of good approaches on social protection, climate and a just transition (in country briefs, reports, papers and discussions with partners of the USP2030 Social Protection and Climate Change Working Group) and developed further policy guidance on social protection for a just transition to operationalize the [2015 Just Transition Guidelines](#).

As further advancement in this area hinges on agenda-setting and capacities which remain dispersed, the ILO also **scaled up its efforts to strengthen capacities and advocacy**. For social protection practitioners globally, internal trainings and one-on-one support to country staff as well as widely available learning modules on social protection and climate change were developed, including a chapter of the ILO's massive open online course "Making Universal Social Protection a Reality" and, jointly with the FAO, a module under the UN System Staff College's course (also accessible to non-UN practitioners) delivered twice a year. In order to also engage the climate community, the ILO followed relevant United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes (including Climate Change Conferences and Subsidiary Bodies) and worked with social partners to advocate for social protection to be integrated in comprehensive just transition policy responses.

The Flagship Programme's second phase also started concrete support to governments and social partners in this area. The ILO supported several countries in strengthening their social protection systems (including contributory and non-contributory schemes) in the context of climate change and the transition, as under a German (GIZ) funded project, along three key avenues following from the Flagship

Programme's strategy in this area:

- **To adapt to more extreme events** expected in countries such as the Philippines or Indonesia, the ILO supported work on system capacities in such events – including how the often-overlooked contributory schemes can help support people, as in Indonesia – and facilitated extensive consultations with the Governments, followed by further capacity development.
- **To adapt to longer-term climatic changes and needs**, in particular in certain regions and sectors, social protection systems also need to be revisited in terms of their current and continued support to people to build resilience and adaptation strategies, as supported by the ILO in Egypt.
- **To mitigate the scale of global warming**, social protection can not only support people throughout but also actively contribute to the transition – if included in just transition strategies and policies, as currently being supported in Colombia. In Nigeria, a feasibility study is also being conducted for the integration of social protection in support of its ecological transition.

For a just transition to succeed, it remains critical to continue building robust and sustainable social protection systems that provide universal, comprehensive and adequate protection. In line with the development of integrated policy approaches as laid out by the Just Transition Guidelines, support to countries will need to be further strengthened, including through the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. Visit our [thematic page](#).



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► **Countries: Most significant results achieved in promoting social protection for just transitions toward greener economies and societies (2021-22)**



Any boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

- **1. In Colombia**, the ILO is supporting a social protection assessment to inform the country's just transition strategy to precipitate an equitably managed ecological transition.
- **2. In Egypt**, the ILO is supporting the Ministry of Social Solidarity in determining those whose livelihoods are most vulnerable to/affected by climate change as well as assessing the social protection system's potential to support them in adapting to longer-term climatic changes and needs.
- **3. In Indonesia**, the ILO supported a study on the role of social insurance in the context of climate change and building capacity to adapt the social protection system to leverage responses via contributory programmes.
- **4. In Nigeria**, the ILO is supporting a feasibility study for the integration of social protection in support of the country's planned ecological transition.
- **5. In the Philippines**, as part of an inter-agency Joint SDG Fund Programme, the ILO has been leading a shock-responsive social protection system assessment to determine how it responded to the food and energy crisis in view of future extreme (climate-related) events.

Digital transformation

Digital transformation is a continuous journey, it requires institutions to think beyond one-time efforts to achieve a result. Organizations must continuously manage and incorporate technology as both, technology, and institutions, evolve. To do this it is necessary to consider all the stakeholders, focus on the business processes, and align the strategic digital objectives. Cultural and structural changes that establish an innovative mindset allow organizations to take advantage of changes coming from technology. Embarking on this journey is unavoidable if social protection is to meet its service delivery goals.

Effective service delivery capacity, the primary corporate target for any social protection institution, comes from harnessing technology and data. This, combined with comprehensive social protection policies, processes and adequate financing is central to ensure social protection rights for all. The ILO is uniquely placed to help institutions balance the difficult trade-offs inherent to implementing digital transformation projects.

Understanding where to begin, and what is the best path forward can be a difficult exercise and it is not always easy to visualize how to face such challenges. There are no one-size-fits- all solutions. Achieving a workable plan that provides actionable steps towards digital transformation often is easier said than done. Typically, our efforts focus on a hands-on approach that starts with a diagnostic of the current situation; an effort to document business processes; and an implementation plan for some digital transformation

aspect. These projects must look at the technological operations and build resilience as part of the digital transformation journey, without forgetting of course to manage risks and security. Finally, we also examine how technology and data must be governed and managed to support data-driven organizations and policies.

There is a growing demand, both for supporting implementation projects and for capacity building in social protection institutions. Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO has supported the development or enhancement of Management Information Systems (MIS) in countries such as Burkina Faso, Moldova, Nepal and Nigeria and social protection observatories for data presentation and analysis in Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan. The experience gained in this period will result in accelerating and increasing the implementation capacities of the team. Beyond the training components specific to every project, the ILO has structured a Digital Transformation e-learning course at the ITC-ILO in 2023. Regarding producing actionable knowledge, it is relevant to mention the several implementation templates for MIS projects currently being used in the country applications and in the openIMIS community, a leading international forum for MIS practitioners.

It is easy to see that going forward the synergic effect of implementing, training, building knowledge, being at the centre of standard setting initiatives and the proximity with the organizations in the field make the ILO a key player in the digital transformation of social protection. Visit our [thematic page](#).



► Countries: Most significant results achieved in supporting digital transformation (2021-22)



Any boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

- 1. In **Burkina Faso**, the ILO is supporting the National Universal Health Insurance Fund (CNAMU) to implement its MIS to improve operations.
- 2. In **Moldova**, the ILO has assisted the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to develop an online system for submission and administration of service vouchers for daily agricultural workers, simplifying work declaration and affiliation to the State pension scheme.
- 3. In **Nepal**, the ILO is supporting the Social Security Fund to replace its legacy MIS with a more modern, open-source and insurance-specialized MIS.
- 4. In **Nigeria**, the ILO is supporting the Kaduna State Contributory Health Management Authority to introduce new MIS technologies for improved health insurance operations.
- 5. In **Timor-Leste**, the ILO has supported the National Social Security Institute (INSS) to develop an observatory for social protection that facilitates cross-programme data presentation, comparison and analysis.
- 6. In **Uzbekistan**, the ILO has assisted the Ministry of Finance in the development of a national social protection data observatory

► **Box 1: Global Ratification Campaign on Convention No. 102**

In the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the ILO Minimum Standards (Social Security) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), the international landmark Convention establishing the minimum standard of social security, Governments, employers and workers represented at the International Labour Conference (ILC) reaffirmed its full relevance to achieve universal, comprehensive, sustainable and adequate social protection systems. As such, in 2021, the ILC called on the ILO to support constituents to achieve the effective realization of the right to social security through a campaign to systematically promote the ratification of Convention No. 102.

