



International
Labour
Organization

▶ **Building
social
protection
floors for all**

ILO Global Flagship
Programme

Annual Report
2023



▶ **Building social protection floors for all**

ILO Global Flagship Programme

Annual Report 2023

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► Foreword

With renewed threats to global peace, rising inequalities, and more evident and deadly impacts of climate change, the world is at another crossroads. The fact that only half of the world's population has access to some form of social protection underscores the significant gaps in coverage that persist globally. This leaves a substantial portion of the population vulnerable to more frequent economic shocks, health crises, and other risks increasingly associated with daily life. Closing the social protection gap, more critical than ever, will require concerted effort to increase financial resources for social protection and to design and effectively implement policies and programmes to include those currently excluded from existing systems.

The ILO's Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All was conceived to deliver on the promise of the social protection targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through such collective action. The Programme brings together a large number of actors, including governments, donors, social partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs) and UN agencies, around a common goal and strategy. It is also a platform for exchange and collaboration, enabling us to achieve greater impact together. As we reflect on the third year of the programme's second phase, strengthening efforts in key areas such as expanding financing and exploring integrated policy approaches to overcome challenges posed by the informal economy is essential.

The ILO estimates that low- and middle-income countries alone would require additional investments of about 3.3 per cent of their GDP, annually, to bridge the current financing gap and establish national social protection floors in these countries. Additional efforts are needed to support governments to increase domestic resources for social protection complemented by international financial support from donors and creditors.

The Flagship Programme is an important vehicle for leveraging and coalescing contributions from a wide range of actors. This report presents results that the target countries, with strong political will and support from the ILO and its partners, were able to achieve in a few years. Establishing universal social protection systems is possible and a cornerstone of achieving social justice.

Shahra Razavi

Director, Universal Social Protection Department
International Labour Office



Valérie Schmitt

Deputy Director, Universal Social Protection Department
Head of the Flagship Programme
International Labour Office



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► Acronyms¹

COVID-19	coronavirus disease
CRVS	civil registration and vital statistics
DCI	Digital Convergence Initiative
DCO	United Nations Development Coordination Office
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GTAC	Global Tripartite Advisory Committee of the Flagship Programme
GTT	ILO Global Technical Team on social protection
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFI	International Financial Institution
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOE	International Organization of Employers
ISPA	Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment
ISSA	International Social Security Administration
ITC-ILO	International Training Centre of the ILO
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
MIS	Management Information System
MOOC	massive open online course
MSMEs	micro, small and medium enterprises
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
P4H	Providing for Health Initiative

¹ Acronyms specific to national institutions are defined in their respective entries under sections 2.1 (country results) and 2.3 (strategic partnerships).

PES	public employment services
PFM	public finance management
RAP	Rapid Assessment Protocol
RBSA	Regular Budget Supplementary Account
RCCC	Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
RMT	Results Monitoring Tool
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHP	Social Health Protection
SME	small and medium-sized enterprises
SPARKS	Social Protection Action Research and Knowledge Sharing
SPF	Social Protection Floors
SPF-I	United Nations Social Protection Floors Initiative
SPIAC-B	Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board
SP-PER	Social Protection Public Expenditure Review
TEG	Technical Exchange Group of the Providing for Health Initiative
TSF	Technical Support Facility
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
US\$	United States dollar
USP	Universal Social Protection
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



► 1. Introduction

Launched in 2016, the [ILO Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All](#) (Flagship Programme) seeks to realize the universal rights to social security and an adequate standard of living. Based on inclusive social dialogue and the application of international social security standards, the Flagship Programme supports Member States in building national social protection systems that are sustainable and adapted to new and emerging

challenges, are universal and leave no one behind, are comprehensive across the life cycle and are coherent with other policies². Through partnerships, the Flagship Programme increases ownership for universal social protection and the application of international social security standards. The Flagship Programme responds to the demand of 100 Member States that have requested ILO support in the area of social protection.

In 2023, more than **6.3 million people** saw meaningful improvements in their social protection coverage and benefit levels thanks to reforms supported by the Flagship Programme. Across 30 countries, 49 different institutional changes were achieved that included the adoption of 14 strategies, introduction of reform of 13 individual social protection schemes or programmes, and 22 measures undertaken to improve the operation of social protection programmes including strengthening their administrative and financial governance. The following report highlights the results and achievements gained in 2023.

Anchored in international social security standards, in particular the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), the Flagship Programme strategy is guided by complementary and inter-related three-pillar approach.

Pillar 1: In-country support

The Flagship Programme supports target countries and territories to develop national social protection systems following a three-step approach:

- Step 1: Adopting a national social protection strategy
- Step 2: Designing and reforming schemes
- Step 3: Improving operations

See Figure 1 for a visual representation on institutional changes and their expected impact on people. Each step is envisioned to lead to sustainable and long-lasting changes in the social protection system with the last step contributing to effective social protection delivery and coverage.

Pillar 2: Thematic support

The Flagship Programme supports the three-step approach at country level by providing specialised knowledge on 16 thematic areas in order to support Member States in building national social protection systems that are comprehensive and adequate, universal and robust. These areas include: universal social health protection; unemployment protection; old-age pensions; extending social security to workers in informal economy; migrants, refugees, and host communities; disability inclusive social protection systems; just transition to a more environmentally sustainable economy and society; leveraging social protection to promoting gender equality; social dialogue; building national systems for statistics and monitoring and evaluation frameworks; financing social protection; building rights-based social protection systems; actuarial valuations; digital transformation; adaptive social protection systems for new and emerging challenges; and building and strengthening a culture of social protection.

2 ILO, 2021, Building social protection floors for all: ILO Global Flagship Programme – Strategy for the second phase 2021-2025

► Figure 1. Results indicator for Flagship Programme



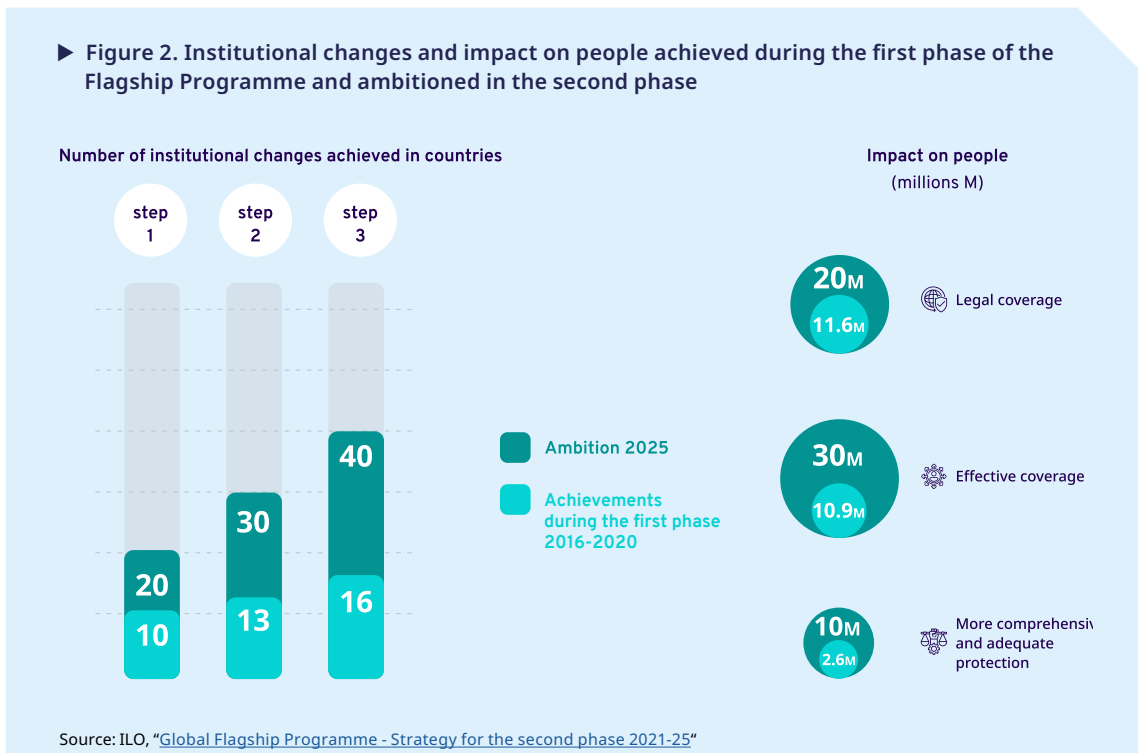
Pillar 3: Strategic partnerships for success

To support pillars 1 and 2, the ILO has further strengthened partnerships with development partners, UN agencies, IFIs, employers’ and workers’ organizations, civil society organizations and academia. Through initiatives such as USP2030, the UN Social Protection Floors Initiative and the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (Global Accelerator), the ILO is able to multiply its impact; work towards providing harmonized and joint messaging on social protection and coordinated support to countries; and increase

the dissemination channels for the learning outcomes of the Flagship Programme³.

The ambition of the programme is to change the life of millions of people. **During the Phase I (2016–20) of the Flagship Programme**, 21 countries were able to extend social protection coverage to more than 20 million people. Given the success of Phase I, the ambition of the **Phase II (2021–2025) of the Flagship Programme** is to achieve institutional changes in all [50 priority countries](#) while increasing the legal and effective coverage, as well as the comprehensiveness and adequacy of social protection, for an additional 60 million people. Figure 2 demonstrates the aim with progress made so far on institutional changes in individual countries and impact on the lives of people.

► Figure 2. Institutional changes and impact on people achieved during the first phase of the Flagship Programme and ambition in the second phase



The first two years of the second phase of the Flagship Programme already achieved significant results. Between 2021 and 2022, the Flagship Programme achieved 56 institutional changes in 40 countries across the three results areas and improved access to social protection that benefited 25 million people. It also provided support to many more

countries through on demand technical assistance on 16 thematic areas, and built good practices guides that were widely shared with policy makers, social partners and social protection practitioners. The development and implementation of strategic partnerships were also instrumental in progressing towards Universal Social Protection (USP).

1.2 Impact and results

In 2023, more than 6.3 million people witnessed meaningful improvements in the coverage, adequacy and comprehensiveness of their social protection benefits following legal and other reforms supported by the Flagship Programme. These advancements span across various types of social protection schemes, including pensions, social health protection, disability benefits and social assistance programmes (see Table 1).

The target countries in the second phase of the Flagship Programme continued to demonstrate strong results in 2023 achieving 49 institutional changes in 30 countries in 2023 alone. In 2023, 14 strategies on social protection were adopted that included a participatory process involving a whole-of-government approach, including social security

institutions, and a broad-based national dialogue with workers' and employers' representatives and other stakeholders. While adoption of national strategies is an important step towards building social protection floors, investments including designing and reforming schemes based on the national strategies is important for coverage extension, including enhancing comprehensiveness and/or increasing adequacy of benefits. Through the support of the Flagship Programme, 13 social protection schemes or programmes were introduced or reformed in 2023 and 22 measures adopted to improve the operation of social protection programmes including strengthening their administrative and financial governance. Table 2 shows the institutional changes achieved in the past three years of the implementation of the second phase of the Flagship Programme.

Table 1. Impacts on people during implementation of the Flagship Programme in 2023

Type of impact	Branch of social security	Number of persons
Coverage extension (additional persons covered)		3,330,000
	<i>Pensions</i>	1,910,000
	<i>Disability benefits</i>	20,000
	<i>Social assistance</i>	400,000
	<i>Health</i>	1,000,000
Increased adequacy (higher benefit levels)		300,000
	<i>Social assistance</i>	300,000
Increased comprehensives (more life cycle risks covered)		2,700,000
	<i>Health protection</i>	2,700,000
Total persons impacted in 2023		6,330,000

Table 2. Institutional changes achieved during implementation of second phase of the Flagship Programme, 2021-2023

Institutional changes	Results achieved in 2021-22	Results achieved in 2023	Total results achieved in 2021-2023	Flagship Programme ambition 2021-25
Step 1: Strategy adopted	14	14	28	10
Step 2: Scheme design/law	15	13	28	30
Step 3: Improving operations	27	22	49	40
Total institutional changes achieved	56	48	104	80



► 2. Programme results 2023

In 2023, the Flagship Programme supported 50 countries and territories in building and strengthening their national social protection systems, achieving 49 institutional changes in 30 countries across the 3 areas of results tabulated in Table 3. Over the past year, 14 strategies on social protection were adopted that included a participatory process involving a whole-of-government approach, including social security institutions, and a broad-based national dialogue with workers' and employers' representatives and other stakeholders. While adoption of national strategies is an important step towards building social protection floors, investments including designing and reforming schemes based on the national strategies is important for coverage extension, including enhancing comprehensiveness and/or increasing adequacy of benefits. Through

the support of the Flagship Programme, 13 social protection schemes or programmes were introduced in 2023 and 22 measures undertaken to improve the operations of social protection programmes including strengthening their administrative and financial governance. The Flagship Programme also provided support to many more countries through on-demand technical assistance in 16 thematic areas, and developed good practices guides that were widely shared with policy makers, social partners and other social protection practitioners. The development and implementation of strategic partnerships were also instrumental in progressing towards Universal Social Protection (USP). Key highlights are followed by a summary of on-going and recent activities in the 50 priority countries, along with specific programme results achieved during 2023.

Key results achieved in 2023

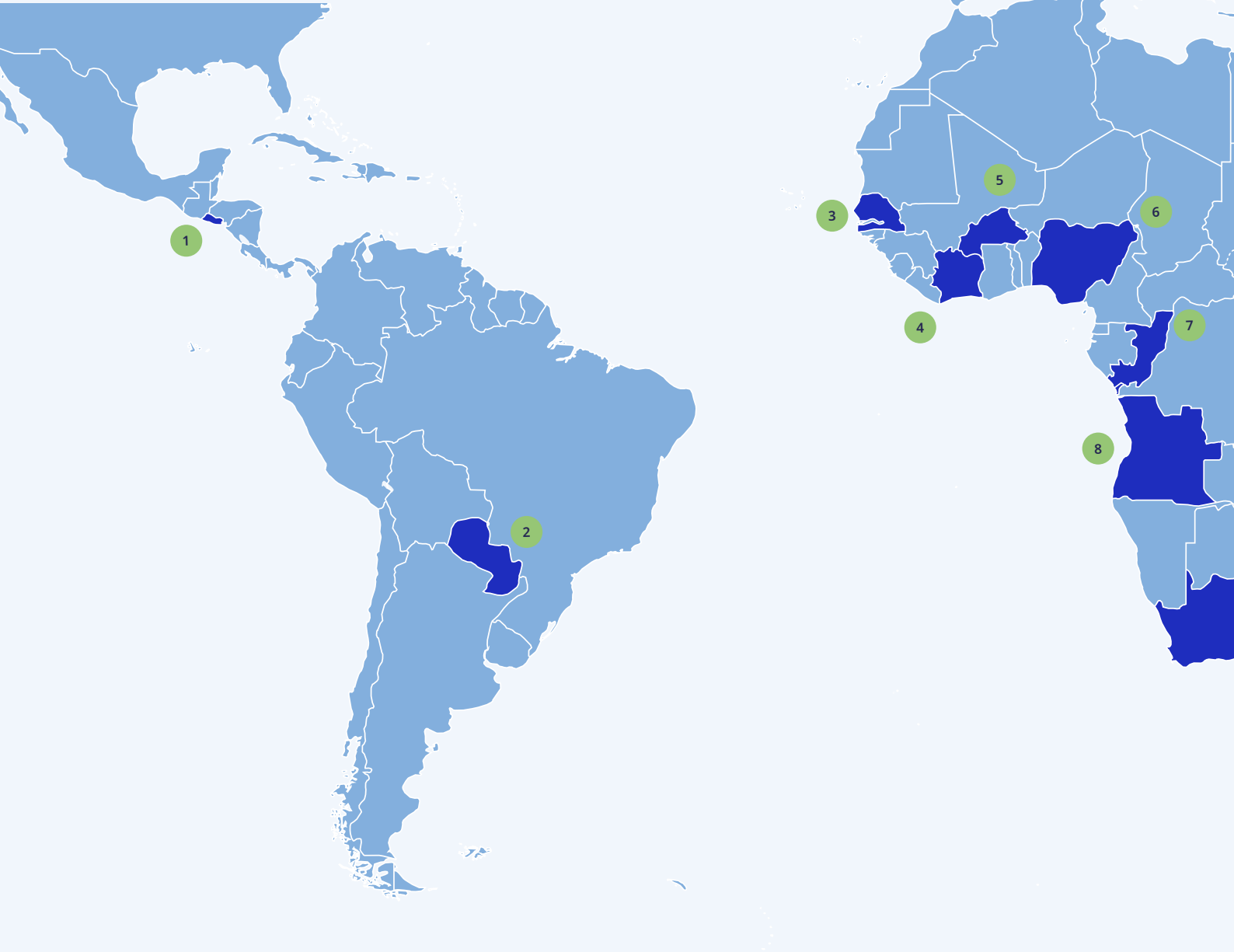
A summary of the results achieved in the 50 priority countries is discussed in the following section. The map below provides a snapshot of the most significant results achieved in 2023.

Table 3. Institutional results summary, by result type (2023)			
	Result 1 Policies and strategies	Result 2 Introduction, reform of scheme	Result 3 Improving operations
Africa			
Angola	1		
Burkina Faso	1	2	3
Burundi			3
Cabo Verde			3
Cameroon			
Côte d'Ivoire		2	
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	1		3
Egypt			
Eswatini			
Ethiopia			
Ghana			

Kenya	1		
Madagascar			3
Malawi	1	2	3
Morocco			
Mozambique	1	2	3
Nigeria	1	2	3
Rwanda			
Senegal	1	2	3
Sierra Leone			
South Africa			3
Sudan			
Tanzania		2	3
Togo			
Uganda			
Zambia			3
Americas			
Barbados			
Ecuador			3
El Salvador			3
Paraguay			3
Suriname			
Arab States			
Iraq		2	
Jordan			
Lebanon	1	2	3
Occupied Palestinian Territory			
Asia and the Pacific			
Cambodia	1	2	
India			

Indonesia		2	3
Lao People's Democratic Republic			3
Nepal			3
Pakistan	1		3
Philippines	1		
Samoa			
Timor-Leste			3
Viet Nam	1		
Europe and Central Asia			
Albania			
Kyrgyzstan		2	
Tajikistan	1		
Ukraine			
Uzbekistan		2	3
49 results achieved 2023 (total)	14	13	22





1 El Salvador: Conducted and adopted recommendations from the actuarial valuations of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) for the Health and Professional Risk Regimes, including strengthening their institutional capacity for financial and actuarial governance.

2 Paraguay: Paraguay created a new public institution, the Superintendency of Retirements and Pensions that provides the mechanisms to promote coordination, effective service delivery, and risk and investment management of the different pension funds.

3 Senegal: Senegal adopted new measures that extend health protection to 2.7 million cash assistance beneficiaries and increase benefit values for 300,000 households receiving family grants. In addition, the Government reallocated revenues of fuel subsidies to the National Programme of Family Allowance (PNBSF).

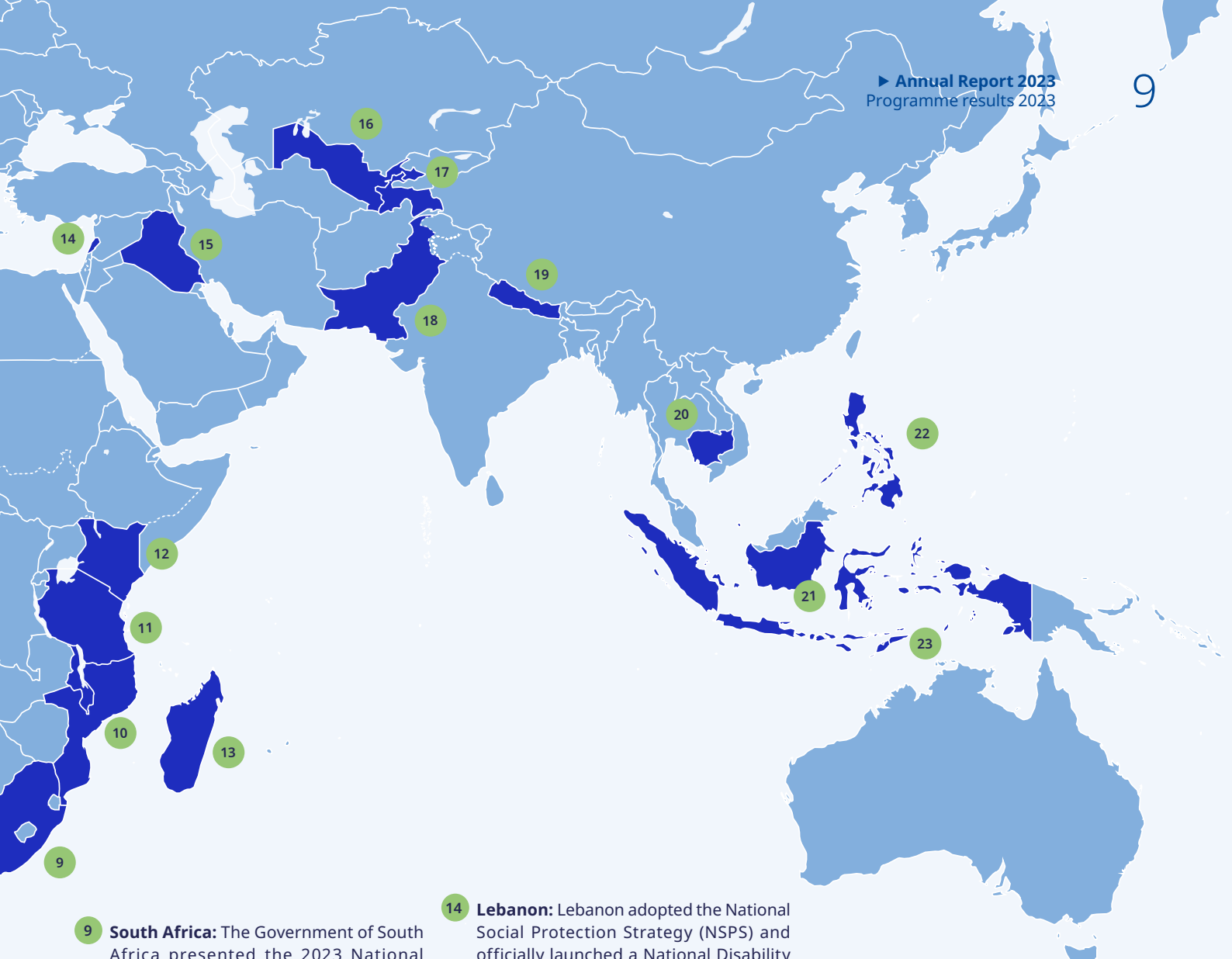
4 Côte d'Ivoire: The Government adopted measures to subsidize health insurance contributions for 335,000 Coffee-Cocoa, Cotton-Cashew and Rubber-Palm Oil producers improving their access to quality care.

5 Burkina Faso: The Government of Burkina Faso adopted a new strategy for extending universal health insurance scheme for those in the informal economy.

