BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS FOR ALL

GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME
ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE?
JOIN OUR GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

Social protection allows for a life in dignity. However, it is still a privilege for far too few. Only 27 per cent of the world population enjoys adequate social protection.

This massive social protection gap is not acceptable from a human rights perspective. It is also a missed opportunity from an economic and social development point of view. By boosting human capital and productivity, supporting domestic demand and facilitating structural transformations of the economy, social protection contributes to economic growth, social development and the development of inclusive and fair societies.

The ILO’s 186 member States are committed to creating and extending social protection floors. This is also a priority of the post-2015 development agenda. The ILO receives a large number of requests for assistance in this area from governments in all regions of the world. Alone, the ILO cannot win the war against want.

Let us join forces to make universal social protection floors a reality for all. By partnering with the ILO to implement social protection floors, you will improve the lives of millions of people.

― IF YOU ARE READY TO FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, IT IS TIME FOR ACTION! ―

Guy Ryder
Director-General
International Labour Organization
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Everyone deserves to live a life of dignity. Financial protection against life’s risks and access to essential services can help make that possible. This is why ILO member States unanimously adopted a Recommendation outlining basic levels of protection for all known as social protection floors. Now, implementing social protection floors has the potential to change the lives of millions of people, everywhere.

SOCIAL PROTECTION IS A HUMAN RIGHT AND A SOUND ECONOMIC POLICY

Social security and an adequate standard of living are human rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, particularly in Articles 22 and 25.

Social protection also contributes to sustainable economic growth by raising labour productivity, empowering people to find decent jobs, stabilizing aggregate demand and stimulating local economies.

While social protection is a human right and a sound economic policy, 73 per cent of the population remains only partially covered, or not at all.

More than 40 per cent of the world’s population lives on less than US$2.50 a day.
Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security. [...] Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Articles 22 and 25
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
To expand social protection to those without adequate protection, all ILO member States adopted the Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection, 2012 (No. 202), in June 2012. National social protection floors guarantee a basic level of protection for all residents and children. Countries should also progressively provide higher levels of coverage to as many people as possible. Social protection floors have been endorsed by UN member States, supported by the G-20 and acknowledged at many other forums.

Social protection floors are:

- Essential health care for all residents.
- Social protection for all children.
- Support to all people of working age in cases of unemployment, maternity, disability and work injury.
- Pensions for all older persons.

At the Los Cabos Summit in June 2012, the Leaders of the G-20 recognized “the importance of establishing nationally determined social protection floors.”
I firmly believe that the social protection floor approach can really transform the lives of millions of excluded and impoverished people worldwide as well as help us build more peaceful, stable and economically prosperous societies.

Michelle Bachelet, 2011
President of Chile, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, and Chair of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group

We can’t afford to be without social protection.

Desmond Tutu, 2015
Nobel Peace Laureate
ANGELINA’S STORY

Angelina Joaquim Mate, 60 years old, lives in a rural community in the south of Mozambique. She lives with her 8-year-old grandson, Alberto.

Angelina has been a beneficiary of a food subsidy programme called Programa Subsidio de Alimentos (PSA) since 2010. Each month she receives 100 Mozambican meticais, or roughly $2.85.

Before becoming part of this programme, I was forced to rely on the charity of my friends and neighbours. Then, some social workers told me about the PSA. I use the money that I receive to buy corn and make it into flour that I then sell to passers-by.

My life and that of my grandson have improved a lot.

The food subsidy programme is now 20 years old. It offers cash benefits to those who are unable to work due to their age or health condition.

It is rooted in legislation (National Decree 19/93), which guarantees the programme’s continued existence. In 2012, the PSA paid benefits to some 265,000 people and indirectly assisted 495,000 people.
SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS
CHANGE THE FATE OF MILLIONS

Social protection floors not only focus on the very few, but on society at large. Implementing or extending social protection floors impacts millions of people’s lives.

Since the adoption of Recommendation No. 202, the ILO has received an increasing number of requests for assistance from governments in all regions of the world. Currently, the ILO is providing advisory services for the implementation of SPFs in about 100 countries.

FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE IN INDIA

In recent years the extension of social protection has become a priority for India. The national health insurance programme (RSBY) is one of the key components of the Indian social protection floor. Created in 2008, RSBY now covers 40 million people and is constantly expanding coverage to new categories of vulnerable workers.

FOCUS ON CHILD BENEFITS IN ARGENTINA

In Argentina, the extension of social protection to children, adolescents and pregnant women was achieved with support from the ILO.

Created in 2009, the Universal Child Family Allowance (AUH) covers over 3.5 million children and adolescents. A Universal Pregnancy Allowance was added to the scheme in 2011.
Through its own network of specialists and field experts and through partners in the UN system, the ILO answers calls for technical support from many of its member States, enabling it to influence social protection policy around the world.

In recent years, the ILO has provided technical assistance on social protection to 136 countries. We are proud to continue our support all over the world as more and more evidence shows that social protection systems play a key role in the functioning of modern societies and are an essential ingredient of integrated strategies for economic and social development.

Isabel Ortiz, Director of the Social Protection Department, ILO Geneva
Based on its technical and first-hand experience and direct access to information on social protection in various countries, the ILO develops innovative solutions to the challenges faced by countries in their endeavours to extend social protection to all.

The ILO’s technical advisory services are carried out by its multidisciplinary teams, which include economists, lawyers, actuaries, policy analysts, project managers, communication specialists, among others.

Their expertise and know-how is widely shared on the ILO Social Protection Platform (www.social-protection.org). This collaborative website is regularly updated with new reference material and practical tools to better understand and implement social protection policies.
THE POWER TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

In the countries it supports, the ILO works directly with ministries of labour, social affairs, community development, women and children, health, education, finance, planning and agriculture, often at the highest levels and with heads of state. The ability to engage and have influence at the political level is key to define and drive many social protection reforms.

When governments pursue reforms, the ILO encourages participation by employers’ and workers’ representatives and other key stakeholders in the policy-making and implementation process through what the ILO calls a “social dialogue”. This dialogue may also involve civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, in the formulation and implementation of social protection floors. Through being inclusive and transparent, the process aims to increase the relevance, take-up and sustainability of the reforms.

Once a new policy has been adopted, the ILO supports its practical implementation through developing legal and administrative capacities, management information systems, actuarial training and statistical capacities.

Policy design and implementation is supported for all branches of social protection: health and sickness, cash transfers for children, unemployment protection, employment injury benefits, maternity benefits, disability and survivors benefits, old-age pensions and long-term care.
FOCUS ON **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN VIET NAM**

Viet Nam launched its unemployment insurance scheme in 2009. From 2010 to 2013 the ILO provided advisory services aimed at improving the coverage, efficiency and sustainability of the scheme. The ILO recommended the extension of coverage to all enterprises and all employees with at least a three-month contract, the simplification of procedures and extension of the claim period, the introduction of a key performance indicators system, and the reinforcement of linkages with active labour market policies. The Employment Promotion Law, which was adopted in November 2013 and regulates the unemployment insurance scheme, included the ILO’s recommendations.

**Ngo Thi Loan**

managed a project to improve the unemployment insurance scheme in Viet Nam.

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FOCUS ON **PENSIONS IN CABO VERDE**

Today nearly 90 per cent of older persons in Cabo Verde receive a pension. This major breakthrough was made possible thanks to the creation of the National Centre of Social Pensions (CNPS) in 2006 and the unification of pre-existing non-contributory pension programmes. This unified scheme guarantees basic income security for the elderly over 60 years old, the disabled and people with a permanent incapacity. From 2006 to 2012 the ILO supported the establishment and operations of the CNPS through the development of a proper management information system, practical registration and communication tools and capacity building activities for CNPS staff members.

**Fabio Duran**

supported the implementation of a non-contributory pension for older persons in Cabo Verde.
A MULTIPLIER EFFECT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Within the wider United Nations system and among leading donors, the ILO’s expertise and authority in the area of social protection have been consistently recognized.

Strategic partnerships have been developed at the global, regional and country levels in the context of the One-UN Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) co-led by the ILO.