Accordingly, the Director-General of the ILO launched a Global Campaign that has two main objectives:

- Promote the ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 102 and other up-to-date ILO social security standards; and
- Raise awareness and build capacities of national stakeholders to design and implement sound national social protection policies and rights-based social protection systems that are sustainable, comprehensive and adequate for all, based on ILO social security standards.



Convention No. 102 is the ILO's flagship social security Convention providing the internationally agreed minimum definition of what social security systems should encompass, what type and level of benefits they need to provide and according to which principles they should be organized, financed and implemented. To date, 63 countries have ratified it; however, its influence and impact stretch much further than the number of current ratifications, as it has been the blueprint behind the development of national social protection systems and the yardstick for the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments.

The Campaign ambitions to bring the number of ratifications to 70 by 2026 by partnering with interested ILO constituents to:

- organize communication, awareness raising and capacity building activities at the national level on the merits of international social security standards to build solid and rights-based social protection systems;
- carry out comparative assessments between the national social protection legal framework and the minimum requirements and key good governance and financing principles established by Convention No.102;
- discuss and validate the results of such comparative assessments with Governments, employers', and workers' representatives to chart the way towards the ratification and effective implementation.

Since the Campaign's launch, the States of Comoros, El Salvador, and Sierra Leone have ratified the Convention while many others have formally inquired about the Campaign, including Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam. The ILO is supporting a number of other countries in assessing how their social security systems align with the Convention: China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lithuania, Mali, Mongolia, Saint Lucia, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Sao Tome and Principe and South Africa.

For more information about the [Campaign](#), please get in touch with socpro@ilo.org.



2.3 Update on building strategic partnerships

At the core of the Flagship Programme's strategy is the development of partnerships with development partners, UN agencies, the International Social Security Association (ISSA), international financial institutions (IFIs), employers and workers organizations, civil society organizations and Academia. Partnerships can help increase the ILO's impact by disseminating learning outcomes of the Flagship Programme, building and promoting joint messaging on the rights based approach to social protection, and enhancing coordinated support to countries. During the first 18 months of its second phase the Flagship Programme has developed two new partnerships: a pilot project with the IMF in four countries, and the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, which is a UN-wide effort involving both development partners and financial institutions. These two partnerships will be further strengthened in 2023 to achieve concrete impact in the countries.

► **UN collaboration on social protection: Reaching consensus on how to accelerate social protection systems-building**

Since the launch of the UN Social Protection Floors Initiative (SPF-I) in 2009, UN agencies and development partners have increased their collaboration on social



The publication "UN collaboration on social protection: Reaching consensus on how to accelerate social protection systems-building" is available [here](#).

protection. In 2021-22, the ILO collaborated with UN agencies (in particular, UNICEF and FAO, UN Resident Coordinators and the UN Development Coordination Office) as well as with other development partners to design, co-create, validate, and finalize a comprehensive report on this experience. The report takes stock of these 13 years of experience and draws key lessons learned. It also identifies priority areas for social protection engagement, provides recommendations for improving UN collaboration and proposes concrete ways forward. The recommendations from the paper informed the roadmap on

social protection that was developed as part of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and will guide the further development of One UN collaboration on social protection.

The World Bank and the ILO jointly host the secretariat of the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), to harmonize development partners support to countries in building and strengthening social protection systems. The secretariat organized its annual meetings in February 2021 and June 2022 and coordinated its work, including its six working groups on Interagency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools, Gender, Digital Social Protection, Humanitarian (cash) Assistance, Disability and Climate Change. The years of the COVID-19 crisis and the onset of the war in Ukraine were a period of intense exchange and the Board produced three joint statements on [lessons learnt from the pandemic, food price shocks and forced displacement](#). The outputs of the working groups that include ILO contributions are:

- a first draft for discussion on the ISPA tool on Cash Transfers;
- a first draft for discussion on the ISPA tool on Social Information Systems;
- the [Implementation Guide – Good Practices for Ensuring Data Protection and Privacy in Social Protection Systems](#);
- the conceptualisation of an open data approach for social protection on the basis of experiences in Uzbekistan and Timor-Leste;
- a study on Social Protection Administrative Data Analysis and Use;
- the [SPIAC-B Resource Sheet on Gender-based Violence and Social Protection](#);
- a three-day international virtual conference on [Disability – Social Protection - Inclusion](#).

More information: <http://ilo.org/newyork/spiac-b>

► **Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030)**

Co-lead by the ILO and the World Bank, USP2030 is a global partnership advocating, producing evidence

and exchanging information on universal social protection to reach the sustainable development goals. Membership has grown over the reporting period to more than 50 members, reflecting the growing consensus and recognition of the need for action to achieve universal social protection. The ILO and the World Bank coordination desk organizes the annual membership assemblies and coordinates the working groups on the [Digital Convergence Initiative](#), Food Systems, [Social Protection Financing](#) and [Climate](#)



The USP2030 East African Learning Journey, which focused on extending social protection to rural and self-employed workers among others.

[Change](#). A key activity of the partnership launched in 2022 was the [USP2030 East African Learning Journey](#) that aimed to bring the partnership to the target countries, mobilized additional members and strengthened the capacity of national partners through a series of workshops, trainings and e-coaching sessions. In addition, USP2030 jointly organized with the OECD its 3rd [Social Policy Dialogue on Social Protection and Development](#), which brought together government representatives and development partners to

exchange experiences around key topics of actuality: social protection and the food and energy crisis; social protection and environmental degradation and climate shocks; the role of targeting and universalism and social protection, jobs and sustainable livelihoods. Working group outputs included a Joint Statement on Principles for Financing Universal Social Protection.



The Just Transition Pavilion, supported by the European Commission, during the COP27 in Egypt in November 2022.

of partners. Having developed a broad membership (of about 200 members), three thematic sub-groups and an [online community on socialprotection.org](#), the group also facilitated coordination of events and joint efforts to advocate for social protection at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) for the first time. Hosted by the ILO's first Just Transition Pavilion supported by the European Commission, partners came together for a discussion on "[Making](#)

The ILO has been co-facilitating the new USP2030 Social Protection and Climate Change Working Group, inaugurated at COP26 in late 2021, together with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC) and an advisory group

[the transition just: Protecting people, enabling participation – through social protection](#)". Notably, the final cover text of COP27 explicitly recognized the role of social protection for a just transition.