6 Nigeria: The Government of Nigeria adopted the revised National Social Protection Policy, 2021-25, and operationalized its Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) extending non-contributory health protection to over 1,000,000 by June 2023.

7 Democratic Republic of the Congo: The Government of DRC promulgated an amended law that established the fundamental principles related to the management of health protection, and integrated Universal Health Coverage (UHC) into the national public health policy.

8 Angola: The Government of Angola adopted the National Social Action Policy to accelerate the establishment of a Basic National Social Protection.



9 South Africa: The Government of South Africa presented the 2023 National Budget with significant increases to fiscal allocations for investments in social protection, including an additional ZAR 36 billion (USD 1.9 billion) for the extension of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD Grant).

10 Mozambique: The Government of Mozambique expanded coverage of its non-contributory pillar to an additional 400,000 beneficiaries thanks to additional fiscal allocations made to the scheme.

11 Tanzania: The Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania enacted the Universal Health Insurance Bill, a fundamental legislation aimed at ensuring universal access to healthcare services for all citizens.

12 Kenya: The Government of Kenya adopted a strategy for extending social protection for workers in the informal and rural economy.

13 Madagascar: The Government of Madagascar adopted the Action Plan for health financing in line with international labour standards. The Plan includes the establishment of a single social registry, affiliating more than 3,000 vulnerable households by July 2023.

14 Lebanon: Lebanon adopted the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) and officially launched a National Disability Allowance program to provide direct income support to at least 20,000 persons with disabilities during an initial period. Additionally, the country also adopted the law establishing a pension scheme for private sector workers in line with Convention No. 102.

15 Iraq: The Parliament of Iraq successfully passed the new Social Security Law for Private Sector Workers expanding legal coverage to 1.9 million self-employed workers.

16 Uzbekistan: The Government of Uzbekistan set-up the Agency for Social Protection under the Office of the President which is a key milestone towards strengthening the institutional architecture of social protection.

17 Tajikistan: The Government of Tajikistan approved a Strategy for Social Protection for the period up to 2040.

18 Pakistan: The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) adopted a Social Protection Policy that adopts a life-cycle approach and aligns to provisions of ILS including Convention No. 102 on minimum standards for social security and Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors.

19 Nepal: The contributory schemes for workers in the informal economy and self-employment were adopted and rolled out.

20 Cambodia: The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) approved the Voluntary Social Security Scheme on Healthcare, which could reach an estimated 2.9 million self-employed persons in the country and over 5 million of their dependents, once affiliated.

21 Indonesia: Indonesia adopted the implementation of the employment injury benefit and adopted a financial sector reform to regulate the reform of the old age saving scheme and revising its parameters.

22 Philippines: The Social Protection Floor (SPF) for the Philippines was adopted on 20 April 2023 by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

23 Timor-Leste: The National Institute of Social Security (INSS) launched the first online portal allowing citizens and employers to access their social security information.

2.1 Summary of country-level results 2023

► Africa

Angola 1

In November 2023, the Government of Angola under the leadership of Ministry of Social Action, Family and Promotion of Women (MASFAMU), with support from employers' organizations and workers' organizations, adopted the National Social Action Policy to ultimately accelerate the establishment of a Basic National Social Protection. The development of the Policy followed the Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) process which resulted in a comprehensive analysis of the adequacy, coverage and financing gaps of the social protection system in Angola. The ABND process also contributed to discussions on additional necessary reforms and investment prospects in social protection and developed scenarios for social protection programs with detailed analysis of the cost and fiscal space options to finance these scenarios and the expected impact on poverty.

To support political decision-making during social dialogue sessions with the multi-sectoral technical group assigned to the ABND and equip public institutions to improve budgeting, service delivery and the financial sustainability of social insurance programmes, the ILO supported the MASFAMU, employers' organizations and workers' organizations with capacity building sessions and training. Additionally, ILO provided technical support on extending social protection floors that included assessing coverage and financing gaps and fiscal space analysis to provide guidance to the Government and social partners on how to finance an economically sustainable social protection system. The ILO also provided support on the creation of a database on social protection indicators through the application of the ILO Social Security Inquiry (SSI) and conducting an impact assessment of social protection extension on poverty.

Financing support: European Union (EU) and the Government of Portugal. Visit our [country page](#).

Burkina Faso 1 2 3

The ILO is supporting the Government of Burkina Faso to accelerate the operationalisation and rollout of the Universal Health Insurance scheme (RAMU), with a view to extending access to health protection to workers in the informal economy and private sector. On 9 August 2023, the Council of Ministers adopted five decrees on the RAMU. These decrees included (i) approving standard models for agreements between the universal health insurance management body and healthcare providers; (ii) establishing the conditions and modalities of administrative control;

(iii) establishing the terms and conditions of affiliation and registration of those subject to the RAMU and their dependents; (iv) establishing conditions and modalities of medical control and medical expertise of health care benefits and health goods and services guaranteed by the RAMU; and, (v) defining healthcare packages.

The decrees were produced with ILO legal advisory services and validated by the Government and social partners. Many of the constituents who actively participated in the development of the decrees on RAMU were provided with capacity-building opportunities on social protection and management of health insurance systems by the ILO. ILO is also supporting an actuarial valuation of the RAMU to feed in the definition of technical and financial parameters of the scheme. A workshop on the financing of the RAMU brought together 70 government representatives and social partners and allowed to reach a consensus on the financial mechanism of the scheme, which will be based on social contributions and complemented by public domestic financing. ILO is currently supporting the draft of two decrees defining the contribution rates and the financing sources.

ILO also supported in carrying out an institutional diagnosis of the Universal Health Insurance Fund (CNAMU), followed by the development of an institutional architecture for the implementation of the RAMU, as well as the adaptation and deployment of a health insurance information system, with the open-source software OpenIMIS. In September 2023, the Government adopted a new strategy for extending the RAMU to actors in the informal economy, developed with technical support of the ILO and based on effective social dialogue. The operationalization of the RAMU remains a national priority, with the first target of 15 per cent of the population, or 3,300,000 workers, including those in the informal economy, to be covered by 2025.

Financial support: European Union, Governments of Belgium and of Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Burundi 3

The Government of Burundi completed the ILO Social Security Inquiry (SSI) to improve the statistical system and data on coverage of social protection programs in October 2023. The ILO facilitated participation of the representatives from the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the National Social Protection Commission (SEP/CNPS) and the National Statistical Centre to participate in the ILO regional training on

the collection and compilation of social protection coverage data using the SSI tool. Participating organizations subsequently coordinated successful collection of comprehensive data on different social protection schemes in Burundi. Further, the SEP/CNPS, which includes representatives of social partners, approved the SSI as the national reporting tool for all social protection programmes, ensuring data availability on a regular basis.

The ILO has also supported the social dialogue on the financing strategy of the social health insurance scheme aiming at extending its effective coverage and reinforced the capacity of 31 decision-makers and social partners on social health protection. Two feasibility studies have started in 2023 (i) one on the introduction of family benefits in the contributory scheme for the workers in the private sector and a non-contributory scheme for the most vulnerable and (ii) on the extension of social security to workers in the informal economy. A National Social Protection Week, organized with ILO support in October 2023, raised awareness on social protection among higher-level public institutions, including the President's Office, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, members of Parliament and social partners.

Financing support: Governments of Belgium and of Luxembourg. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Burundi. Visit our [country page](#).

Cabo Verde ³

The Flagship Programme supported the Government in carrying out actuarial study of the social health protection branch of the National Center of Social Pensions (CNPS) from January to May 2023. Following the validation workshop, the Government, under the leadership of the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development, adopted the actuarial study on 25 June 2023. This new measure based on international labour standards and aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the social protection system, allows for the improvement of financial governance and the extension of coverage to more than 10,000 elderly people.

Following a participatory process and with the support of the ILO, the Government adopted the first bulletin of social protection statistics 2016-2020 in February 2023. The production of this bulletin makes it possible to improve the information system including the monitoring and evaluation of social protection interventions. It also ensures the timely update of the SSI. The ILO, through the Flagship Programme, also supported the Government in the development of social security accounting plan that allows the improvement of the financial governance of social protection schemes. The Ministry of Finance, following a participatory process, adopted the plan on 18 December 2022.

Financing support: Government of Portugal. Visit our [country page](#).

Cameroon

In Cameroon, in February 2022, the Ministry of Public Health launched a collaboration with civil society organizations, administrative authorities, and traditional and religious leaders to establish a sustainable social protection mechanism built around the principles of Islamic finance and community solidarity which ensures protection against the financial risk linked to pregnancy, by purchasing and providing health vouchers for poor pregnant women (Micro-takaful), including refugee women. From September 2021 until May 2023, the ILO supported the entire awareness and advocacy process including the development of the communication plan, creative briefs, communication support, as well as organization of regional workshops for reflection and development of a sustainability strategy for the project led by the local authorities.

Financing support: Government of the Republic of Korea and donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account. Visit our [country page](#).

Côte d'Ivoire ²

Following the adoption of the National Strategy for Social Protection (SNSP) in 2014, the Government has prioritized gradually achieving higher levels of social protection through the implementation of Universal Health Coverage (CMU). On October 12, 2022, the Government decided that the Coffee-Cocoa, Cotton-Cashew Cashew and Rubber-Palm Oil Councils would cover the CMU contributions of producers in these sectors. This innovative measure improves the system of payment of health insurance contributions for producers and thus their access to quality care. Around one million cocoa producers, 135,000 cotton producers and 200,000 oil palm producers will ultimately benefit from social health protection due to this measure. Furthermore, the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) has signed agreements with three companies for health coverage for cocoa producers in 2022 and 2023. With this agreement, 6,812 producers who are members of the cooperatives have been registered to benefit from CMU.

The ILO supported the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) in establishing partnerships with cooperatives and companies in the cocoa sector, that included facilitating dialogue between stakeholders, developing the draft of partnership agreements and organizing agreement signing sessions. In this context, a CMU enrolment campaign was organized from September 5 to 24, 2022 with 10 cooperatives and enabled the registration of 4,686 farmers for health insurance. The ILO also supported the Government in carrying out a costing analysis on contribution amount required under the CMU that was validated on 23 November 2022 in the presence of the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection. From October 2022 to August 2023, the ILO supported a study analyzing options for increasing the financing

of social protection in Côte d'Ivoire under the new SNSP, 2024-2028.

Financing support: Governments of France and of the Netherlands and Eni SpA. Visit our [country page](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo 1 3

The extension of social protection coverage, particularly social health protection, has become a priority for the Government with the establishment of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) system. With the technical support of the ILO, the country set up an institutional architecture for UHC.

In September 2022 and January 2023, the ILO raised awareness among national deputies, members of the employment subcommittee of the socio-economic commission of the National Assembly, as well as members of the social and economic commission of the SENAT on the four dimensions of decent work and made them aware of the importance, for the country, of having the specific law on UHC. A decree integrating UHC into the national public health policy and creating the UHC's institutional structure of governance and operation was adopted in March 2023. A National Council for Universal Health Coverage was inaugurated. A strategic plan for implementing the UHC has also been drawn up and adopted by the Government.

A study on the financing of UHC was conducted in collaboration with the Health Solidarity Fund. The competencies of 29 representatives of national institutions involved in the management of UHC have been strengthened in social health protection. A road map for the coordination and governance of the scheme has been drawn up and approved. The ILO supported the General Secretariat for Social Security in evaluating the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy, which will feed into the review of the national strategy for social protection.

Financing support: Governments of Belgium and of Luxembourg. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Visit our [country page](#).

Egypt

The ILO is currently supporting Egypt in the preparation of an actuarial study, along with the Experts Committee of the Egyptian National Organization of Social Insurance (NOSI), using the ILO/PENSIONS actuarial pension model, which is an online service developed by the International Labour Office (ILO) for the benefit of its constituents, including their social security institutions. The Platform is administered by the ILO's Social Protection Department (SOCPRO). For the preparation of this actuarial study, the ILO mobilized resources to modify the ILO/PENSIONS to address the specificities of the old-age disability and death scheme of NOSI, as per the new law. The ILO also trained the

actuarial unit at NOSI on the new model to build their capacity on conducting actuarial valuation using the ILO online tool. The ILO also supported actuarial work related to the creation of an emergency fund for informal workers.

Financing support: German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund (Joint SDG Fund), and the Government of Netherlands. Visit our [country page](#).

Eswatini

The Government of Eswatini completed the Social Security Inquiry (SSI) exercise to improve the statistical system and data on social security that was adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in July 2023. Information collected and compiled during the exercise provided valuable baseline data that is used and cited in the Eswatini National Development Plan 2023/24 – 27/28 and the Second National Voluntary Review Report issued by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. The SSI reveals gender disaggregated data of recipients of various social protection measures.

In the previous biennium (2020-2021) with the support of RBSA the ILO facilitated training on the SSI including highlighting the strategic importance of keeping updated social security data. The training emphasized the inclusion of data on migrant workers in all social protection schemes and to ensure that member states are treated equally as national citizens.

Financing support: Donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Eswatini in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Ethiopia

The ILO is supporting constituents in Ethiopia in designing a sustainable financing strategy and fiscal space assessment for social protection along with supporting the extension of social security schemes to uncovered groups. Capacity-building support is being provided to relevant government agencies at federal and selected regional levels to facilitate coordination of social protection through the establishment of national and regional social protection councils. Additionally, the ILO is working to promote disability inclusion and mainstreaming within social protection system. The ILO is also implementing the PROSPECTS project focused on the extension of social protection to refugees and host communities using a national systems approach. In this regard, the project is currently conducting a joint ILO-UNHCR feasibility study for the extension of social health protection to urban refugees and host communities. The project further has component on capacity building, system development and inclusive policy dialogue and advocacy.

Financing support: European Union, Government of the Netherlands. Visit our [country page](#).

Ghana

In Ghana, the ILO is working to facilitating access of target communities to the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and support the national Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) social protection program. In 2023, Flagship Programme activities aimed to strengthen the capacities of NHIS administrations in reaching households with workers in the informal economy and at risk of child labour in target communities. The ILO also aimed to strengthen government capacity to expand the reach of social protection systems to vulnerable children in the target communities.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. Visit our [country page](#).

Kenya 1

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO supported the Government to conduct an assessment on social protection coverage to workers in the informal and rural economy to establish the magnitude of coverage and identify barriers to access and provide recommendations for possible actions for expansion. The ILO provided support to convene consultative forums with social partners and hold key informant interviews. The assessment was finalized in June 2022 and provided a foundation for the development of the strategy.

In October 2023, the Government of Kenya adopted a strategy for extending social protection for workers in the informal and rural economy. The strategy provides clear guidelines to extend coverage and ensure adequacy of social protection programmes that are inclusive for workers in the informal and rural economy and outlines specific steps to address major barriers faced by workers in the informal and rural economy when accessing social protection schemes.

Financing support: The European Union, Governments of the Netherlands, of China and of the United States of America, Eni SpA and donors to the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and Joint SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Madagascar 3

In September 2022, the Government through the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and the Advancement of Women (MPPSPF) in consultation with social partners, adopted the Action Plan for health financing in line with international labour standards. The MPPSPF implemented certain measures in the Plan, among others, the establishment of a single social registry to coordinate databases and interventions in social protection in July 2023. This made it possible to strengthen the access of 1,255 vulnerable households to health insurance in the Anosy region and 1,861 agricultural households to a digital health system. Through the Flagship Programme on improving access to social security, the ILO supported the validation workshop for the Action Plan. This workshop saw the participation of 60 representatives from key ministries

(including Health, Population, Labour, Interior and Decentralization, Economy and Finance), social partners and civil society.

The ILO also provided technical support to the Ministry of Population to undertake a survey on the perceptions and expectations of households in the informal economy regarding access to health insurance in the District of Amboasary South, Anosy Region. Based on the results of the survey, the ILO implemented interventions to improve the quality of the services offered (training of health workers and acquisition of medicines according to expressed needs).

Financing support: Donors to the Joint SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Malawi 1 2 3

The Government of Malawi adopted the Social Cash Transfer Strategic Plan (2022-2027) in November 2022. The Plan aims to increase coverage of the total population under the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme from 10 per cent to 15 per cent and to improve adequacy of social cash transfer benefits by implementing mechanisms to enable households to access complementary services, enhancing resilience and building impacts of cash transfers through building human capital. The Plan will also enable implementation of mechanisms for regular adjustment of the transfer value to account for inflation and maintain real value of cash transfers. The ILO provided normative feedback on development of the Social Cash Transfer Strategic Plan in the technical working group. The inputs from the ILO have been incorporated in the final version of the Plan. The ILO is currently supporting the operationalisation of the Plan through development of a costed implementation framework that will enhance the administration of social protection service delivery.

In December 2023, the Government of Malawi adopted the findings of a fiscal space analysis and social protection floor costing assessment carried out between October 2022 to March 2023 with technical support on data collection and analysis from the ILO. The report identifies the gaps in coverage and options through which resources for social protection can be mobilized and examines the feasibility of generating revenues to finance the extension of social protection across the life cycle. The study provided recommendations including the need to promote potential mechanisms (existing and new) to increase financing for non-contributory programmes, assess the feasibility and potential gains of introducing more comprehensive social insurance schemes, target the most vulnerable, and improve the capacity of government and key stakeholders in financial management and financing for social protection. Malawi is also a pathfinder country under the Global Accelerator initiative and in 2023 developed its implementation roadmap.

Financing support: European Union and the Government of Ireland. Visit our [country page](#).

Morocco

Throughout 2023, the ILO has continued to support the government to develop an actuary model for social health insurance as a tool for the Ministry of the Economy and Finance to ensure sustainable expansion of cover under the country's mandatory basic health insurance, which began in 2021.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Morocco in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Mozambique 1 2 3

The ILO has been coordinating technical support with the National Social Security Institute (INSS) and tripartite partners on building a national strategy for social protection since 2017. In December 2023, the Government of Mozambique adopted a Strategic Plan for the National Social Security Institute (PEINSS), 2023-2027, which includes, inter alia, provisions for expanding coverage of own-account workers in the informal economy to the country's contributory system, as well as for strengthening mechanisms for ensuring compliance regarding the channelling of workers' contributions by employers. The adoption of the strategy and subsequent changes, like the creation of special sub-schemes, including for low-income own-account workers and seasonal workers, as well as differentiated contributory rates, aims at a 15 per cent increase in the number of registered salaried workers from 2023 to 2027, and of own-account workers from 46,668 in 2023 to 120,069 in 2027.

In 2023, through an ILO-IMF partnership, the Government increased fiscal space (budgetary allocation) dedicated to non-contributory social protection programmes by 44 per cent. Meanwhile, total allocation including external support also increased by 80 per cent. This significant increase allowed the non-contributory pillar of the social protection system in Mozambique to expand coverage in 2023 to almost reach 1 million beneficiaries by December 2023 (a 66 per cent increase from 600,000 beneficiaries reached in 2022). Given the expansion, it is expected, that in 2023, 33 per cent of households living below the poverty line will benefit from INAS programmes (a jump from 22 per cent in 2022).

Financing support: The governments of Portugal and of Ireland. Visit our [country page](#).

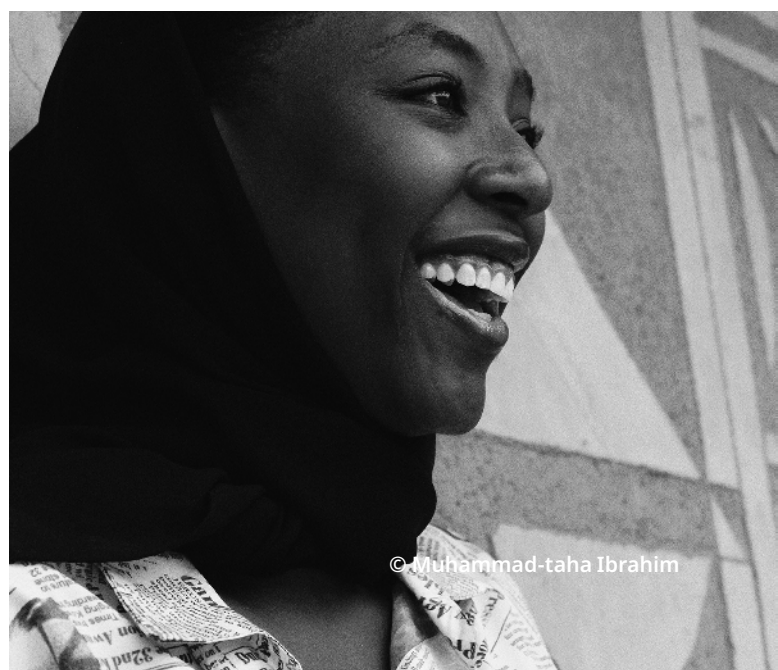
Nigeria 1 2 3

The Government of Nigeria adopted the revised National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) (2021-25) in December 2022 (previously unreported) developed by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning and Ministry of Finance through the Social Protection Technical Working Group (SPTWG), which includes representatives from the Federal Ministry of Labour, social partners, and other relevant stakeholders. The policy establishes a national framework for Universal

Social Protection in Nigeria and includes a costed implementation plan and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) was operationalized as a result of the policy and in June 2023, the Fund succeeded in offering non-contributory social health protection to over 1,000,000 individuals. The Flagship Programme supported the process of drafting the NSPP and stakeholder consultations in coordination with Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning including capacity development of the SPTWG to promote social dialogue. To help determine the policy's cost, the ILO supported the Government in the exercise by utilizing the ILO Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP).

In January 2023, a report on extension of fiscal space for investments in social protection supported by the ILO was validated and adopted by the members of the SPTWG during a two-day workshop convened by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning. The report identifies innovative financing mechanisms for social protection. The report's findings informed the development of measures to increase existing tobacco tax and establish a new Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSB) tax in the 2022 Fiscal Policy Measures, with the goal of increasing public expenditure on health, education, and social protection in subsequent years. In May 2023, the Kaduna State Healthcare Management Agency (KADCHMA) adopted a new MIS to digitise its business process, the adopted system has led to the reduction in administrative process for registration, which in turn led to increase in social health protection coverage for 5,040 (2,369 male and 2,671 Female) workers in the informal economy. The ILO was actively involved in extending support for the adoption of the open IMIS platform including collaboration with an IT firm to customize the newly adopted MIS tool.

Financing support: European Union and donors to the Joint SDG Fund. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Nigeria in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).



Rwanda

The ILO, in collaboration with other partners, advocated for an integrated social protection system covering not only the most vulnerable and the formal sector but also the missing middle. Preliminary findings from a study on extension of social protection to informal workers have been endorsed by tripartite partners at a capacity building workshop in December. Three prototypes for the extension of social protection to specific groups of workers have been identified through a workshop integrating a strong private sector perspective. The integrated approach has also been reflected in the ILO's support to collect social protection coverage data across contributory and non-contributory schemes using the social security inquiry. ILO advocacy on the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection including through the organisation of a scoping mission resulted in Rwanda officially committing to becoming a pathfinder country in January 2024.

To increase social protection coverage in terms of risks covered, a capacity building workshop on unemployment protection was organised. Tripartite partners agreed to move towards the introduction of an unemployment scheme for the formal sector. The process will be overseen by a tripartite committee and a feasibility study will be the next step.

