



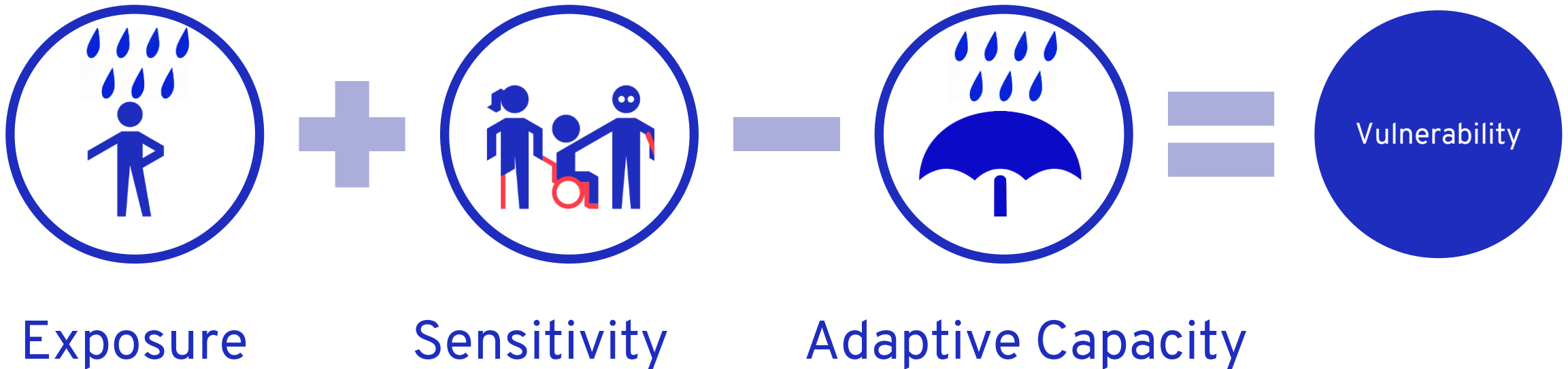
# ▶ Health, social protection and climate change

## Time for action

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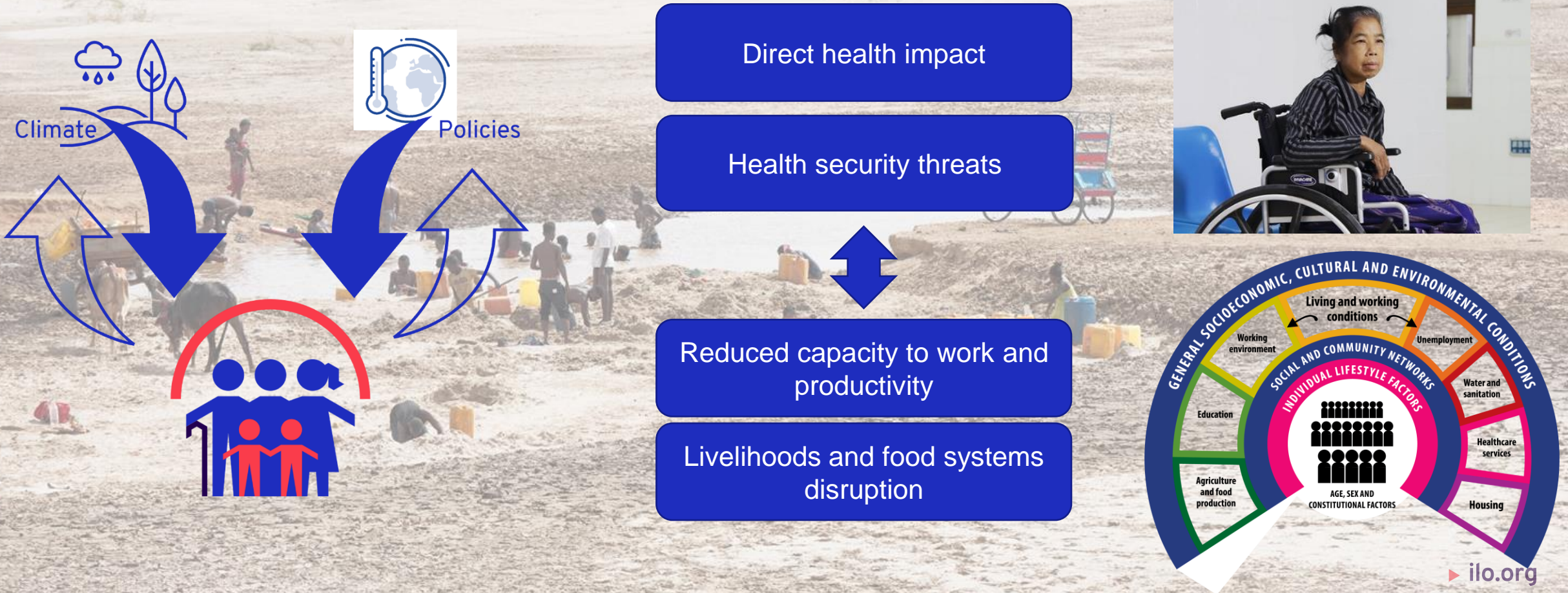
P4H Technical Exchange Group Meeting  
Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2023