The ILO is also engaged in the [Digital Convergence Initiative](#) (CDI) and is part of the Steering Committee since its inception in 2021. Under the leadership of the GIZ, the DCI was established to build a set of consensus-based standards and guidelines for the interoperability of social protection systems. In this context, the initiative animates a lively community of practice, including through a "[Talking Interoperability](#)" dialogue series with six sessions in 2022, an "[Interoperability in Action](#)" workshop series that discusses in-depth interfaces between the social protection system and ID, payment, and civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems. The ILO co-lead the work on the paper on [Applying the Principles for digital development in social protection](#) ([spdci.org](#)).



Gustavo Canuto, President of Dataprev and Rodrigo Assumpção, Social Protection Management Information Systems Specialist at the ILO, discuss at the 8th session of the DCI Dialogue Series held on 29 November 2022.

More information: <https://usp2030.org>

► IMF-ILO Partnership

As a consequence of the exchanges developed since the 108th (Centenary) Session of the International Labour Conference in 2019, with the visit of the then Managing Director Christine Lagarde, and strengthened by the Resolution and conclusions of the second recurrent discussion on social protection (social security), held during the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2021, the ILO and the IMF agreed to develop a pilot project for a structured cooperation between both institutions in the field of social protection. In the last quarter of 2021, both institutions chose four pilot countries (Iraq, Mozambique, Togo, and Uzbekistan) that are all part of the Flagship Programme where ILO social protection specialists and IMF country officers exchange views and information, provide joint advice and foster dialogue among the respective constituents with the goal of building sustainable fiscal space for social protection policies. The pilot exercise has developed over the year 2022 and will be concluded in the first quarter of 2023 with an internal evaluation and recommendations to the high-level management of both institutions.

► UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (Global Accelerator) aims to support countries in achieving universal social protection through more and better investments in social protection. It enhances coordination between policy and financing priorities, to ensure that ministries of economy and finance prioritize social protection investments. It supports the development of integrated policy approaches that seek to overcome the persistence of the informal economy and promotes the creation of decent jobs with social protection in promising sectors of the economy (digital, energy, care, etc.). It persuades international financial institutions to proactively improve the social impact of their investments.

Since the launch of the Global Accelerator by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) in September 2021, the ILO has coordinated its design and implementation along with other UN agencies, as part of an UN-wide programmatic effort that involves national governments and social partners, development partners and financial institutions. The Global Accelerator's implementation strategy was approved in July 2022 and next steps for its implementation were discussed at the [Meeting of Heads of States](#) organized



UN Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the Meeting of Heads of States regarding the Global Accelerator on 23 September 2022.

by the UNSG on 23 September 2022. A Technical Support Facility was set up to coordinate outreach to countries, provide support through a hub of experts, and develop tools and methodologies, and strategic partnerships. The results framework under development will help monitor results and provide evidence on the

Global Accelerator's impact in terms of public revenue generation for social protection and other SDGs.

The Global Accelerator offers several investment streams for partners including contributions to a UN SDG Fund Window, global and country level development cooperation projects, and alignment of existing development and financial flows. A significant number of countries and partners have already expressed interest and are taking the initial steps to develop a Global Accelerator roadmap to support

their national development plans and development cooperation strategies. They will have an opportunity to express their interest and support at a Policy and Funding Dialogue that is being organized during the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum on Financing for Development follow-up on 18 April 2023.

More information: <https://www.ilo.org/globalaccelerator>

► The Global Business Network for Social Protection Floors

The ILO Global Business Network for Social Protection Floors (GBN) was established at the end of 2015 to work with the private sector as part of the Flagship Programme, by involving businesses and employers' organizations in the development of social protection. It is both a knowledge exchange forum and an engagement platform. In 2021 the partnership agreement between EN3S, the French National School of Social Security, and the ILO was renewed to continue mobilizing the francophone platform of the GBN, which is the most active. The strategy of the GBN revolves around three pillars under which some of the achievements during the reporting period are listed below:

Pillar 1: the development of social protection guarantees for their employees

The Francophone platform of the GBN, through the organization of thematic sub-working groups, finalized a new guide "Well-being at work and global enterprises" (publication and symposium planned for 2023). This is in addition to the two guides already published on "Good practices in setting up a corporate social protection floor for employees in all countries" and on "mapping the level of social benefits available in all countries". The next topic will most likely focus on the "employment of older people."

Pillar 2: the development of research on the business case for social protection

The Francophone platform, after having commissioned a study on the economic benefits of maternity and paternity policies, has elaborated and published a specific guide on parentality in global enterprises, which is potentially contributing to extend social protection coverage to several million workers in participating companies.



Pillar 3: the development of national social protection systems

The ILO and Fast Retailing, parent company of UNIQLO clothing brand, joined forces in 2019 to strengthen social protection and employment services available to workers facing unemployment and job displacement in Indonesia. Fast Retailing views the US\$1.8 million partnership as an investment to ensure sustainable growth in Asia, with improved worker

security and capabilities increasing productivity and expanding business opportunities.

The project, finalized in September 2022, strengthened support mechanisms for the unemployed by designing an Employment Insurance system, expanding re-skilling and improving

public employment services (PES), and led to the development of a number of comparative studies, assessment and guidelines, including the “Training Package for Employment Services Staff in Indonesia”.

The COVID-19 Action in the Global Garment Industry

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Flagship Programme contributed to the COVID-19 Action in the Global Garment Industry, which brought together governments, workers and employers organizations, and global brands. The Call to Action established an International Working Group to guide decision-making and selected priority countries for action. The ILO acted as the convener with the International Organization of Employers (IOE), the International

Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and IndustriAll acting as the co-coordinators. Working groups were convened in priority countries to support the identification and implementation of short (2020-21) and longer term (2021-22) priorities. Initiatives associated with the Call to Action included income support schemes (supported by a Germany (BMZ) funded project as part the Flagship Programme), advocacy for access to finance and building social dialogue and industry consensus for the development of sustainable social protection systems. Through the Germany (BMZ) funded project, US\$13 million were distributed as income support that reached more than 170,000 workers in 1,414 garment factories in five countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia Indonesia and Lao PDR). Beyond income support, this project allowed constituents to: i) establish foundational social dialogue mechanisms, ii) strengthen and digitalize delivery services, and iii) align service delivery and design with social security guiding principles. Another interesting outcome of this Call to Action is a paper on the role of each stakeholder in the creation and expansion of social protection, including the financing by global brands and retailers of time-bound bridging solutions that may be required prior to the adoption of a national legislation, to demonstrate the feasibility of a specific social security scheme. Such a “bridging solution” is currently being implemented in Bangladesh to support the establishment of a national employment injury insurance scheme.

Based on the results and lessons learned from the global and francophone GBNs as well as the COVID-19 Action, the strategy of the GBN is currently being revised to increase its potential to mobilize multinational enterprises to expand social protection floors in developing countries.

More information: <http://business.social-protection.org/>



Representatives from Indonesia, the ILO and Fast Retailing launch a partnership to strengthen social and labour protection in the ready-made garment sector.