Capacities of tripartite partners to support the extension of social protection have been strengthened. The Private Sector Federation developed a training package for enterprises on social protection, occupational safety and health and social dialogue. ILO and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung supported the Trade Union Development and Advocacy Forum to strengthen synergies across trade unions including for more effective advocacy on social protection. More recently appointed labour inspectors have been trained on social protection as well as occupational safety and health. A training on international social security guidelines and standards, equipped middle-management officials of the Rwanda Social Security Board with the necessary tools to drive the organisation's reform process including a renewed focus on the extension of coverage to the informal sector and the digitalization of its operations.

Financing support: Governments of Belgium and of Luxembourg and the GIZ. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Rwanda as indicated on our [country page](#).

Senegal 1 2 3

On 7 April 2023, the President of the Republic issued two decrees that established a non-contributory health insurance scheme for beneficiaries of the Family Security Grant and Equal Opportunities Card programmes and established and set rules for the organization and operation of the Family Security Grant (PNBSF). The new measures, taken in consultation with social partners and based on international labour standards, aim to

ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of social protection systems. The two decrees ensure extension of health insurance to more than 2.7 million people and increase the amount of the PNBSF monetary transfer by 40 per cent to more than 300,000 households. The new decrees also strengthen the legal system in place by improving the administrative infrastructure in order to ensure more efficient and adequate service delivery. The ILO has worked closely with the Government and facilitated the workshops to develop the draft decree.

In February 2023, with support from the ILO, the Government of Senegal adopted an integrated solutions which combine social protection, employment, and skills in close coordination and consultation with the delegation for rapid entrepreneurship (DER) and social partners. The new partnership between the DER and the National Agency for UHC allows for approximately 400,000 entrepreneurs, the majority of whom are women and youth to benefit from social protection with the creation of a social mutual fund for DER entrepreneurs. A number of measures on the extension of social security to support transitions from the informal economy to the formal economy is being taken. In March 2023, the Council of Ministers adopted incentive measures to facilitate affiliation of workers in the informal economy to the Simplified Social Security Scheme (RSPC) and facilitate their transition to the formal sector. The development and validation of the document with social partners was done through the support of the Flagship Programme.

In 2023, the ILO continued to support the implementation of the RSPC health branch, through the National Social Mutual of Artisans (MSNAS) that included setting up of regional structures, capacity building, and developing monitoring tools. A national awareness campaign on the new health insurance for artisans was implemented that included strategic communications and outreach efforts. As a result, 18,000 artisans and 60,000 beneficiaries registered. Senegal is also a pathfinder country under the Global Accelerator, having joined the initiative in December 2023.

Financing support: European Union, Governments of Belgium, of Luxembourg, and of France as well as the GIZ. Visit our [country page](#).

Sierra Leone

In 2023, the ILO carried out activities aimed at extending social protection to workers of the informal economy supported through two key outcomes. The first involves designing an adapted social protection scheme, which includes assessing the current gaps in coverage, identifying barriers for various categories of workers, and reviewing policy frameworks to suggest policy options for extending protection. Meanwhile, the second outcome focuses on enhancing national capabilities for implementing and monitoring the scheme, through training activities, capacity building for

government and social partners, and developing a communication strategy aimed at organizations, especially women's groups, to promote awareness and knowledge about extending social protection to informal workers.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Sierra Leone in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

South Africa 3

In February 2023, the Government of South Africa presented the 2023 National Budget with significant increases to fiscal allocations for investments in social protection, including an additional ZAR 36 billion (USD 1.9 billion) for the extension of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD Grant). The announcement followed the adoption by the National Department of Social Development of several modelling reports examining the impact of the SRD Grant on vulnerable segments of the population not covered by existing social protection programmes. These included a Supplementary Modelling Report adopted by the Department in December 2022, which reinforced the case for additional investments in similar income support grants and examined the economic, fiscal, and social implications of making the SRD Grant permanent and the basis for a new Basic Income Support Grant (BIS Grant). The increase in allocations announced for the SRD Grant, which had been set to expire, extend the grant until 31 March 2024, and follow evidence-based advocacy in the form of various modelling exercises supported by the ILO.

Financing support: Donors to the Joint SDG Fund. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to South Africa in the years to come. Visit the [country page](#).

Sudan

While implementation has been complicated by recent conflict, the ILO aims to assist the country's civilian-led government in developing a comprehensive social protection system, aligning with the government's focus on enhancing policy dialogue, coordination, and institutional capacity. Activities target integration of social protection policies that span immediate and long-term needs, mitigating the impact of potential crises. The approach encourages collaboration among key ministries, national stakeholders, and international organizations, aiming for a more inclusive and equitable social protection framework in Sudan.

Financing support: European Union. Visit the [country page](#).

Tanzania, United Republic of

2 3

The Flagship Programme has been supporting the Government of Tanzania to establish universal health coverage (UHC) for many years. On November 1, 2023, the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania enacted the Universal Health Insurance Bill, a fundamental legislation aimed at ensuring universal access to healthcare services for all citizens through a comprehensive health insurance system. The Bill was signed into law and become effective on 6 December 2023 and assigned the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) to oversee and manage the health insurance system. It is mandatory for all citizens and establishes the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF). It permits registration of private health insurance schemes for both formal private and informal sectors and standardises benefits package. It provides for sources and financing of healthcare for the poor households.

The ILO also supported the Government of Tanzania and Tripartite partners to conduct actuarial studies of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), Community Health Fund (CHF) and Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) as well as the feasibility studies with a focus on affordability, merging of the three institutions and administrative options for a consolidated NHIF.

Financing support: The Governments of Tanzania and of Ireland. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Tanzania in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Togo

In 2023, the ILO continued to work toward enhancing social protection in Togo including through the establishment of the institutional and technical architecture for a universal health insurance system that, once completed, would represent a significant step towards comprehensive health coverage. Additionally, through an ILO-IMF partnership, support has been provided on the classification of social protection expenditure, while the ILO has initiated an actuarial health evaluation in support of government aims to expand health protection coverage.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Togo in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Uganda

From January 2023 to August 2023 the ILO provided technical and financial support to the Government of Uganda for the drafting, development, and finalization of the National Strategy on Extension of Coverage to the Informal Economy. This support included provision of technical inputs into the development of Terms of Reference to inform the revision of the draft document (initially developed by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social

Development) so as to strongly reflect the social security related international labour standards and also strengthen the inclusion principle of the Strategy. The Strategy aims at providing policymakers, social partners and other stakeholders with a guiding framework for developing viable interventions for addressing the challenges of extending social security to workers in the informal economy and facilitating transitions to formality. Recognizing the heterogeneity of workers' realities, the Strategy reflects specific challenges and good practices for selected sectors and categories of workers (domestic workers, agricultural workers, self-employed workers, construction workers in micro and small enterprises (MSEs), etc.)

Financing support: European Union. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Uganda in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Zambia 3

In early 2023, the ILO conducted an actuarial analysis of Zambia's National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to evaluate and recommend parametric changes crucial for the scheme's long-term financial sustainability. By late 2023, Zambia's Tripartite Consultative Labour Council (TCLC) had endorsed these recommendations, paving the way for their submission to the Minister of Labour for ratification, expected in 2024. Further to this, the ILO supported the Zambian government's initiative to extend NHIS cover to vulnerable households already receiving social cash transfers, including the extreme poor, persons with disability, and also the households affected by major emergencies. This move is part of a broader 'cash plus' agenda aimed providing mutually reinforcing support and services to beneficiaries to finally break cycles of inter-generational poverty. The

National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) that oversees NHIS, in collaboration with the Global Fund, initiated a pilot to extend health services to 16,000 households in 2023, ensuring adherence to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) principles.

Also in 2023, the ILO facilitated the development, validation, and launch of Zambia's National Strategy for the Extension of Social Security to the informal economy that outlines a comprehensive approach for integrating over 70 per cent of Zambia's workforce, which operates within the informal economy, into existing social protection schemes. The strategy not only focuses on providing social security benefits but also emphasizes building resilience among informal economy workers, particularly in emergencies such as climate-induced crises. Meanwhile, Zambian officials continued to receive accreditation as trainers of the TRANSFORM initiative for social protection leadership and capacity building to further mainstream its approach nationally at both central and decentralized (district) levels. TRANSFORM training sessions were also held for the Zambian Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD). The ILO supported ZAPD further in developing strategic plans and training for disability inclusion in government planning, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation processes. A rights-based certification tool was rolled out across five provinces, integrating with the Disability Management Information System (DMIS). Additionally, the ILO enhanced communication and advocacy capacities, contributing to national awareness and media engagement on disability issues, as well as strengthening employability with nationwide trainings of employers with the Employers National Federation.

Financing support: European Union, the Governments of Ireland, of Sweden, of the United Kingdom and of Zambia. Visit our [country page](#).



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► Americas

Barbados

The ILO is supporting the government of Barbados to maintain sufficient social and infrastructure spending within the context of its Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Programme, launched in 2018 to curtail expenditure, enhance revenue, and steer the country towards recovery, while protecting the most vulnerable segments of society. The ILO is supporting Barbadian constituents to establish a social protection floor through updating legislative measures and streamlining the social system to ensure a more coherent and supportive structure for those in need.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Barbados in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Ecuador 3

Between July 2022 and April 2023, the Government of Ecuador, improved its statistical monitoring of social protection, through the update of SDG Indicator 1.3.1 which had previously not been included in regular statistical planning. The importance of adequately monitoring this indicator lies in the fact that the implementation of relevant public policies would influence Ecuadorian population's access to at least one social protection benefit. The Flagship Programme strengthened the technical capacities of the government institutions on monitoring SDG indicator and collecting statistical information with the methodological considerations for its replicability and sustainability.

Furthermore, during 2022, the ILO strengthened the capacities of the staff of the Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security (IESS) in actuarial analysis through the actuarial valuation of the unemployment insurance, transfer of the methodology and development of capacities for subsequent autonomous actuarial valuations of the unemployment insurance autonomously by the Institute. At the end of 2022, the IESS prepared and adopted the actuarial valuation of unemployment insurance in Ecuador. The valuation gave rise to an action plan to reform unemployment insurance ensuring alignment with the principles of the Convention No. 102.

Financing support: European Union and donors to the Joint SDG Fund. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Ecuador in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

El Salvador 3

In 2023, the ILO delivered the actuarial valuations of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) for the Employment injury schemes. This work was carried out in coordination with the Financial Unit of the ISSS and the Department of Actuarial and Statistics of the ISSS. The actuarial valuation included an analysis

of the institutional governance of the ISSS, which showed the need to identify greater financing, as well as administrative and regulatory reforms. The ISSS and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTPS) have strengthened their institutional capacity for financial and actuarial governance through strategic inputs coming from the actuarial study. The Flagship Programme also contributed to the preparation of the actuarial study for the design of unemployment insurance in El Salvador.

Financing support: Government of El Salvador. Visit our [country page](#).

Paraguay 3

On 13 December 2023, Paraguay created a new public institution, the Regulator of Retirements and Pensions (Superintendencia de Jubilaciones y Pensiones) that provides the mechanisms to monitor, supervise and guide the operation of the different pension funds in the country promoting coordination, effective service delivery, and risk and investment management. Within this institutional framework, Paraguay also strengthened the principle of the Ultimate Responsibility of the State, in-line with the Convention No. 102. The ILO provided technical inputs to the draft law to ensure alignment with international labour standards.

The Government of Paraguay has improved its capacity to design and manage social protection programmes with respect to public finance management. The Flagship Programme facilitated capacity building of over 140 public officials (from different ministries, including the Ministry of Finance), 21 men and 121 women, from more than 30 public agencies, and members of civil society and representatives of employers' and workers' organizations to develop social protection programmes through a results-based approach. In December 2022, the Universidad Católica "Nuestra Señora de la Asunción" (UCA) has incorporated a diploma in its regular course offer on the Design and Management of Social Protection Programmes within the Results-based Budgeting Framework design with support from the ILO and Ministry of Finance

Financing support: European Union. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Paraguay in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#)

Suriname

In 2023, the ILO has responded to a request from the Government of Suriname to undertake a comprehensive review of the social protection system with a view to implement a holistic reform.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Suriname in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#)



► Arab States

Iraq 2

Subsequent to the ratification of the Convention No. 102, the Parliament of Iraq successfully passed the new Social Security Law for Private Sector Workers on 17 May 2023, which is aligned with Convention No. 102. This significant achievement ushers in broad improvements to the social security system for workers in the private sector across federal Iraq, including expanding legal coverage to approximately 1.9 million self-employed workers who are not eligible to participate on a voluntary basis and introducing unemployment and maternity benefits for the first time. The Kurdistan Region of Iraq has also finalized drafting Social Security Law for Private Sector Worker, which is expected to pass soon.

The transformative social protection reforms in the country were realized under the Flagship Programme through 18 months of consultative meetings, over 50 roundtable discussions and technical support provided by the ILO that served as a platform for convening diverse perspectives and ensuring the active participation of relevant stakeholders. By engaging government officials, members of parliament, workers, employers, civil society, and the scientific and thought community in Iraq, the ILO fostered an inclusive, comprehensive and consultative approach. Through an ILO-IMF partnership, support was also provided on options for pension reform, with sustainability a key consideration. The team developed various pension reform scenarios on the basis of an actuarial analysis, which will inform future deliberations.

Financing support: European Union. Visit our [country page](#).

Jordan

During 2023, the ILO continued to support the initiative of the Jordanian Social Security Corporation (SSC) called Estidama++, which is a fund for the extension of social security coverage to vulnerable workers including refugees, many of whom are engaged in work in the informal economy. The fund, which aims to support the transition of some 13,000 workers of the informal economy into the formal economy, has developed and adapted outreach, registration, implementation and monitoring systems with ILO support to the specific needs of target workers. The fund also developed an e-services platform, a digital payment system, and an enhancement of the user experience, which continues to benefit from ILO support and assistance.

Financing support: European Union, Governments of the Netherlands, of Norway and of the United Kingdom. Visit our [country page](#).

Lebanon 1 2 3

In April 2023, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) in Lebanon launched a National Disability Allowance to provide direct income support to all persons with disabilities, beginning with youth aged 18-28. This program was designed as part of a larger vision to establish core lifecycle social grants as a foundation for a Social Protection Floor in the Country. The ILO, through the Flagship Programme, provided extensive technical support towards the design of the National Disability Allowance included development of minimum standards on disability inclusion.

In November 2023, the Council of Ministers adopted the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), which aims to establish components of a national social protection floor addressing a range of lifecycle risks. The ILO supported the government in the development and revision process of the NSPS coordinated by MOSA, and in collaboration with UNICEF, including providing technical support and input, drafting, coordination and facilitation of dialogue sessions and meetings. The NSPS proposes the introduction of a package of social grants, conversion of end-of-service indemnities to a mandatory pension system, expansion of social health protection, and diversification of financing source for social protection. Importantly, the strategy aims to move away from sectarian-based welfare systems to establish a more inclusive and equitable social protection system in Lebanon. In December 2023, Lebanon's parliament passed a law reforming the End-of-Service Indemnity (EOSI) scheme and establishing a pension scheme for private sector workers at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). The law also includes reforms to NSSF governance. The ILO, in collaboration with MOL, NSSF, employers, and workers organizations, provided extensive technical assistance to the sub-parliamentary and mixed committees in revising the draft law and on the identification of governance model of the NSSF.

Financing support: European Union. Visit our [country page](#).



Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Palestinian Authority has been in the process of revising the Social Security Law, which would gradually introduce long-term benefits for old-age, disability, death and work injury, as well as maternity cover and unemployment insurance (UI). A draft of the revised law incorporates governance and sustainability improvements over previous versions based on ILO advice and remains under review by tripartite partners. The ILO also continues to work expanding cooperation among international and national actors at the humanitarian-development nexus, having worked to form the Social Protection Cash and Voucher Assistance Sector Thematic Working

Group (SPCVA-TWG) in 2022 to initiate and strengthen coordination and dialogue between humanitarian and development actors. The group has created space to allow for improvements in more coordinated planning and implementation of cash-based and other social protection programming administered by various national and international actors throughout the territory.

Financing support: European Union, the State of Kuwait, and donors to the Joint SDG Fund and the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to the Occupied Palestinian Territory in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).



► Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia 1 2

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) promulgated a sub-decree to provide legal basis for the creation of a Voluntary Social Security Scheme on Healthcare to cover self-employed individuals and dependents of National Social Security Fund (NSSF) members in August 2023. The scheme became operational on 1 November 2023 and coverage extension is made possible for an estimated 2.9 million self-employed persons and 5.7 million children. Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO provided technical support to the RGC on the conceptualization, evidence gathering including costing of the scheme and the contribution rates, advocacy, and facilitation of social dialogue, design, and drafting of the policy.

On 20 September 2023, RGC, Council of Ministers approved the National Strategy on Informal Economic Development was launched on 10 October 2023. It aims to promote and strengthen formalization in Cambodia to ensure a free, fair, resilient and predictable environment for businesses, occupations and jobs with adequate support and protection. The strategic framework is expected to address informality of enterprises and jobs which is a barrier for approximately 5.3 million employed Cambodians in the informal economy to access social protection.

Under ILO's leadership and with support from UNDP, the ILO was instrumental in pushing the issue of the informal economy and the "missing middle" into the agenda and the priorities of the RGC. The ILO supported the background research and evidence generation to build the socio-economic case for the extension of social security through formalization of enterprises and jobs. Cambodia is also a pathfinder country under the Global Accelerator initiative.

Financing support: European Union and the Government of Germany. Visit our [country page](#).

India

In 2023, the ILO's efforts under the Flagship Programme in India have focused on enhancing social protection for gig and platform workers and extending social protection to informal workers, with a special focus on women. Technical support is being provided to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) to refine social protection statistical data in alignment with SDG 1.3 indicators and to support the digitalization of social protection in India, including an experience exchange with Brazil to share insights and best practices.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to India in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Indonesia 2 3

The Government of Indonesia adopted a financial sector reform in 2023 that stipulates policy orientations for the Government to regulate the reform of the old-age saving scheme (a defined-contribution scheme) and revising its parameters. The President of Indonesia on 6 October 2023 signed the Second Amendment to the Government Regulation concerning the implementation of the employment injury benefit and death benefit programs. The Regulation is intended to provide social security protection for participants suffering from the risk of employment injury. The Regulations also provide changes with respect to provision of benefits, reporting and preventive activities.

Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO provided a number of support including a feasibility study on administrations, operations and institutions, and provided recommendations. These analysis and recommendations were submitted and presented at a series of technical meetings with tripartite stakeholders. The ILO also conducted an actuarial study and provided recommendations. Indonesia is also a pathfinder country under the Global Accelerator initiative.

Financing support: GIZ and Government of Japan. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Indonesia in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Lao People's Democratic Republic 3

The Flagship Programme supported the Lao Social Security Organisation (LSSO) and the Ministry of Health to review the Social Security Law and Health Insurance Law against Convention No. 102 and a undertake a comprehensive actuarial valuation of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to develop the National Social Protection Strategy and new social transfer tax-funded programme to increase access for workers and families to social protection benefits. On 11 January 2023, the LSSO adopted the Instruction (Amended Version) on the Implementation of the Law on Social Security that elaborates social security provisions including benefits, eligibility criteria, as well as standardization procedure on implementation.

To move towards digitization, the Flagship Programme supported the LSSO in piloting a mobile registration and payment service in three villages of Vientiane Capital in May-July 2023 and compiled the successes and lessons for future expansion to three districts in the country in early 2024.

The ILO provided technical support on evidence generation on diagnostics of informality in Lao PDR. The findings and recommendations were validated by LSSO and national partners. All this work feeds into the ongoing discussions to amend the Social Security Law

in 2024. The Flagship Programme has also contributed to capacity building of government officials as part of strengthening the management and administration of the National Health Insurance.

Financial support: European Union, Governments of Belgium and of Luxembourg, as well as the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) funded by the Government of China. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to continue and strengthen its support to Lao People's Democratic Republic. Visit our [country page](#).

Nepal 3

Through the Flagship Programme, the ILO provided support to the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security (MoLESS) and the Social Security Fund (SSF) to extend social security schemes to self-employed workers and those working in the informal economy, including through the facilitation of tripartite consultations and provision of actuarial analysis. The contributory schemes for workers in the informal economy and self-employment were adopted in December 2022 and the roll-out of the schemes took place in August 2023.

The ILO supported SSF in conducting its first actuarial valuation and provided the necessary technical expertise. The ILO also conducted actuarial valuation training for the SSF team to build actuarial and statistical, as well as administrative and operational capacity for future actuarial valuations and social security reforms. The SSF completed its first actuarial valuation in May 2023 aiming at drawing evidence to ensure the Fund's sustainability. In an effort to support the Government in expanding coverage of the contribution-based social security schemes, the ILO also supported the SSF in communications and outreach including developing the communications and outreach products on contribution-based social security in 2023.

Financing support: European Union. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Nepal in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Pakistan 1 3

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO extended technical support in translating the provisions of ILS, including Convention No. 102 for social security and Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors for reflection in the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) policy. The ILO supported the Government to organize tripartite consultative workshops to draft and agree on the policy contours. The ILO had undertaken a social protection mapping to identify gaps and challenges that hamper a life cycle approach to social protection in KP. The findings from the assessment were used to inform the policy framework. The Government of KP adopted a Social Protection Policy on 5 December 2022 which it launched on 21 March 2023 following consultations with social partners. The ILO has also mobilized

partnership avenues with the United Kingdom and GIZ in KP to support the instrumentalization of the policy. Together the three partners are providing support to KP in developing the social protection strategy.

The policy is also used to inform the financial year budget for 2022-23. The Policy in KP features a life cycle approach and subscribes to the guiding principles of Recommendation No. 202. The policy foresees an increase in coverage and strengthening of coordinated social protection programs while also addressing concerns of adequacy. The policy has made use of the gaps identified by the ILO Social Protection Mapping Study 2019 to prioritize social insurance and contributory schemes to allow more excluded groups of population to access social protection benefits. Based on the recommendations of the mapping study, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) region social protection policy has emphasized the need for an unemployment benefit scheme; a gap that exists in the social protection landscape in Pakistan.

In AJK, the ILO is also providing technical support towards convening different stakeholders to promote tripartite dialogue, to ensure representation of workers and employers at the consultations and in the formulation of the social protection policy.

Financing support: Government of Italy. Visit our [country page](#).

Philippines 1

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-28 includes, as one of its key strategies, strengthening social protection and establishing a standard menu of rationalized programs for the social protection floor guarantees. To this end, the Flagship Programme has supported technical capacity building and tools development for formulating and implementing social protection policies and programmes in the Philippines.

The Social Protection Floor (SPF) for the Philippines was adopted on 20 April 2023 by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The SPF recommendations were drafted in consultation with the Tripartite Executive Committee (TEC) of the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC). The ILO provided technical advisory services in the updating of the Social Protection Floor assessment matrices as well as the conduct of sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultations from 2018 to 2022. Consultations included workers' and employers' organizations as well as six (6) Basic Sectoral Councils of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). The results of the Assessment Based National Dialogue exercise, facilitated by the ILO, from 2014 to 2016 also served as a major input in the updating exercise towards the finalization of the elements of the proposed social protection floor in the Philippines.

