



International
Labour
Organization

► Building social protection floors for all

ILO Global Flagship
Programme

Annual Report
2024



► **Building social protection floors for all**

ILO Global Flagship Programme

Annual Report 2024

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► Foreword

For the first time since the ILO has started gathering data on effective social protection coverage, more than half — or 52.4 per cent — of the world's population are now covered by at least one social protection benefit, as detailed in the latest World Social Protection Report (2024–2026). While progress is perhaps too slow to keep pace with multiplying global challenges, it is nevertheless an important milestone on the road to universal social protection. Behind that figure, there are billions of people who, through the effective realisation of their human right to social protection, have a better chance of retiring with dignity, of caring for themselves and their loved ones through sickness, of accessing vital healthcare, of providing for their families in situations of transition and crisis.

However, this still leaves almost half of the world's population at risk of poverty and social exclusion throughout their life cycle, which is especially true for those who are already in a position of increased vulnerability. Workers in the informal economy, who represent the majority of the global workforce, still face great obstacles to accessing social protection. Migrants are often legally or effectively excluded from national systems. People with disabilities still do not enjoy adequate and comprehensive protection that addresses their specific needs. Populations in areas that are prone to climate disasters, or otherwise affected by social and political fragility, report below average coverage rates. Now more than ever, it is imperative no one is left behind and that inequalities are bridged under the egis of adequate, sustainable, equitable, and inclusive national social protection system.

The ILO's Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors remains a fundamental instrument to achieve that vision. With the support of a wide coalition of actors committed to the same goals, including governments, donors, social partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs) and UN agencies, the second phase of the Flagship Programme unifies efforts to support constituents in finding solutions to domestic funding gaps, designing innovative policies for an ever-evolving world of work, and making social protection systems more accessible. If decent work and social justice are to be turned into a reality for all, the ILO and its partners must build on the Flagship Programme's great achievements to date and continue on the path to universal social protection.

►► If decent work and social justice are to be turned into a reality for all, the ILO and its partners must build on the Flagship Programme's great achievements to date and continue on the path to universal social protection.

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► **Acronyms¹**

COVID-19	coronavirus disease
DCI	Digital Convergence Initiative
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
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
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
MUL	Multi-donor Programme of the Flagship Programme
OECD	Organization Economic Cooperation and Development
P4H	Providing for Health Initiative
PFM	public finance management
RAP	Rapid Assessment Protocol
RBSA	Regular Budget Supplementary Account
RMT	Results Monitoring Tool
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHP	social health protection

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

SPARKS	Social Protection Action Research and Knowledge Sharing
SPF	social protection floor
SPF-I	United Nations Social Protection Floors Initiative
SPIAC-B	Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board
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

Since 2016, the [ILO Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All](#) (Flagship Programme) has been supporting Member States in strengthening their social protection systems. Rooted in international social security standards and inclusive social dialogue, the Programme helps countries develop sustainable, universal, and comprehensive social protection systems that address life cycle risks, support people as they face transitions and socio-economic

shocks, and contribute to the reduction of poverty, vulnerability, inequality, and social exclusion in concert with a whole range of other national policies.

Through strategic partnerships, the programme enhances national ownership of universal social protection and promotes the application of international social security standards. Its ultimate goal is to guarantee the human rights to social security and an adequate standard of living for all.

In 2024, the Flagship Programme supported reforms and other initiatives that led to significant improvements in the social protection coverage, adequacy, and comprehensiveness of **18 million people** across the world. The ILO has supported the achievement of 41 institutional changes, through the adoption of new social protection strategies and policy frameworks in 10 countries and territories, the establishment or operationalisation of new social protection schemes or programmes in 10 countries, and interventions that improved the operations of the social protection system in 21 countries. At all levels, the Flagship Programme has continued its essential support function to social protection extension and system strengthening, cementing the gains of previous years and enabling progress going forward.

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 a complementary and inter-related three-pillar approach.

1.1 A 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:

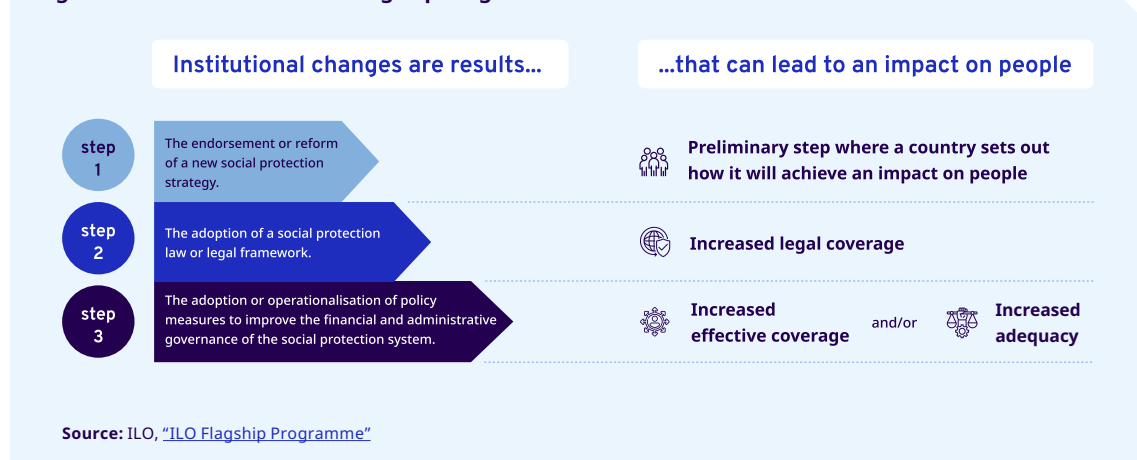
- **Step 1.** Adopting national social protection strategies
- **Step 2.** Designing and reforming schemes anchored in law
- **Step 3.** Improving operations

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. A first group of thematic approaches focuses on the extension of social protection to cover specific risks or population groups. 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. A second group of thematic approaches focuses on building robust and sustainable social protection systems. These areas include social dialogue; building national systems for statistics and monitoring; financing social protection; building rights-based social protection systems; actuarial valuations; digital transformation; adaptive social protection; and, culture of social protection.

► 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 (SPF-I) 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 Programme².

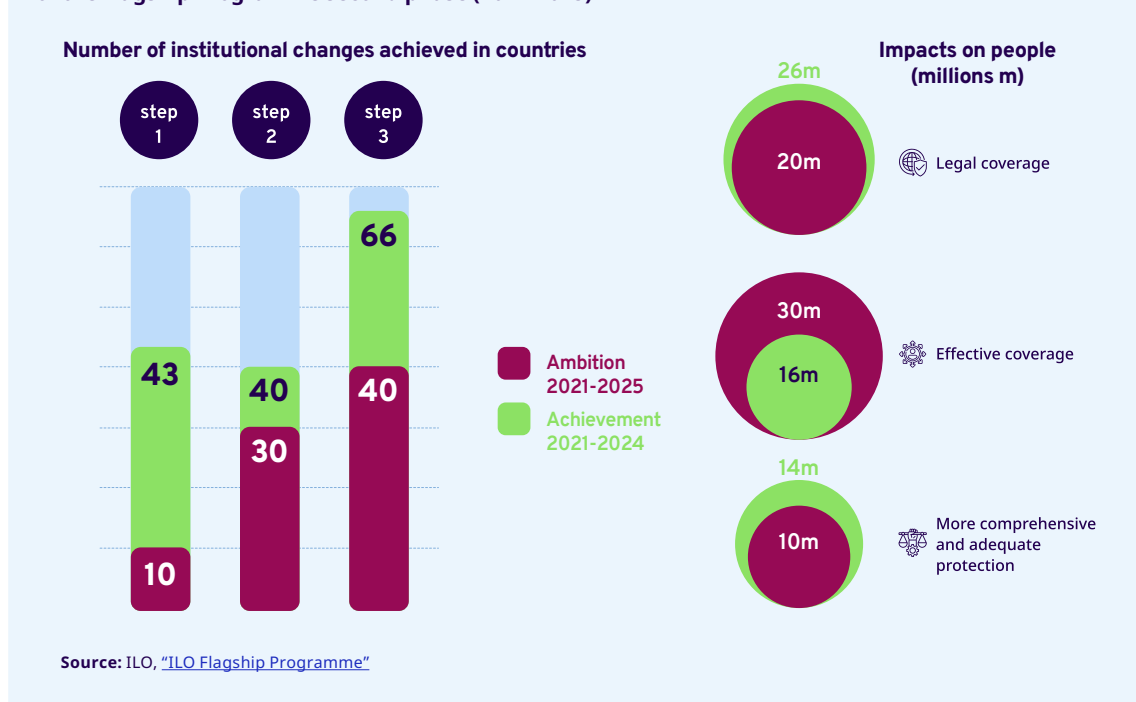
► Box 1: The Global Flagship Programme and the Global Accelerator