► Social Protection, Freedom and Justice for Workers Network

The Social Protection, Freedom and Justice for Workers Network (Workers Network) was established in 2017 within the framework of the ILO's Flagship Programme. The Workers Network acts to facilitate the exchange of workers organizations' knowledge and experience on social protection with the objective of strengthening their capacities to promote the right to social protection and fight against structural adjustment measures and reforms aimed at reducing benefits. In 2022, the fifth meeting of the network was held virtually on 5 July, where participants stressed the importance of achieving universal social protection in line with the priorities set out in the [ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work](#), the [ILO Global Call to Action for a Human-Centred Recovery](#), the Resolution and conclusions concerning the [second recurrent discussion](#) on social protection (social security) adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2021, as well as in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also discussed trade union advocacy strategies to advance social protection at the international, regional and national levels. Sharan Burrow, the then-Secretary-General of the ITUC, stressed the need for a new social contract during the meeting in order to guarantee a return to full employment through the creation of new climate-friendly jobs, the right to decent work with minimum wages and collective bargaining ensured without discrimination on the bases of race or gender, as well as mechanisms for meaningful corporate accountability.

More information: <http://workers.social-protection.org/>

The Web page and repository of online resources of the Social Protection, Freedom and Justice for Workers Network:
<http://workers.social-protection.org>.

► Providing for Health (P4H) Initiative

Since March 2021, the ILO positioned a desk officer within the Coordination Desk of the P4H Network, through the project “Strengthening Social Health Protection Through Providing for Health (P4H)”, co-funded between ILO and the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC). In 2021-22 the ILO became co-chair of the Technical Exchange Group. Since then, the social health protection aspect of the network as well as its connection with the wider partnerships in the area of social protection, have been strengthened.

At global level, a number of joint events and technical collaborations have been launched with P4H partners with greater emphasis on social health protection, such as webinar series on social health protection and health financing in India (2021) and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (2022). An article entitled “[Universal Health Coverage and Social Health Protection: policy relevance to health system financing reforms](#)” co-authored by ILO and WHO experts, was published in the International Social Security Review. [A social health protection compendium on Asia](#) including country profiles for Cambodia, Mongolia, Viet Nam with extensive review of P4H Country Focal Points and WHO team was published in December 2021. Finally, links were established with SPIAC-B as well as the USP2030 and SPARKS networks.

At country level, joint trainings and advocacy were conducted in Madagascar, Burkina Faso, India, Kuwait and Senegal. Three ILO Country Focal Points positions were deployed in Kenya, Congo (Democratic Republic of the) and the Asian region. On 17th November 2022, a high-level intersectoral event on social health protection was organized by the Ministry of Public Health of Madagascar, the ILO, the WHO and the World Bank. [The ILO presented its report on the extension of SHP in Madagascar](#). The ILO also officially joined the management team of the Leadership for Universal Health Coverage Program (L4UHC) for country application. The governance level of the P4H Network, the ILO also gained visibility. In September 2022 the ILO hosted the 22nd regular Steering Group meeting and became its co-chair.

More information: <https://p4h.world/en>



► 3. Managing for results

3.1 Management arrangements and setup

The governance of the Flagship Programme is ensured by the **Global Tripartite Advisory Committee (GTAC)**, which comprises representatives of governments from countries where the Flagship Programme is being implemented, from development partner countries, and representatives from the employers' and workers' organizations. The first GTAC meeting under the 2nd phase of the Flagship was held on 16 June 2022, and was attended by representatives from Kenya, Lebanon, Paraguay, Senegal, Uzbekistan, the IOE and the ITUC, as well as by development partner countries such as Belgium, Irish Aid, Germany (GIZ) and Japan. In addition to taking stock of the progress made in the first year of the implementation of the second phase across the three pillars of the Flagship Programme, the meeting also provided strategic guidance related to country and thematic support and partnerships, as well as its management including resource mobilization. The next GTAC meeting is being planned tentatively in the third or fourth quarter of 2023.

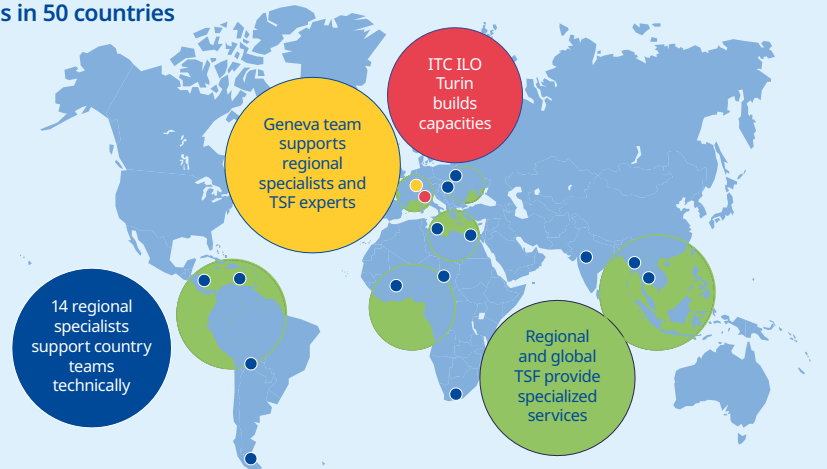
The Flagship Programme is managed by a dedicated **management team**, headed by the Deputy Director of

the ILO's Social Protection Department and composed of dedicated regular budget and development cooperation staff members at headquarters, regional offices and in Decent Work Teams. The strategy of the second phase had foreseen the extension of the management team at the regional level by nominating regional focal points for the Flagship Programme. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be prioritized in 2023.

The implementation of the Flagship Programme is ensured by the **Global Technical Team on social protection (GTT)**, which comprises social protection specialists and experts working at country, regional and headquarters offices. Progress has been made towards the commitment of providing technical expertise to each of the 50 priority countries through the presence of a country team. The GTT increased from 180 staff in July 2021 to 217 staff in March 2023 and is based in 80 countries (of which 45 are Flagship Programme priority countries) (see figure 6). In 2023, our resource mobilization efforts will need to strengthen our country presence in the five priority countries where there is currently no project staff.

► Figure 6. The ILO's Global Technical Team on Social Protection

Country teams in 50 countries



The boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

The GTT's effectiveness was strengthened through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Four online GTT meetings were organized in the second half of 2021 and 2022: two discussion sessions focused on how the GTT can better respond to increasing demand from countries (attended by 39 staff members), one exchange of experience on building ILO–EU partnerships in the area of social protection (attended by 17 staff members), and one capacity-building session on the Results Monitoring Tool (attended by 47 staff members). More support is needed to increase ownership of the tool and ensure that it is mainstreamed across all country and thematic projects. Two online information-sharing sessions were organized: on social protection and climate change – with a focus on just transition and

another one on extending social protection to workers in the informal economy (reaching a total of 90 staff members). A GTT retreat was organized and took place in Geneva in March 2023.