The Social Protection Plan 2023-28 for the Philippines was adopted on 27 July 2023 by the Social Development Committee at Cabinet level, which is chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The Plan includes as its first strategic focus "Implementing

the Social Protection Floor". This will include the implementation of strategic initiatives to ensure comprehensive income security and universal health care for all children, active age and elderly, providing everyone guaranteed access to a menu of social protection programs during various life-cycle shocks and risks.

Financing support: Donors to the Joint SDG Fund and the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to the Philippines in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Samoa

The Flagship Programme has been providing technical assistance and South-South Cooperation (SSC) learning opportunities to constituents in Samoa to discuss strategies for accelerating the ratification of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), and the implementation of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) together with other Pacific Island Countries such as Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Samoa in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Timor Leste 3

The Flagship Programme has been providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) in Timor-Leste to develop the first Implementation Plan 2022-2023 of the National Strategy for Social Protection (NSSP 2021-2030). The MSSI adopted the Plan in July 2022 and in August 2023, MSSI, through technical assistance from the ILO, updated the cost estimates and projections for the NSSP policy reforms, which have fed into the Implementation Plan. It will serve to prepare the 2024 State General Budget. A cost update was done for the Bolsa da Mae Jerasaun Foun, the conditional cash transfer Bolsa da Mae, social pension, school feeding programme, and maternal and child health care.

In August 2023, the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) with support from the ILO developed, tested, and deployed the first Social Security Portal, which serves as a gateway for social security, allowing all citizens/workers and employers to access to information about their rights and duties in a fast, secure, and simple way. This improvement in the administrative infrastructure will enable more efficient delivery for the social protection system. The ILO assisted the National Institute of Social Security to develop and deliver the national and community campaigns to promote the understanding of the social security system and strengthen capacities of local social security services and authorities.

Additionally, the ILO organized training for a tripartite group of 33 constituents in July 2023 on

"how to extend social security to groups of difficult coverage", which aimed to strengthen diagnostic and analytical capabilities as well as the definition and implementation of policies and programmes for the extension of social security to groups that are difficult to reach, with a focus on the informal economy. The participants formulated policy proposals which were discussed with decision makers from key government institutions, social partners and professional organizations.

Financing support: Government of Portugal and the GIZ. Visit our [country page](#).

Viet Nam 1

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO is providing technical support to the Government of Viet Nam on extension of social protection with a focus on informal economy workers, women, children, and other vulnerable groups. The ILO is supporting dialogue on implementation of an unemployment insurance system and, on a broader level, promoting a multi-tiered social protection system using a life-cycle approach and the establishment of social protection floors.

In February 2023, the Government completed the dossier to revise the Employment Law and submitted it to the National Assembly. The Law proposes policy options to strengthen the legal, institutional and financial sustainability dimensions of the unemployment insurance system, including extension of unemployment insurance coverage to workers with 1-month contracts and promotion and strengthening of the active component of the unemployment scheme. Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO developed evidence supporting the strengthening of the coverage and levels of support provided by employment protection and unemployment insurance programmes. The report was submitted to the Government and contributed to the revision of the Employment Law. Furthermore, ILO conducted the actuarial valuation of the Unemployment Insurance Fund in 2022. The Actuarial valuation results provided important insights for reforming the unemployment insurance fund. On 2 June 2023, the National Assembly in Viet Nam adopted a resolution that endorsed the policy orientation for revising the Employment Law.

On 24 November 2023 the Government adopted the Resolution for reforming social policies in Viet Nam for the next 10 years. The Resolution provides strategic direction for building a comprehensive social policy framework towards expanding the social protection coverage to ensure universal coverage which leaves on one behind. The Resolution also aims at increasing integration between social security branches, as well as between social protection and employment policies. Viet Nam is also a pathfinder country under the Global Accelerator initiative.

Financing support: European Union, the Governments Australia, Ireland and of Japan, donors to the Joint SDG Fund and the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account. Visit our [country page](#).



► Europa and Central Asia

Albania

Efforts under the Flagship Programme in Albania aim to enhance social protection through national dialogue on a social protection floors. The dialogue would be informed by, among other inputs, a feasibility study on long-term care benefits conducted on the basis of a completed needs assessment, as well as an analysis of the effectiveness and efficiency of the country's Social Cash Assistance Program. Albania is also a pathfinder country under the Global Accelerator initiative and in 2023 developed its implementation roadmap with support from ILO social protection and other experts.

Financing support: The ILO's Regular Budget. Visit our [country page](#).

Kyrgyzstan 2

The assessment of the national social protection system provided by the ILO under the Flagship Programme and in collaboration with the UNICEF, World Food Programme and the World Bank to the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration (MLSSM) in Kyrgyzstan contributed to improving the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the national social protection system and increasing the level of the disability benefits. It is also a starting point for design of a national social protection strategy. It has also led the government to develop new measures to reform the pension system, and the Ministry of Economy has initiated the process of drafting a national strategy supporting the transition from the informal to formal economy which will include measures for extension of social protection coverage. The ILO contributed by creating synergies between different policy design processes and co-facilitating them, providing background analysis and reform options aligned with international labour standards and capacity building of constituents.

The ILO also supported the Government to develop evidence through an informality diagnostic and provided options for social protection extension with a focus on maternity and employment benefits to informal workers that were validated in March 2023. On 22 March 2023, the Government adopted measures to increase maternity benefits starting from January 2024 which will impact approximately 10 per cent of women. This was based on results of the consultative design workshops, facilitated by the ILO, during which schemes for maternity benefits for informal workers of Kyrgyzstan were discussed.

Financing support: European Union and donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Kyrgyzstan in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Tajikistan 1

The ILO has engaged and coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment, Agency for Social Protection and Public Employment Services on social protection and employment related policies. The ILO provided technical support to the National Tripartite Committee on Decent Work (NTCDC) in the drafting of the National Strategy on Social Protection and the National Productive Employment Programme 2023-2027 which were approved in 2022 (previously unreported) which, among other key issues addresses the need to extend social insurance and measures supporting the transition from the informal to formal economy. The ILO provided technical support to the process of drafting of the NSSP through trainings on international labour standards, on integrated case management in the social and employment sphere, technical analysis and guidance. The findings of a study on the "Assessment of the composition and structure of the consumer basket and its compliance with the incomes of various social groups of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan" conducted with the support of the ILO will be used in developing of the Action Plan of the Strategy for Social Protection for the period up to 2040.

ILO also supported the Federation of Trade Unions during 5 sub-regional trainings for 100 members (October 2022 to March 2023) focusing on outreach to workers in the informal economy and extension of social protection.

Financing source: Donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account and the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) funded by the Government of China. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Tajikistan in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).

Ukraine

In 2021, the ILO assessed Ukraine's social security responses to COVID-19, analyzing the measures' effectiveness and future challenges. The 2022 Russian invasion severely disrupted Ukraine's economy, damaged infrastructure, and halted social security reforms. With social benefits being vital for many, especially pensioners and families with children, the government has committed to continue payments, including additional benefits for internally displaced persons (IDPs). International organizations are also providing emergency assistance. Despite the challenges, these interventions are crucial for meeting immediate needs, but a long-term strategy is necessary for rebuilding a resilient social protection system. In 2023, the ILO received a request to support Ukraine

in a reform of its pension system, for which the ILO developed a model using the ILO/PENSIONS actuarial tool.

Financing source: The ILO's Regular Budget, Regular Budget Supplementary Account and Regular Budget for Technical Cooperation (RBTC). Visit our [country page](#).

Uzbekistan 2 3

In June 2023, with technical assistance from the ILO, the Government of Uzbekistan set-up the Agency for Social Protection under the Office of the President. The institution is mandated to design, implement, coordinate and monitor the implementation of social protection programmes across various ministries and Government entities. This is a key milestone towards strengthening the institutional architecture of social protection. The Agency will, among other functions manage the National Social Protection Observatory (NSPO). The NSPO supports the M&E Framework of the National Social Protection Strategy.

In March 2022, the President of Uzbekistan launched the extension of maternity benefits to formally employed women in private sector at the level of Minimum Consumption Expenditure for 4 months. ILO has been providing support to constituents on the extension of maternity protection including the comparative review of national legislation compatibility with respect to the ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), which was validated by constituents in August 2022 supporting the Government's intention to ratify this Convention. This program started in September 2022 and currently covers more than 7,000 women working in the private sector. It is integrated with the sickness benefits program as the program is being implemented through a Single Registry (the database receives data on each pregnancy case for working women through the sick leave database of the Ministry of Healthcare). The Government is

also considering options for further extension of maternity benefits to all women, including in informal employment.

Based on results of ILO supported diagnostics of informal employment from gender perspective from October 2022 to June 2023, policy options for extension of coverage of maternity benefits to informally employed women and unemployment benefits were validated by constituents in May 2023.

Uzbekistan has been one of 4 countries globally where ILO-IMF collaboration was piloted in 2022-23 which resulted in social protection being discussed in IMF's Article IV report and a paper prepared and delivered in collaboration with the IMF on fiscal space for social protection. The joint collaboration also resulted in the inclusion of workers and employers' organisations by IMF in discussions on Article IV and fiscal space for social protection, as well as presentations by the IMF at ILO organised workshops for workers representatives from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

A joint scoping mission by the United Nations, international financial institutions and other development partners to Uzbekistan took place on 19-20 October 2023, to discuss the implementation of the [Global Accelerator](#). Following a series of high-level meetings between ten government ministries, social partners, civil society and key national stakeholders, the recognition of the key role of social protection and employment policies to accelerate Uzbekistan's strategy 2030 to create decent work for all mobilised the Government in 2023 to announce its intention to participate as a pathfinder country for the Global Accelerator. The preparation of the roadmap for its implementation is now underway.

Financing support: Donors to the MUL of the Flagship Programme and the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account. The ILO is currently mobilizing new partnerships to consolidate and extend its support to Uzbekistan in the years to come. Visit our [country page](#).



2.2 Summary of thematic results

The development of national social protection systems requires knowledge and expertise across several thematic areas. The Flagship Programme provides thematic support on 16 special thematic areas of work to strengthen national capacities on the development of universal, comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection systems. This thematic support is provided to the 50 priority countries mentioned in section 2.1 but can also be provided to other countries based on their demand for

specialized technical assistance. The following section reports on key achievements and results achieved on 4 focus areas: (i) extending social protection to workers in the informal economy; (ii) social health protection; (iii) social protection financing; and (iv) financial governance and sustainability of social protection programs through actuarial valuations. More information on each of the 16 special thematic areas is available on the [Social Protection Platform](#).



Extending social security to workers in the informal economy and protecting workers in all types of employment

The ILO, through its Flagship Programme has been able to continue providing technical support to countries, with the aim of extending access to social security for workers in the informal economy. In 2023, the ILO has supported countries in extending coverage of social security and health insurance to workers in the informal economy through facilitation of dialogue between stakeholders including employers, workers and organizations representing workers in the informal economy, by organizing national and tripartite consultations, key informant interviews, development of partnership agreements and round table discussions.

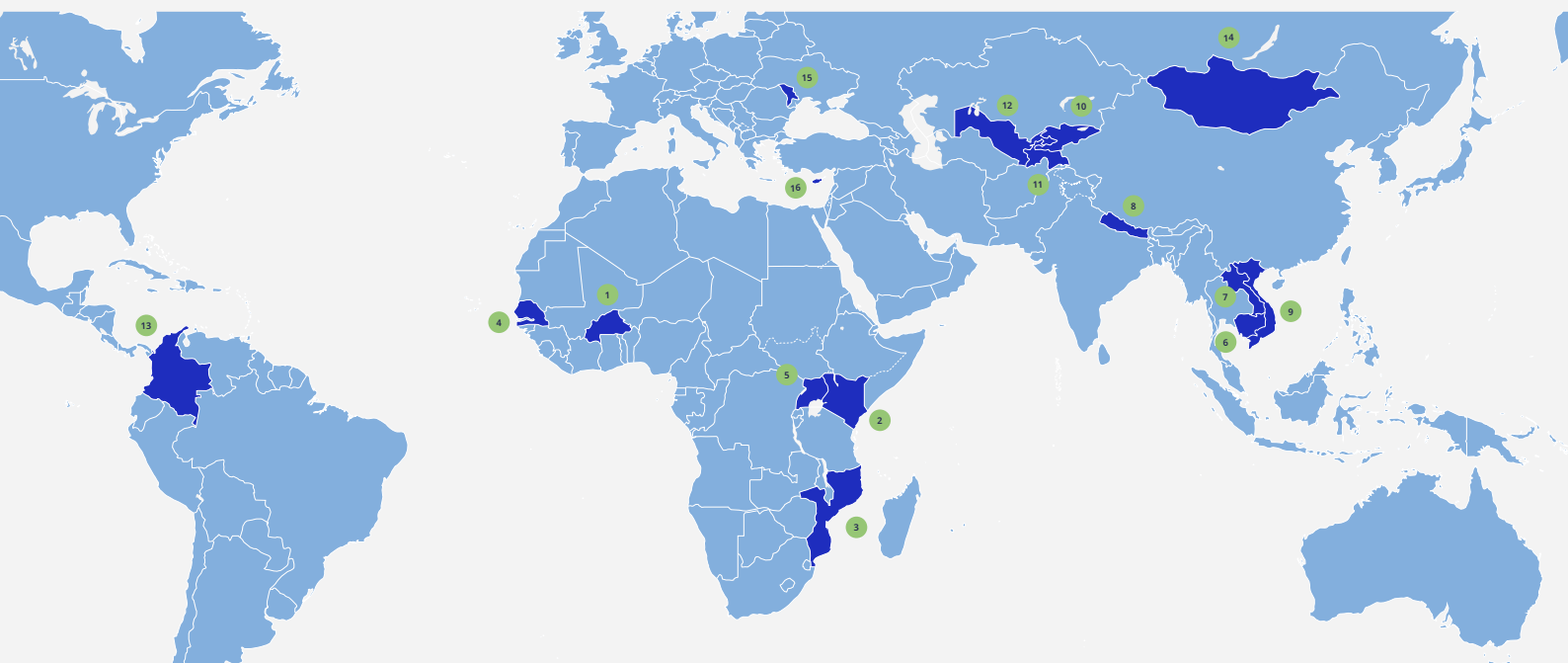
Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO has provided technical support to various government agencies in

drafting, developing and finalizing policies, strategies and programmes for the expansion of social security in the informal economy. To supplement the dialogues, the ILO has continuously supported in generating knowledge and evidence to build a case for extension of social security to workers in the informal economy.

Through the EU-funded project “Improving synergies between social protection and public financial management” (SP&PFM), the ILO, together with the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection by 2030 (USP2030), published a brief on extending social protection to workers in the informal economy, based on concrete country experiences.

Meanwhile, in Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda, the Flagship Programme worked closely with the Global Coalition on Social Protection Floors to engage trade unions and civil society organizations in advocating for extending social protection coverage to workers in the informal economy.

► **Most significant results achieved in expending social security to workers in the informal economy (2023)**



- **1. In Burkina Faso**, the ILO supported the Government in developing a new strategy for extending Universal Health Insurance Scheme (RAMU) to actors in the informal economy through national consultations with stakeholders (September 2023).
- **2. In Kenya**, under the Flagship Programme, the ILO supported the Government to conduct an assessment on social protection coverage to workers in the informal and rural economy to establish the magnitude of coverage and identify barriers to access and provide recommendations for possible actions for expansion.
- **3. In Mozambique**, the Government adopted a Strategic Plan for the National Social Security Institute (PEINSS), 2023-2027, which includes, provisions for expanding coverage of own-account workers in the informal economy to the country's contributory system (December 2023).
- **4. In Senegal**, as part of implementation of the Simplified Social Security Scheme (RSPC), the Council of Ministers adopted incentive measures to facilitate the affiliation of workers in the informal economy to the RSPC and facilitate their transition to the formal sector (March 2023).
- **5. In Uganda** the ILO provided technical and financial support to the Government for the drafting, development, and finalization of the National Strategy on Extension of Coverage to the Informal Economy (January 2023 to August 2023).
- **6. In Cambodia**, the Government approved the National Strategy on Informal Economic Development which aims to promote and strengthen formalization to ensure a free, fair, resilient and predictable environment for businesses, occupations and jobs with adequate support and protection. The ILO supported the background research and evidence generation to build the socio-economic case for the extension of social security (September 2023).
- **7. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic**, the Flagship Programme has supported the Lao Social Security Organisation (LSSO) to develop the National Social Protection Strategy and new social transfer tax-funded programme(s) to increase access for workers and families to social protection benefits.
- **8. In Nepal**, through the SP&PFM project, the ILO Flagship Programme provided support to the Government to extend social security schemes to self-employed workers and those working in the informal economy, including through the facilitation of tripartite consultations and provision of actuarial analysis. The Government implemented and rolled-out contribution-based social security for workers in the informal economy (August 2023).
- **9. In Viet Nam**, under the Flagship Programme, the ILO is providing technical support to the Government of Viet Nam on extension of social protection with a focus on informal economy workers, women, children, and other vulnerable groups.
- **10. In Kyrgyzstan**, the Flagship Programme supported the Government to develop evidence an informality diagnostic and provided options for social protection extension with a focus on maternity and employment benefits to informal workers that was validated (March 2023).
- **11. In Tajikistan**, the ILO provided technical support to the NTCDC in the drafting of the NSSP and the National Productive Employment Programme 2023-2027 was approved on 28 May 2022 which, among other key issues addresses the need to extend social insurance and measures supporting the transition from the informal to formal economy.
- **12. In Uzbekistan**, the constituents validated policy options for extension of coverage of maternity benefits to informally employed women and unemployment benefits, based on ILO supported diagnostics of informal employment from gender perspective (May 2023).
- **13. In Colombia**, the ILO, with support of the European Union (EU), prepared technical reports in which the barriers that limit the transition to labour formality and the analysis of active policies and their impact on career paths were highlighted (June 2022 to June 2023). These works have been inputs for the design of labour reforms and planning instruments such as the National Development Plan in the country.
- **14. In Mongolia**, the Government adopted the Social Insurance Package Law that includes subsidization of contributions for the herders from Government subsidies for animal originated raw materials.
- **15. In Moldova**, the Government adopted the law on the national social insurance system that includes mandatory coverage for persons working as daily labourers in agriculture. The Government has also completed the basic design of a voucher system to facilitate the formalization of daily labourers in agriculture that aims at aims at making the payment of social security contributions easier to boost the registration of daily workers (December 2022).
- **16. In Cyprus**, the Government adopted relevant amendments to the social insurance law, enabling an extension of benefit coverage to self-employed workers, including those in non-standard forms of employment thereby enhancing their access to social protection (2023).

Expanding social health protection towards universal coverage

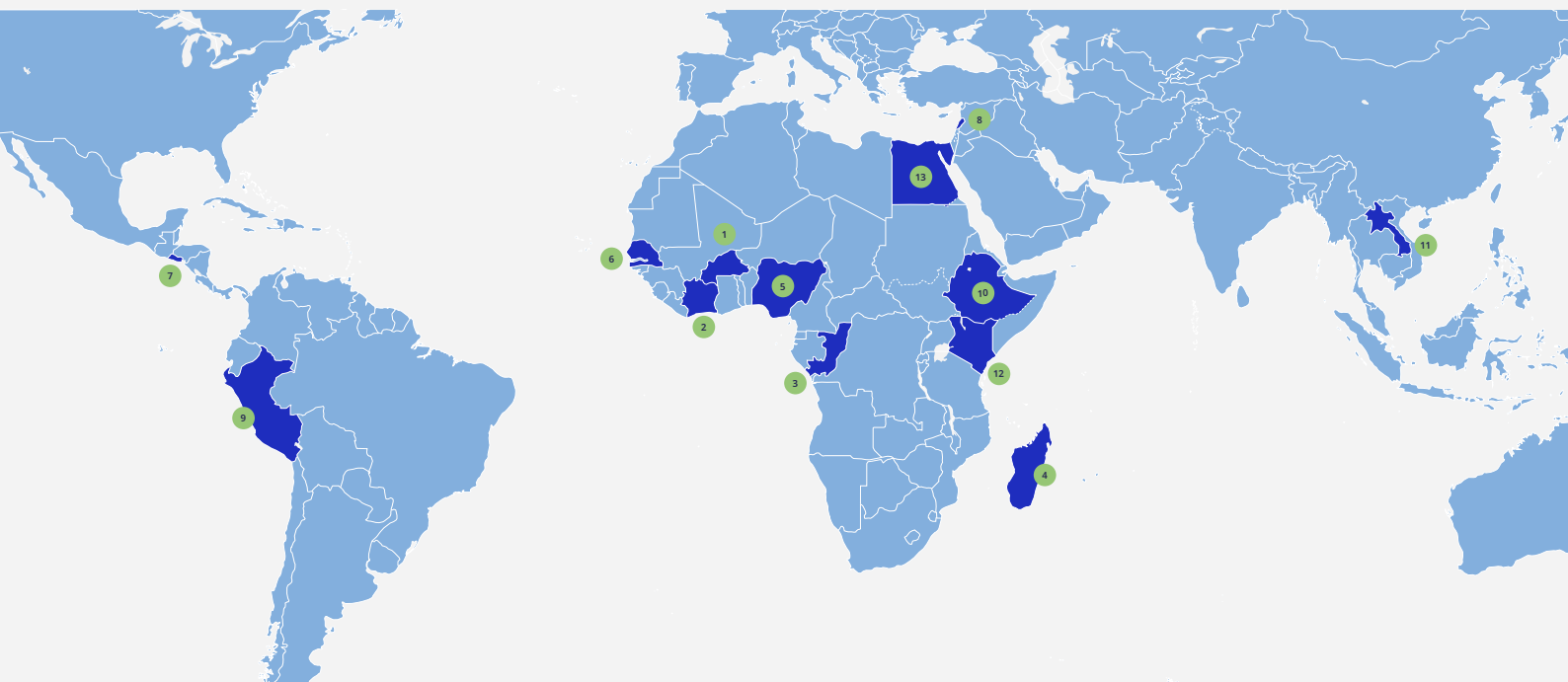
In 2023, the Flagship Programme supported the extension of social health protection through capacity building, advisory services on scheme design and financing and implementation support towards the extension of coverage. Key partnerships were mobilized for joint advocacy on the extension of social health protection coverage, including P4H (see dedicated section), UHC 2030, the Global Action Plan on SDG 3 and Connect Asia on Social Health Protection. At the global level, evidence was generated and shared on a range of strategic issues, including:

- [Global review](#) on the role of community-based health insurance and mutuals in social health protection systems

- [Position paper](#) and webinar series on long-term care as an integral part of universal social protection systems
- [Joint position](#) of USP2030 on *Maximizing the positive health impacts of social protection for epidemic and pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response*
- Global capacity [building course](#) of social health protection with ITC-ILO in English and French

A range of services were offered in support of national social health protection systems, including support to national dialogues on the introduction of social health protection systems, support to develop adequate legal frameworks thereof and appropriate policies, assessments of existing social health insurance schemes and managing institutions, capacity building on scheme monitoring and actuarial analysis in health, support to the identification of beneficiary perception and possibly adjustments to processes, feasibility of the extension to the informal economy. Some of the key achievements in 2023 are discussed below.