At the global level, the ILO also co-chairs the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), which includes most UN agencies, multilateral development banks, bilateral development partners and several international civil society organizations.

The ILO works closely with UN Development Group (UNDG) chairs in all regions to support SPF implementation through UN country teams.

“...In Mozambique, the growing attention to social protection demonstrates the Government’s commitment to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable people. With support from UN agencies, the Government of Mozambique has consolidated the social protection system through the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework for social protection...”

Jennifer Topping, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mozambique
UN SPF teams have been created in many countries and support governments in developing a vision for social protection or designing and implementing specific schemes.

Thanks to its unique experience and expertise, the ILO has the ability to influence other actors in the field of social protection and create a multiplier effect. Its involvement in collaborative SPF initiatives at numerous levels further supports implementation of SPFs in all countries.

However, continued progress requires resources that the ILO is unable to provide alone. These efforts require a material commitment from the international community and the development of new partnerships.

Launch of a joint assessment report by the UN SPF team and Royal Thai Government (2013).
BUILDING ON EARLIER SUCCESS

Over the past ten years, the ILO has supported the development of social protection floors in 136 countries:

- national social protection strategies in 34 countries;
- health protection in 30 countries;
- child benefits in 21 countries;
- maternity benefits in 20 countries;
- unemployment insurance schemes in 20 countries;
- public employment programmes in 31 countries; and
- old-age pensions in 43 countries.

Some examples of ILO’s technical assistance:

**COLOMBIA**
Together with the ILO, Colombia assessed its policy gaps and defined its national social protection strategy.

**PERU**
Supported by the ILO, Peru established a non-contributory pension scheme.

**URUGUAY**
Uruguay extended health, pension and child benefit coverage.

**ARGENTINA**
Argentina implemented a universal child benefit scheme with ILO support.

**GHANA**
Ghana implemented a pilot maternity benefits scheme for women in the informal economy.

**TOGO**
Togo established a national health insurance scheme that covers workers in the private sector.
The ILO supported Cyprus in reforming its social assistance scheme.

Kazakhstan ratified the ILO Convention No. 183 on Maternity Protection.

India adopted the Construction Workers’ Act, which is now being implemented.

Thailand implemented the Universal Health Care Scheme.

Together with the ILO, Cambodia established a nationwide employment injury protection scheme.

The ILO provided advisory services to improve Viet Nam’s unemployment insurance scheme.

The ILO supported a national dialogue and implementation of the new Social Security Provider Law.

South Africa scaled up its Expanded Public Works Programme.

With the ILO and support from other UN agencies, Mozambique defined its national social protection strategy.

Jordan, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia implemented unemployment insurance schemes.

Following the Rana Plaza incident, Bangladesh set up a compensation mechanism for the victims.
Since the adoption of Recommendation No. 202, more and more countries now wish to create and extend social protection floors. The ILO’s technical support is in high demand and partnerships are needed to respond to a growing number of requests for assistance. The ILO strategy is composed of two mutually reinforcing parts: building countries’ social protection floors from A to Z and supporting the global campaign on social protection floors.

BUILDING COUNTRIES’ SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS FROM A TO Z

Expected results include:

› adopting social protection strategies based on tripartite national dialogue;
› establishing and reforming social protection schemes;
› improving existing social protection scheme operations; and
› covering more people with higher levels of protection.

“A national dialogue is very important for outlining a social protection strategy. It also allows for the improvement of an existing system.”

-Xaikham Phannalath,
Director, Social Protection Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Lao People’s Democratic Republic
ADOPTING SOCIAL PROTECTION STRATEGIES

The ILO and its international partners are conducting assessments of social protection situations leading to recommendations and cost estimates of policy scenarios for the development and expansion of social protection floors in 94 countries.
ESTABLISHING AND REFORMING SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES

The ILO is currently supporting 61 countries in the development of social protection schemes. Significant expansion of coverage will be achieved for health care (18 countries), children’s benefits (8 countries), maternity protection (7 countries), unemployment insurance (10 countries), public employment programmes (11 countries), employment injury insurance (6 countries) and old-age pensions (38 countries).

“I lost one of my arms in a car accident on my way to work. The monthly allowance I currently receive from the employment injury insurance is allowing me to build up my life again and learn to live with my disability.”

Wong Sreymom, beneficiary of Cambodia’s employment injury insurance scheme. This scheme was implemented in 2008 with support from the ILO.
FOCUS ON MATERNITY PROTECTION IN JORDAN

With the establishment of a new maternity benefit scheme in 2011, Jordan is the first country in the Middle East to provide maternity benefits based on social insurance principles. The ILO carried out the actuarial valuation for this new scheme, discussed with tripartite Jordanian stakeholders the new scheme’s policy design parameters and assisted in the drafting of the respective legislation. The scheme gives insured women the right to paid maternity leave at 100 per cent of previous earnings for a maximum of ten weeks. This benefit is expected to foster women’s participation in the labour market and remove disincentives to the hiring of women.

FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE IN PERU

During the last three years, the ILO has contributed to improving the management and extension of the Peruvian health insurance system, EsSalud.

With the ILO’s actuarial studies, EsSalud now provides services at a reasonable price. Improving the system’s management and opening new offices has allowed the system to serve a greater number of policyholders. Recommendations for better coordination with the partner health-care providers also improved health-care services.
Building social protection floors increases countries’ abilities to withstand – and recover from – future emergencies.

Social protection systems can help reduce risks posed by natural hazards and climate change, as well as build the resilience of populations at risk of such disasters. When disasters, floods or droughts occur, pre-existing social protection administrative capacity can be used to set up emergency measures and reconstruction programmes.

Social protection systems can similarly help reduce risks and accelerate recovery from major epidemics such as Ebola. The absence of well-functioning social protection programmes helps explain why the lethal infection claimed thousands of lives in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Government, with technical support from the ILO, launched the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in 2004, which has created millions of work opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed. The programme has demonstrated how public employment programmes can bridge the gap between social protection and employment by offering stable and predictable supplementary income to participants together with skills development.
IMPROVING EXISTING SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEME OPERATIONS

The ILO is currently involved with improving social protection schemes in 29 countries through strengthening administration, developing management information systems and establishing single window services, which are decentralized access points to a variety of benefits and services. Capacities to administer and monitor social protection schemes, as well as to conduct periodic actuarial valuations, are also being strengthened.

FOCUS ON SINGLE WINDOW SERVICES IN CAMBODIA

After supporting the mapping and assessment of social protection in Cambodia and formulating recommendations through national dialogue, the ILO supported national authorities in the implementation of their national social protection strategy. Single window services (SWS) aim to facilitate the registration of the population at the district and municipal levels and provide all social benefits that are part of the social protection floor. The first structures opened in June 2014. The aim is to progressively cover the whole territory.
These efforts can change the lives of millions...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Current ILO-supported programmes</th>
<th>Expected number of beneficiaries after 5 years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>• implementation of child and youth benefits</td>
<td>Children ~3,500,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth ~1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>• implementation of a health insurance scheme</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• implementation of a single window service in Siem Reap province</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>• extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy</td>
<td>~100 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>• implementation of the new Social Security Provider Law</td>
<td>~100 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• implementation of a single window service in 100 districts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>• extension of social protection in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>• implementation of a social protection floor</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>• implementation of maternity insurance</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• improved access to social protection for people with HIV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>• design and implementation of a scheme for workers in the informal economy</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>• implementation of a long-term care system for older people</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>• extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• implementation of maternity insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• improved access to social protection for people with HIV</td>
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YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE
SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS A REALITY!

- Assess the social protection situation and formulate recommendations to complete the SPF through a national dialogue
  $ 300,000

- Design a social protection scheme, including actuarial, institutional, and legal studies
  $ 300,000

- Support the development or amendment of a social security law and promote the ratification of up-to-date conventions
  $ 150,000

- Develop, establish or improve an administrative system to manage a scheme or a single window service to deliver social protection services and transfers
  $ 1,200,000

- Build capacities to administer and monitor the schemes and conduct periodic actuarial valuations
  $ 250,000

- Share the country’s experience through country briefs, web pages, and videos
  $ 50,000

For more information on the countries where you can become involved with the ILO, please do not hesitate to contact us!
SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS

Expected results:

- social protection floors are promoted at the national, regional and global levels;
- regional SPF development plans are adopted and implemented;
- new knowledge is developed and shared; and
- strategic partnerships multiply ILO’s influence and impact.

1  PROMOTION

Communication activities raise awareness and drive behavioural changes among today’s and tomorrow’s policy-makers, employers and workers, civil society organizations, as well as the general public. The ILO shares its positions concerning on-going reforms based on its social security Conventions and Recommendations, globally accepted social security principles and international good practices. The ILO influences the debate and promotes its ideas and approach.

2  KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

The ILO highlights innovative country experiences and builds expertise and knowledge through the development of good practice guides in close collaboration with projects in countries. Experts in the field use these guides and contribute to their continued development. Online costing and impact assessment tools support decision-making processes and national dialogues.
Knowledge Sharing

Data and knowledge on social protection systems and policies are documented through flagship reports such as the *World Social Protection Report*. The ILO produces briefs documenting country experiences. The web platform [www.social-protection.org](http://www.social-protection.org) and related social networks are used to share good practices. A web-based World Social Protection Database and a qualitative observatory monitor social protection trends. A global master course on social protection trains policy-makers and administrators working in the field of social protection.

Multiplier Effect

The ILO’s actions are enhanced through a multiplier effect achieved by developing a global coalition for social protection floors with UN agencies and the UNDG Secretariat (within the context of the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I)), development partners and donors (in the context of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Board (SPIAC-B)), and major non-governmental organizations (e.g. HelpAge, International Council of Social Welfare, among others). South-South exchanges support the implementation of national social protection floors.
To take up the challenge of the global campaign and to achieve tangible results, ILO experts focus on specific social protection branches (i.e. health care, old-age pensions and disability benefits), certain covered groups (i.e. migrant workers, domestic workers and rural populations) or skill sets (i.e. assessments and recommendations, costing and financing, legal drafting, and administration of social protection floors).

FOCUS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SET OF GOOD PRACTICES GUIDES

Countries often request assistance from the ILO as they seek to implement their social protection systems. Good practices guides support constituents by providing practical technical advice in all social protection policy areas based on ILO standards and country-specific experiences. Their contents benefit from lessons learned during new applications, contributing to the guides’ continued development and growing the global social protection knowledge base.

There are forthcoming global guides on conducting assessment based national dialogues, drafting social security legislation, and improving social protection coordination and administration that will ultimately help countries to plan, design and implement comprehensive national social protection systems. Other guides will also provide practical knowledge and approaches to extend coverage to excluded groups including migrant workers, domestic workers and workers in the informal economy.

The full set of guides will provide policy-makers and experts with practical and applied knowledge that can be used for reference, self-learning and even training. They will help make universal social protection a reality across the globe.
YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE
SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS A REALITY!

☐ Publish 20 briefs on social protection floor country experiences, produce 10 videos and organize one global event to promote SPFs
$ 500,000 per year

☐ Create a network of enterprises promoting and supporting the implementation of social protection floors
$ 300,000 per year*

☐ Develop three good practices guides in close partnership with projects in countries
$ 600,000 per year

☐ Support SPF implementation and share experiences through South-South cooperation
$ 250,000 per year

☐ Update the World Social Protection Database, the qualitative observatory and publish the World Social Protection Report
$ 500,000 per year

☐ Build capacities through a global training course on social protection and specific courses targeted at workers’ and employers’ organizations
$ 250,000 per year

☐ Manage the One-UN Social Protection Floor Initiative and the secretariat of the Social Protection Inter-agency Coordination Board
$ 350,000 per year

*To be shared among the members of the network.

For more information on how to support the global campaign, please do not hesitate to contact us!
The war against want is far from over and increased efforts are needed to make universal social protection floors a reality for all. Whether you are an international donor, social protection institution, private organization or part of the UN system, your efforts can have a positive and lasting impact when working with the ILO. Together, we can change the fate of millions of people across the globe.

TIME FOR ACTION!

Within the UN family, the ILO is the centre of excellence and expertise for social protection. There is a growing demand for social protection in the world, and the ILO will need more resources to meet these new needs. For years, Finland has been supporting the work of the organization in several countries to implement social protection floors and to foster inclusive growth and development.

Timo Voipio,
Senior Adviser for Global Social Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
YOU ARE:
A DONOR COUNTRY OR AGENCY

Financing a tailor-made technical cooperation project

You can support the ILO’s efforts by developing and financing a tailor-made technical cooperation project.

The project may focus on:
• building individual countries’ social protection systems from A to Z; or
• supporting the global campaign on social protection floors and implementing it at the country, regional and global levels.

By sponsoring the ILO, you will contribute to the post-2015 development agenda and the achievement of several sustainable development goals, including ending poverty, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, decent work for all and reducing inequality within and among countries.
Transparent management and regular reporting

Project implementation is guided by a national steering committee comprised of representatives from several government ministries, workers’ and employers’ organizations, as well as donor representatives.

As a donor, you are placed at the heart of the project and receive regular reports detailing the progress made. Access to on-going project activities and performance data is made available throughout the year.

A monitoring and impact evaluation of the intervention provides precise information on the number of persons covered through the project and the impact of the intervention on poverty reduction and other development indicators.

You are invited to join a “Group of Donors”, an annual meeting where the results of all projects are presented. It further provides an opportunity to meet ILO experts and project managers to discuss the impact of the support provided.
You also have the opportunity to visit the countries sponsored and to participate in the implementation of the social protection floor projects.

The impact of the support provided does not stop with the end of the project. In reality, by contributing to the creation of national social protection systems, you will contribute to improving the lives of millions of individuals for generations to come.

“...The ILO/Japan project to promote and build unemployment insurance in ASEAN has made a special contribution to the revision of Viet Nam’s unemployment insurance administration and identified ways to extend coverage of this scheme.

Nguyen Thi Hay Van,
Director, Bureau of Employment, MOLISA, Viet Nam
YOU ARE:
A SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTITUTION

Your expertise in high demand

As the ILO works with governments and social partners to meet the diverse needs of establishing national social protection floors, it requires expertise in a wide range of fields, including actuarial sciences, statistics, labour market issues, public finance, social security administration, legal analysis, communications and the development of management information systems.

Your staff possess a wealth of knowledge and technical skills that can effectively complement the ILO experts’ range of skills.

Through a partnership with the ILO, your institution can assign some of its staff members who meet certain technical requirements to work with the ILO to help people. They will join ILO project teams for short-term missions and contribute to an on-going project. Your employees will be asked to apply their unique skill sets in new environments and share their knowledge and experiences. Most importantly, they will become part of a larger mission and promote the values of solidarity and mutual assistance that are core to your organization.

FOCUS ON USING FRENCH EXPERTISE IN A GIP SPSI/ILo PARTNERSHIP

Since 2011, ten experts from French social security institutions have volunteered to participate in the GIP SPSI/ILo partnership. The experts were selected based on specific demands from ILO projects. They dedicated between two weeks and several months of their time to provide technical advice to countries in close collaboration with ILO experts.

For instance, a senior expert from the French social security administration collaborated with the ILO team in Senegal to design a social protection scheme for self-employed workers through a series of technical missions and studies.

As a result, the Government is now poised to implement this new scheme in the coming months.
South-South learning

As social protection systems develop, many experts from the global South are in a position to support their neighbours in building or extending national social protection floors.

South-South exchanges can include technical support missions by experts to countries with needs for outside expertise, the organization of knowledge-sharing events, the collection and publication of good practices or the organization of field visits to other countries from the global South.

In May 2013, 120 experts from over 20 countries gathered in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to share experiences on the coordination of social policies and the delivery of social protection floors. As a result, a new project on the development of single window service delivery for social protection has been established in Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand. A mission of Thai experts visited the single window service administration in Bangalore, India, and a delegation of 15 experts from Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand visited a similar administration in Mongolia. These experts are now contributing to the development of a global guide on the coordination and administration of social protection floors.

“The experiences and successes that many countries of the global South have achieved in their efforts at establishing a social protection floor can provide valuable momentum, information and means for other countries in the South to address similar concerns and challenges.”