The Flagship Programme and the Global Accelerator are complementary initiatives with mutually reinforcing aims: the former to support the building and strengthening of national social protection systems from the regulatory framework to benefit delivery, and the latter to overcome social protection coverage and financing gaps through integrated policy and financing. The Flagship Programme ensures that countries develop solid foundations for social protection in terms of their policies, legal frameworks, financial arrangements, and operational capacities, forming the necessary basis for the achievement of universal social protection. Relying on the ongoing support and progress achieved since 2016 under the Flagship Programme, the Global Accelerator complements and aims to accelerate social protection coverage extension by working on integrated policy approaches that contribute to the creation of decent jobs and the formalization of employment. It also aims to close social protection financing gaps through direct engagement with ministries of finance, public development banks, and public and private investors, and to position social protection as an investment in just climate, digital, demographic and other transitions with high returns for the environment and the economy. Without the Flagship Programme and its continuous and long-term support to the building of robust and universal social protection systems, it would not be possible for the Global Accelerator to advance its priorities. That is why continued support to Flagship Programme countries and initiatives is essential for the success of the Global Accelerator and other similar initiatives throughout the multilateral system.

The ambition of the Flagship Programme is to change the lives 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 **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 achieved (2021-2024) and the ambitions of the Flagship Programme second phase (2021-2025)**



The first four years of the second phase of the Flagship Programme have already achieved significant results, surpassing the ambition of the second phase in nearly every result category. **Between 2021 and 2024, the Flagship Programme achieved 149 institutional changes across the three results areas and improved access to social protection that benefited nearly 56 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 2024, over 18 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, achieving 41 institutional changes in 31 countries in 2024

alone. National social protection strategies and policies were adopted in 10 countries, while social protection schemes or programmes were also introduced or reformed in 10 countries. At the same time, measures to improve the operations of social protection programmes were adopted in 21 countries, including strengthening their administrative and financial governance. Table 3 shows the institutional changes achieved in the past four years of the implementation of the second phase of the Flagship Programme.

► Table 1: Impacts on people during implementation of the Flagship Programme in 2024

Type of impact	Branch of social security	Number of persons
Coverage extension (additional persons covered)		7,182,500
Legal coverage		4,610,000
	<i>Old-age pensions</i>	4,610,000
Effective coverage		2,572,500
	<i>Old-age pensions</i>	1,218,000
	<i>Disability benefits</i>	52,500
	<i>Health protection</i>	1,302,000
Increased adequacy (higher benefit levels)		11,000,000
	<i>Health protection</i>	7,000,000
	<i>Social assistance</i>	4,000,000
Increased comprehensives (more life cycle risks covered)		85,000
	<i>Health protection</i>	85,000
Total persons impacted in 2024		18,267,500

► Table 2: Impacts on people during implementation of the Flagship Programme, 2021-2024

	Impacts 2021-22	Impacts in 2023	Impacts in 2024	Total impacts 2021-2024	Flagship Programme ambition 2021-25
Legal coverage (extension)	19,000,000	1,900,000	4,610,000	25,510,000	20 million
Effective coverage (extension)	11,600,000	1,430,000	2,572,500	15,602,500	30 million
More comprehensive and adequate social protection	330,000	3,000,000	11,085,000	14,415,000	10 million
Total	30,930,000	6,330,000	18,267,500	55,527,500	60 million

► Table 3: Institutional changes achieved during implementation of second phase of the Flagship Programme, 2021-2024

Institutional changes	Total results achieved in 2021-2023	Results achieved in 2024	Total results achieved in 2021-2024	Flagship Programme ambition 2021-25
Step 1: Strategy adopted	33	10	43	10
Step 2: Scheme design/law	30	10	40	30
Step 3: Improving operations	45	21	66	40
Total institutional changes achieved	108	41	149	80

► 2. Programme results 2024

In 2024, the Flagship Programme played a pivotal role in strengthening social protection systems, driving **41 institutional changes** across **31 countries and territories**. These reforms spanned three key result areas, as detailed in Table 4.

A significant milestone was the adoption of national social protection strategies in 10 countries (in Albania, Lebanon, Madagascar, Suriname and elsewhere), developed together with social security institutions, government agencies, social partners, and a broad coalition of stakeholders including civil society organizations. While the adoption of such strategies lays the foundation for stronger social protection systems, sustained efforts are needed to translate them into concrete reforms.

With support from the Flagship Programme, social protection schemes were designed and enacted in

2024 in 10 countries (in Kenya, Nepal, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Viet Nam, among others), while additional measures to operationalize schemes or improve their operational efficiency, administration, or financial governance were introduced in 21 countries (in India, Jordan, Nigeria, Tajikistan and elsewhere). Beyond these direct interventions, the programme also provided targeted technical assistance in 16 thematic areas and developed widely shared good practice guides and technical tools to inform policymakers, social partners, and practitioners.

Strategic partnerships have been instrumental in advancing toward universal social protection, reinforcing national efforts to build sustainable and inclusive systems. The next section provides an overview of key achievements, ongoing initiatives, and specific programme outcomes across the 50 priority countries in 2024.

Key results achieved in 2024

The following map provides a snapshot of the most significant results achieved in 2024.



► Most significant results achieved in 2024

Africa

- 1 In **Burkina Faso**, the adoption of the Government's decree on social security contribution rates for the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (RAMU) and its subsequent operationalisation, supported by the ILO, led to the affiliation of more than 300,000 people with the Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie Universelle (CNAMU).
- 2 In **Kenya**, the inclusion of the refugee population in the Haba Haba scheme by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has the potential to benefit more than 774,000 newly eligible refugees.
- 3 In **Madagascar**, the Ministry of Public Health established a community-based health insurance scheme in the Amoron'i Mania region, which has already extended health coverage to more than 2,000 workers in the informal economy.