Communication, knowledge and information sharing for GTT members was also improved through the ILO's Social Protection Platform. The [digital map of the GTT](#), the [Results Monitoring Tool](#), and [50 country pages](#) were updated. Furthermore, 16 new [thematic pages](#) providing in-depth information on each thematic area were developed. The Platform, which is easily accessible to all GTT members, facilitates the access by field specialists and experts to information, expert advice and assistance on specific thematic areas, methodologies and tools.



Excerpts from the [thematic area page](#) on the extension of coverage to workers in the informal economy.

The Technical Support Facility (TSF) is part of the GTT and complements country teams by providing timely, coherent and high-quality technical support in line with ILO standards. The TSF is composed of experts that are entirely dedicated to supporting ILO constituents at country level. The TSF experts work closely with specialists financed by the ILO's

regular budget, and play a key role in the technical backstopping of the work undertaken under the Flagship Programme. During 2021–22, the TSF was strengthened at global and regional levels through the mobilization of resources to maintain existing TSF positions and create two new TSF expert posts in Africa and one position at ILO HQ (see table 4).

Table 4. TSF expert positions prioritized in the second phase of the Flagship Programme

| TSF expert positions as of September 2021 | TSF expert positions created from October 2021 to March 2023 | TSF expert positions needed to address ILO constituents' requests |
|---|---|--|
| Headquarters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► public finance ► health protection ► extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy ► legal drafting and ratification of standards ► actuarial studies ► Management Information Systems ► cash payment mechanisms ► culture and communication ► statistics Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► health ► actuarial studies | Headquarters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► social protection and climate change ► social protection and employment policy (including unemployment protection) Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy and integrated policies (Senegal) ► exchanges and capacity-building using TRANSFORM methodology (Zambia) | Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► unemployment protection Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► public finance Latin America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► unemployment protection Europe and Central Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy Arab States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► TSF expert position to support a regional hub of South–South exchanges and capacity-building using TRANSFORM methodology |

To strengthen the implementation capacity of the Flagship Programme, in particular at country-level and for thematic expertise, there is a need for:

- i. increasing regular ILO staff presence in seven Flagship Programme priority countries, including Albania, Barbados, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Suriname and to consolidate the teams in many other countries with urgent needs such as in Morocco and Kyrgyzstan.

- ii. creating five TSF expert positions in the regions (see table 4 above).

This would contribute to the scaling up of ILO technical advisory services to respond to the growing demand in the 50 Flagship Programme countries and the delivery of services to member States.

3.2 Results and impact

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan for the second phase of the Flagship Programme was developed in 2021 inline with the ILO's Evaluation Policy, and it benefitted from inputs from stakeholders. The M&E plan is a key tool for ensuring the accountability of the Flagship Programme towards ILO constituents and partners.⁷

The Indicator Framework of the Flagship Programme

measures results at country level through institutional changes across the three steps (see Introduction). These indicators correspond to the output indicators on social protection under Outcome 8 of the ILO Programme and Budget 2022–23. The ambition of the Flagship Programme, in its second phase, is to achieve 80 institutional results across the 50 target countries, doubling the results achieved during the first phase.

⁷ ILO Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All 2021–25: Monitoring and evaluation plan

Beyond institutional changes, it is key to be able to track and measure impacts on people and to assess the contributions made toward increasing legal and effective coverage of those who are today excluded as well as toward improving the adequacy and comprehensiveness of social protection enjoyed by those already covered by some form of benefit. The Flagship Programme aims to increase legal coverage for an additional 20 million people and to raise effective coverage to an additional 30 million people, as well as to ensure that an additional 10 million

people have access to more comprehensive and adequate social protection (see table 5). The indicator on increased effective coverage is linked to the SDG indicator 1.3.1 and underlines the contribution of the Flagship Programme to the sustainable development agenda.

The institutional-level results for the period 2021-22 are reported in Chapter 2 for each country. Below, table 6 summarizes the country level institutional results.

Table 5. Impacts on people, 2021-22

| Impacts on people | Achievements in 10 reporting countries in 2021-22 | Ambition for the second phase (2021-25) |
|---|---|---|
| Legal coverage | 19 million | 20 million |
| Effective coverage | 11.6 million | 30 million |
| More comprehensive and adequate social protection | 0.33 million | 10 million |

Table 6. Institutional changes achieved in countries, 2021-22

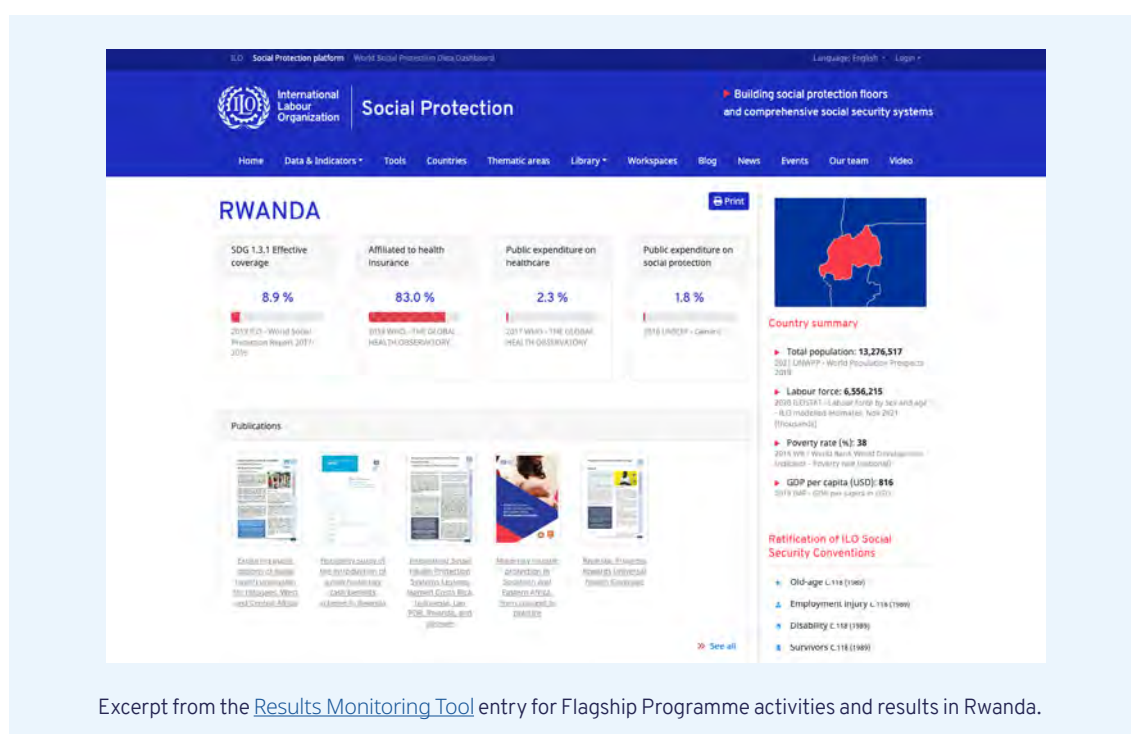
| Institutional changes | Number of results achieved in 2021-22 | Flagship Programme ambition 2021-25 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Step 1: Strategy adopted | 14 | 10 |
| Step 2: Scheme design/law | 15 | 30 |
| Step 3: Improving operations | 27 | 40 |