# Climate Change affects everyone, but some more...

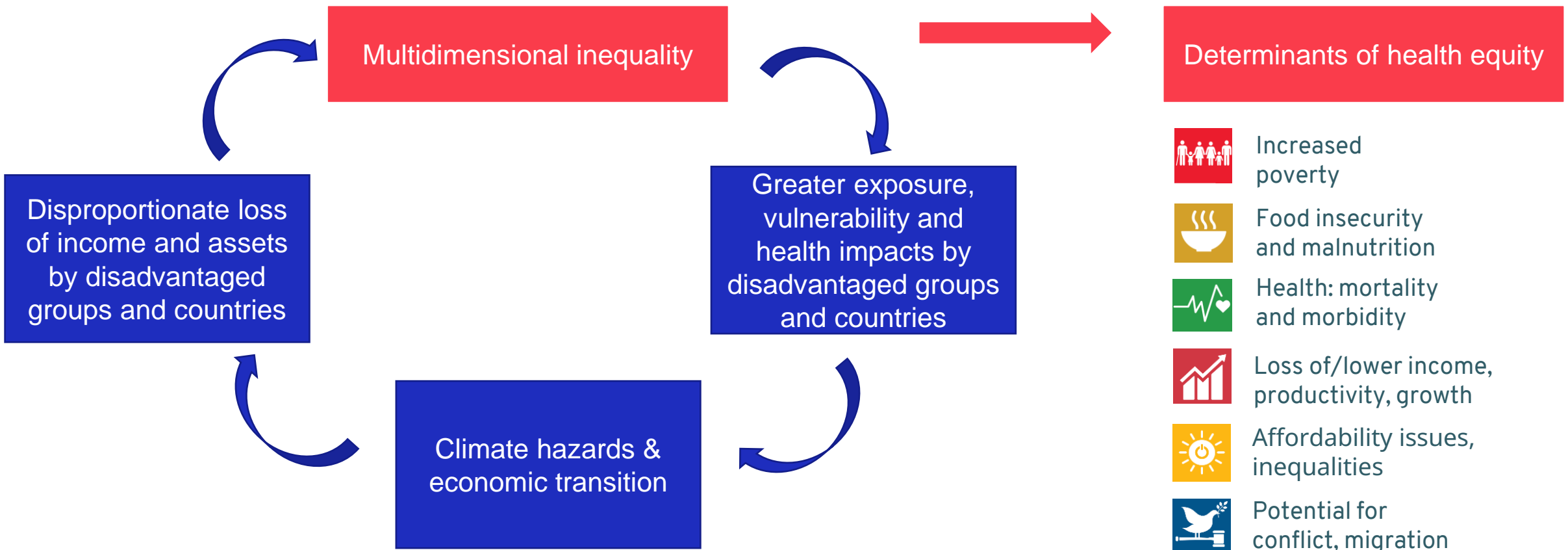




# Risks and challenges of the transition for people

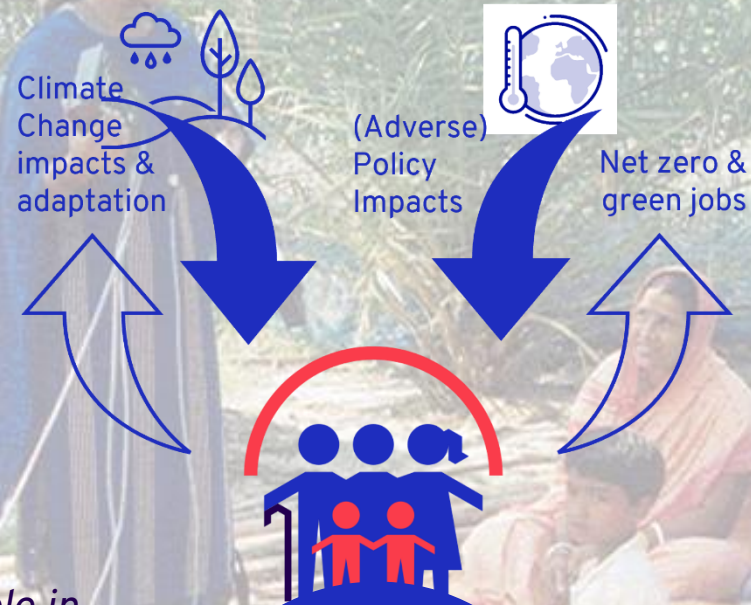


## A vicious cycle reinforcing inequality





## The ILO approach on social protection and climate change



**Supporting  
climate  
change  
adaptation**

*support people in  
preparing, coping  
and adapting to  
current and  
future impacts*

**Building  
universal  
social  
protection  
systems**

*ensure coverage  
against adverse  
impacts of climate  
change & policies,  
based on social  
solidarity and cohesion*

**Supporting  
climate  
change  
mitigation**

*enable & incentivize  
people and systems  
to make sus-  
tainable decisions  
and investments*

## ► Social health protection in the context of climate change

### Universal population coverage for climate resilience

- Respectively only 34 and 16 percent population is protected by a scheme for healthcare in middle and low income countries