Francisco Simplicio, UN Office for South-South Cooperation
YOU ARE:
A PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANY OR FOUNDATION

Social protection for your employees

Companies benefit from investing in and ensuring social protection for their employees through reduced absenteeism and increased productivity. Firms also benefit from having solid social protection systems in place in the countries in which they operate.

The ILO stands ready to assist companies in ensuring access to social protection for their employees and will support dialogue with workers and other relevant stakeholders to make these social protection commitments a reality.

"I was struck by the tremendous disparities in social protection from one country to another. Yet L’Oréal must ensure security and protection so that each employee can work in total confidence wherever they are. The objective of the Share&Care Program is to ensure that L’Oréal’s employees around the world, wherever they may be, no matter what country they are in, will have access to the best benefits in four areas: social protection, health care, parenthood and quality of life at work. I am convinced that with this particularly ambitious program, we are opening a new chapter in our social history."

Jean-Paul Agon,
Chairman and CEO of L’Oréal
Social protection floors: A valuable investment

Providing your employees with better social protection coverage is a sound investment. However, the returns on the investment are limited if there are no social protection floors in the countries in which you operate.

Corporate social protection programmes should complement rather than replace national social protection floors. By partnering with the ILO, you will support initial investments in a public social protection system that will protect all workers, including yours. You will also enable the country to foster sustainable development and inclusive economic growth, stimulating domestic demand and consumption from which your commercial activities will directly benefit. Brazil calculated that each US dollar spent on social assistance produced $1.33 in the economy.

You will contribute to building social infrastructure and the workforce (hospitals and health workers, for example) that your employees need, increasing their well-being and their productivity. Your social engagement can also attract and retain talent.

There are several ways for you to get involved in national social protection floors:

- by supporting us to build solid and sustainable public social protection systems;
- by supporting us to train employers’ organizations on social protection;
- by seconding your staff to share their skills and knowledge in the field; and
- through making in-kind donations to help build social security systems, such as IT equipment for the construction of networks and databases.

“Social protection is a concept not at all alien to business. Social protection is in many respects embedded in corporate social responsibility.”

Jose Roland Moya,
Director-General, Employers' Confederation of the Philippines
United for social protection floors

Building social protection floors is a priority for the United Nations. In the wake of the global financial crisis, the UN Chief Executives Board established a UN-wide Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I), which set out to coordinate the UN’s development efforts in the area of social protection and provide better technical assistance with lasting and effective results. Collaboration in building social protection floors is well underway in several countries and regions around the globe.

Through the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) that bring together representatives of the UN’s diverse agencies, funds and programmes, the UN system is programming social protection floors into national UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). Many are also working together at the country level to raise awareness, organize joint workshops and discuss the social protection floor with their government counterparts, as well as gather and share their experiences as they institute components of social protection floors in countries where they work.

Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

Helen Clark, Chair UNDG

Letter to all Resident Coordinators, March 2014

“Strong and concerted UN support has played a role in helping countries across regions to formulate national Social Protection Floors. [...] We ask, therefore, that you consider, within your country context, the steps which could be taken to help make social protection a reality for all.”
Delivering as One-UN on the Social Protection Floors includes:

1. Developing joint UN SPF country teams to:
   - promote the social protection floor with one voice;
   - jointly plan social protection as part of the UNDAFs; and
   - design and implement joint projects and activities.

2. Knowledge development and sharing at the regional and global levels to:
   - document different experiences of UN agencies;
   - build practical toolkits to work as One-UN on the SPF;
   - mainstream SPF’s through UNDG policies and guidelines; and
   - run capacity building courses through the UN Staff College.

FOCUS ON UNDG ASIA-PACIFIC

The ILO and UNDG in Asia and the Pacific have been keen to share the collective experiences of the UN in building social protection floors throughout the region.

Different practices were studied, analysed and compiled into a Social Protection Issues Brief, which has since served to inform regional and global discussions.

Similar endeavours are being undertaken by UN agencies in other regions to finance and support the creation of knowledge products that present the work of the UN system in "delivering as One" on extending social protection floors.
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