► Results Monitoring Tool

The [Results Monitoring Tool \(RMT\)](#) developed during the first phase provides information on the institutional changes achieved thanks to ILO support in countries. In 2021–22, further updates have been

brought to the RMT including additional content in the project and thematic pages. Through the RMT, partners and staff have a snapshot strategic view of the situation, main results and priorities of Flagship Programme countries. The RMT covers the period starting in 2001 and includes approximately 490 entries related to development cooperation.



► Evaluation

The M&E plan foresees a series of evaluations for the Flagship Programme (see table 7).

| Table 7. Programme for the evaluation of the Flagship Programme | | |
|---|---|---|
| Evaluation | Planned period | Status |
| Evaluability assessment of the M&E framework | Within the first year of implementation of the second phase | Completed in October 2022 |
| Mid-term independent evaluation | Q2 and Q3 in 2023 | In progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Appointment of ILO Evaluation Manager ► Preparation of the Terms of Reference for the evaluator |
| Final independent evaluation | End of 2024 to mid-2025 | Not yet started |

► Key highlights and recommendations from the evaluability assessment

In 2022, the evaluability assessment of the Flagship Programme was conducted by a M&E consultant and the report was finalized in August 2022. The purpose of the evaluability assessment is to review the quality of the Flagship Programme's M&E plan and systems and to provide recommendations on how they can be strengthened.

The evaluability assessment has provided the confirmation that the Flagship Programme has

an appropriate M&E plan. It recommended that the theory of change be developed further in the framework of the mid-term independent evaluation. Furthermore, in line with the recommendations, the management team of the Flagship Programme has developed a risk assessment at the overall programme level.

The management team of the Flagship Programme is further improving on this framework through experience gained in its regular monitoring of the results of interventions, especially at the level of the measurement indicators. The mid-term evaluation will be an occasion to fine-tune the measurement framework two years into the second phase.

3.3 Visibility and communication

The Flagship Programme's communication and visibility activities are fully integrated into the ILO Social Protection Department's new communication strategy, which aims to support constituents and partners in their efforts to realize adequate, comprehensive and sustainable national social protection systems for all through a rights-based approach.

The communication strategy sets out how the Flagship Programme can enhance the visibility of the ILO's work and its impacts on people. It also aims to strengthen accountability through increased transparency and further disseminate the ILO's vision for social protection extension based on international social security standards. It also seeks to strengthen the ILO's position as a lead agency and key partner for achieving the SDGs related to social protection.

Target audiences identified include policy makers and government officials in social protection related institutions, including those in charge of administering and financing social protection systems at the national level; social partners; the media; the general public; the multilateral system; as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions. The communication strategy also targets internal ILO audiences, ensuring message coherence and integrated policy approaches.

Events

- The first online Development Partners meeting was held in October 2021 with over 300

attendees via Zoom. It featured three parallel sessions, a virtual thematic marketplace, and one of the ILO's first structured funding dialogues. The [meeting report](#) is available online.

- The next Development Partners meeting will be held in a hybrid format in March 2023, and will be the first to allow in-person attendance since 2019. All information will be available at bit.ly/SP_DPM23
- [Two webinars](#) presenting the Flagship Programme were hosted on socialprotection.org in November 2021. This is in addition to numerous webinars held by Flagship Programme projects which shared knowledge and country experiences.

Website

The Flagship Programme has its own [dedicated webpage](#), hosted on the ILO's Social Protection Platform. The webpage will be updated in 2023 in line with the ILO's website overhaul. The webpage also links to:

- [Country pages](#) for all 50 priority countries, which consolidate information from the Results Monitoring Tool and the World Social Protection Database to provide an overview of the social protection situation, government priorities and the ILO's previous and ongoing projects. The pages also highlight opportunities, including financing gaps, for development partners to support ILO work to achieve tangible results.
- [Thematic pages](#) with a similar structure that showcase each thematic area with the current state of knowledge, the ILO approach, related

ILO country projects, the results achieved, and key resources.

- The [Results Monitoring Tool](#), which powers the country and thematic pages, allowing for automatic updates on country projects and results is under continuous improvement and will facilitate evidence-based communication.

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

- The massive open online course (MOOC) [Making Universal Social Protection a Reality](#) was released in January 2023 after a year of production. The free, self-paced course is composed of four modules, providing short, simple, and concise videos and written chapters on key areas of social protection. It is a resource for policy makers, social protection administrators, social partners, civil society organizations, development actors, university students and others who may or may not be directly involved in social protection issues but who work or are likely to work in a related field. The MOOC was produced in partnership with the SDG Academy and the French National School of Social Security (EN3S) and is hosted on EdX, an online learning platform with 42 million users helping to increase ILO visibility and disseminate its policy messages

beyond traditional audiences. The French version will be launched in the third quarter of 2023 with the support of EN3S. The MOOC was produced thanks to the support of Belgium.

Newsletter

- News items on the Flagship Programme are included in SOCPRO's [Outlook newsletter](#) that has over 5,000 subscribers. This includes country results, donor agreements, new publications, multimedia content and events. Certain Flagship Programme projects have their own newsletters, most notably the monthly newsletter under the EU-funded programme on <https://socialprotection-pfm.org>

Voices

- Voices is the ILO's multimedia storytelling platform that highlights first-person stories of people at the heart of the world of work. In 2021, [Linda's story](#) on how COVID-19 and her disability did not stop her search for work in Mozambique was the first produced by a project under the Flagship Programme, with another planned for 2023.



3.4 Resource mobilization

► Multi-donor Programme

The independent evaluation of the first phase of the Flagship Programme highlighted that while it provided an overall and coherent framework to guide ILO's work in social protection, this coherence was not reflected in the financial and administrative arrangements of the Flagship Programme. It recommended that:

“The ILO should increase the sustainability of the Flagship Programme by leveraging on existing projects to develop larger and longer-term

partnerships and by developing pooled funding mechanisms. The Programme should further engage donors and partners through structured funding dialogues and specific networks that need to be properly resourced to achieve results and impact.”⁸

Thus, for the second phase of the Flagship Programme, a more coherent approach for resource mobilization was put in place. In 2021, the Multi-donor Programme was established. It provides for two modalities of engagement with specific conditions for each (see table 8).