► Most significant results achieved in expending social health protection (2023)



- **1. In Burkina Faso**, the Government adopted five decrees on the Universal Health Insurance Scheme in Burkina Faso (RAMU/BF), with the ILO providing legal advisory services to develop the first three decrees (August 2023). The ILO also provided a capacity building program for the officials in the National Health Insurance Agency (NHIA) on the design and implementation of national social health protection systems that can extend coverage to

the entire population. Additionally, the ILO supported the planning for a pilot program aiming for extending effective coverage to the poor and the vulnerable.

- **2. In Cote d'Ivoire**, the ILO supported the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) in establishing partnerships with cooperatives and companies in the cocoa sector, that included facilitating dialogue between stakeholders, developing the draft of partnership

agreements and implementation support.

- **3. In the Democratic Republic of Congo**, the ILO in collaboration with ITC-ILO and the Health solidarity fund (FSS) organized a capacity strengthening activity for officials and directors of institutions responsible for the progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The training focused on enhancing the capacity in SHP governance and implementation. The

participants endorsed a roadmap outlining specific steps to facilitate the effective implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Universal Health Coverage. Additionally, the ILO provided technical support to the Ministry of Employment, Labor and Social Welfare and the Health Solidarity Fund (FSS) to examine the organization and technical management mechanisms of the health insurance system as well as to assess the financial feasibility of the national health insurance system envisaged coverage parameters.

- **4. In Madagascar**, the National Social Security Fund (CNaPS) has a new pilot project of health coverage for pensioners in partnership with mutual health insurance associations. In this context, the ILO facilitated knowledge sharing on possible institutional arrangements for extension, including sharing the results of a global review of the role of mutuals in social health protection systems, as well as a national diagnostic of mutuals in Madagascar.
- **5. In Nigeria**, the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund, that has succeeded in offering non-contributory social health protection to over 1,000,000 individuals, was operationalized as a result of the revised National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) (2021-25), which was drafted with technical support from the ILO under the Flagship Programme (June 2023).
- **6. In Senegal**, the Supervisory Board of the National Agency for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) – composed of representatives of Ministries, social partners and mutual social insurance companies, adopted the Strategic Development Plan for National Agency for UHC (2022-2026) in November 2022.
- **7. In El Salvador**, the ILO delivered the actuarial valuations to the Salvadoran

Social Security Institute (ISSS) for the Health and Professional Risk Regimes prepared through a technical cooperation project.

- **8. In Lebanon**, the Government adopted the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), which aims to establish components of a national social protection floor addressing a range of lifecycle risks including expansion of social health protection in the country (November 2023).
- **9. In Peru**, the ILO conducted an actuarial study of the Social Health Insurance and an analysis of the financial impact of the modifications introduced by the Law on health and economic benefits in the case of maternity, by eliminating the waiting period and making coverage effective from the moment of affiliation (October 2023).
- **10. In Ethiopia**, the ILO in collaboration with the UNHCR, has conducted a joint feasibility study to assess the feasibility of the enrollment of the urban refugees in the community health insurance (CBHI) scheme in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia introduced the CBHI in 2011, and by 2023 it has covered 23% of total population on Ethiopia. The study showed that the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in CBHI is feasible and presented positive advantages.
- **11. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic** in 2023, the Government initiated a process for the revision of the Law on Health insurance, with a particular focus on financing social health protection. The ILO provided technical support on the legal framework revision process, facilitated the consultative process among national stakeholders and produced a technical review on the legacy of the Community-based health insurance. This year also the Government of

Lao PDR prioritized strengthening the operational capacities for the administration of NHI scheme. The ILO provided support to the Ministry of Health in the development of management tools, such as the claim and verification guidelines that ensure payment and entitlements' compliance as well as strengthening the institutional capacities to apply these guidelines. Additionally, the ILO provided actuarial valuation of the NHI scheme, aiming to address the scheme budget deficits alongside analysis of financial impact of the government decisions on the sustainability of the scheme. This was followed by a capacity building activity on the actuarial work process were provided to the Lao Social Security office (LSSO) staff and the NHIF board.

- **12. In Kenya**, in line with the Government's efforts, the ILO provided a technical assessment for the management and function of the NHIF in Kenya, to facilitate the extension of social health protection to uncovered populations including workers in the informal economy. Technical support was provided to NHIF with a feasibility study and advocacy on the design and costing for the introduction of a maternity cash benefit offering policy options for extending maternity income protection to all women in Kenya.
- **13. In Egypt**, the Government of Egypt is taking action to extend SHP to the entire population in line with the Universal Health Insurance (UHI) Law of 2019. In line with the Government's efforts, the ILO jointly with the UNHCR assessed the feasibility of including refugees in the UHI scheme and advocacy for the financing of their inclusion. The ILO is also providing ongoing support to assess the attractiveness of the scheme to workers in the informal economy and their families.



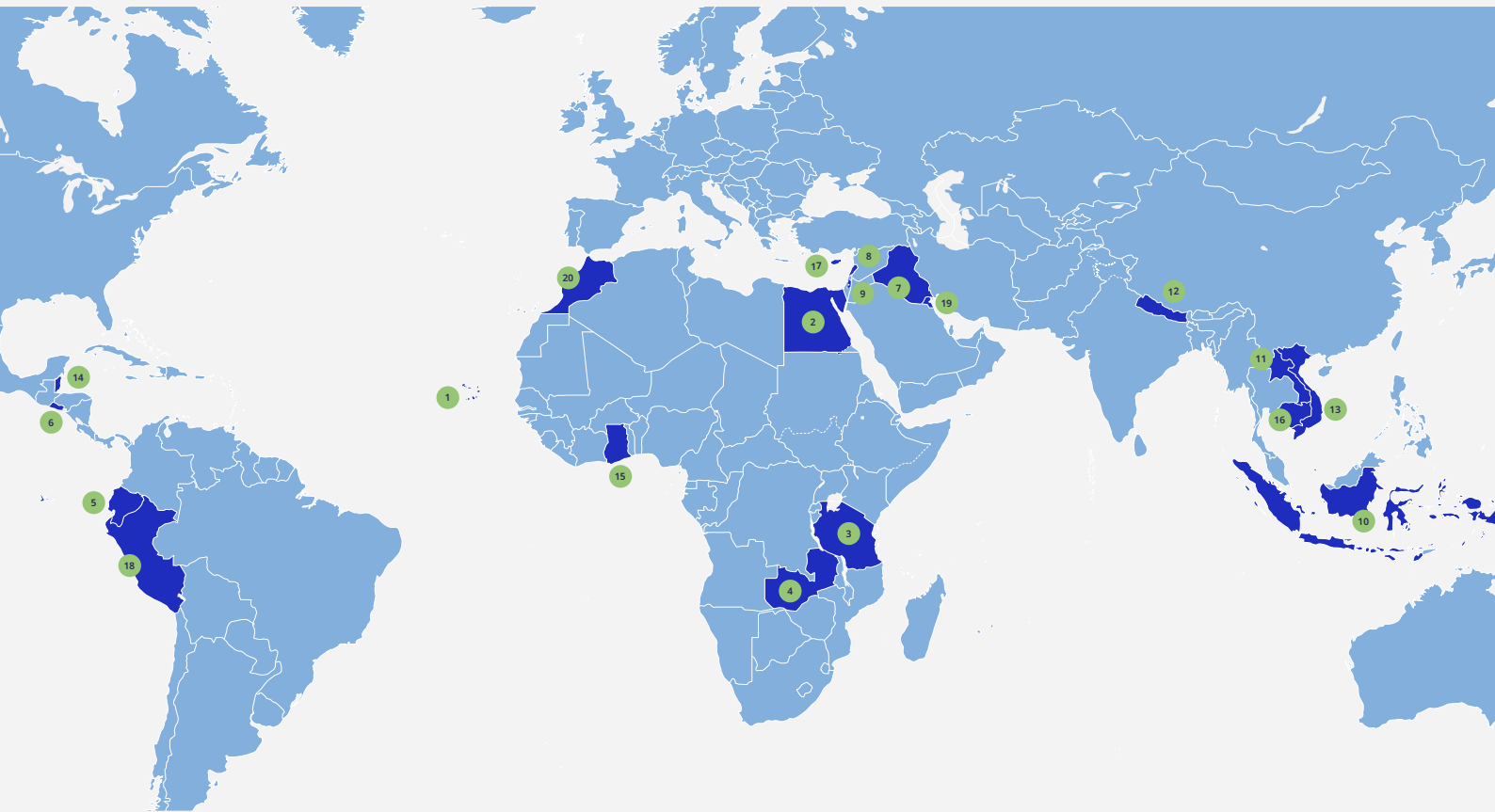
Financial governance and sustainability – actuarial valuations

In 2023, the ILO continued efforts to build capacities in the area of actuarial sciences among social security institutions around the world, contributing to improving the financial governance of social security. Through the ILO’s [Quantitative Platform on Social Security \(QPSS\)](#) and its cloud-based actuarial tools ILO/HEALTH and ILO/PENSIONS, social security

institutions and programmes have the opportunity to learn how to conduct valuations of their respective social security schemes with ILO accompaniment, with a view toward progressively performing their own actuarial evaluations internally and with the possibility of external peer reviews if needed.

The ILO provided legal and actuarial support in 20 countries via its Flagship Programme. The support included carrying out actuarial studies of the social health protection, health insurance, pension and unemployment insurance programmes among others.

► Most significant results achieved in promoting sound financial governance and sustainability (2023)



- **1. In Cabo Verde**, the Flagship Programme supported the Government in carrying out actuarial study of the social health protection branch of the National Center of Social Pensions (CNPS) from January to May 2023. Following the validation workshop, the Government, under the leadership of the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development (MFSID), adopted the actuarial study (25 June 2023).
- **2. In Egypt**, the ILO carried out an actuarial study, along with the Experts Committee of the Egyptian National Organization of Social Insurance (NOSI),

using the ILO/PENSIONS actuarial pension model, which is an online service developed by the International Labour Office (ILO) for the benefit of its constituents, including their social security institutions. The ILO also supported actuarial work related to the creation of an emergency fund for informal workers.

- **3. In Tanzania**, the ILO supported the Government and Tripartite partners to conduct actuarial studies of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), Community Health Fund (CHF) and Workers Compensation Fund (WCF)

as well as the feasibility studies with a focus on affordability, merging of the three institutions and administrative options for a consolidated NHIF.

- **4. In Zambia**, with the support of the EU, the ILO finalized an actuarial analysis of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) with recommendations regarding parametric changes needed to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the scheme (March 2023).
- **5. In Ecuador**, the ILO strengthened the capabilities of the staff of the

Directorate of Third-party Funds and Unemployment Insurance, as well as its Actuarial, Research and Statistics Directorate (DAIE) in the preparation of an actuarial model for the unemployment insurance.

- **6. In El Salvador**, Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTPS) have strengthened their institutional capacity for financial and actuarial governance through strategic inputs coming from the actuarial study conducted with technical support from the ILO. The Flagship Programme also contributed to the preparation of the actuarial study for the design of unemployment insurance in El Salvador.
- **7. In Iraq**, the transformative social protection reforms in the country were realized under the Flagship Programme through 18 months of consultative meetings, over 50 roundtable discussions and technical support provided by the ILO and guided by legal assessment and an actuarial valuation, which elevated the importance of social protection in the policy agenda, generated momentum for reform, and stimulated crucial discussions on the direction of such reforms.
- **8. In Lebanon**, the Parliament passed a law reforming the End-of-Service Indemnity (EOSI) scheme and establishing a pension scheme for private sector workers at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) (December 2023). The ILO conducted actuarial studies for the envisioned scheme, presenting findings to the parliamentary mixed committees.
- **9. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory**, the ILO provided its legal and actuarial support to inform the development of the Social Security Law, including from a perspective of enhancing the governance and improving

comprehensiveness and sustainability of the system.

- **10. In Indonesia**, through the Flagship Programme the ILO conducted an actuarial study and provided recommendations which were presented to the Government to formulate regulation to implement the employment injury benefit and survivor's benefit including as well as for development of a long-term national strategy for the schemes.
- **11. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic**, the Flagship Programme supported the Lao Social Security Organisation (LSSO) and the Ministry of Health conduct preliminary review of the Social Security Law and Health Insurance Law against Convention No. 102 and through a comprehensive actuarial valuation of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). The Actuarial Working Committee was established to review the actuarial valuation of the NSSF. The Actuarial Working Committee was established to review the actuarial valuation of the National Social Security Fund.
- **12. In Nepal**, through the EU-funded SP&PFM project, ILO Flagship Programme provided support to the Social Security Fund (SSF) in conducting its first actuarial valuation along with actuarial valuation training for the social security institution to enhance their capacity to conduct future valuations.
- **13. In Viet Nam**, the National Assembly in Viet Nam adopted Resolution that endorsed the Policy Orientation for revising the Employment Law (2 June 2023). Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO developed evidence supporting the strengthening of the coverage and levels of support provided by employment protection

and unemployment insurance programmes. Furthermore, ILO conducted the actuarial valuation of the Unemployment Insurance Fund in 2022. The Actuarial valuation results provided important insights for reforming the unemployment insurance fund.

- **14. In Belize**, the ILO carried out an actuarial study of the pension scheme, along with the staff of the Social Security Board, using the ILO/PENSIONS actuarial pension model, as well as the cost assessment for an unemployment insurance scheme.
- **15. In Ghana**, the ILO carried out the actuarial valuation of the pension scheme administered by the Social Security and National Insurance Trust.
- **16. In Cambodia**, the ILO carried out three actuarial valuations that are of the pension, employment injury and health schemes, administered by the National Social Security Fund.
- **17. In Cyprus**, the ILO carried out an actuarial valuation, along with the staff of the Health Insurance Organization, using the ILO/HEALTH actuarial health model, as well as an actuarial valuation of the General Social Insurance Scheme.
- **18. In Peru**, the ILO carried out an actuarial valuation of the health insurance scheme, using the ILO/HEALTH actuarial health model.
- **19. In Kuwait**, the ILO carried out an actuarial valuation of the pension schemes as well as the unemployment scheme administered by the Public Institution for Social Security.
- **20. In Morocco**, the ILO carried out an actuarial valuation of the unemployment insurance scheme, including options for reform and extension to the self-employed.





Financing social protection

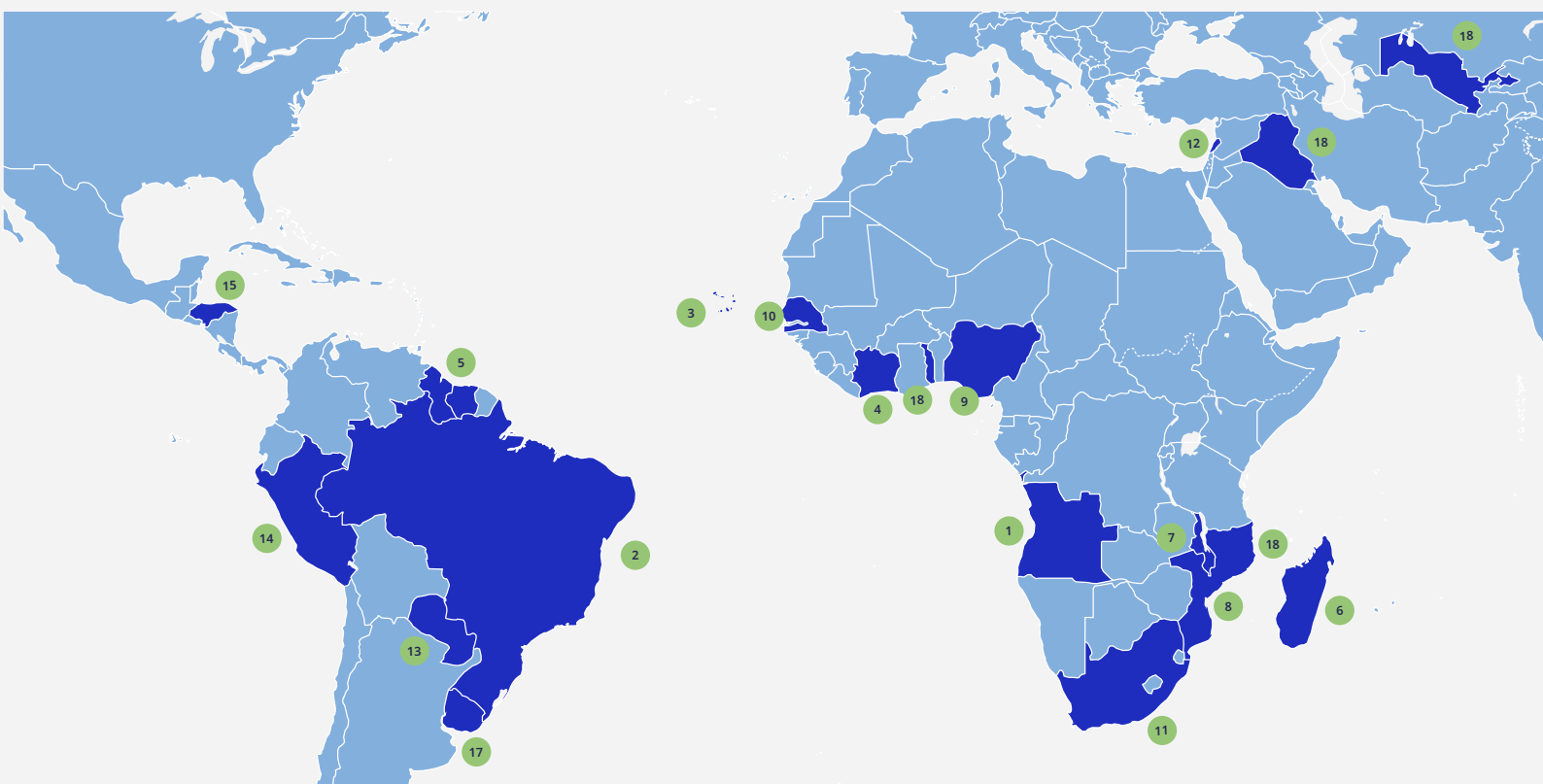
The work on social protection financing under the Flagship Programme has combined global research and the production of tools, while strengthening country support and advisory services. Part of this work was developed thanks to the support of the EU-funded SP&PFM project. In 2023, the ILO continued to provide technical support to government bodies on extending social protection floors, which include assessing coverage and financing gaps and fiscal space analysis to provide guidance to them. The support also included carrying out costing analysis, fiscal space analysis, social protection floor costing assessment and feasibility studies. Additionally, the ILO has also supported government agencies in utilizing the ILO Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP).

Specifically at the global level:

- 1. The ILO has developed the **ISPA tool on social protection financing**. The aim of the tool is to provide a costing methodology for social protection floors and to present a feasibility analysis in five core dimensions (legal; political; institutional or administrative; social; and economic or technical). The tool is complementary with the financing gaps estimates, which are considered the first step to prompt national dialogues regarding how to find the required fiscal space for social protection. The tool will be piloted in Mozambique and in Moldova jointly with UNICEF.
- 2. The ILO has devised a **methodology to gauge the decline in inequality stemming from social protection expenditure and its financing**. An initial application of this method in more than 30 countries reveals that higher social protection spending diminishes income inequality. These findings will be detailed in the upcoming paper, “Combatting Inequalities: What Role for Universal Social Protection?”⁴
- 3. The ILO has **advised the G20 on strategies to sustainably financing social protection**. Results were presented in a [joint ILO, ISSA and OECD paper](#) that described the current reach of social protection systems across G20 countries and associated financing gaps, concluding with approaches that various G20 countries adopted for expanding fiscal space for social protection.
- 4. The ILO jointly with WIEGO has developed a [paper showing that social security contributions are one of the main sources of finance of social protection](#) and that reducing social security contribution rates does not lead to job formalization gains. At the same time, any reduction in social security contributions creates an effective loss in government revenue in the short term, limiting the fiscal space for implementing public policies that aim to reduce poverty and inequality.
- 5. The ILO Flagship Programme implemented **training courses for ILO constituents jointly with the ILO-ITC Turin centre** on financing social protection and on building effective and integrated pension systems. The courses were taught both in person for the Social Security Academy, and online for the Social Protection Analyst Diploma program. With support of the EU-funded SP&PFM project, three tripartite regional courses on social protection and public finance management were implemented in South America, South and South-East Asia and West Africa.
- 6. The ILO has offered inputs to UNDESA, establishing a strong rapport with colleagues preparing the **UN Secretary General’s yearly flagship report on financing social protection**. In 2023, UNDESA prominently featured ILO work for the first time, including data on legal and effective coverage, the ILO-WIEGO paper on the relevance of social security contributions, and the forthcoming paper on social protection and inequality.

4 Razavi Shahra, Cattaneo Umberto, and Schwarzer Helmut, “Combatting Inequalities: What Role for Universal Social Protection?” (ILO, forthcoming).

► **Most significant results achieved in strengthening financing for social protection (2023)**



- **1. In Angola**, the Government, under the leadership of Ministry of Social Action, Family and Promotion of Women (MASFAMU), adopted the National Social Action Policy to ultimately accelerate the establishment of a National Social Protection Base. The development of the Policy followed the Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) process which resulted in a comprehensive analysis of the adequacy, coverage and financing gaps of the social protection system in Angola that was supported under the Flagship Programme and in particular the EU-funded SP&PFM project (November 2023).
- **2. In Brazil**, the ILO has developed two studies on Brazil and India, which undertake a review of the social protection financing system in Brazil and India under the Inter-Regional South-South (SSC) framework on social protection. The results of the two studies were presented in Delhi in December 2023 bringing together stakeholders from the respective Indian and Brazilian Governments, academics engaged in social protection financing and representatives of think-tanks and civil society, relevant employers' and workers' organizations.
- **3. In Cabo Verde**, the ILO, through the Flagship Programme, supported the Government in the development of social security accounting plan that allows the improvement of the financial governance of social protection schemes.
- **4. In Côte d'Ivoire**, the ILO supported the Government in carrying out a costing analysis on contribution amount required under the Universal Health Coverage (CMU) that was validated on November 23, 2022. The ILO also supported to conduct a study analyzing options for increasing the financing of social protection in Côte d'Ivoire under the new National Strategy for Social Protection (SNSP), 2024-2028 (October 2022 to August 2023).
- **5. In Guyana and Suriname**, the governments received technical assistance on financing social protection through ad-hoc training that was organized jointly with the ILO-ITC Turin.
- **6. In Madagascar**, the Government in consultation with social partners, adopted the Action Plan for health financing in line with international labour standards (September 2022).
- **7. In Malawi**, the Government adopted the findings of a fiscal space analysis and social protection floor costing assessment carried out between October 2022 to March 2023 with technical support on data collection and analysis from the EU-funded SP&PFM project (December 2023).
- **8. In Mozambique**, the Government increased fiscal space (budgetary allocation) dedicated to non-contributory social protection programmes by 44 per cent (2023). Meanwhile, total allocation including external support also increased by 80 per cent.
- **9. In Nigeria**, the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) Fund was operationalized as a result of the revised National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) (2021-25) (June 2023). To help determine the policy's cost, the ILO supported the Government in the exercise by utilizing the ILO Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP).
- **10. In Senegal**, the EU-funded SP&PFM project of the Flagship Programme supported an analysis of the financing options for social protection that resulted in a reallocation of the fuel subsidies to the National Programme of Family Allowances (PNBSF). It also supported the completion and validation of a study on determining the contributory capacities of workers in the informal economy for social protection during a tripartite workshop (February 2023).
- **11. In South Africa**, the Government presented the 2023 National Budget with significant increases to fiscal allocations for investments in social protection including an additional ZAR 36 billion (USD 1.9 billion) for the extension of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD Grant). The increase in allocations for the SRD Grant followed evidence-based advocacy in the form of various modeling exercises supported by the ILO (February 2023).
- **12. In Lebanon**, the ILO under the Flagship Programme supported the development of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) that was adopted by the Council of Ministers in November 2023. The NSPS proposes the introduction of a package of social

grants, conversion of end-of-service indemnities to a mandatory pension system, expansion of social health protection, and diversification of financing source for social protection.