- Less than half of the population covered for at least one cash benefit
- Less than half of the population in working age entitled to income security when sick

### Climate-sensitive benefit design

- Adapted benefit packages
- Financial protection geared towards prevention
- Climate-sensitive sickness, unemployment and work injury and diseases benefits
- Adequate levels of social assistance benefits

### Administration minimizing GHG maximizing accessibility

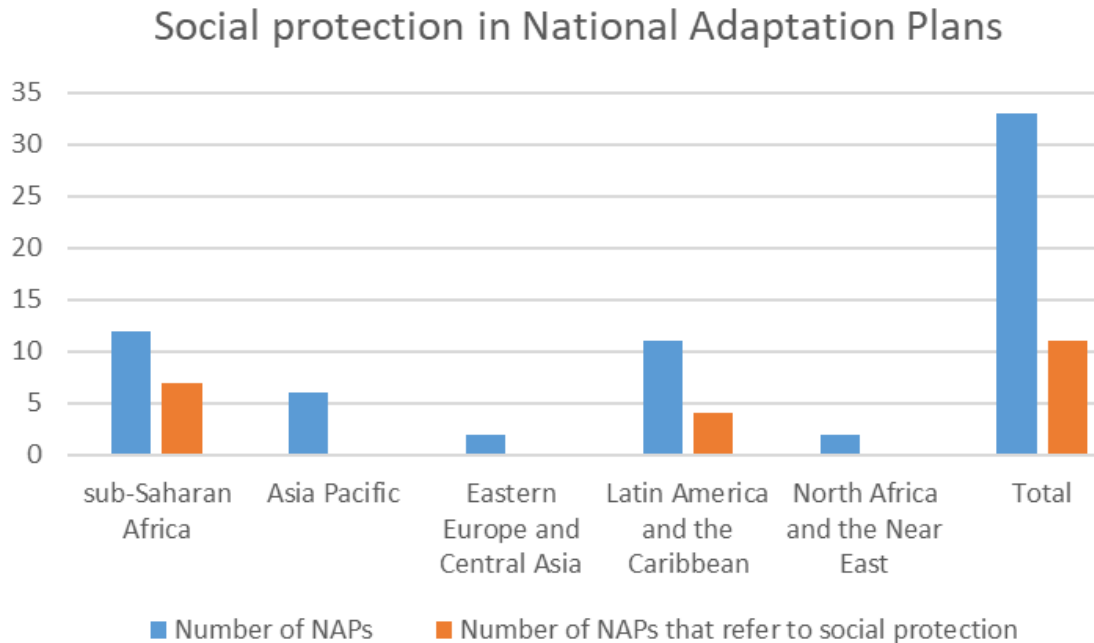
- Minimize GHG emissions and waste in administration
- Implement climate-sensitive purchasing of health and social care services
- Secure portability of benefits vs. climate-induced migration and displacement
- Adapt identification and eligibility procedures during adverse climate events and health emergencies