⁸ [Independent evaluation of the first phase of the ILO global flagship programme on building social protection floors for all \(2016–20\)](#)

Table 8. Modalities of engagement with the Multi-donor Programme (MDP)

| | “Pooled funding” | “Parallel funding” |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Strategic vision | Multiple donors align with the strategic vision, reporting and evaluation framework of the Flagship Programme | Same as for “pooled funding” modality |
| Earmarking | Lightly earmarked contributions | Lightly earmarked contributions, with separate funding arrangement |
| Financial reporting | Contributions to a programme by multiple donors where funds are co-mingled and all donors (referred to as participating donors) have agreed to common fiduciary conditions with one financial statement for all donors covering the calendar year | Each contribution will have its own financial statement, deadline and other conditions. There will be a specific financial statement for each of the respective donors |
| Management of funds | Participating donors jointly decide, through a steering committee, on the use of the funds and participate in management decisions and administration of the programme's fund, including reporting cycle, programme extension, etc. | Use of funds is determined through each respective project agreement |
| Narrative reporting | One narrative report of the Flagship Programme as a whole describing for all donors the progress made and achievements | Same as for “pooled funding” modality |
| Evaluations | The evaluation of the programme is done in the framework of the Flagship Programme evaluation requirements according to the established timetable indicated in section 3.2 above | Same as for “pooled funding” modality |

Pooled funding arrangements offer significant advantages in terms of economies of scale, increased coherence and efficiency in management and technical assistance, and reduced administrative burden. It also enables development partners to participate in strategic thinking on Flagship Programme priorities and allocation of resources, to collaborate and share knowledge, ensure aid effectiveness, disseminate joint results/impacts in multilateral platforms, and contribute jointly to regional initiatives, such as the Team Europe Initiative on social protection in Africa.

► Resources mobilized in 2021–22

The Flagship Programme in its strategy for the second phase requires a budget of US\$160 million of which US\$85 million had been secured in 2021. The funding gap was therefore US\$75 million in 2021. The budget mobilized in 2020 and 2021 was quite significant given the relevance of social protection in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and response. Resource mobilization efforts have continued with a post-COVID recovery focus. As of 31 December 2022, the funding gap had been reduced to US\$53.6 million (see table 9).

Table 10 shows the number of projects financed by development cooperation that were approved and that started implementation in 2021–22.

Table 9. Resources mobilized and funding gap of the Flagship Programme as of 31 December 2022

| | US\$ |
|---|-------------|
| Resources required for the Flagship Programme (in-country and thematic support) (estimated) | 160,000,000 |
| Mobilized during the 1 st Phase of the Flagship (until 1 August 2021) and contribution from regular budget | 85,000,000 |
| Funding gap in 2021 | 75,000,000 |
| Mobilized in 2021 (from 1 August 2021) and in 2022 | 21,344,000 |
| Remaining funding gap (31 December 2022) | 53,656,000 |

Source: ILO Results Monitoring Tool; and *Building Social Protection Floors for All: Strategy for the 2nd phase (2021–2025)* (social-protection.org), Table 6, pp. 30.

Note: Amount of funding is an estimate based on the exchange rate at the time of signature of project

Table 10. Number of new projects and funding approved (2021–22)

| | Number of new projects approved | Amount of new funding approved (in US\$) |
|------|---------------------------------|--|
| 2021 | 17 | 28,802,595 |
| 2022 | 9 | 9,320,393 |

Source: ILO Results Monitoring Tool

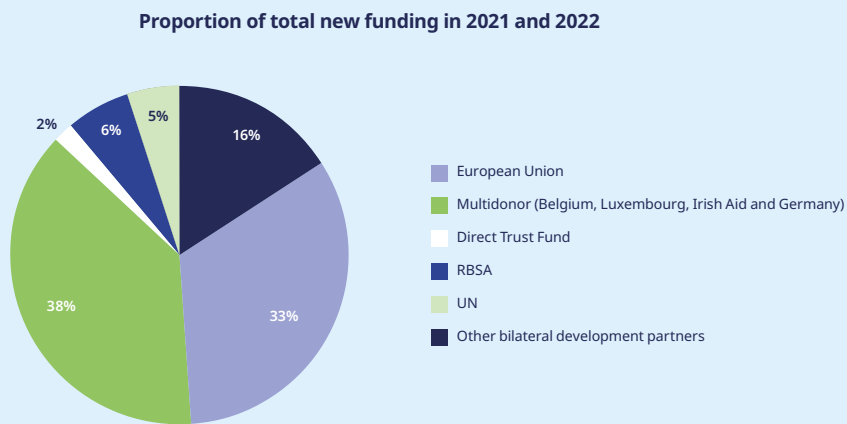
Note: Amount of funding is an estimate based on the exchange rate at the time of signature of project; Funding is for the total period of the project which goes beyond the year in which it was approved

In 2021, there were 148 active projects and in 2022 there were 122 active projects, including in countries beyond the 50 Flagship Programme countries. The decrease in active projects is due to the finalization of projects financed by the first allocation of the Joint UN SDG Fund launched in March 2019. For the ILO, projects funded by the UN Joint SDG Fund amounted to US\$14.1 and focused on leaving no one behind through effective social protection. The ILO was involved in 27 of the 35 country proposals that were ultimately accepted.

Social protection attracted funding from various development partners, with the Multi-donor Programme of the Flagship Programme financing 38 per cent of the new projects approved in 2021–22 (see figure 7), of which 56 per cent was through the “pooled funding” modality including contributions from Belgium and Luxembourg, reaffirming their commitment to reduce earmarked contributions and increase support for jointly-funded initiatives, as per the UN Funding Compact. Germany and Irish Aid have also contributed to the Multi-donor Programme through the “parallel funding” modality, representing the remaining 44 per cent.

The European Union financed 33 per cent of the new projects approved in 2021–22 through the EU country delegations, followed by financing by other development partners at 16 per cent of the mobilized resources.

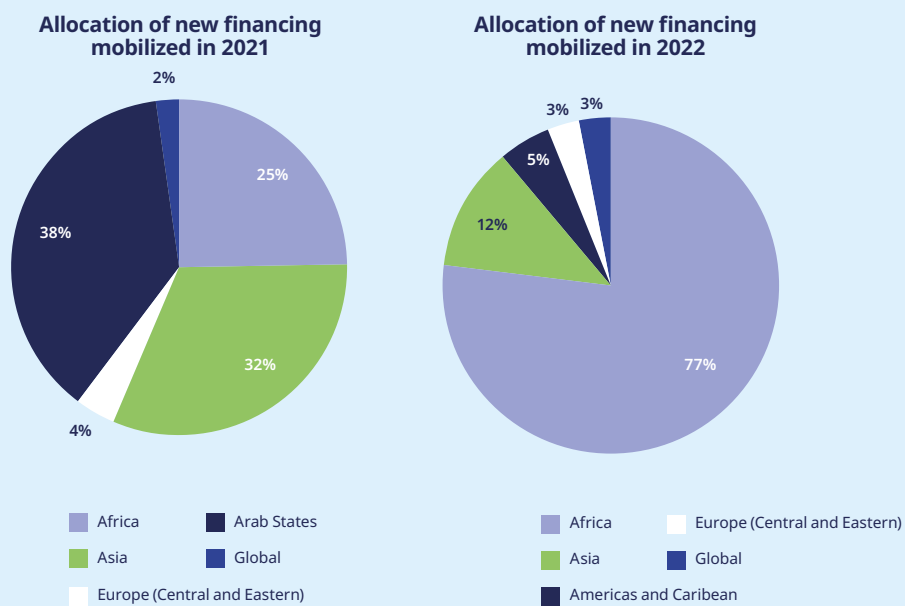
► Figure 7. Proportion of new funding, by source (2021-22)



Source: ILO Results Monitoring Tool

Note: For a explanation of the Direct Trust Fund funding modality, please see the [ILO Brochure Mobilizing Domestic Resources Direct Trust Funds](#)

► Figure 8. The distribution of financing of new projects, by region (2021-22)



Source: ILO Results Monitoring Tool

The distribution of funding allocation by region is provided in figure 8. In 2021, approximately 38 per cent of resource mobilization was for projects in the Arab States while mobilization for projects in Asia was 32 per cent of total allocations; in Africa, mobilization represented 25 per cent. In the Arab States, 85 per cent of resources mobilized were from the European Union.

However, in 2022 approximately the largest share (77 per cent) of resource mobilization was for projects in Africa, and of that, nearly 90 per cent was due to the approval of two new projects funded by Irish Aid and Portugal. The implementation of the Africa Regional Social Protection Strategy 2021–25, launched in November 2021, provides a strong strategic anchor for mobilizing additional support for the region.

In 2023, the ILO will need to put more emphasis on the following action points:

- Promote the pooled funding modality of the Multi-donor Programme, which offers significant advantages to Flagship Programme partners and implementing countries.
- Raise funding for new projects in countries that have not yet secured in-country teams or face funding gaps, the latter of which can be found on respective country pages [here](#).
- Engage in strategic discussions with development partners and further extend resource mobilization at both the global and country levels for the extension of gender sensitive social protection to workers in the informal and rural economies.
- Develop a regional programme on the extension of social health protection in Africa (e.g. collaboration with Team Europe Initiative).
- Develop a large global programme with implementation in at least 10 countries on the digital transformation of social protection including the development of statistical capacities.
- Support the ratification campaign on the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) to reach the target of 70 ratifications by 2026.
- Develop new partnerships through the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions to support countries to overcome the financing gaps for social protection and develop statistical capacities and data to monitor the implementation of the SDGs.
- Create win-win partnerships with development partners regarding the role of social protection to address and adapt to the effects of climate-related disasters and to move towards greener policies through just transition.
- Strengthen One UN collaboration through One UN Programmes at country level and a new UN Joint SDG Fund Window. During the second phase, the ILO is supporting the creation of a new window on decent jobs and universal social protection, that will contribute to enhancing One UN collaboration on social protection in the context of the Global Accelerator's implementation. The Window will be launched hopefully in 2023.



► 4. Challenges and opportunities

The Flagship Programme in its second phase **supports 50 countries** to build their national social protection systems. It has deployed project staff to countries to provide a first-hand response to the needs of governments, workers' and employers' organizations. However, the increase from 21 to 50 countries requires significant efforts to mobilize and sustain human and financial resources for the whole duration of the second phase. The Flagship Programme also provides thematic support that can complement the skills and expertise of country teams in specific areas of work such as digital transformation of social protection, financing, actuarial valuations, or legal drafting. This thematic support is available to all ILO member States beyond the 50 priority countries.

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the need for more investments in social protection systems. But most national investments (with or without international support) have focused on temporary measures and did not always contribute to building longer-term and sustainable social protection systems. It is therefore key that the Flagship Programme continues its focus on **supporting the development of robust and sustainable systems**. This includes reinforcing national capacities on areas of work such as social protection and public finance management, digital transformation of social protection systems, social dialogue, rights-based approaches and the fostering of a culture of social protection. Through the **Global Ratification Campaign on the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102)**, the Office will support the ratification and application of relevant international social security standards and reinforce the rights-based nature and sustainability of national social protection systems.

Today, significant social protection coverage and adequacy gaps remain with over 4 billion people excluded from social protection. The focus of the Flagship Programme therefore remains to **extend social protection to those who are excluded** or do not yet enjoy comprehensive and adequate social protection. This involves supporting countries to adapt their national social protection systems to uncovered groups, through **policy, administrative and financial innovations**. It also involves supporting countries to widen the scope of their national systems to include new branches of social security. Moreover,

the Flagship Programme will strengthen the capacity of countries **to monitor and track progress in achieving universal social protection and relevant SDG targets**, which will be key to continuously update and further improve the World Social Protection Database and the ILO's monitoring of the achievement of SDG 1.3.

Social protection coverage gaps are primarily due to insufficient investments in social protection. **Filling the financing gaps** requires convincing ministries of economy and finance to invest more in national social protection systems, building integrated strategies and approaches to extend coverage to the informal economy (including through linkages with employment policies, formalization policies, support to small and medium enterprises and fiscal incentives), fostering the creation of decent jobs in promising sectors of the economy, and mobilizing more international financial support for social protection. In countries in crisis, which are considering austerity measures, it is important that social spending is not reduced but prioritized and even strengthened, and that reform options for existing schemes continue to promote national solidarity. These strategies are those pursued through the **Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions**, which complements and reinforces the work of the Flagship Programme. Also complementing these efforts is the **ILO-IMF pilot project** whose extension to new countries is envisaged in 2023.

The world is changing, and social protection needs to adapt to increase its relevance in the context of climate change, demographic changes (youth unemployment, women's labour market participation, ageing populations requiring more long-term care) and more frequent crises (natural disasters, forced displacement and economic crises). The Flagship Programme will further expand its thematic and country support on social protection and **climate change**, social protection for **crisis response**, the development of the **care economy** and **gender transformative social protection**, as well as social protection as part of comprehensive support packages for those youth that are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs). The work as part of the Global Accelerator will complement the Flagship Programme on these key thematic areas.



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