Social protection systems for all to prevent homelessness and facilitate access to adequate housing

Roundtable “Housing and Social Protection to End Homelessness”
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Already before the COVID-19 pandemic, many people were left behind with regards to the rights to social security and an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing.

Social security is a human right, but…

- 55% of the world population is not covered by at least one social protection benefit (SDG indicator 1.3.1)
- 4 billion people are still unprotected

Adequate housing is a human right, but…

- 23% of the world’s urban population lives in slums (SDG indicator 11.1.1)

Lack of access to adequate housing:
- Material and social aspects
- Systemic discrimination and social exclusion
- Rights-holders agency and participation

ILO brief
The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of social protection and housing policies, but also exposed serious gaps in social protection systems.

Situation prior to COVID-19: only 45% of global population covered - 4 billion people excluded from coverage (SDG indicator 1.3.1).

COVID-19 social protection policy response: countries mobilized their social protection systems and, where necessary, introduced urgent measures to extend coverage and improve benefits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Coverage Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>84.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>67.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>38.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>17.8</td>
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Recorded response measures: 208 countries – 1461 measures of which: housing and basic services: 86 countries – 131 measures
Recovering from COVID-19: Social protection at a crossroads
Towards a new “better normal”? 

**Austerity context**
- Limited coverage
- Minimal benefits
- Gaps in labour and social protection
- Limited solidarity, risk-sharing and redistribution, fiscal consolidation
- No decent work

**Universal social protection systems, including floors**
- Universal coverage
- Adequate protection
- Comprehensive protection
- Sustainable and equitable financing
- Adapted to the world of work

Advancing social justice, promoting decent work
Recovery priority 1: Extending protection to those not yet covered

Comprehensive and integrated approach:
- Strengthening social protection policies, in line with key principles:
  - Universality of protection, including for workers in all types of employment
  - Adequacy
  - Gender equality and inclusiveness
  - Portability and transferability
  - Transparency
  - Good governance and trust
- Extending coverage to those in the informal economy, and facilitating transitions from the informal to the formal economy
- Facilitating life and work transitions, as well as structural change
- Coordinating employment and social protection policies for decent work

Building universal social protection systems is not just about coverage… internationally agreed framework
Recovery priority 2: Investing more and better in universal social protection systems

- Ensuring sustainable and equitable financing of social protection systems
- Strengthening sustainable and equitable domestic financing mechanisms based on the principles of risk sharing and solidarity (including through taxes and social security contributions)
- Safeguarding fiscal space for social expenditure (IMF framework) -- austerity could have significant negative impacts on progress achieved
- International support needed to close financing gap in countries with insufficient own capacities – ILO estimates of financing gap:
  - developing countries: US$1.2 trillion (3.8% of GDP)
  - low-income countries US$77.9 billion (15.9% of GDP)
- Global support for universal social protection more necessary than ever (USP2030)
Recovery priority 3: Strengthening social protection systems, with the bigger picture in mind

Key priorities:

- Reinforcing social protection systems, including floors, in line with human rights and international social security standards (also SDG 1.3), also with a view to adapting them to the evolving world of work.
- Enhancing national social protection policies and strategies to make them fit for purpose, including through social dialogue.
- Building nationally-defined social protection floors to guarantee at least a basic level of social security for all (ILO Recommendation No. 202).
- Enhancing the protection of workers to especially during life and work transitions (unemployment protection, sickness benefits, maternity protection, health protection, care, housing).
- Strengthening coordination between employment and social protection policies, as well as with fiscal, infrastructure and housing policies.
We have only 10 years to make social protection and adequate housing a reality for all.
Social protection and access to adequate housing:

- Social protection systems for all to prevent homelessness and facilitate access to adequate housing

COVID-19 crisis response:

- ILO portal on social protection response to COVID-19, including
  - Spotlight briefs: Extending social protection to informal workers in the COVID-19 crisis; Social protection responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in developing countries; Unemployment protection in the COVID-19 crisis; Sickness benefits during sick leave and quarantine; Financing gaps in social protection.
  - Data dashboard: Social Protection Monitor: Social protection responses to the COVID-19 crisis around the world
  - Costing tool: Rapid Social Protection Calculator for COVID-19

- ILO portal on COVID-19 and the world of work

Other key resources:

- Policy resource package on extending social security to workers in the informal economy
- ILO Social Protection Platform
- Joint UN Social Protection and Human Rights web platform
- Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection (USP2030)

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