- **13.** As part of the EU-funded SP&PFM project), the ILO has piloted the Transparency and accountability of social protection resources (TASPR) tool in **Paraguay**. The application of the tool provided a framework to improve public finance management practices in Paraguay.
- **14.** In **Peru**, the Government, through the support of the ILO, adopted an actuarial financial study that includes an analysis of the financial impact of the new legislation in relation to health and economic benefits in the event of maternity. In this way, the Government implemented the legal requirement to monitor the financial sustainability of the social security scheme system and the policy measures that must be taken to ensure its long-term financial sustainability.
- **15.** In **Honduras**, the Board of Directors of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) provided strategic

inputs for policy formulation, including improvements in administrative and financial management and governance, as a result of an institutional diagnosis and three actuarial studies prepared by the ILO between 2021 and 2023.

- **16.** In **Uruguay**, the Government promulgated the Common Pension System law, which reforms the retirement and pension system of the country (May 2023). The reform also establishes parametric changes to promote the sustainability of the retirement and pension system and extend the coverage of benefits through a solidarity supplement that would cover 3 of every 4 people over the age of 70.
- **17.** In **Oman**, the Government promulgated the Social Protection Law, which includes key reforms related to the integration of contributory and non-contributory instruments to address lifecycle risks and vulnerabilities, and provides a sustainable model for social protection financing that integrates resources from social contributions and general revenue (July 2023). The newly approved legislation was developed with the support of the ILO.

- **18.** The ILO has partnered with the IMF Strategy, Policy and Review Department to respond to a specific demand from the International Labour Conference's recurrent discussion on social protection (June 2021), when constituents asked the Office to engage with the IFIs on social protection, mentioning specifically the IMF. As a result, in 2023, the ILO and the IMF continued their partnership on financing social protection, which led joint ILO-IMF activities including:

Iraq: joint working paper to be published on pension reform scenarios.

Mozambique: a joint costing exercise to support the Extended Credit Facility, which established a 150% increase of fiscal space for social assistance and a text box on social protection in the Article IV report.

Togo: actuarial valuation of a Universal Health Coverage scheme.

Uzbekistan: joint fiscal space analysis and an ILO text box on social protection for the IMF Article IV Report.



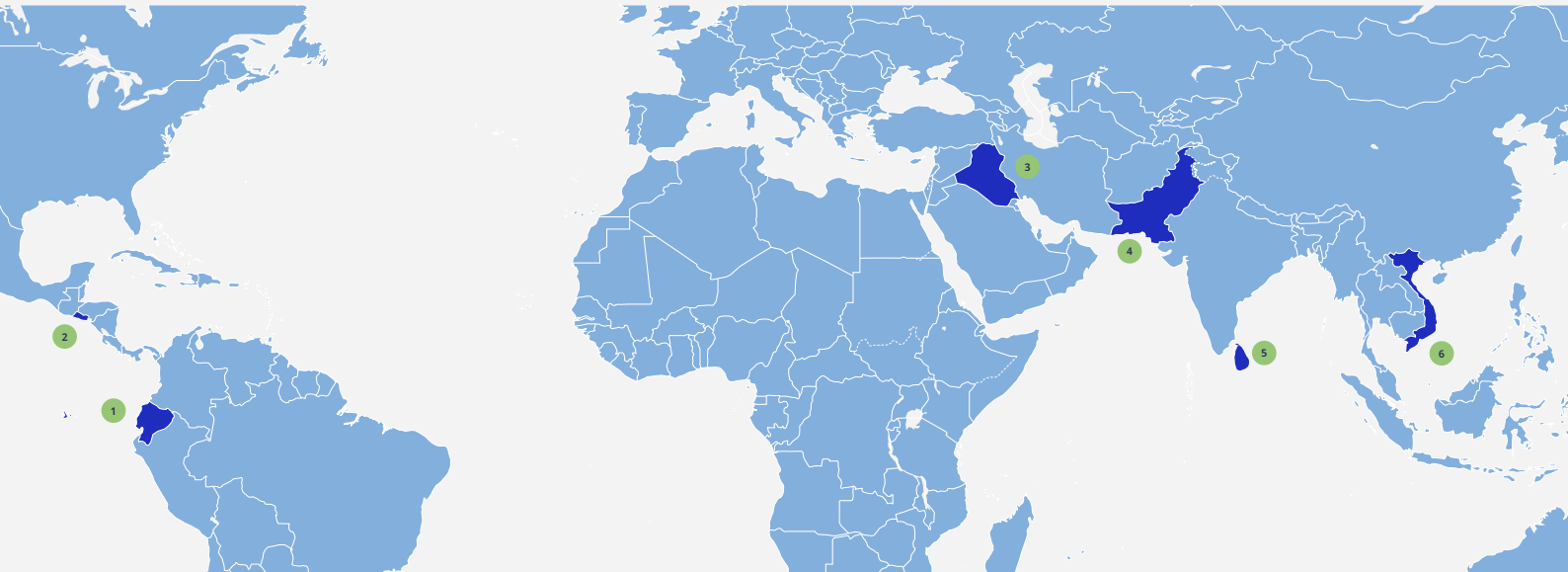
Extending unemployment protection

In 2023, the work on unemployment protection under the Flagship Programme has carried on in multiple countries, with actuarial valuations and models for unemployment insurance being prepared in at least six countries. The ILO has continued to support active dialogue on implementation of unemployment insurance system this year and has also continued to provide technical support to governments in the development of unemployment protection related programme.

Furthermore, the ILO has put in significant effort into creating evidence supporting the strengthening of the coverage and levels of support provided by employment protection and unemployment insurance programmes. It has produced many

knowledge products including a mapping study of social protection policy with an emphasis on the need for an unemployment benefit scheme in Pakistan. Additionally, the ILO with support of the EU-funded SP&PFM project has published 'Beyond Cash Transfers Strengthening Unemployment Protection as a Response to Crises' as part of the EU Guidance Package on Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (SPaN). This brief provides a closer look at the importance of unemployment protection in crisis contexts and how crisis can be leveraged to expand unemployment benefits for the formal and informal sectors. In addition, the EU-funded SP&PFM project of the Flagship Programme completed an innovative research on the potential of nowcasting models to improve the response of social protection systems during crisis, including through unemployment protection measures.

► Most significant results achieved in extending unemployment protection (2023)



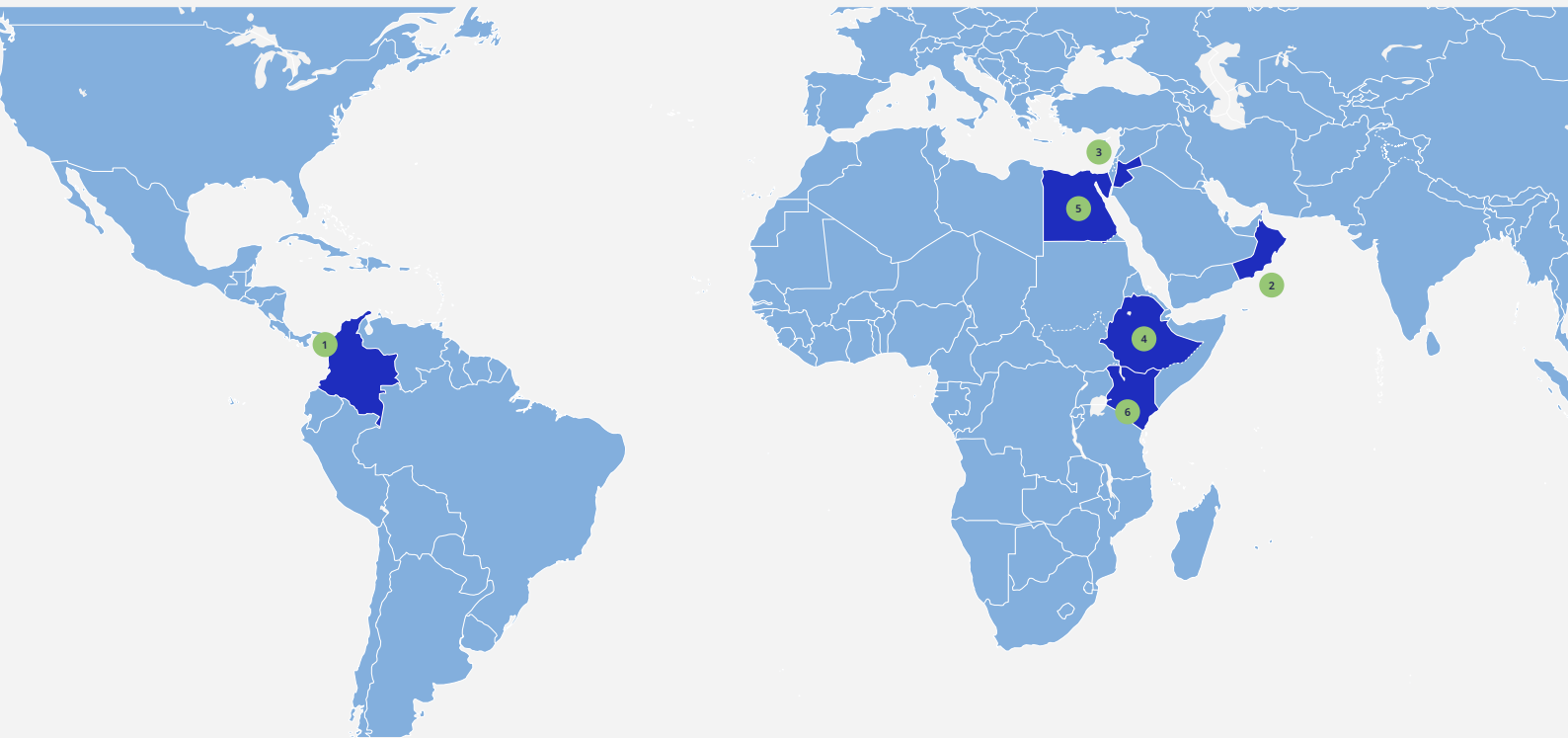
- **1. In Ecuador**, the Government, with the support from the EU-funded SP&PFM project, prepared and adopted the actuarial valuation of unemployment insurance in Ecuador. The assessment includes three insurance reform scenarios that aim to improve the conditions of access to the benefit to promote greater coverage of unemployment insurance affiliates, while taking care of its sustainability. The valuation gave rise to an action plan to reform unemployment insurance.
- **2. In El Salvador**, the Flagship Programme contributed to the preparation of the actuarial study for the design of unemployment insurance in El Salvador.
- **3. In Iraq**, with technical support from the Flagship Programme, the Parliament successfully passed the new Social Security Law for Private Sector Workers (May 2023). This significant achievement ushers in broad improvements to the social security system for workers in the private sector, including introducing unemployment and maternity benefits for the first time.
- **4. In Pakistan**, the Government adopted and launched a Social Protection Policy, which has made use of the gaps identified by the ILO Social Protection Mapping Study 2019 (December 2022). Based on the recommendations of the mapping study, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) region social protection policy has emphasized the need for an unemployment benefit scheme, a gap that exists in the social protection landscape in Pakistan.
- **5. In Sri Lanka**, following the COVID-19 response to support workers in the tourism industry guided by the EU funded SP&PFM project, in 2023, the ILO provided technical assistance and facilitated the social dialogue for the design of an unemployment insurance scheme, including through an actuarial assessment.
- **6. In Viet Nam**, in February 2023, the Government completed the dossier to revise the Employment Law and submitted it to the National Assembly. The Law proposes policy options to strengthen the legal, institutional and financial sustainability dimensions of the unemployment insurance system, including extension of unemployment insurance coverage to workers with 1-month contracts and promotion and strengthening of the active component of unemployment scheme.

Social protection for migrants, refugees and host communities

The work to extend social protection continued during 2023 under the Flagship Programme including to migrants, refugees and host communities who face a number of additional legal and practical

obstacles to obtaining effective access to social protection benefits, including health care. These obstacles are rooted in the principles of nationality and territoriality and their acuteness and prevalence depend largely on the availability of social protection schemes at national level, migration patterns, gender, employment status, and other forms of discrimination.

► Most significant results achieved in extending social protection for migrants, refugees and host communities (2023)



- **1. In Colombia**, the ILO Flagship Programme through the EU-funded SP&PFM project supported the Government in the design and implementation of a communications campaign called “rights also migrate” with the aim of strengthening a culture and generating pedagogy to encourage migrant workers’ access to the system of social protection (December 2022 to June 2023).
- **2. In Oman**, the Government adopted regulations for the establishment of a new national provident fund responsible for administering end-of-service benefits to migrant workers payable upon retirement, disability, death, or returning to their home countries (2023). The ILO has worked in close partnership with its constituents in Oman to support the development of the design of the fund and rules governing its operations.
- **3. In Jordan**, the ILO supported Jordan’s Estidama++ fund to enhance its outreach and accessibility features while aiming to support over 13,000 vulnerable and informal workers, including refugees, to transition to formal employment
- **4. In Ethiopia**, the ILO and UNHCR conducted a study to assess the feasibility of enrolling urban refugees in the community health insurance (CBHI) scheme inside the capital region. The study showed that the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in CBHI is feasible and presented positive advantages.
- **5. In Egypt**, the ILO and UNHCR have conducted a feasibility study to include refugees into the newly designed and continuously rolled out Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS). The study including a detailed costing is used as the basis for Government engagement to pilot the inclusion of refugees into the new UHIS.
- **6. In Kenya**, the ILO designed and costed a new maternity cash benefit for women in the informal economy. This benefit would also be available for pregnant refugees and migrants if enrolled in the national health insurance scheme. Also in Kenya, the ILO has conducted a study to determine how to best include refugees into the national saving scheme under the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) called Haba Haba. The study led to a development of a roadmap with partners trying to overcome barriers for refugees in access social protection schemes.

Box 1: ILO C102 Ratification campaign

In the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the ILO Minimum Standards (Social Security) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), the international landmark Convention establishing the minimum standard of social security, Governments, employers and workers represented at the International Labour Conference (ILC) reaffirmed its full relevance to achieve universal, comprehensive, sustainable and adequate social protection systems. As such, in 2021, the ILC called on the ILO to support constituents to achieve the effective realization of the right to social security through a campaign to systematically promote the ratification of Convention No. 102.

Accordingly, the Director-General of the ILO launched a Global Campaign that has two main objectives:

- Promote the ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 102 and other up-to-date ILO social security standards; and
- Raise awareness and build capacities of national stakeholders to design and implement sound national social protection policies and rights-based social protection systems that are sustainable, comprehensive and adequate for all, based on ILO social security standards.



Convention No. 102 is the ILO's flagship social security Convention providing the internationally agreed minimum definition of what social security systems should encompass, what type and level of benefits they need to provide and according to which principles they should be organized, financed and implemented. To date, 65 countries have ratified it; however, its influence and impact stretch much further than the number of current ratifications, as it has been the blueprint behind the development of national social protection systems and the yardstick for the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments.

The Campaign ambitions to bring the number of ratifications to 70 by 2026 by partnering with interested ILO constituents to:

- organize communication, awareness raising and capacity building activities at the national level on the merits of international social security standards to build solid and rights-based social protection systems;
- carry out comparative assessments between the national social protection legal framework and the minimum requirements and key good governance and financing principles established by Convention No.102;
- discuss and validate the results of such comparative assessments with Governments, employers', and workers' representatives to chart the way towards the ratification and effective implementation.

Since the Campaign's launch in 2021, the States of Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, El Salvador, Iraq and Sierra Leone have ratified the Convention while many others have formally inquired about the Campaign, including Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam. The ILO is supporting a number of other countries in assessing how their social security systems align with the Convention: China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mali, Mongolia, Saint Lucia, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Sao Tome and Principe and South Africa.

For more information about the [Campaign](#), please get in touch with socpro@ilo.org.



2.3 Update on building strategic partnerships

Leveraging and implementing strategic partnerships is essential for the realization of the right to social protection and supporting countries in building national social protection systems that are sustainable and adapted to new and emerging challenges, are universal and leave no one behind, are comprehensive across the lifecycle and are coherent with other policies. Partnerships are also crucial as they increase political support for social protection, ownership for universal social protection and create a better understanding of the ILO's vision that is reflected in inter-agency tools and joint country support. Through various initiatives, the ILO has been able to work towards providing harmonized and joint messaging on social protection and coordinated support to countries. The section looks at how partnerships were further strengthened in 2023 to achieve concrete impact in the countries.

► **UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (Global Accelerator)**

Approach

The [Global Accelerator](#) on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA) is an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, launched in September 2021, to help countries respond to multiple crises, promote inclusive and sustainable recovery, overcome the challenges of poverty, and persistent informal economy, and ensure that ongoing transitions (demographic, ecological and economic) are just for the people. It has gained momentum and is one of the six UN key “transitions” to expedite progress towards achieving the SDGs by putting decent jobs and universal social protection at the heart of economic and sustainable development. In 2023 eight countries have joined the Global Accelerator as pathfinder countries: Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Senegal, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, of which seven are part of the Flagship Programme. More recently (in Q1 2024) seven other countries have joined (Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda) of which six are part of the Flagship Programme.

This initiative **accelerates the outcomes** of the Flagship Programme through three axes:

- the Global Accelerator supports countries in implementing **integrated policies**, in support of poor and vulnerable households, to facilitate the formalization of the economy, and to facilitate just transitions in the context of structural transformations of the economy, demographic

transition and climate change. These approaches not only facilitate the extension of social protection coverage, but contribute also to increasing the tax and contribution base of national systems;

- the Global Accelerator supports countries in **increasing the fiscal space for social policies** through domestic public resources (budgetary reallocations, creation of new taxes, improved collection of social contributions) and complementary international financing (official development assistance). Furthermore, it promotes the idea of social protection not as a cost but as an investment with economic returns and multipliers, which is key in a context of fiscal constraint;
- the Global Accelerator promotes **multilateral cooperation**, by systematically engaging with Ministries of Economy and Finance in addition to other line ministries, social partners, civil society, UN agencies, IFIs and Public Development Banks, as well as the donor community and the private sector. This is key for securing funds to support the initiative, as well as increasing domestic and international financing for social development.

The formalisation of the economy and the increase of fiscal space for financing social protection are **two key factors for achieving universal social protection**. This is why the Global Accelerator nicely complements and reinforces the Flagship Programme which is needed for its continuous support to the design and implementation of national social protection policies, legal frameworks and institutions. The support proposed by the Global Accelerator remains predicated on strong national social protection institutions and cannot substitute for or pre-empt support toward that end as provided by the Flagship Programme's core activities. Therefore, the Flagship Programme remains an essential investment to strengthen rights-based national social protection systems and extend legal and effective coverage (SDG 1.3 and 3.8), while the Global Accelerator is a powerful but complementary initiative to help overcome some of the bottlenecks faced by the Flagship Programme in terms of persistence of the informal economy, insufficient financing for social protection, and lack of inter-ministerial and multilateral cooperation.

In addition, through its multilateral cooperation pillar, **the Global Accelerator complements the ILO's Flagship Programme** by encouraging the ILO and other UN agencies, as well as development banks and other partners, to “Deliver as One”, improving aid effectiveness. It contributes not only to the UN reform but also to strengthening the collaboration between the UN and the IFIs around a common agenda. For instance, we are currently working with development banks (World Bank, European Investment Bank, African Development Bank, Agency

Française de Développement (AFD)) on ways for them to engage in the Global Accelerator. Through their “social investments” they will contribute to achieving universal social protection (among others), and therefore **leverage the impact of the ILO Flagship Programme**.

Results

The Flagship Programme has created the foundation for the Global Accelerator initiative in several countries. Eight countries by the end of 2023 and 15 countries by the first quarter of 2024 have officially confirmed the high-level commitment to join the Global Accelerator and become pathfinder countries of the initiative.

The countries of Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia and Uzbekistan have well advanced roadmaps, while over countries are now starting the roadmap development process. In most countries, the process is co-led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and other ministries such as Labour, Planning, Social Affairs, among others. This process demonstrates the commitment to inter-ministerial coordination in support of integrated programmes, financing and delivery. The Technical Support Facility Coordination Team, together with UNRCs and UNCTs, has been supporting countries in the preparation of their national roadmaps, which has facilitated and accelerated the countries’ interest to join the initiative. At international and national levels, the GTT of the Flagship Programme works in close coordination with the Technical Support Facility of the Global Accelerator to ensure coherence and complementarity.

More information on the [Global Accelerator](#).

► Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030)

Approach

In 2016, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank jointly initiated the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030) to transform the SDG Agenda’s vision of universal social protection into reality. USP2030 has grown into a worldwide alliance which brings together governments, international and regional organisations, social partners and civil society organisations, in a shared commitment towards ensuring social protection for all. Currently the USP2030 has a network of 53 members and partners.

The USP2030 provides a global forum for knowledge development and sharing, bringing together all relevant stakeholders including by establishing working or technical groups to carry out activities contributing to the mission of USP2030; an example is the global

webinar on extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy organized jointly by the USP2030 and the EU-funded SP&PFM project, in April 2023. Thematic groups include: digital transformation, social protection and climate change, financing social protection, and food systems transformation and its relevance to social protection.

Results

In March 2023, the fourth Membership Assembly of the USP2030 partnership was held, bringing together more than 80 representatives of international and bilateral development agencies, labour and social ministries and other social protection practitioners. During the meeting, participants discussed new initiatives and approaches to reach the social protection related targets of the SDGs by 2030, including the Global Accelerator, extension of coverage to workers in the informal economy, as well as opportunities to strengthen the USP2030 partnership’s governance and engagement with developing countries. The meeting reconfirmed the consensus and commitment among members regarding the goal of achieving universal social protection in line with the partnership’s principles as articulated in the [USP2030 Call to Action](#).

The meeting also brought together members of various working groups operating under USP2030 on key topics related to social protection, which had notable developments during 2030.