### Securing sustainable financing

- The financial impact of climate change on SHP systems and the cost of inaction
- The need to anticipate trends and to strengthen the financial management of SHP institutions
- Expanding fiscal space for social health protection in a changing climate



## ▶ The reality of national commitments



### National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

129 countries, 10% refer to social protection, mostly in Africa and Latin America

- ▶ COP26 – Just Transition Declaration
- ▶ IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation & Vulnerability and Mitigation
- ▶ G20 Roadmap
- ▶ G7 Development Ministers' Communiqué:

*We need to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all by 2030, in order to address potential hardships caused by the transformation of ecologically unsustainable sectors, build resilience against climate shocks and help people adapt to climate change”*

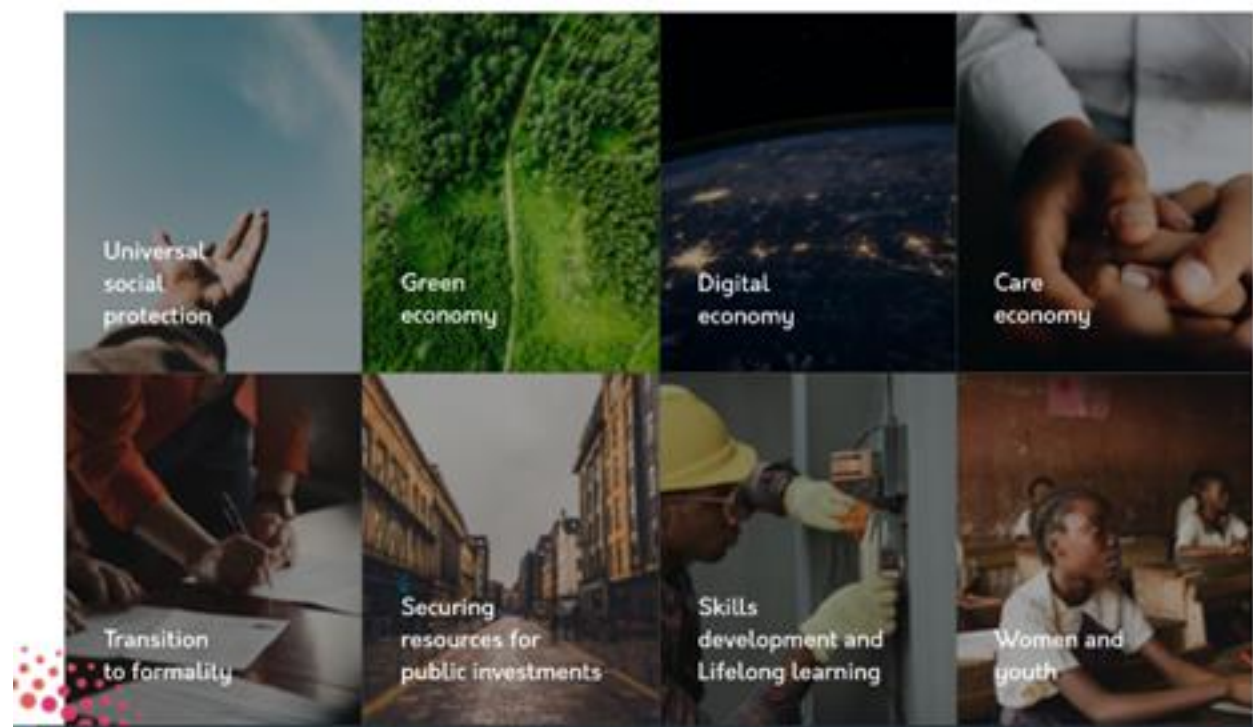
# ▶ Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