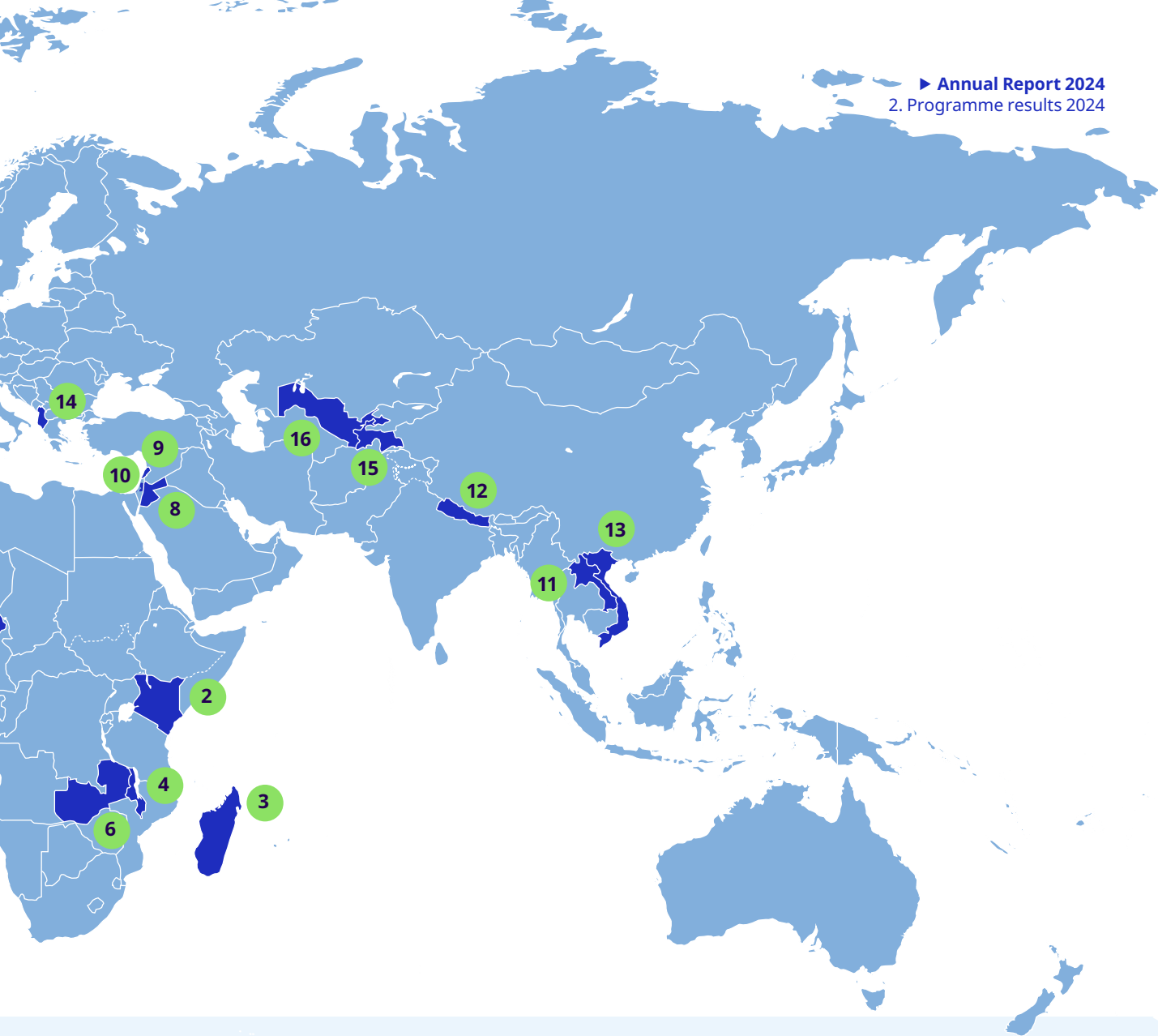
- 4 In **Malawi**, adoption of a new law increasing the protection of older people introduced a social pension benefit for all people above 70 years of age. This older persons' grant provides a monthly benefit to more than 410,000 people in the country.
- 5 In **Nigeria**, the operationalisation of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) and Vulnerable Group Fund (VGF) has extended non-contributory health coverage to more than 1 million individuals.
- 6 In **Zambia**, around 85,000 recipients of social assistance were affiliated to the national health insurance through a subsidized contribution scheme, while digitalisation of the country's social protection services has enabled the registration of 10,000 persons with disabilities in the MIS of the country's disability authority.

Americas

- 7 In **Suriname**, the ratification of Convention No. 102 in 2024 cemented the country's commitment to social protection for all, which was further reiterated in the new National Social Protection Strategy, validated by relevant national stakeholders and expected to be fully adopted in 2025.

Arab States

- 8 In **Jordan**, introduction of a pilot, following the Estidama++ programme, to boost the inclusion of uncovered workers into the social protection system will subsidise contributions for 37,500 vulnerable workers to ensure their social protection coverage.
- 9 In **Lebanon**, support was extended to 27,500 people with disabilities through the National Disability Allowance (NDA) framework, 10,000



of whom also received a one-time top-up benefit to strengthen support throughout the regional conflict escalation in 2024.

- 10** In the **Occupied Palestinian Territory**, the Ministry of Social Development introduced and began the disbursement of social allowances for persons with disabilities and older persons in the West Bank, reaching 15,000 and 18,000 persons respectively with monthly transfers.

Asia and the Pacific

- 11** In **Lao PDR**, important amendments to the country's legal framework for health insurance were introduced, improving adequacy for the roughly 7 million people with effective coverage in the country, and contributing to expanding the scheme's coverage.
- 12** In **Nepal**, the Government introduced a new contributory social protection

scheme targeted at self-employed and other workers in the informal sector, as well as migrant workers, covering all branches. Coverage is voluntary for 8 million workers in the informal sector. For migrant workers mandatory coverage, excluding sickness and maternity protection, has led to an increase of around 1.2 million.

- 13** In **Viet Nam**, the National Assembly adopted legislation establishing a multi-tiered pension system that extends coverage to 3 million additional workers and 1.2 million older persons, and increases benefit levels for 4 million social assistance beneficiaries.

Europe and Central Asia

- 14** In **Albania**, the Government's adoption of the National Strategy on Social Protection 2024-2030 represents an important step forward in the effective extension of contributory social

protection coverage to workers in-line with the principles of Convention No. 102.

- 15** In **Tajikistan**, efforts to digitalise the management information system (MIS) of the contributory component of the country's social protection system have been accelerated in 2024, with a technical report being presented to the Agency for Social Insurance and Pensions (ASIP).
- 16** In **Uzbekistan**, a draft Social Insurance Law has been developed and is being discussed by national stakeholders. The law aims to introduce maternity, sickness, and unemployment benefits, with a staggered entry into force between 2025 and 2026.

► Table 4: Institutional results summary, by result type (2024)

		Result 1	Result 2	Result 3
		Policies and strategies	Introduction, reform of schemes	Improving operations
Africa				
1.	Angola			●
2.	Burkina Faso		●	●
3.	Burundi	●		
4.	Cabo Verde	●		●
5.	Cameroon			
6.	Côte d'Ivoire			●
7.	Congo, Democratic Republic of the			●
8.	Egypt			●
9.	Eswatini			
10.	Ethiopia			
11.	Ghana			
12.	Kenya		●	
13.	Madagascar	●	●	
14.	Malawi	●	●	
15.	Morocco			
16.	Mozambique			●
17.	Nigeria		●	●
18.	Rwanda			●
19.	Senegal			●
20.	Sierra Leone			●
21.	South Africa			
22.	Sudan			
23.	Tanzania			
24.	Togo			
25.	Uganda	●		
26.	Zambia	●		●