► USP2030 Working Group on the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI)

Robust digital systems are instrumental for all aspects of the delivery of social protection benefits. Moreover, the success of social protection policies depends increasingly on the use of data systems and information and communication technology and their effective governance and management. The DCI is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the ILO, the World Bank, and the GIZ.

- Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and Social Protection Management Information Systems (SP-MIS) are fundamental components of a nation’s infrastructure, playing crucial roles in ensuring the rights and well-being of individuals across all socio-economic spectrums. Effective and seamless data exchange between these systems is pivotal for enhancing service delivery, policy formulation, and monitoring of social protection programs. The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and Social Protection Management Information Systems (SP-MIS) standard was endorsed by the USP2030.

- The DCI platform hosts a community of practice of [dialogue](#) and [workshop series](#) that discusses interoperability and integration of social protection systems with: identification and payment systems; civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems; and, disability, farmer, social and integrated beneficiary registries. In 2023, a number of sessions were conducted on

interoperability and integration of SP-MIS with other systems, including from countries within the Flagship Programme: Senegal, Jordan, Uzbekistan, and Ghana. At least two more standards are foreseen to be developed in 2024: on social registries and on integrated beneficiary registries.

► **USP2030 Working Group on Climate Action**

The ILO co-chairs together with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC) and FAO the USP2030/SPIAC-B working group on Social Protection and Climate Change, which was established during COP26 in late 2021. This group, alongside an advisory team of partners, has garnered a diverse membership of approximately 200 individuals who are also part of an [online community on socialprotection.org](https://onlinecommunityonsocialprotection.org). In 2023, the group started facilitating thematic technical exchanges, providing a platform for knowledge exchange on diverse topics such as the integration of social protection in NDCs and NAPs or the role of graduation programmes for climate resilience. The group also published a [joint statement](#) on directing climate finance to social protection and collaborated with the USP2030 working group on financing to develop a paper exploring the link between social protection and climate finance. At the UN Climate Conference in Dubai, UAE (COP28) the working group facilitated – for a second year in a row – the coordination of collective advocacy efforts and two side events: i) Loss and Damage: Reaching Children and Other Vulnerable Groups with Inclusive and Adaptive Social Protection as a Crucial Response to the Climate Crisis (UNICEF pavilion) and b) Building social protection systems to support a Just Transition (ILO pavilion). The results from COP28 and their implication for social protection were summarised in a subsequent [blog post](#) by the three co-chairs of the working group.

Additionally, the USP2030 also provides a platform for close coordination with existing initiatives and discussions, such as in the UN and G20, to create synergies, bring country and constituency perspectives in shaping agenda, and discuss and address most pressing topics and questions [relevant to social protection](#) financing. More information: <https://usp2030.org>

► **Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B)**

Approach

To improve coordination of efforts, the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) was established in July 2012 in response to a request from the G20. The Board brings together leaders and technical experts from member

agencies to coordinate their social protection activities as well as identify new areas of work that require coordination efforts. SPIAC-B is co-chaired by the ILO and the World Bank and is made up of over 20 members, including United Nations agencies and organizations, multilateral and bilateral development agencies. The non-governmental organizations and think tanks working on social protection issues are welcome as observers at the Board.

Results

Throughout 2023, members of the SPIAC-B continued to engage in activities to promote social protection, coordination and policy coherence among the groups, as well as knowledge-sharing.

The SPIAC-B Working Group on Linking Humanitarian (Cash) Assistance and Social Protection held its [annual workshop](#) in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 to 10 November 2023. The workshop aimed to finalize the ‘Common Principles’ document for guiding the working group’s future work and advocacy activities and articulating immediate next steps. It focused on improving how humanitarian assistance and social protection linkages could address people’s needs in the face of climate shocks, conflict, and displacement, specifically in Kenya and Somalia.

The working group is one of several created in recent years under the SPIAC-B umbrella to treat and elaborate policy questions and approaches jointly among SPIAC-B members. Others include working groups dedicated to the topics of social protection financing, social protection and climate change, digitalization and other emerging topics.

► **IMF-ILO Partnership**

Approach

On 13 September 2010, a joint high-level [IMF-ILO conference in Oslo](#) explored new ways of forging a sustainable, job-rich economic recovery. The “Challenges of Growth, Employment and Social Cohesion” conference and accompanying discussion paper called on policymakers to improve the integration of employment and social policies with international and national macroeconomic policy strategies. Two out of the three related areas of work ILO and IMF agreed were on exploring minimum social protection floor for the most vulnerable in all countries and focusing on policies to promote employment-creating growth. Following the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2021, the ILO and the IMF agreed to develop a pilot project for a structured cooperation between both institutions in the field of social protection.

Results

During the final quarter of 2021, ILO and IMF selected four pilot countries (Iraq, Mozambique, Togo, and Uzbekistan) from the Flagship

Programme, where social protection specialists from the institutions engaged in exchanges of ideas and information. In Iraq, in the context of IMF surveillance work and an ILO technical assistance project, the ILO-IMF team focused on options for pension reform, considering the key criteria of sustainability, equity and adequacy of benefits. Both teams, together with the World Bank, have worked on different scenarios of pension reform, informed by actuarial valuation. In Mozambique, the IMF included in its Article IV report (2022) a special attention to the extension of social protection, followed by the negotiation of an Extended Credit Facility agreement with the Government, including a three-year program. In this context, the ILO supported the IMF in setting a social protection expenditure target that provides fiscal space for the extension of social assistance expenditure. In Togo, although the negotiations between the IMF and the Government were postponed, the ILO, IMF and Government collaborated nevertheless on the classification of social protection expenditure. The ILO also initiated an actuarial health evaluation, to support the Government plans related to the promotion of universal health coverage, which would be included as an indicator in a future IMF program. In Uzbekistan, the ILO and the IMF have worked on a joint report to extend fiscal space for social protection in the context of many social protection and tax reforms being undertaken in recent years. A specific focus was also given to social protection in the IMF Article IV report (2022).

► Partnerships with social partners

Engagement with workers' organizations

The Flagship Programme strengthened its engagement with workers' organizations throughout the year. In April 2023, the ILO organized a training in Tashkent for trade union representatives from **Kyrgyzstan** and **Uzbekistan**. The training covered ILO's social protection policy, international social security standards, and strategies for extending social protection to informal economy workers. Participants

developed a social protection strategy and action plan, and drafted messages for advocating for their social protection rights in tripartite social dialogues.

In June 2023, a seminar in Cairo for trade union leaders from the **Arab States** region was organized, focusing on achieving universal social protection through social dialogue and ILO social security standards. Participants discussed strategies for advancing social protection at regional and national levels, emphasizing the need for progressive taxation, tackling tax evasion, and ensuring employers contribute fairly. The seminar also facilitated the exchange of successful social protection practices in the region.

In July 2023, consultations in **Namibia** were organized by the ILO on the design of the National Pension Fund (NPF). As a Global Accelerator pathfinder country, the establishment of the NPF was seen as a crucial step in Namibia's roadmap to mobilize technical and financial support. Later that month, the ILO organized a workshop in Johannesburg for trade union leaders from the **Southern Africa** region, where participants focused on social protection policies, trends, gaps, and challenges in the region, with an emphasis on pension reform. Participants developed an action plan for advocating and influencing national policies to establish comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems.

Private-sector partnerships

In 2023, partnerships with private sector institutions continued to strengthen business' commitment and action to extending social protection coverage to their workers and those in their communities.

For example, a project to support the BMZ Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation, funded by a grant from the Deutsche **German Development Cooperation (GIZ)**, aims to increase knowledge on the obstacles and opportunities for enterprises to strengthen national social protection systems and create quality jobs that provide social protection coverage. A tripartite training workshop conducted in Kigali in October 2023 included managers of enterprises and cooperatives, as well as representatives of workers' and employers' organizations and representatives of the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) to develop a series of prototypes for enterprise-led extension of social protection in Rwanda. These include voluntary pension contributions made possible for motor-vehicle cooperative members under the RSSB, enrolling sales agents who typically work on the basis of commissions into a customized social protection scheme, as well as the inclusion of social protection provisions in commercial contracts concluded by central buyers of agricultural products for producing farmers, among other innovative approaches. The prototypes will be reviewed during 2024 to assess their feasibility and begin their implementation.

The ILO has also partnered with **Nestlé** in order to support the development of national public social protection systems that provide adequate support to families with children. In particular, maternity and



parental benefits provide financial support during and after pregnancy as well as the time taken off to look after their children while paternal benefits allocated to fathers also encourages shared parenting.

The ILO has also partnered with Italian energy company **Eni SpA** to improve access to social health protection and occupational safety and health (OSH) for small farms involved in Eni's agro-industrial initiatives in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire. The initiative, launched in November 2023, aims to raise awareness and improve OSH practices and access to social health protection along the agricultural value chain for 50,000 castor and 100,000 rubber farmers in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire, respectively. Activities have begun with an assessment of drivers and constraints for OSH improvements and access to social health protection of these workers.

In September 2023, the second phase of the **ACCEL Africa** initiative was announced to expand its efforts across multiple countries and sectors to abolish child labour within African supply chains, with a particular focus on ensuring that workers at lower tiers of supply chains have better access to social protection schemes. The second phase broadens its reach across various countries and sectors to tackle the fundamental causes of child labour, including loss of income from the death or permanent impairment of a breadwinner due to workplace accidents. The project will concentrate its efforts in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda, and work within the supply chains of cocoa, coffee, cotton, gold, and tea.

Implemented by the ILO and the GIZ, the **Employment Injury Scheme (EIS) Pilot** was launched in Bangladesh in June 2022 and offers workers and their families unprecedented financial protection in the aftermath of a workplace accident in line with international standards and ILO Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964 [Schedule I amended in 1980] (No. 121). In honouring the 10th anniversary of the Rana Plaza disaster by introducing practical benefit to workers in the ready-made garment (RMG) industry, the EIS Pilot complements ACCORD, Alliance and other private initiatives focusing on prevention. At present, the EIS Pilot covers all 4 million workers contributing to the RMG sector of Bangladesh and the monthly pensions are financed by voluntary contributions from international brands including Amazon, H&M, Kik, Montane, Puma, Simons, TESCO, United Colors of Benetton, etc. Furthermore, the EIS Pilot is conducting research on average medical care costs for workers in case an injury occurs. This will help identify the resources necessary to ensure that the obligation to provide medical care enshrined in the Bangladesh Labour Act (BLA) is effectively met. In 2023, a number of webinars were organized to share information on Pilot among brands and retailers and the first assessment on disability was conducted.

As part of the Flagship Programme, the ILO continues to be involved and support the Francophone Business Network for social protection floors, by providing presentations on international social security standards and the World Social Protection Database,

to help enterprises comply with the new social protection reporting obligations of the 2022 Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) of the European Union.

► Providing for Health (P4H) Network

Approach

Providing for Health (P4H) has been established to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration for social health protection and health financing towards universal health coverage (UHC). The P4H is a global network of technical cooperation agencies, including governments or state actors, multilateral organizations, regional development banks, global health funds, academic institutions, and private (for or not-for profit) actors. Currently the P4H network has 25 members including ILO, WHO, the World Bank, Switzerland, France, Germany, and many others.

Results

Amongst the 50 priority countries of the Flagship Programme, 20 countries have an on-going collaboration with the P4H. Following are some of the key results:

- The ILO through the P4H network has actively engaged in supporting social health protection on the country and regional level. This engagement was provided through two dedicated country focal persons (P4H-CFP), stationed in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; as well as one regional focal person (P4H-RFP) in Asia.
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Design and development of a legal framework for instruments and institutional arrangements that support the implementation of universal SHP system.
- **Lao People's Democratic Republic:** Legal revision of the Health Insurance law in efforts to support the government in the alignment of the legislative framework with the policy reform agenda toward increased social security coverage. Supporting the assessment of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Scheme as part of the implementation of the National Health Insurance strategy 2021-2025.
- **Kenya:** Facilitation and organization of consultations and coordination meetings between the government and the development partners in the process of the development of a strategy for the extension of social protection systems to uncovered populations including for SHP.

Additionally, the P4H network supported joint capacity building exercises in Burundi, and Zambia on implementing universal health coverage strategy and social health protection institutional arrangement to support efforts towards sustainable and equitable universal SHP systems. In Burundi, a three-day capacity building exercise was organized by the



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Ministry of Solidarity, Human Rights, Gender and Social Affairs with the joint support of the ILO and WHO. In Zambia, a training program of two days was provided to improve the internal capacities for the National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) on monitoring and evaluation of the social health protection system. The focus of the training was on identifying a pathway for extending social health protection coverage to informal economy workers and their families. The capacity building activity was organized collaboratively by the ILO and the Global fund in the framework of P4H.

As part of collaboration with other SHP regional networks, the P4H-RFP jointly with the CONNECT network has organized a three-part webinar series focusing on the extension of SHP to migrant workers and their families. The series of webinars took place in April, May, and June. The organized webinar series offered cross-regional experiences on SHP for migrant communities from Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Gulf Cooperation Council and Latin America, while engaging representatives from governments, social security institutions, international organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions.

Additionally, the P4H network has contributed to the ITCILO course on Social Health Protection in addressing inequities in access to healthcare. Specifically, P4H contributed to the session on partnerships for the extension of SHP, emphasizing the network's significant role in fostering collaborations in the field of SHP and health financing supporting national efforts to progress to universal health coverage.

The P4H Technical Exchange Group (P4H-TEG) convened in a hybrid mode at the ILO HQ in October 2023. Discussions centred on financing Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) initiatives, with a focus PPR Working Group in the contexts of Burundi and Senegal. The meeting emphasized integrating social determinants of health (SDH) into PPR efforts, highlighting the need to enhance capacity for response at the national level. The meeting also addressed the climate change interlinkages with social protection, showcasing Kenya's efforts in extending SP within the context of climate change.

More information: visit <https://p4h.world/en> and [ILO Social Protection Platform](#).



► 3. Managing for results

3.1 Management arrangements and setup

The governance of the Flagship Programme is overseen by the **Global Tripartite Advisory Committee (GTAC)**, comprising representatives from governments of participating countries, development partners, and employers' and workers' organizations. The inaugural GTAC session for the second phase of the Flagship Programme occurred on June 16, 2022. Attendees included representatives from Kenya, Lebanon, Paraguay, Senegal, Uzbekistan, the International Organization of Employers (IOE), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and development partner countries such as Belgium, Irish Aid, Germany (GIZ), and Japan. Besides reviewing progress made in the initial year of the second phase across the Flagship Programme's three pillars, the meeting offered strategic direction regarding country and thematic support, partnerships, and management, including resource mobilization.

A meeting of the Multi-Donor Programme Steering Committee was held on 7 February 2023, including representatives of those partners whose contributions are channelled through the pooled funding modality. Attended by representatives of the Belgian Ministry for Development Cooperation, the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and programme managers, the meeting provided an opportunity to (i) update on the funding and management of the Programme, (ii) approve the new contribution of EUR 2,600,000 to the West Africa component, (iii) present the progress made and results achieved in 2022 and work plans for 2023 of Central Africa and Asia components and (iv) get overall strategic guidance from donors.

In March 2023, the ILO organized a meeting of Flagship Programme Development Partners, which reviewed progress in expanding social protection to millions across the programme countries and discussed challenges, including financing gaps and digital transformation (See a more detailed description of the meeting in the Events section below).

The Flagship Programme is overseen by a specialized **management team**, led by the Deputy Director of the ILO's Social Protection Department and comprised of dedicated staff from the regular budget and development cooperation sectors, stationed at headquarters, regional and country offices, and within Decent Work Teams. The strategy for the second phase had planned to expand the management team at the regional level

by appointing regional focal points for the Flagship Programme. While this recommendation has not been put into effect yet, it is slated to be prioritized in 2024.

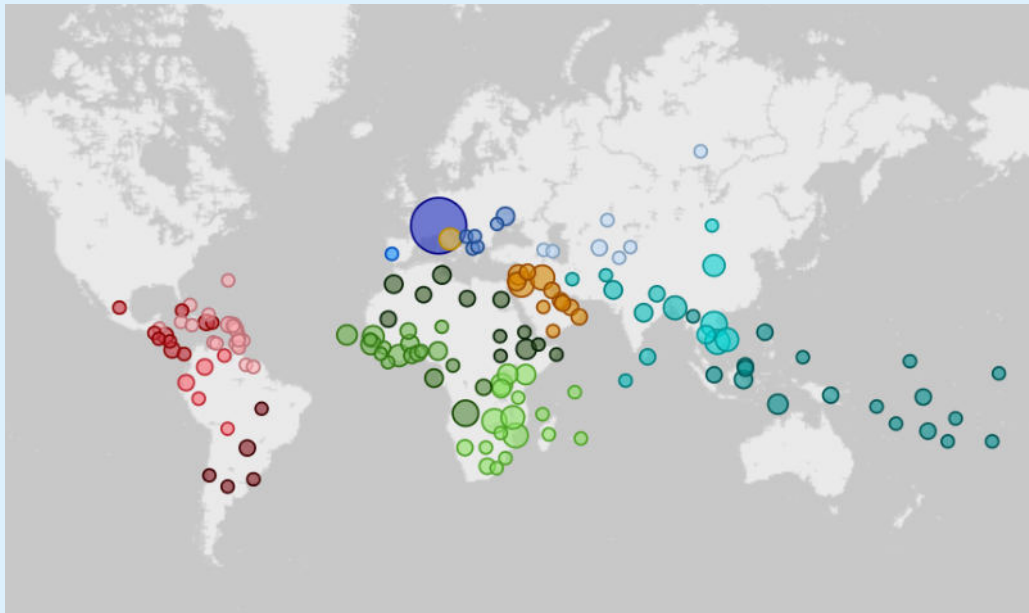
The execution of the Flagship Programme is overseen by the **Global Technical Team on social protection (GTT)**, comprised of social protection specialists and experts operating across country, regional, and headquarters offices. Significant strides have been taken toward fulfilling the commitment to provide technical expertise to each of the 50 priority countries through the presence of country teams. The GTT staff stood at 187 in March 2024, with 75 per cent of GTT staff based outside of ILO HQ spanning 68 countries (including staff in 39 designated as Flagship Programme priority countries) (see Table 4). A digital map of the GTT provides the names and pictures of all national and international staff working in the countries and territories (see Figure 3). In 2023, the slight decrease in the number of staff was due to essentially the closing of the multiyear Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management Programme funded by the European Union concluded on 30 September 2023.

► Table 4. ILO staff working on social protection as of March 2024

	Regular budget	Technical cooperation	Total
ILO Head Quarters (SOCPRO)	27	20	47
Regional and country teams	37	103	140
Total	64	123	187



► Figure 3. The ILO's Global Technical Team on Social Protection



Source: ILO, "ILO Flagship Programme"

The GTT's effectiveness was strengthened through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Various online GTT meetings were organized in 2023. In March 2023, a **retreat for the ILO's Global Technical Team (GTT)** for social protection was organized and provided experts with opportunities to address emerging issues in the field and to brainstorm approaches to more adapted technical assistance provided through the Flagship Programme. The retreat, which took place in person in Geneva, included sessions dedicated to achieving social protection-related targets of the SDGs, extending social protection, and building capacities. It also discussed partnerships with UN agencies and private businesses and addressed challenges at national, regional, and global levels.

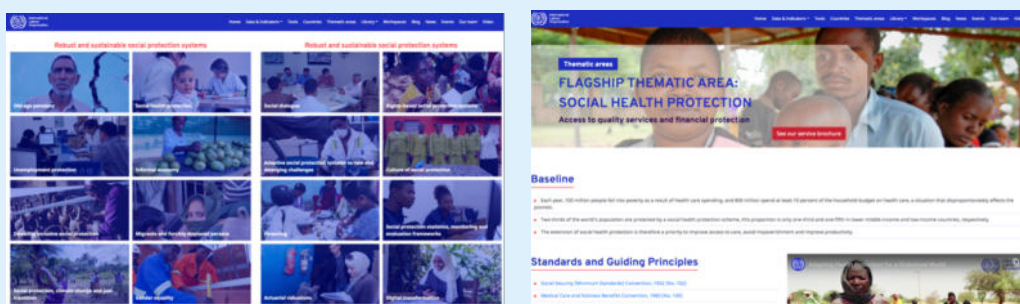
Other knowledge-sharing sessions were organized: one focused on financing gaps to ensure universal coverage for Social Protection Floors held in May; one on Responsive social protection: Innovations using new data systems held in June; one focused on pensions reforms in Chile and Uruguay held in June and one focused on the ILO-IMF collaboration on social protection held in July. The GTT has also benefited from knowledge-sharing sessions co-organised by the ILO and UNICEF: one on financing disability-inclusive social protection systems held in February (188 attendees); one on financing gender-responsive social protection systems held in March 2023 (216 attendees) and a two-day online technical

exchange on extending social protection to the informal economy, co-organized by the SP&PFM Programme and the Universal Social Protection 2030 Partnership in April (178 attendees).

Communication, knowledge and information sharing for GTT members was also improved through the ILO's Social Protection Platform. The [digital map of the GTT](#), the [Results Monitoring Tool](#), and 50 [country pages](#) were updated. Furthermore, 16 new [thematic pages](#) providing in-depth information on each thematic area were developed. The Platform, which is easily accessible to all GTT members, facilitates the access by field specialists and experts to information, expert advice and assistance on specific thematic areas, methodologies and tools.

The Technical Support Facility (TSF) operates within the GTT framework and enhances the efforts of country teams by delivering prompt, cohesive, and high-quality technical assistance in accordance with ILO standards. Consisting of dedicated experts, the TSF focuses entirely on aiding ILO constituents at the country level. These specialists collaborate closely with professionals funded by the ILO's standard budget and are instrumental in providing technical support for initiatives carried out under the Flagship Programme. During 2021–23, the TSF was strengthened at global and regional levels through the mobilization of resources to maintain existing TSF positions and create two new TSF expert posts in Africa and two positions at ILO HQ (see Table 5).

► Figure 4. Thematic area excerpts and photos from website



Source: ILO, "ILO Flagship Programme"

► Table 5. TSF expert positions prioritized in the second phase of the Flagship Programme

Current TSF expert positions (to be maintained)	TSF expert positions (needed to respond to the needs of constituents)
<p>Headquarters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► public finance ► health protection ► social protection and climate change (New) ► social protection and employment policy (including unemployment protection) (New) ► extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy ► legal drafting and ratification of standards ► actuarial studies ► Management Information Systems ► cash payment mechanisms ► culture and communication ► statistics <p>Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► health ► extension of social protection to the informal economy (New) <p>Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► actuarial studies ► health protection <p>Arab States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Expert position to support South-South exchanges and capacity-building using TRANSFORM methodology (New) 	<p>Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► unemployment protection <p>Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► public finance <p>Latin America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► unemployment protection <p>Europe and Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy

To strengthen the implementation capacity of the Flagship Programme, in particular at country-level and for thematic expertise, there is a need for:

- i. increasing ILO staff presence in seven Flagship Programme priority countries, including Albania, Barbados, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Suriname.
- ii. creating four TSF expert positions in the regions (see Table 5 above).

iii. Mobilizing longer-term resources for the positions to ensure continuity and sustainability of the positions.

