The Programme **Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management** provides medium and shorter-term support to multiple countries aiming to strengthen their social protection systems and ensure sustainable financing over time.

Activities focus on enhancing the design and implementation of social protection systems, ensuring they are gender-sensitive, disability-inclusive and shock-responsive, and improving their financing through strong public finance management. Launched in 2020, the initiative promptly addressed the social challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Programme is funded by the European Union (EU), as part of the ILO Flagship Programme on Social Protection, and jointly implemented by the ILO, UNICEF and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF), in close collaboration with national partners and EU delegations.

*By combining thematic support on social protection with improving public finance management, this programme acts as an accelerator to achieving universal social protection in terms of coverage and adequacy of benefits.*

**Henriette Geiger**  
Director, People and Peace  
DG INTPA  
European Commission
**THEORY OF CHANGE**

**Universal social protection**

### Outcomes

| Improve design and financing of social protection systems to achieve SDGs 1 and 10 |
| Implement and monitor gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive social protection systems and programmes |
| Build shock-responsive social protection systems that can be scaled up during crises, learning from the COVID-19 crisis |

### Results

- Adequate, sustainable and gender-sensitive social protection financing through improved coordination, fiscal space analysis, and diversification of funding sources
- Enhanced evidence and tools, benchmarking of good practices that support informed and coordinated decision-making
- Strengthened capacities and administration to achieve the best impact of social protection budgets
- Strengthened knowledge and technical capacities to plan, deliver, monitor and report on social protection programmes
- Increased capacities of partner countries to establish adaptive social protection mechanisms that build into sustainable social protection systems

### Key drivers

- International labour standards and human rights instruments (rights-based approach)
- Inclusion of persons with disability and non-discrimination
- Promotion of gender equality

### Technical support

- Capacity building of national and subnational stakeholders
- Research and evidence generation
- Knowledge sharing & partnerships
- National dialogue process, including social partners and civil society organizations
We have to ensure that there is equity and solidarity in financing. So that those with little or no earning capacity can nevertheless enjoy at least a minimum level of social protection through a solid social protection floor.

Shahra Razavi
Director
ILO Social Protection
BACKGROUND

Social protection is key to reducing poverty and inequalities. Extending its coverage and adequacy is a global challenge.

4 billion people are not protected.

Some vulnerable groups and workers in the informal economy are in the worst situation.

Social protection coverage (SDG indicator 1.3.1):

- Unemployed workers
- Persons with disabilities
- Children
- Mothers with newborns
- Population covered by at least one benefit

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50%

COVID-19 is worsening existing socio-economic inequalities.

- 114 million people worldwide lost their jobs in 2020.
- 120 million were pushed into extreme poverty in the same year.
- 150 million children fell into multidimensional poverty, resulting in 1.2 billion children now living in deprivation.

Reversal of development gains due to COVID-19 is of great concern, showing the urgent need for extending social protection. Even in times of crisis, we should not forget about the importance of investing in system-building.

Natalia Winder Rossi
Associate Director and Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Programme builds on the two-stream strategy of the ILO’s Flagship Programme on Social Protection, for greater synergies with other projects and consolidation of results and impact.

We foster closer cooperation between civil society organizations and trade unions at the national level so that they can structurally and meaningfully engage with government authorities and programme partners to help determine priorities and generate broad support for public policies.

Bart Verstraeten
Director General
WSM (We Social Movements)
On behalf of the GCSPF
PROGRAMME TIMELINE

2019
INCEPTION IN 8 COUNTRIES
Development of work plans and mobilization of national and local partners

START OF 3-YEAR PROJECTS
Implementation of the actions aiming at improved social protection systems and their financing
Monitoring through the ILO Results Monitoring Tool

2020
FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS
10 additional countries selected for 1-year COVID-19 response support

SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS
New additional countries selected for 1-year technical support

CONCLUSION OF SHORTER-TERM PROJECTS I
End of advisory services focused on social protection responses to the pandemic

2021
CONCLUSION OF MEDIUM-TERM PROJECTS
End of interventions

CONCLUSION OF SHORTER-TERM PROJECTS II
End of advisory services

2022
REVIEW OF RESULTS
ILO Results Monitoring Tool
PARTNER COUNTRIES

THREE-YEAR PROJECTS (2020–2023)
Technical assistance, capacity building and policy-oriented research to strengthen social protection systems and their financing, and improve public finance management

- Angola
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Ethiopia
- Nepal
- Paraguay
- Senegal
- Uganda

ONE-YEAR PROJECTS (2020–2021)
Advisory services to improve the delivery and financing of social protection in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and build long-term social protection systems

- Bangladesh
- Cabo Verde
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Ecuador
- Malawi
- Myanmar
- Nigeria
- Peru
- Sri Lanka
- Togo

Click on the photos to learn about country projects on our website.
IMPROVING SYNERGIES BETWEEN
SOCIAL PROTECTION AND
PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT
2020-2023

Learn more and contact us:
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Sign up for the programme newsletter and stay up to date.

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