	Result 1 Policies and strategies	Result 2 Introduction, reform of schemes	Result 3 Improving operations
Americas			
27. Barbados			
28. Ecuador			
29. El Salvador			●
30. Paraguay			
31. Suriname	●		
Arab States			
32. Iraq			●
33. Jordan			●
34. Lebanon	●	●	
35. Occupied Palestinian Territory		●	●
Asia and the Pacific			
36. Cambodia			
37. India			●
38. Indonesia			
39. Lao People's Democratic Republic		●	●
40. Nepal		●	
41. Pakistan			●
42. Philippines			
43. Samoa			
44. Timor-Leste			●
45. Viet Nam	●	●	
Europe and Central Asia			
46. Albania	●		
47. Kyrgyzstan			
48. Tajikistan			●
49. Ukraine			
50. Uzbekistan			
41 Results achieved in 2024 (TOTAL)	10	10	21

2.1 Summary of country-level results 2024

Africa

Angola ●

Angola launched the first Bulletin of Social Protection Statistics on December 17, 2024, which aims to present the evolution of social protection coverage and benefits in the 2018-2022 period and to serve as an important source of information for evaluating enacted public policies throughout the implementation of the National Development Plan (2018-2022). The ILO, through the ACTION/Portugal and Expanding Social Security to Support the Formalization of the Angolan Economy (ESSAFE) projects, supported the publication of the Bulletin, by providing capacity building, technical, and financial assistance to the Angola Social Protection Statistics Interministerial Team, and it is continuing to do so for the launch of the second edition of the Bulletin, expected for November 2025.

Building on the results of the EU funded project “Improving synergies between social protection and public finance management,” at the legislative level, there have also been important developments in Angola in terms of the country’s ongoing process of revision of the Basic Law on Social Protection. A new draft has been officially submitted to the Council of Ministers for their inputs in October. The ILO has been following the reform initiative and has been supporting the government in the revision of the framework Law, including through the promotion and facilitation of social dialogue, in the form of tripartite consultations on the proposed amendments, to bring it more in line with international social security standards. These efforts fit into the broader engagement of the ILO with the Government of Angola on the introduction of a wider range of social protection schemes in the country, including for sickness, invalidity, and unemployment protection. To support their eventual introduction once the new Law has been passed, the ILO has been conducting three comparative studies, bringing comparable experiences from other countries that introduced similar schemes, and how those could be applicable to the context of Angola. Currently, the ILO is conducting an actuarial study of the existing pension system to assess the feasibility of including invalidity protection, and a second study on the introduction of an unemployment insurance.

These developments have been further bolstered by the National Assembly, which in 2024 issued a resolution approving the ratification of Convention No. 102, confirmed through a Presidential Letter of ratification. As the instrument of ratification is yet to be submitted to the ILO Director General, the ratification is yet to be considered valid at the international level. The ILO has supported the Government with a comparative assessment between Angola’s social security system and the minimum requirements set out by Convention

No. 102, as well as by facilitating consultations over its results with Government, employers’, and workers’ representatives.

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

Burkina Faso ●●

In 2024, significant progress was made in the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (RAMU) in Burkina Faso. The government adopted in February 2024 specific provisions regarding the RAMU and its financing arrangements, including the basket of healthcare services to be covered and contribution rates, following rounds of consultations with social partners supported by the ILO. Capacity-building activities for officials and management of the Universal National Health Insurance Fund (CNAMU) officials were also conducted by the ILO to support the implementation of the scheme, including for the introduction of subsidized healthcare for pregnant women and children under five. As a result of these operationalisation efforts, enrolment of beneficiaries started during the last quarter of the year, with over 300,000 people affiliated with the CNAMU. Additionally, efforts were made to extend health coverage to informal economy workers and their families, supported by training and sensitization sessions for stakeholders.

Meanwhile, the OpenIMIS health insurance information system was also deployed and adapted, with CNAMU staff and other national actors receiving training by the ILO on its use. Collaborations with various partners, including Propel Health and the World Bank, were crucial in supporting RAMU implementation, with regular consultations and coordination with national and international stakeholders.

Financing support: Germany, the Multi-donor Programme (MUL) of the Flagship Programme funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Burundi ●

In May 2024, the Government of Burundi approved a new National Social Protection Policy (2024-2033), which lays out an overarching framework for social protection expansion in the country over the following ten years, reflecting a life-cycle approach and bringing together both contributory and non-contributory schemes. Foreseen measures aim at supporting children, the working age population, and the elderly, improving the socio-economic inclusion of more vulnerable workers and populations, extending social health protection coverage, increasing the protection of the population against environmental shocks, and reinforcing the overall governance of the social protection system. The ILO has provided technical support for review of the policy, as well as the existing legal and institutional framework for the social protection system in Burundi.

Regarding extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy, a series of feasibility studies were conducted and capacity-building activities and workshops held throughout the year, involving the National Social Security Institute (INSS), the National Commission for Social Protection (CNPS), other relevant government bodies, and social partners. On the basis of these inputs, a roadmap for the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy was prepared and validated by the Technical Tripartite Steering Committee on the extension of social security to workers in the informal economy on October 10, 2024, entailing a list of priority activities to be carried out in the short and medium term to address legal, institutional, and financial barriers to social protection extension.

Meanwhile, in November 2024, the draft Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Financing Strategy, which is linked to the overall national Social Protection Policy and Strategy, was finalised by the technical committee, and will be evaluated for approval and adoption in the first half of 2025.

Financing support: The Multi-donor Programme (MUL) of the Flagship Programme funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Cabo Verde ●●

In 2024, a major legislative milestone was the first amendment to the country's law on non-contributory components of the social protection system (Law No. 38/VIII/2013), approved by the Council of Ministers in September 2024 and published in January 2025, further developing the general social protection framework, particularly in relation to social assistance provisions.

The second Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection, published in December 2024, has further strengthened data-driven policymaking by tracking progress in coverage expansion and system performance. Meanwhile, the Technical Note on the Single Social Registry (CSU), awaiting finalisation, aims to share information on the process created at national level, with the support of the ILO, to improve the identification and integration of beneficiaries, and a Diagnostic Study on the Extension of Social Security to Hard-to-Cover Workers has reinforced formalisation efforts.

As part of a broader initiative to raise awareness of social protection and enhance public understanding, in September 2024 two dozen journalists from the main national news organisations, as well as technicians from the Communications Offices of public bodies related to the area of Social Protection, were given training on social protection.

In January 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance confirmed Cabo Verde's high-level commitment to join the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, with the support of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal.

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

Cameroon

The ILO continues to support the Ministry of Public Health to establish a sustainable social protection mechanism directly addressing the financial risks linked to pregnancy. On the basis of the awareness and advocacy support provided by the ILO throughout 2022 and 2023, programme partners continued throughout 2024 to support the initiative to provide health vouchers to poor pregnant women under the Micro-takaful programme, including 50 per cent of refugee women in the East and Adamaoua regions. The subsidy scheme brings together government, civil society organizations and traditional religious leaders in a partnership built around the principles of Islamic finance and community solidarity to expand access to maternal health services among target populations.

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

Côte d'Ivoire ●

In 2024, the ILO also supported the improvement of mechanisms for managing and extending social protection coverage in Côte d'Ivoire in line with Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2023) and Recommendation No. 202. An analysis with the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) was launched to optimize the management of complaints from universal health coverage (CMU) beneficiaries. These improvements are expected to have a positive impact on the rate of affiliates who remit contributions regularly and benefit from CMU services. Similarly, a digital platform was also developed to inform migrant workers about social and financial services made available through public and other institutions.