This would contribute to the scaling up of ILO technical advisory services to respond to the growing demand in the 50 Flagship Programme countries and the delivery of services to member States.

3.2 Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy for the second phase of the Flagship Programme was developed in 2021 in accordance with the ILO's Evaluation Policy, and it received valuable contributions from stakeholders. This M&E plan serves as a vital instrument in guaranteeing the Flagship Programme's transparency and responsibility to both ILO constituents and collaborators.

The Indicator Framework of the Flagship Programme gauges outcomes at the national level by assessing institutional transformations across the three stages outlined in the Introduction. These indicators align with the output indicators related to social protection outlined in Outcome 8 of the ILO Programme and Budget 2022–23. In its second phase, the Flagship Programme had aimed to attain 80 institutional outcomes across the 50 designated countries, effectively doubling the achievements of its initial phase. This target has now already been surpassed at the halfway mark of the second phase.

In addition to monitoring institutional changes, it is crucial to track and evaluate the impacts on individuals and assess the efforts towards enhancing the legal and practical coverage of those presently excluded, along with improving the adequacy and comprehensiveness of social protection for those already receiving some form of benefits. The Flagship Programme seeks to extend legal coverage to an extra 20 million individuals, expand effective

coverage to an additional 30 million people, and ensure that an extra 10 million individuals have access to more extensive and adequate social protection. The indicator concerning increased effective coverage is connected to SDG indicator 1.3.1, highlighting the Flagship Programme's role in supporting the sustainable development agenda.

► Results Monitoring Tool

The Results Monitoring Tool (RMT), created during the initial phase, offers insights into the institutional transformations facilitated by ILO assistance in various countries. In 2023, enhancements were made to the RMT, including the addition of more content on project and thematic pages. This tool provides partners and staff with a concise yet strategic overview of the status, primary outcomes, and focal points of Flagship Programme countries. Spanning from 2001 onwards, the RMT encompasses approximately 490 entries pertaining to development cooperation efforts. The RMT and its underlying structure and technology has also been considered as a potential model for documenting progress achieved under other initiatives such as the Global Accelerator. Opportunities to enhance and integrate results tracking through the RMT across the Flagship Programme and Global Accelerator interventions will be further explored in 2024.

► Figure 5. Excerpt of a country page with information from the Results Monitoring Tool

The screenshot displays the ILO Social Protection website for Angola. The header includes the ILO logo and navigation links. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Publications:** Three book covers are shown, including one titled "Geração de um Regime de Segurança Social em Angola para Membros das Comunidades de Imigrantes em África" by CIFP.
- Situation and Priorities:** A section titled "Social protection situation" with a sub-heading "The Basic Law on Social Protection (Law 7/04 of October 15, 2004) is the main social protection policy in Angola, providing the first legal framework to organize the sector. As such, this legislation structures the social protection system in three levels: basic social protection; compulsory social protection; and complementary social protection. The last two, based on the premise of social insurance, are associated with employment and financed by the contributions of workers and their employers."
- Data & Indicators:** A map of Angola is shown above a table of indicators:

Indicator	Value	Year
SDG 1.3.1 Effective coverage	10.5 %	2019
Public expenditure on healthcare	1.3 %	2017
Public expenditure on social protection	2.1 %	2017
- Country summary:** A section showing "Total population: 32,933,612" for the year 2021.

► Evaluation

The M&E plan foresees a series of evaluations for the Flagship Programme (see Table 6). Evaluations are vital and serve as a tool for accountability,

verifying that resources have been used efficiently and responsibly. They also provide important insights and knowledge, which, in turn, informs the development of future projects under the Flagship Programme.

Table 6. Programme for the evaluation of the Flagship Programme

Evaluation	Planned period	Status
Evaluability assessment of the M&E framework	Within the first year of implementation of the second phase	Completed in October 2022
Mid-term independent evaluation	Q4 2023 and Q1 and Q2 in 2024	<p>Completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Appointment of ILO Evaluation Manager ► Preparation of the Terms of Reference for the evaluator ► Selection of the evaluator <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Inception report ► Data collection ► Final evaluation report expected by the end of June 2024
Final independent evaluation	End of 2024 to mid-2025	Not yet started

In line with ILO evaluation policy, the mid-term independent evaluation of the second phase of the Flagship Programme will provide feedback on the programme's mid-term implementation status, take stock of achievements and lessons learned so far, and provide recommendations to inform programme improvement and organizational learning for the remaining period of its implementation.

In 2023, the following evaluations were conducted under the Flagship Programme:

- [Project Innovation and Learning in Social Protection \(Mid-term evaluation\)](#).
- [Project Accès universel à la protection sociale, à la santé et la sécurité au travail. \(Mid-term independent evaluation\)](#).
- [Programme Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management \(Final independent evaluation\)](#).
- [Project Implementation of a Pilot of an Employment Injury Scheme \(EIS\) in Bangladesh \(Mid-term evaluation\)](#).
- [Advancing Social Protection in Cambodia \(Mid-term independent evaluation\)](#).
- [Project Towards an inclusive national social protection system and accelerating decent job opportunities for Syrians and vulnerable](#)

[Jordanians \(Mid-term independent joint evaluation\)](#).

- [Promoting and building social protection in Asia \(4th phase\) \(Mid-term evaluation\)](#).
- [ILO-Korea Partnership Programme funded projects in ASEAN, Cambodia and Lao PDR, 2021-23 \(Final independent evaluation\)](#)



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3.3 Visibility, communication and knowledge sharing

The communication and visibility activities of the Flagship Programme have been seamlessly incorporated into the new communication strategy of the ILO Social Protection Department. This strategy is designed to assist constituents and partners in achieving comprehensive, sustainable, and rights-based national social protection systems that ensure adequate coverage for all individuals. The strategy outlines how the Flagship Programme can elevate the visibility of the ILO's initiatives and their impact on individuals. It emphasizes bolstering accountability by enhancing transparency and promoting the dissemination of the ILO's vision for expanding social protection based on international social security standards. Furthermore, the strategy aims to solidify the ILO's role as a leading agency and essential collaborator in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to social protection.

The communication strategy targets a diverse range of audiences, including:

- i. Policy makers and government officials in social protection-related institutions, including those responsible for administering and financing social protection systems at the national level.
- ii. Social partners, which may include labour unions, employer associations, and other organizations representing workers and employers.
- iii. The media, to effectively disseminate information and raise awareness about social protection initiatives and achievements.
- iv. The general public, to increase understanding and support for social protection programs and policies.
- v. The multilateral system, including international organizations and agencies, to foster collaboration and coordination on social protection efforts.
- vi. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which play a critical role in advocating for social protection and providing services to vulnerable populations.
- vii. Academic institutions, to engage in research, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building activities related to social protection.
- viii. Internal ILO audiences, to ensure consistent messaging and promote integrated policy approaches within the organization.

► Events

In March 2023, the ILO held its **2023 Meeting of Flagship Programme Development Partners**, the first allowing in-person attendance since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting brought together 180 government officials, employers' and workers' representatives and other stakeholders in a hybrid format. Participants reviewed the programme's progress and achievements in expanding and improving access to social protection for 30 million people throughout 2021 and 2022 across its 50 programme countries. The meeting also discussed remaining challenges, such as the global social protection financing resource gap, and emerging issues, including digital transformation of social protection systems. Various panels included speakers from the European Union, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and other development partners and stakeholders.



The ILO, UNICEF, the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors and the European Union also held on 27-28 June 2023 the [International Symposium on improving linkages between social protection and public finance management](#). More than 200 policymakers, employers' and workers' representatives, civil society and development partners (of which 51 attended the event in-person) from the 24 countries of the Programme shared their experiences and innovations on sustainably financed social protection and discussed the way forward to achieve universal social protection.

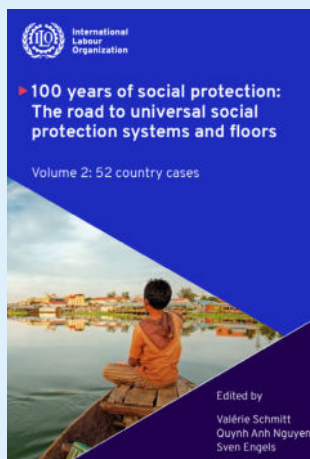


► Publications

The ILO continued to publish reports, guides and other documents regarding recent trends in social protection systems development, extension to

previously uncovered groups and other emerging topics, a sample of which is presented below in Figure 6.

► Figure 6. Sample of ILO reports, guides and other documents published in 2023



The publication “100 years of social protection: The road to universal social protection systems and floors (Volume 2)”

Available [here](#).



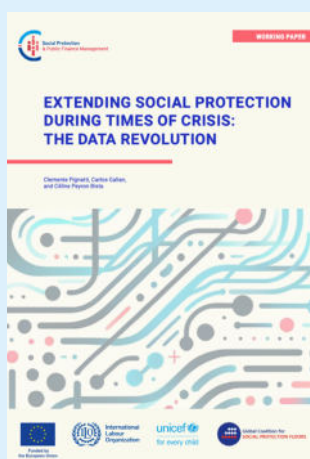
The publication “Disability schemes and programmes around the world”

Available [here](#).



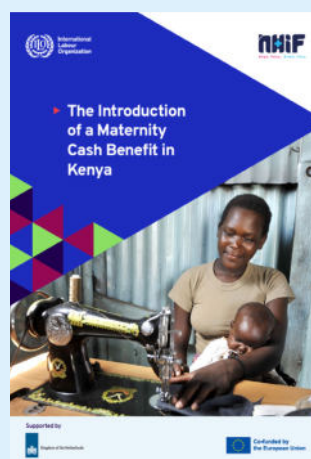
The publication “ILO strategy on extending social protection to migrant workers, refugees and their families”

Available [here](#).



The publication “Extending social protection in times of crises: The data revolution”

Available [here](#).



The publication “The introduction of a maternity cash benefit in Kenya”

Available [here](#).



The publication “The multiplier effects of government expenditures on social protection: A multi-country study”

Available [here](#).



The policy brief “Investing in social protection for economic growth: Multipliers of social protection – Nepal country case study”

Available [here](#).



The policy brief “Economic expansion through social investment in Viet Nam: An empirical estimation of fiscal multipliers”

Available [here](#).



The thematic brief “Extending social protection to workers in the informal economy”

Available [here](#).



Social protection and public finance management: an assessment tool

Available [here](#).



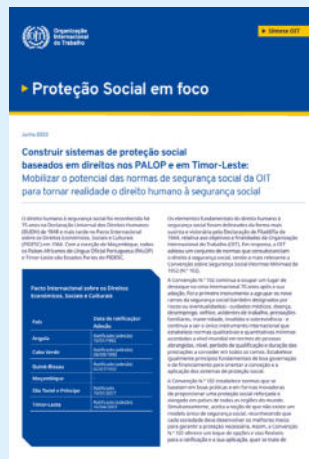
The publication “Por que ratificar a Convenção n.º102 da OIT?”

Available [here](#).



The brief “Respostas de proteção social à crise da COVID-19 nos PALOP e em Timor-Leste”

Available [here](#).



The brief “Construir sistemas de proteção social baseados em direitos nos PALOP e em Timor-Leste”

Available [here](#).

► Online Tools

ILO Social Protection Platform (www.social-protection.org) continues to serve as the authoritative reference for social protection practitioners worldwide. In 2023, the Platform boasted over 100,000 users throughout the year, including more than 260,000 individual page impressions. The World Social Protection data dashboards were viewed by more than 40,000 users and the country pages by nearly 25,000. Meanwhile, more than 13,000 copies of the ILO's flagship World Social Protection Report (2020-22) were downloaded from the Platform in 2023.

The Flagship Programme has its own [dedicated webpage](#), hosted on the ILO's Social Protection Platform. The webpage also links to:

- [Country pages](#) for all 50 priority countries, which consolidate information from the Results Monitoring Tool and the World Social Protection Database to provide an overview of the social protection situation, government priorities and the ILO's previous and ongoing projects. The pages also highlight opportunities, including financing gaps, for development partners to support ILO work to achieve tangible results.
- [Thematic pages](#) with a similar structure that showcase each thematic area with the current state of knowledge, the ILO approach, related ILO country projects, the results achieved, and key resources.

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

- The massive open online course (MOOC) [Making Universal Social Protection a Reality](#) was released in January 2023 after a year of production. The free, self-paced course is composed of four modules, providing short, simple, and concise videos and written chapters on key areas of social protection. It is a resource for policy makers, social protection administrators, social partners, civil society organizations, development actors, university students and others who may or may not be directly involved in social protection issues but who work or are likely to work in a related field. The MOOC was produced in partnership with the SDG Academy and the French National School of Social Security (EN3S) and is hosted on EdX, an online learning platform with 42 million users helping to increase ILO visibility and disseminate its policy messages beyond traditional audiences. The French version launched in the third quarter of 2023 with the support of EN3S. The MOOC was produced thanks to the support of Belgium. By August 2023, the social protection MOOC had attracted over 1,200 participants.

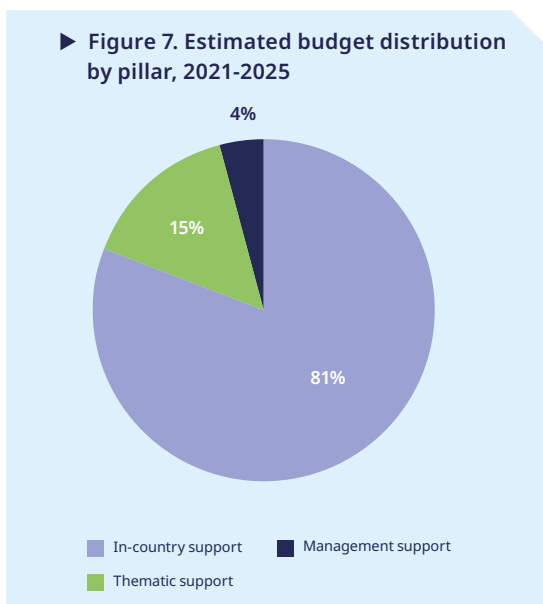
Newsletter

- News items on the Flagship Programme are included in SOCPRO's [Outlook newsletter](#) that has over 5,000 subscribers. This includes country results, donor agreements, new publications, multimedia content and events. Certain Flagship Programme projects have their own newsletters, most notably the monthly newsletter under the EU-funded programme on [Improving Synergies Between Social Protection and Public Finance Management](#).



3.4 Resource mobilization

The budget for implementing the second phase of Flagship Programme was estimated at US\$160 million. Of the total budget estimated, 81 per cent (US\$130 million) will be allocated to in-country support, 15 per cent (US\$24 million) to cross-country policy advice and 4 per cent (US\$6 million) to the management of the Flagship Programme (see Figure 7).



The budget mobilized in 2020 and 2021 was quite significant given the relevance of social protection in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and response. Resource mobilization efforts have continued with a post-COVID recovery focus. As of 31 December 2023, the funding gap had been reduced to US\$36 million (see Table 7). Resource mobilization was achieved through a combined effort of ILO HQ, regional offices, decent work country teams and country offices.

► **Table 7. Resources mobilized and funding gap of the second phase of the Flagship Programme as of 31 December 2023**

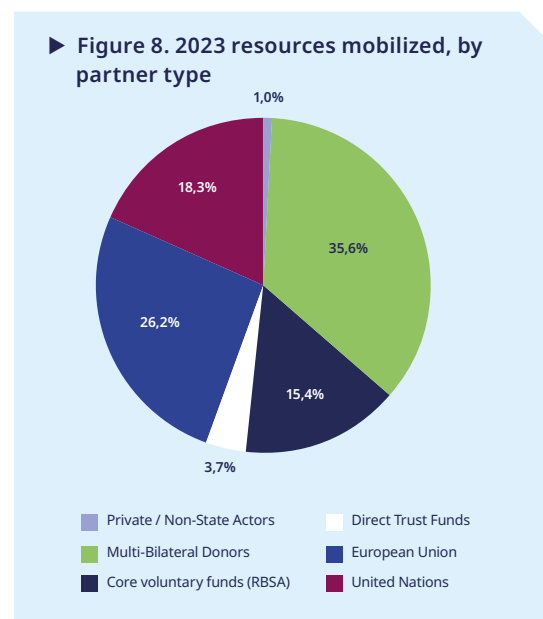
	US\$
Resources required for the Flagship Programme (in-country and thematic support) (estimated)	160,000,000
Mobilized during the 1st Phase of the Flagship (until 1 August 2021) and contribution from regular budget	85,000,000
Mobilized between September 2021 and December 2022 (16 months)	21,344,000
Mobilized in 2023	17,680,757
Remaining funding gap (31 December 2023)	35,975,243

In 2023, 36 new projects started implementation which had mobilized a total of over US\$ 17.7 million (Table 8).

► **Table 8. Number of new projects and funding approved (2021-23)**

	Number of new projects approved	Amount of new funding approved (in US\$)
2021	17	28,802,595
2022	9	9,320,393
2023	36	17,680,757

Social protection continued to attract funding from various development partners (see Figure 8), with the Flagship Programme being of specific appeal given its value-added.



Resource mobilization efforts led to new partnerships, including with the private sector through an agreement with Italian energy multinational Eni S.p.A. to expand access to social protection for workers in agri-business sectors, as well as with the Government of China for a social protection South-South cooperation project implemented throughout ASEAN, Lao PDR and Kenya and with the Government of Australia to support the development of a multi-tiered social protection system in Viet Nam.

The European Union financed 26.2 per cent of the funds mobilized for new projects approved in 2023 in Angola, China, Nepal and Iraq, often through the EU country delegations. The projects in Nepal and Angola follow the successful implementation

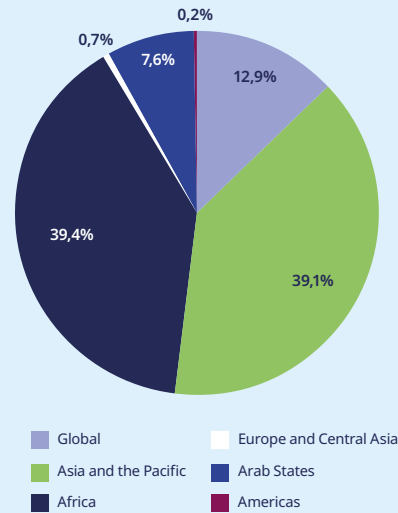
in both countries of the EU-funded and ILO-implemented project “Improving synergies between social protection and public finance management” taking forward findings and recommendations for additional interventions in support of strengthening linkages between social protection and public finance. Negotiations for additional financing from the EU to support the digital transformation of social protection systems also took place in 2023. The EU contributions are followed by financing from UN programmes (18.3 per cent), including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UNICEF, UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) resources by other development partners stand at 15.4 per cent of the mobilized resources.

Box 2. RBSA funding in 2023

The Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) resources amounted to 15.4 per cent of resources mobilized in 2023 for social protection projects. RBSA allows development partners to provide un-earmarked core funding to the ILO, with at present the following contributing to the fund: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.⁵ In 2023, US\$ 2,7 million were allocated to projects in Cambodia, Guinea Bissau, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Viet Nam, to address the challenges of the transition to formality through an integrated approach. Formalization efforts can facilitate the extension of social protection and extending social protection can facilitate the process of formalization.

The distribution of funding allocation by region is provided in Figure 9. In 2023 the largest share (39.4 per cent) of resource mobilization was for projects in Africa, followed closely by Asia and the Pacific (39.1 per cent). Meanwhile, projects with a global scope represented a significant share of the funding allocations (12.9) followed by those being implemented in the Arab States region (7.6 per cent), in Europe and Central Asia (0.7 per cent) and the Americas (0.2 per cent). Several global projects involve significant subcomponents that are in fact decentralized for implementation in countries.

► Figure 9. 2023 resources mobilized, by implementation region



Looking toward the future

Despite significant efforts in resource mobilization, a resource gap of US\$36 million exists.

In 2024, the ILO will need to put more emphasis on the following action points:

- Reconcile efforts to mobilize resources for the Global Accelerator and the ILO’s Global Flagship Programme
- Continue to promote the value-added of the Flagship Programme to development partners in the context of the implementation of the Global Accelerator.
- Continue to raise funding for new projects in countries that have not yet secured in-country teams or face funding gaps, the latter of which can be found on respective country pages [here](#).
- Continue to mobilize resources for supporting the extension of coverage to workers in the informal and rural economies and formalization to support countries towards the achievement by 2030 of the SDGs.
- Develop a regional programme on the extension of social health protection in Africa (e.g. collaboration with Team Europe Initiative).

5 See [RBSA \(PARTNERSHIPS\) \(ilo.org\)](#)

- Develop a large global programme with implementation in at least 10 countries on the digital transformation of social protection including the development of statistical capacities. In the framework of the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) led by GIZ, ILO and the World Bank, a Multi-Partner EU Action is being developed and is expected to be implemented in Q2 of 2024.
- Support the ratification campaign on the Convention No. 102 to reach the target of 70 ratifications by 2026.
- Mobilize resources for social protection to address and adapt to shocks in crisis and postcrisis contexts, including the effects of climate-related disasters and to build resilience through flexible systems and preparedness while linking with just transition policies and programs.
- Strengthen One UN collaboration through One UN Programmes at country level.



► Conclusion

In 2023, more than 6.3 million individuals saw improvements to their social protection coverage and benefits following interventions supported by the ILO's Flagship Programme thanks to the generous contributions of the programme's many partners.

Building robust social protection systems requires sustained investments from domestic resources and, particularly in countries where social protection systems are still growing, often additional sources of development finance. The focus on building sustainable social protection systems is crucial for ensuring long-term resilience and effectiveness in addressing many of the social challenges we collectively face. While temporary measures may provide immediate relief in times of crisis, they are often insufficient for addressing underlying structural issues and ensuring comprehensive social protection coverage for all.

Social protection is a central component of the policy responses needed to help address the challenges such as climate change, transitions to more digitized economies and population aging in many countries. Initiatives like the Global Accelerator aim to address these challenges in a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary way combining social protection with

enterprise creation and employment generation efforts toward a common goal. This innovative approach, however, is predicated on the existence of fundamental social protection institutions and baseline capacities that need to be harnessed in order to support the transformations sought. The ILO's Flagship Programme remains committed to establishing these requisite foundations through its focused work on social protection legal and policy frameworks, financial and administrative governance, and building of national capacities for strengthening national social protection systems.

The ILO's Flagship Programme remains a unique vehicle through which its partners can support the development of rights-based social protection in line with international standards and human rights agreements. Promoting a rights-based approach to social protection centralizes the inherent dignity of individuals and their entitlement to social protection, while ensuring non-discrimination and equality of treatment. This approach, mainstreamed throughout the Flagship Programme projects, also aims to empower marginalized and vulnerable groups to claim their rights so that, in the face of myriad future challenges and transitions, no one is left behind.



**Advancing social justice,
promoting decent work**

The International Labour Organization is the United Nations agency for the world of work. We bring together governments, employers and workers to drive a human-centred approach to the future of work through employment creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue.

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International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland