

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO

## TOGETHER, TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF REFUGEES



International  
Labour  
Organization

### SOCIAL PROTECTION AS A SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT

The number of forcibly displaced persons currently around the world is higher than ever before. In 2017 more than 68 million people were either refugees, seeking asylum abroad, or displaced within their own countries. Fleeing conflict or persecution, many make harrowing journeys in attempts to escape violence and persecution at home. Once in their country of refuge, however, refugees and asylum seekers often have access to humanitarian assistance that addresses only their most basic, life-sustaining needs.

Providing social protection to refugees can do more, by offering benefits to families that allow children to learn instead of work and that afford refugee families some security and dignity amidst their hardship. With additional financial support for their expansion, the integration of refugees into the same national social protection programmes accessed by nationals can provide more sustainable and cost-effective solutions when compared to the construction of parallel systems of refugee assistance, particularly in protracted situations.

Establishing sustainable social protection systems in countries of origin can facilitate refugees' voluntary return and re-integration, act as an economic and social stabilizer and contribute to preventing future crises.

### MORE CAPACITIES, REDUCED VULNERABILITIES

By supporting the development of nationally-defined social protection floors, together with adapted social protection mechanisms to address their specific needs, the ILO aims to enhance the capacities and reduce vulnerabilities of refugee populations, host communities and returnees. This entails a progressive shift away from humanitarian assistance to the development of sustainable social protection systems embedded in national law and accessible to all, including displaced persons.



Supported by traditional humanitarian actors, as well as by refugees' own contributions to social protection programmes, made possible by their access to decent work opportunities, host countries can make their social protection systems more inclusive and effective at improving the lives of the world's many refugees.

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

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

As the lead UN agency in the field of social protection, the ILO actively collaborates with other UN agencies, such as the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and development partners, including through UN country and global teams, effectively combining different fields of technical expertise to amplify results in the everyday lives of millions.

## THE REFUGEE CRISIS: A QUESTION OF SOLIDARITY

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

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

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

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu, December 2014



## FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

With its experience in providing field and technical support, ILO plays a pivotal role in promoting social protection for refugees.

You can support us to:

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

US\$ 350,000 per year

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

US\$ 250,000 per year

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

US\$ 100,000 per year

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

US\$ 100,000 per year

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

US\$ 90,000 per year

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

US\$ 30,000 per year

## LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports on the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can improve millions of lives, you can contact:



James Canonge  
Social Protection Officer  
ILO Geneva  
canonge@ilo.org

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

 <http://iloglobalprogramme.social-protection.org>



## AND FOLLOW US ON

 [www.facebook.com/SPplatform](http://www.facebook.com/SPplatform)

 [www.twitter.com/soc\\_protection](http://www.twitter.com/soc_protection)

 [www.youtube.com/user/Ilotv](http://www.youtube.com/user/Ilotv)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/social-protection-platform](http://www.linkedin.com/company/social-protection-platform)