Meanwhile, officials, including managers, participated in the 2024 Social Security Academy at the International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) in Turin. Increased capacities among administrators have allowed for the reactivation of the national social protection platform to consolidate system coordination, continued dialogue on introduction of unemployment insurance branch, and the eventual creation of a system of national social protection statistics. Finally, the integration of social protection in the coffee-cocoa sector and the rubber value chain was strengthened, with support for financing contributions via public-private partnerships. The government is now working on designing a financing mechanism whereby the Council of coffee cacao will subsidize the CMU contributions of coffee cacao producers.

Financing support: France, Kingdom of the Netherlands and Eni S.p.A. Visit our [country page](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo ●

Under the Flagship Programme, the ILO has continued to support the strengthening of the social health protection system, particularly its coordination and governance, and the extension of coverage.

In 2024, the ILO worked with a research centre to develop a categorization study for workers in the informal economy, looking at their socio-economic characteristics and capacity to contribute to social health insurance. The study is being conducted with the support of the Ministry of Employment, Labour, and Social Security and the Health Solidarity Fund (FSS), and it is expected to be completed in early 2025.

Additionally, an activity to raise awareness on the 2023 legislation on universal health coverage was supported in 2024. It was organised by the FSS in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Social Security. The objective of the consultations with institutional, technical and financial stakeholders was to bring together the various perspectives of relevant stakeholders on the financing of universal health coverage in relation to the implementation of the Mandatory Health Insurance System (RAMO) for State employees and workers in the informal economy. The ILO also supported the elaboration of the first edition of the Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection covering 2022 and 2023. The bulletin was elaborated by a multi-sectoral team led by the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene and Social Welfare through the National Secretariat for Social Protection and launched in September 2024.

In April 2024, the Minister of Planning of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) formalized its commitment to the Global Accelerator in a letter to the UN Resident Coordinator and will develop a national roadmap through consultations with stakeholders to implement the initiative.

Financing support: The Multi-donor Programme (MUL) of the Flagship Programme funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Egypt ●

In 2024, the ILO continued to support actuarial valuations needed to ensure fiscal sustainability and to promote the extension of coverage of social insurance in Egypt. A first actuarial valuation following the 2019 reform of the social insurance and pension system in Egypt was finalized using the ILO/PENSIONS actuarial model and submitted to the National Organization for Social Insurance (NOSI) in 2024 with different policy scenarios and recommendations on how to improve the financial sustainability of the system. Egypt is also currently conducting a comprehensive review of its social protection system at large with ILO and UN support.

The ILO is also continuing to support NOSI and the Ministry of Social Solidarity in extending social protection to informal workers. A policy brief on the extension of social protection to informal workers in Egypt, with focus on agricultural workers, was developed and published in cooperation with NOSI, while a costing on the extension of short-term benefits to workers in the informal economy in Egypt was initiated in cooperation with NOSI and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to identify different costing scenarios for extending

work-injury, maternity, and health insurance to workers in the informal economy. Meanwhile, as part of efforts to improve access to social protection among forcibly displaced people and host communities, the ILO, in cooperation with UNHCR, also published a feasibility and costing study to extend coverage of the universal health insurance scheme to refugees. The study was used as a basis to develop a concept note with a design for a pilot to extend the Universal Health Insurance System (UHS) to refugees in two governorates. The design of the pilot is underway with the different governmental entities to ensure an eventual national ownership. Furthermore, the ILO has worked on promoting evidence-based policy dialogue about the inclusion of refugees in the national social protection system through developing a series of policy papers about the inclusion of refugees in the social insurance, health insurance as well as social assistance system, in cooperation with the Economic Research Forum (ERF), UNICEF, UNHCR, and WFP.

Financing support: Kingdom of the Netherlands. Visit our [country page](#).

Eswatini

In 2024, the ILO continued to support the Government of Eswatini to assess the feasibility of introducing an unemployment insurance scheme. To this end, a joint mission to Eswatini was carried out as part of the global ILO-IMF collaboration, leading to a jointly authored “Issue Paper on Labour Markets and Unemployment Insurance in Eswatini,” which was published in September 2024. The paper also serves as a technical annex to the IMF’s Article IV report, which provides an overview of the broader macroeconomic and policy environment in Eswatini.

Additionally in 2024, the ILO completed an assessment of different options for the institutional architecture of an unemployment benefit scheme, informed by nearly a dozen exploratory online consultative meetings with stakeholders and followed by a presentation of the findings to key stakeholders. Several hybrid workshops were also organized to discuss the report and potential implementation options. The report is slated for eventual publication in 2025 following further consultations.

Financing support: Donors to the ILO’s Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). Visit our [country page](#).

Ethiopia

Under the PROSPECTS project, the ILO has continued its support to the Government and the Ethiopian Health Insurance Service (EHIS) in partnership with UNHCR for the inclusion of urban refugees into the national social health protection systems, and therefore transitioning them away from direct humanitarian assistance. In 2024, the ILO delivered a training to 40 participants from EHIS, workers and employers’ organizations, UNHCR Ethiopia, Refugee and Returnees Service (RRS), Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA), Ministry of Health (MoH) with an emphasis on sharing

knowledge and experience on strengthening social health financing and national systems.

Following the workshop, a technical working group was created to take the process forward, which will include additional activities aimed at reinforcing the capacities of EHIS and Community-Based Health Insurance schemes, including actuarial work, as well as improving data collection and management for social health protection.

Financing support: Kingdom of the Netherlands. Visit our [country page](#).

Ghana

In Ghana, the ILO continues to support social protection programmes with a particular focus on improving service quality and access in the context of eliminating child labour. In particular, the ILO is working to identify and address gaps in health services provision through a series of pilot interventions. This support also aims to establish a grievance mechanism through cooperatives to report access issues and to allow for insured members' feedback and potential improvements in scheme administration. Meanwhile, the ILO is also exploring partnerships with multinationals in the cocoa supply chain to facilitate access to health insurance for cooperative members, including through the potential subsidy of contributions.

Financing support: Kingdom of the Netherlands and the ILO's Regular Budget. Visit our [country page](#).

Kenya ●

In 2024, the ILO supported the consolidation of a One UN plan for coordinated support to the implementation of the Social Health Insurance (SHI) Act of 2023. The transition from the former National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to the newly established Social Health Authority (SHA) was completed in October 2024 when health care services were first offered under the social health insurance system with the SHA responsible for administering related benefits. The One UN plan included a strong advocacy component to ensure preservation of the gains of the former system while supporting a smooth transition to new administrative arrangements. Once fully operationalized, the new social health insurance system will require Kenyan citizens and their dependents to register with the SHA to ensure their access to essential healthcare services without financial hardship.

In October 2024, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) re-launched the Haba Haba scheme, which had originally been set up in 2019 to support informal sector workers with acquiring old-age savings. The renewed commitment to the scheme includes a significant effort to ensure the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers, through the adaptation of the scheme to their specific needs. This has included several key measures such as simplified registration processes, the introduction of mobile-based platforms, a more flexible contribution structure, and the provision of tailored financial literacy programmes. The ILO has worked closely with national

partners, such as the NSSF and the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), and international development partners, such as UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), to ensure the meaningful inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in Haba Haba, which could see the inclusion of up to 774,000 people. Support was provided including through the PROSPECTS and PATHWAYS projects funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the US Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). The ILO conducted a feasibility study informing the scheme's adaption and recommending the implemented changes, to improve alignment with international social security standards, and delivered financial literacy programs jointly with the NSSF.

Additionally, the ILO continued during 2024 to support piloting of the strategy for the extension of social protection coverage to workers in the informal and rural economy in Kisumu and Mombasa counties. The ILO has been providing technical advice and support to the development of the strategy, launched in 2023, including by enabling participatory social dialogue through its engagement in the tripartite working group. It is also currently working on ways to extend social protection in the castor nuts value chain, in the context of a public-private partnership.