Launched by **UN SG** in September 2021 to facilitate recovery and rebuild the social contract

## Ambition

- ▶ 4 billion people covered
- ▶ 400 millions decent jobs created
- ▶ Just transitions for all

3 pillars of action (policy, financing, coordination)



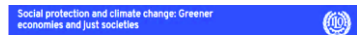


## ▶ The need for a common agenda across health and social policies

- ▶ Climate change is concomitant and exacerbates the impact of other megatrends, such as population ageing or profound transformations in the world of work, which in turn all impact epidemiology.
- ▶ The scale of societal change needed means that no single policy is the solution.
- ▶ For a real shot at both maximizing their mitigation potential and cushioning the negative impacts of the changing climate at individual and household levels, health and social policies need to be closely coordinated.
- ▶ A united front is needed to shift the balance of investments towards health and social policies, while too often those are presented as competing.



[Just Transition Policy Brief - Social protection for a just transition \(ilo.org\)](#)



[FAQS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

**What does social protection have to do with climate change?**  
Climate change will continue to increase the risks people face throughout their lives. It is a main driver of socioeconomic risks, directly increasing poverty, vulnerability and inequality. People will require more social protection. Today, especially following the global COVID-19 crisis, social protection is widely recognized as an essential strategy to prevent and protect people throughout their lives against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. Climate change will also continue to alter the parameters and increase the stresses on social protection systems (incl. social assistance, social insurance, active labour market interventions, while reinforcing the essential role of social protection in supporting people throughout and facilitating a just transition to a green economy.

**What role does social protection play in the transition to an environmentally sustainable economy and society?**  
First, it protects people against the current and future impacts of climate change. Social protection can help people at any point in their lives but is particularly needed in times of crisis. Also in the longer term, climate change adaptation remains unavoidable, even if global warming is reduced. A just transition, well managed and contributing to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty - also entails supporting people in adapting to climate change impacts. Similarly, social protection can shield people from the negative impacts of the transition. While millions of jobs will be created in the transition to net zero, many workers will also lose their jobs or will have to transition to new ones (job loss, job substitution, job transformation). Unemployment protection, linked to active labour market policies and interventions such as retraining, can protect people and support them throughout the transition. Social protection is what makes the transition just and therefore socially and politically acceptable - and sustainable.

Social protection can also actively facilitate the transition to net zero: It can incentivize sustainable and green investments and decisions, supporting risk taking, diversification of income and innovation, and enable employability promotion, providing the time and resources for people to develop their skills and reenter the labour market. Social protection programmes can also contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, for example by supporting the capture and storage of carbon. In many countries, employment intensive public works programmes - a social protection instrument - are increasingly used to rehabilitate or restore landscapes and coasts, support reforestation or nature conservation.

**Who are the economic winners and losers in the transition?**  
These transitions will not affect everyone in the same way. Globally, some countries will see job losses to a larger extent in the informal sector than in the formal sector. Job losses and opportunities will not necessarily cluster in the same countries or geographic areas to allow for job substitution. Within countries, there will be differences as well: People owning small medium enterprises may struggle to afford the upfront cost of installing renewable energy technologies; workers in carbon-intensive industries will lose their jobs, unable to access new ones requiring different skill sets. Net jobs, however, also mask winners and losers.

[Climatechange.social-protection.org](https://www.social-protection.org)

[Social Protection and Climate Change Working Group \(Resources and Community of Practice on socialprotection.org\)](#)



<https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action?ressource.ressourceId=55905>

# Social Protection for a Just Transition

