

International
Labour
Organization

PROMOTING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS FOR ALL TIME FOR ACTION



*“Social protection is compelling
in our times as a human right
and sound economic policy.”*

Guy Ryder, Director-General, ILO



An emerging consensus

Faced with persistent poverty and rising inequality, a worldwide consensus evolved on the need to extend social protection and promote more inclusive patterns of growth and development.

Governments and workers' and employers' organizations of the **ILO's Member States** adopted a new international standard in 2012, the **Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202)**, an approach also endorsed by the G20 and the United Nations.

The ILO Recommendation is a strong call for action, providing concrete guidance on creating Social Protection Floors and pursuing strategies for the extension of social protection. It reaffirms the **critical role of social protection for progress, economic recovery, greater equity and social justice for a fair globalization.**



"I don't have to wait for charity from others"

Luísa Marques, 81, is a Cape Verdean, living in a fishing community with her grandchildren. Over the years, Luísa had to increasingly rely on help from her family. ***"Life is difficult, the sea is often uncertain and my children helped as they could, but they also have a family."***

In 2011 Luísa started receiving a social pension of around US\$50 a month. Such a benefit makes a big difference in particular in rural areas and for women. Many Cape Verdean women, despite having worked all their lives, have no access to pensions in old age. ***"It's not much but it changed my life because I can count on the pension to buy the basics. I don't have to wait for charity from others."***

The social pension has been paid since 2007, it covered 74 per cent of elderly women in Cape Verde in 2009, is financed by taxes and costs only 0.4 per cent of GDP.

What are Social Protection Floors?

Social Protection Floors are nationally defined sets of at least four basic social security guarantees that ensure basic income security for all and access to universal essential health care.

They should be nationally defined through social dialogue and allow people to live a life in dignity. Furthermore, the guarantees should be established by law and regularly monitored and evaluated.

The Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) promotes a two-fold aim:

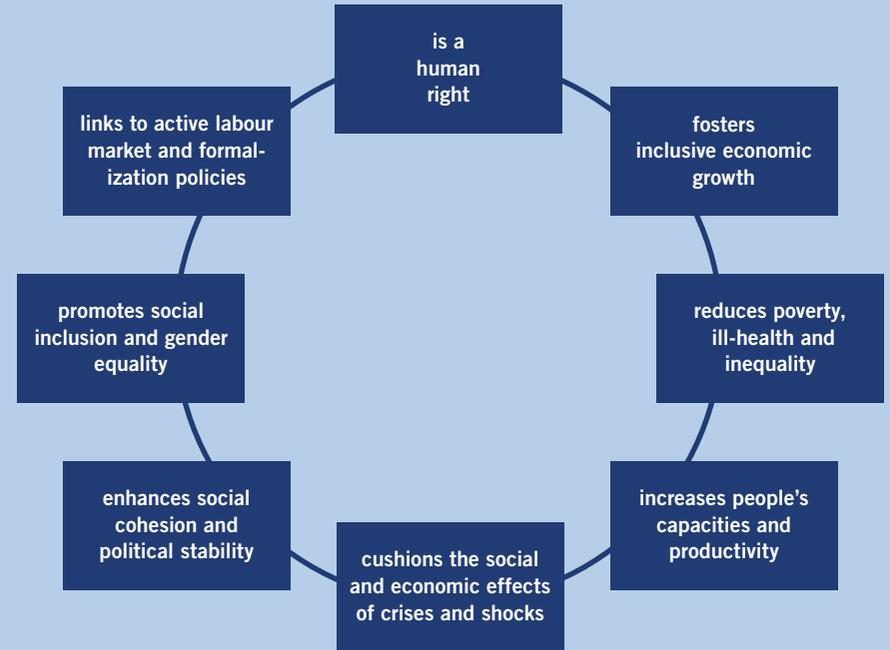
- 1) Establish **national social protection floors** at the core of comprehensive social protection systems.
- 2) Progressively ensure **higher levels of protection** guided by the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (No. 102) and other ILO social security standards.

Social Protection Floors are:

 <p>Universal access to health care</p>	39%	of the world's population is not affiliated to a health system or scheme
	41%	of total health expenditure is paid out of pocket by private households on average
	A global shortfall of 10.3 million health workers	
 <p>Social protection for children</p>	50%	of the world's children live in poverty
	0.4%	of GDP is allocated on average by governments to child and family benefits, but more investment is needed
	18,000 children die every day from largely preventable diseases	
 <p>Social protection for people of working-age</p>	12%	of unemployed workers worldwide effectively receive unemployment benefits
	28%	of women receive maternity cash benefits
	39%	of workers are covered for job-related accidents and illness
 <p>Pensions and care for older persons</p>	49%	of people over pensionable age do not receive a pension
	41%	of workers (aged 15+) contribute to a pension programme
	300 million older persons have no income security to live a life in dignity	

Why do we need Social Protection Floors?

Social protection is a critical policy for sustainable development that...



Progressively extend Social Protection Floors for all

Social Protection Floors: a sound economic policy

The progressive implementation of Social Protection Floors contributes to sustainable economic growth by raising labour productivity, empowering people to find decent jobs, stabilizing aggregate demand and stimulating local economies.



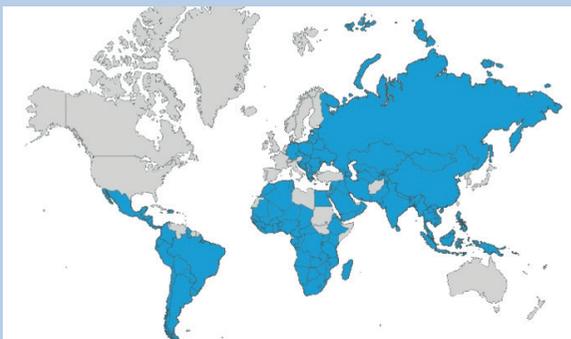
ILO supporting countries to build Social Protection Floors

Through its global flagship programme and technical advisory services facility, the ILO:

- Provides technical support to design, determine the cost and implement social protection systems
- Encourages inclusive national social dialogue on the extension of social protection
- Advocates for the creation of Social Protection Floors for all and the effective scaling-up of national social protection schemes
- Actively promotes the ratification of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (No. 102) and other more advanced standards
- Creates and shares knowledge.

The ILO collaborates through UN Country Teams and inter-agency initiatives such as the Social Protection Intergovernmental Cooperation Board, co-led by the ILO and the World Bank.

The ILO provided in recent years technical assistance on social protection in more than 135 countries



What next?

Now it's time for action!

184 countries committed to establish Social Protection Floors and develop strategies to extend social protection through national dialogue. To achieve this they agreed to:

- Set objectives in accordance with national priorities
- Identify gaps in and barriers to protection
- Design appropriate and coordinated schemes
- Link social protection and labour market policies
- Assess the costs, identify the required resources and establish progressive milestones
- Raise awareness about social protection.

Many countries have progressed significantly, extending social security coverage during the last decade. They offer the best evidence that building Social Protection Floors can be achieved.

“In the face of an uncertain global recovery and lower demand, the adoption of a Social Protection Floor is an opportunity to help stabilize economies, generate inclusive growth, and build political stability. Social Protection Floors are an indispensable tool for helping countries to reduce poverty, curb inequality, strengthen resilience, and lay the ground for sustainable human development.”

Joint call by Helen Clark,
Chair undg, Administrator UNDP
and Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

www.social-protection.org

 Social Protection Platform

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