Financing support: China, Kingdom of the Netherlands, United States, and Eni S.p.A. Visit our [country page](#).

Madagascar ●●

The ILO contributed to updating the National Social Protection Strategy, (2024-2030) adopted by the government in 2024, in particular by strengthening references to contributory schemes. ILO support also allowed for an alignment of the national strategy with international standards and for the adoption of an inclusive and sustainable approach within Madagascar's national vision for expanding access to social protection.

Elsewhere, the Ministry of Public Health established, with support from the ILO, Community-Based Health Insurance (AMBC) in the Amoron'i Mania region. This initiative has already enabled more than 2,000 members from the various structures of the informal sector platform (SOAVA) to benefit from health coverage.

The ILO also supported the Ministry of Labour and other partners to develop the "Roadmap for the extension of social protection to the self-employed." The initiative follows the experience-sharing visit between Madagascar and Côte d'Ivoire in 2023, which provided inspiration from good practices in social protection coverage. Implementation of this roadmap has fostered collaboration between the Ministry of Labour and the IRAY health mutual insurance company, in order to cover the self-employed and those in the informal economy. During the awareness-raising phase, approximately 1,500 people were informed of the offers of this partnership in the Vakinankaratra region.

Meanwhile, the National Social Security Fund (CNaPS), with technical support from the ILO, launched national consultations to collect data for the actuarial study



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needed to inform the development of a social security scheme for self-employed workers. The ILO also contributed to updating the National Social Protection Strategy, in particular by strengthening references to contributory schemes.

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

Malawi ●●

The Government of Malawi approved the revised National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) in November 2024, which notably has introduced a broadening of the framework to include the country's nascent social insurance and contributory social protection programmes. The inclusion of social insurance under the new strategic framework was the result of advocacy on the part of the ILO to progressively establish a multi-tiered social protection system in the country, guided by the principles of international social security standards.

In April 2024, the National Assembly of Malawi passed the Older Persons' Act, establishing a comprehensive framework for care and financial support to the country's ageing population. The bill established a new non-contributory social protection benefit, the Old Persons' Grant (OPG), which consists of a monthly benefit to people aged 70 and above and has the potential to reach 410,000 people in the country. The ILO provided technical support to the development of the OPG, in particular to the development of costing estimates for different implementation scenarios, informing the eventual design and implementation of the scheme.

In 2024, the Government of Malawi endorsed its national roadmap under the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, which identified three sectoral entry points: accelerating agriculture productivity and commercialisation, industrialising the country's mining sector, and accelerating growth in the tourism industry. The ILO has been supporting the Government of Malawi in engaging with the Global Accelerator process, and it was identified as the lead agency for the UN GA country team responsible for the development and implementation of its joint programme.

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

Morocco

In 2024, the ILO assisted the ongoing effort of the Government of Morocco to implement the ambitious and comprehensive set of reforms that the country introduced into its national system with the passing of the Framework Law No. 09/21 on social protection, adopted in March 2021, following the ratification of the Convention No.102 in 1919. The law aims at the universalisation of compulsory health insurance, family benefits, and a significant extension of coverage of the pension and unemployment protection scheme, including to self-employed workers. The ILO has been supporting the Government in reviewing the parameters of the unemployment benefit scheme, and in particular the eligibility conditions and proposing options for extension to self-employed workers, as envisioned in the Framework Law. These measures are to be implemented in 2025, and the study was submitted to the Government this year and is currently under review.

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

Mozambique ●

Progress continued throughout 2024 in Mozambique in the renewal of the National Basic Social Security Strategy (ENSSB), with efforts focused on evidence generation and support to consultations led by civil society on the overall implementation of ENSSB II and dissemination of results, while waiting for the guidance of the new government for the next phases. It was also the year when the National Social Security Institute (INSS) had its new Strategy 2024-2028 published with the support of ILO.

Elsewhere, key analytical products have also been developed. The fifth and sixth editions of the national Social Protection Statistical Bulletin were developed and published in 2024 (the 6th edition to be edited and published) and INSS published its Social Security Statistical Bulletin, 2018-2022, all with ILO technical support. These publications contribute to a more robust evidence base for decision-making and monitoring of the social protection system. Meanwhile, on the basis of prior collaboration that led to expanded coverage

of non-contributory benefits to some 400,000 beneficiaries, joint work with the IMF and the Ministry of Economy and Finance has remained vital in exploring the feasibility of securing additional fiscal space for social protection.

Financing support: Ireland, Portugal and donors to UN Joint Programmes. Visit our [country page](#).

► Box 2: Social protection statistical bulletins

Social protection statistical bulletins serve as key instruments for monitoring and evaluating social protection systems. These bulletins compile and present data on the reach of social protection programmes and highlight key coverage gaps, helping policymakers, researchers, and the public understand the state of social protection extension in a country. By providing timely and accurate statistics, statistical bulletins also enable evidence-based decision-making that supports policy reforms and enhances transparency in social protection governance. The ILO has worked closely with national social protection and statistical authorities in several countries to develop such bulletins, strengthening national capacities for data collection and analysis and contributing to more effective and inclusive social protection systems. In 2024, the ILO has provided technical support to the development of social protection statistical bulletins in Angola, Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique following similar support to other countries in previous years.

Nigeria ●●

Nigeria has made progress in strengthening its social protection framework in previous years under the Flagship Programme. ILO has supported the operationalization of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) and Vulnerable Group Fund (VGF) in 2024, extending non-contributory health coverage to over 1 million individuals. A new digital management system to improve access to informal economy workers was introduced sub-nationally, among other achievements. The ILO also facilitated the development of an interoperability framework for data integration between national social registers and other databases on social development programmes.

Building on these successes, a new project launched activities in late 2024 and seeks to further enhance Nigeria's social protection system to better address poverty, inequality, and economic vulnerability. In collaboration with UNICEF, the ILO is working to ensure that social protection mechanisms are not only sustainable but also shock-responsive at both Federal and State levels. With a strong focus on policy integration, financial sustainability, and digitalization, the project aims to improve coordination across institutions, expand coverage, and enhance service delivery. Targeting Abia, Benue, Oyo, and Sokoto States, work under the Flagship Programme is set to create a more inclusive and resilient social protection system for millions of Nigerians.

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

Rwanda ●

The Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) has made the extension of social protection coverage to workers in the informal economy a priority, and in particular deepening the understanding of the working conditions of informal workers, their socioeconomic status, their access to social protection as well as the barriers to

coverage. To this end, with the support of the ILO, a nation-wide study was produced, comprising more than 150 participants across economic sectors and districts of the country. In May 2024, the nearly 40 recommendations coming out of this research were presented and validated at a tripartite workshop with key national stakeholders. In August, an implementation plan was collaboratively developed during a workshop with RSSB, the Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA), and social partners, outlining the steps to turn the recommendations into actionable measures. The ILO has been providing ongoing support to the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) for the extension of social protection coverage to the informal sector, including by directly supporting the delivery of the study and its recommendations. To this end, the ILO has been convening social partners under 20 different focus groups, ensuring representation of women, people with disabilities, and non-nationals in this process. The ILO has co-developed the implementation plan and has been supporting the delivery of activities under its framework through its projects, which are planned to continue into 2025.

In collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Invest for Jobs initiative, the ILO has supported RSSB to explore the extension of the mandatory social insurance scheme to new groups including sales agents and members of agricultural cooperatives. The process will inform and facilitate further extension to other groups in the informal sector.

