



International Labour Organization



A QUICK GLANCE

SDGNOTE



SOCIAL PROTECTION

In 2015 world leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development builds on progress achieved under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provides a roadmap for coordinated global action to tackle the formidable challenges facing humanity, including in the world of work. With the 2030 Agenda the global community has recognized the importance of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in making inclusive sustainable development a reality.

"With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we have a once-in-a-generation chance to make a change and improve the lives of billions. The Agenda places Decent Work for all at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. Through its work to promote decent jobs and social justice for all, the ILO's mandate cuts across all of the Sustainable Development Goals. We can realize the vision of sustainable development of this transformative agenda by 2030 if we all come together in a global partnership of governments, business and trade unions, as well as multilateral organizations, civil society and ordinary people. Each and every one of us has a role to play, to ensure no one is left behind."

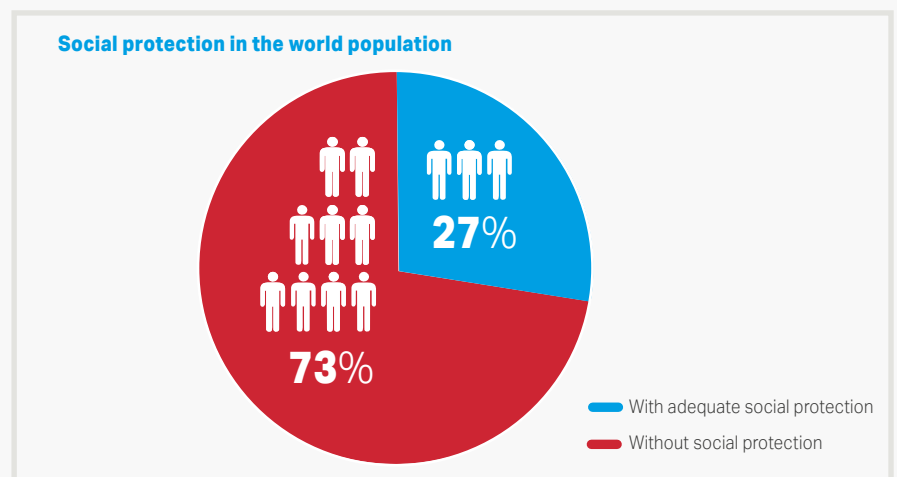
ILO Director-General Guy Ryder



See [Decent Work and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

Goal: Closing the social protection gap

Social protection is an economical benefit that fosters improved productivity, increased and inclusive growth and social cohesion. Yet, according to ILO estimates, 73 per cent of the world population lacks adequate social protection, and suffers from





a lack of rights, dignity and a decent standard of living.

Social protection is thus an essential element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Without it, people are more prone to suffering economic insecurity and social exclusion and are more vulnerable to remaining in poverty.

How does social protection, including social protection floors, cross a number of the Sustainable Development Goals?

SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS CAN REALIZE THE SDGs TO:	SDG
Sustainably reduce poverty	1.3
Achieve universal health coverage	3.8
Promote gender equality and anti-discrimination	5.4
Contribute to employment and decent work	8.5
Reduce inequality	10.4



Q&A: WHAT DO SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS DO?

Social protection is a set of measures provided by society to protect its members from poverty and social exclusion and the financial consequences of "life cycle risks": ill health, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age, or the death of a family member. It also covers insufficient family support, particularly for children and adult dependents.

Social protection floors are basic levels of social protection such as essential health care, social protection for children, income security for people of working age, particularly in cases of unemployment, maternity, disability and work injury, and pensions for older persons.

World governments, employers and workers agreed to build universal social protection systems and floors, with the ILO's Recommendation No. 202 (2012) as well as at the UN with the 2030 Agenda.

Social protection is needed across the life cycle to prevent people from falling into poverty and social exclusion. Social protection is also a powerful tool to move people out of poverty by providing them with the needed transfers and services and investing in the future of their children. The ILO focuses on sustainable, right-based and equitable solutions for extending social protection, including access to health care.

Key areas of the ILO's work on social protection

Social protection is one of the pillars of the ILO's decent work agenda set out in SDG 8 and an important prerequisite for all women and men to be able to gain and uphold productivity and household income. The ILO's Social Protection Department, together with field specialists and other social protection experts, focuses on five key areas of work: awareness raising and advocacy for the Social Protection Floor initiative; building and strengthening partnerships; technical advisory services and capacity building; policy, knowledge and tools development, and national social dialogue.

The ILO has launched a **Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All**. The flagship programme goes beyond small and piecemeal interventions to pursue projects that are ambitious both in terms of scale and impact. During its first phase (2016–2020), the flagship programme focuses on 21 countries. Country experiences allow for the documentation of good practices that can be used elsewhere. The Programme is results-oriented and benefits from efficient impact assessment tools progressively developed by the ILO.

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