EXTENDING SOCIAL SECURITY TO WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

I am 60 years old and worked as a farmer my entire life. As my low earnings did not allow me to contribute to social security, I have to rely on my children’s financial support when I get sick or old. Farmer in Chaital, Nepal

Universal social protection is not possible without extending social protection to informal economy workers. More than 60% of the global population is in informal employment and the large majority of these people are left without social protection coverage.

There is growing consensus on the need to extend social protection to workers in the informal economy. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda commits to nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors. Extending protection to so far uncovered workers is also one of the recommendations of the Global Commission for the Future of Work as part of a human-centred approach to the future of work.

Extending social security to the informal economy. Guided by ILO Recommendations No. 202 and No. 204, many countries have successfully extended social protection to those in the informal economy by combining contributory and non-contributory schemes and thereby facilitated their transition to the formal economy.

ILO Policy Resource Package
Extending social security to workers in the informal economy

- **Good practices guide**: provides evidence on good practices, challenges and constraints
- **Online platform**: addresses key questions, with links to relevant and further reading
- **Issue briefs**: on lessons learnt for specific categories of workers and topics
- **Training package**: includes training materials for different contexts