Rwanda's social security institutions, led by the RSSB, have been engaged in a process of revision and reform of the existing social protection architecture and schemes under it, including pensions, unemployment insurance, and maternity protection. Throughout 2024, the ILO has worked to support RSSB to develop a medium- to long-term strategy towards a multi-pillar pension model, for which a study was developed and presented at a workshop that took place in July 2024 then validated by the RSSB management. Similarly,

for the development of unemployment protection in Rwanda, the ILO has started work on a feasibility study to inform design options, models for costing, and linkages with employment promotion services, discussed at a meeting organised by the RSSB in October 2024. This process will continue in 2025. Finally, the ILO submitted a technical proposal for an expansion of maternity leave benefits to be available for informal economy workers, in November 2024.

In January 2024, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning confirmed Rwanda's high-level commitment to join the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.

Financing support: The Multi-donor Programme (MUL) of the Flagship Programme funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Senegal ●

In 2024, the National Social Mutual of Artisans (MSNAS) continued to expand its membership for coverage to health services in clinics throughout the country. The expansion of the scheme follows continued technical advice and capacity-building provided by the ILO, including through the former EU funded project on "Improving synergies between social protection and public finance management". The Simplified Social Security Scheme for workers in the informal economy (RSPC), launched in collaboration with MSNAS, has since made it possible to conclude agreements with 265 health structures, including establishments (health centres and public health facilities, specialized centres and health posts) and pharmacies, to increase coverage available to artisans. A mechanism for mobile contribution payments was also put into place in 2024, facilitating registration and access to the scheme. In 2025, with support from the ILO and European Union, the country will explore the extension of the RSPC to workers in the agriculture sector. Meanwhile, a participatory process was set up, in collaboration with the Senegalese Agency for Universal Health Coverage (SEN-CSU) and the World Bank, involving all relevant ministries and institutions concerned with workers in the informal economy, forming part of a dedicated technical group to explore coverage extension to the informal economy through a series of workshops in 2024.

In collaboration with the ILO, Senegal hosted an international conference in Dakar in September 2024 on expanding social protection to workers in the informal economy. Representatives from seven African countries and the Inter-African Conference on Social Security (CIPRES) attended the event to share experiences and develop solutions along with an ambitious roadmap for expanded worker protection.

A joint UN mission in December 2023 reaffirmed Senegal's commitment to the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and secured official participation in the initiative through a high-level commitment by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation. Led by multiple UN agencies, the mission engaged government, private sector,

and social partners, identifying key entry points and reinforcing policy coherence.

Financing support: European Union, France, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Multi-donor Programme (MUL) of the Flagship Programme funded by Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit our [country page](#).

Sierra Leone ●

In October 2024, the ILO completed and delivered an actuarial valuation of the National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT), which included options for the extension of social security to workers in the informal economy in line with Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2022) and Recommendation No. 202. Since 2001, the NASSIT has administered social security in Sierra Leone providing retirement and other benefits through mandatory coverage for all formal sector employers and employees and voluntary membership for the self-employed. Following a comprehensive data cleaning exercise by NASSIT of its membership data as well as improvements to its information technology infrastructure, the NASSIT requested the ILO to undertake its fifth actuarial valuation with a specific focus on exploring options for extending social security to workers in the informal economy. The ILO estimates that informal employment represents more than 93 per cent of total employment in Sierra Leone (SDG indicator 8.3.1).

Financing support: National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) of Sierra Leone. Visit our [country page](#).

South Africa

Activities undertaken by the ILO in South Africa in 2024 highlight the critical role of social protection in advancing the country's ambitious social development agenda, including in support of a just transition, and have begun laying the groundwork for South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025. Throughout the year, the ILO has continued to support the Department of Social Development (DSD) to advance key aspects of social security reform in South Africa, including through support for the drafting and eventual adoption of a revised Green Paper on social protection system reform. With ILO support, a peer review of the draft paper was completed incorporating inputs from experts, while an outreach and stakeholder engagement campaign was developed to support public consultations on its main themes. Meanwhile, DSD officials participated in a regional workshop organized by the ILO on the design of a module to extend social protection to informal economy workers as part of the innovative TRANSFORM learning package on the administration of national social protection floors in Africa. Other plans for official capacity building on social protection statistics were also developed with implementation planned for February 2025.

Other technical work also advanced in 2024, including the review of public feedback on proposed designs

for the revised social security system, as well as an assessment of updates required for further actuarial modelling exercises and a review of existing private-sector retirement provisions. This latter review underscored the need for stronger regulatory oversight and alignment with public pension schemes, reinforcing the ILO's multi-pillar approach to comprehensive social security. Furthermore, the decision was taken to update the ILO's 2014 assessment of South Africa's social security legislation, including a legislative gap analysis on maternity protection, in preparation for potential ratification of Convention No. 102.

Financing support: Department of Social Development of South Africa. Visit the [country page](#).

Sudan

Despite challenges posed by the ongoing conflict, the ILO remains committed to supporting efforts toward establishing a robust social protection system in Sudan through strengthened policy dialogue, coordination mechanisms, and institutional capacity. In the interim, the ILO continues working with partners, including through the PROSPECTS project, to evaluate institutional arrangements of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and make recommendations for improving performance, expanding coverage and strengthening financial management. Publication of the evaluation is expected in 2025.

Financing support: Kingdom of the Netherlands. Visit the [country page](#).

Tanzania, United Republic of

With ILO support, Tanzania continued to strengthen its social protection system in 2024 through capacity building of staff and management of the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) following the successful completion of an actuarial valuation delivered by the ILO in 2023. In 2024, capacity-building sessions were conducted to train staff in the application of actuarial methodologies and the use of the ILO/EII (Employment Injury Insurance) model. These efforts have strengthened the WCF's capacity to monitor and manage its financial position, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the scheme.

Financing support: Workers' Compensation Fund of Tanzania. Visit our [country page](#).

Togo

The ILO continues to support Togo to develop sustainable financing options for social protection, including universal health coverage, while focusing on the inclusion of workers in the informal economy and rural sectors in line with Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2013) and Recommendation No. 202. Through their partnership, the ILO and IMF are collaborating with the Ministry of Finance to enhance capacity for financing social protection, extending coverage to workers in the informal and rural economy in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the National Health Institution





(INAM), and support for the implementation of the new Law on Universal Health Insurance together with workers' and employers' organizations.

Financing support: Donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). Visit our [country page](#).

Uganda ●

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development launched the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) in October 2024. The strategy now incorporates a lifecycle approach and establishes links with employment through active labour market programs (ALMPs), bringing the national social protection framework closer in line with relevant ILO conventions and recommendations. The ILO assisted this effort by providing technical inputs into the draft document to the Social Protection Development Partners' Group chair and presented to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development for incorporation into the final version of the NSPS.

On the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy, a dedicated National Strategy under development throughout 2024 is close to being finalised, with an official validation and launch expected for November 2025. The strategy, which provides a framework for Government's strategic vision for extending coverage to workers in the informal economy, underpinned by the international social security standards, has received extensive technical inputs from the ILO, which has also already been supporting the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) in implementing some of its components. The Fund has developed a supportive legislative framework, including a recent amendment to the foundational Act and accompanying regulations, which have been approved by the Minister in 2024. A pilot initiative is planned to extend coverage to workers in the informal economy, targeting both refugees and host communities.

Financing support: Kingdom of the Netherlands. Visit our [country page](#).

Zambia ●●

On the basis of a costing analysis and social dialogue exercise supported by the ILO, Zambia expanded in 2024 coverage of its National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to approximately 85,000 new beneficiaries residing in households enrolled in the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme. With financial support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), members of SCT beneficiary households in seven districts of Zambia can access free healthcare services at facilities accredited to the National health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) without out-of-pocket expenses. This result advances Zambia's ambition to achieve universal health coverage and to enhance social protection for vulnerable populations.

Elsewhere, Zambia finalised and launched a new National Social Protection Policy, which for the first time introduced a life-cycle approach to social protection

system building in the country, in line with international social security standards. This marks a significant improvement on the previous iteration, primarily focused on Zambia's Social Cash Transfer Programme and other social assistance instruments, and lacked a more systematic, rights-based approach, which the new Policy brings. The ILO, partnering with UNICEF and UNDP under the framework of a UN Joint Programme, provided technical support to the development of the policy, and particularly in advocating for it to be more closely aligned with relevant ILO conventions and recommendations, and bringing together disparate approaches. The TRANSFORM initiative was instrumental in building the capacity of negotiators and social partners during the policy development process and will continue capacity-building efforts of stakeholders through implementation. Additionally, the ILO will be supporting the development of a comprehensive Financing Strategy for the implementation of the new policy.

Throughout 2024, efforts have been ongoing for the development of a digital one-stop-shop window for social protection beneficiaries, as part of larger efforts to expand the reach and accessibility of the social protection administration, as the enduring degree of heterogeneity in the systems and approaches utilised pose an obstacle to effective utilisation of digital public services. To address this, the administration has been focusing on harmonisation and interoperability, bringing efforts together under the Government's updated Cash Plus Strategy, currently under development, which is meant to facilitate a more integrated approach by streamlining administrative processes of various social protection programmes. The ILO has been supporting digitalisation efforts through the TRANSFORM initiative, focusing on capacity-building, and through the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI), in partnership with GIZ and the European Union. The DCI has also been supporting the establishment of a national taskforce to guide digitalisation efforts, as well as advocating for greater convergence in line with interoperability standards and guidelines. Toward this end, digitalisation of the country's social protection services has already enabled the registration of an additional 10,000 persons with disabilities in the MIS of the country's disability authority.

Financing support: Ireland, European Union and donors to UN Joint Programmes. Visit our [country page](#).

Americas

Barbados

In Barbados, the ILO has continued its support to constituents for the establishment of social protection floors in the country, by advising on legislative and policy reforms, especially as the Government and national institutions have renewed the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Programme, of which a second phase was launched until 2026/2027.

The ILO advocates for social protection to remain a national priority, as the country balances public revenue and expenditure consolidation, especially as a mean to protect the most vulnerable.

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

Ecuador

In 2024, the ILO has continued to support the Government of Ecuador, and social partners, and the country's social security institution (IESS) in carrying out a systematic analysis of the social protection system, building on years of technical cooperation. In particular, in May 2024, the ILO published a first study on income security for older people in Ecuador and recommendations for social protection support, informed by international social security standards. A second study, published in July, measured the impact of an extension of coverage of the non-contributory old-age pension scheme on the poverty rate of older persons, which was found to be positive.

Additionally, in October 2024, the ILO launched a new project "Innovating for Equality: transforming local social protection mechanisms through digitalization", which will be working to operationalise a microservices platform within the Secretariat of Social Inclusion and the San José Municipal Board of the Metropolitan District of Quito, with the objective of promoting the adequate access to local social services, with an emphasis on reaching younger people.

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

El Salvador ●

In 2024, the ILO completed the delivery of the actuarial valuation of the Health and Occupational Risks Systems of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) with the objective of strengthening its financial sustainability and improving financial management and governance in line with international social security standards including Convention No. 102, which El Salvador ratified in 2022. The valuation was completed using the ILO Health Actuarial Model (ILO/HEALTH). The technical assistance generated a series of recommendations to improve the management of the ISSS, including coverage of Salvadoran migrants living abroad, as well as to support recent financial decisions by ISSS authorities.

Financing support: Social Security Institute (ISSS) of El Salvador. Visit our [country page](#).

Paraguay

Throughout 2024, the ILO has supported the Actuarial Advisory Unit of the Social Security Institute (IPS) in the development of an actuarial valuation of its old-age and health insurance schemes, which will include recommendations to improve the administration and sustainability of the schemes in line with international social security standards and

in particular Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2021). Following ILO recommendations, Paraguay updated its old-age pension calculation to enhance the scheme's sustainability. Meanwhile, Paraguay is also updating its Formalization Strategy, which has undergone consultation with social partners. The ILO is also supporting Paraguay to enhance its social security education platforms and strengthen understanding of the impact of increasing social security and climate change spending across fiscal, economic, gender and social dimensions.

On 20 February 2024, Paraguay's Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security confirmed the country's commitment to join the UN Global Accelerator. In July 2024, the Government endorsed a national roadmap, and Paraguay is now implementing this roadmap as a pathfinder country.

Financing support: Donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) and the Social Security Institute (IPS) of Paraguay. Visit our [country page](#).

Suriname ●

In 2024, with the support of the ILO, Suriname validated its new National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) through a consultative process involving line ministries, social partners, and international development organizations—such as UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the IMF—as well as the country's tripartite Decent Work Commission who were involved at all stages in the preparation of the document. Formulation of the strategy followed a series of workshops and bilateral meetings to ensure inclusivity and broad-based ownership of its contents and was informed by a comprehensive review of Suriname's social protection system supported by the ILO and involving over 25 state institutions and international partners. The ILO's contribution has been aimed at promoting universal, adequate, sustainable, and responsive social protection in the country, including through the establishment of the social protection floor, aligned with ILO Convention No. 102 (ratified by Suriname in 2024), Recommendation No. 202, and contributing to achieving SDG 1.3. Stakeholders endorsed the guiding principles of the strategy, as well as its main outcomes and outputs, which will be further defined and made actionable. This process of validation was an essential step towards full adoption of the NSPS by the Government, expected in 2025.

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

Arab States

Iraq ●

In November 2024, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) of Iraq launched, in collaboration with the ILO and the European Union, a new national social security awareness campaign. The aim of the campaign



is to increase knowledge of changes introduced under the new Social Security and Pensions Law (No. 18) approved in 2023, reaching private sector workers and workers in the informal economy with information about their rights and obligations. Social security affiliation among private sector employees remains low, at around 10 per cent, which the Campaign aims to rectify.

In addition to awareness raising, social partners in selected governorates engaged with social security offices and the ILO to establish tripartite regional committees to monitor social security enrolment under Law No. 18 in line with international social security standards and in particular Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2023). The committees have been working to identify bottlenecks and challenges to enrolment, as well as document good practices and lessons learned for replications in different sectors and other governorates. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), administrative processes to streamline social security benefit disbursement and delivery were agreed and a public job matching platform was established.

Finally, to ensure further sustainability of the pension system in Iraq, the ILO has collaborated with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to jointly examine both public and private pension schemes, to produce a joint policy paper “Towards an Inclusive, equitable and sustainable national pension system in Iraq,” published in 2024. The paper proposed a unified approach that advocates for closing the coverage gap through contributory and non-contributory financing, reducing entitlement disparities, ensuring intergenerational equity, and making both the system for the public and the private sector sustainable in the long term.

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

Jordan ●

Throughout the years, the ILO has been a key partner in supporting the implementation of Jordan's National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), strengthening institutional frameworks, expanding coverage, and enhancing coordination across stakeholders in line with international social security standards, including Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2014). Building on this foundation, in 2024, the ILO has been actively supporting the revision of the NSPS, ensuring it remains aligned with evolving social and economic realities. This also included a diagnostic to assess the readiness of Jordan's social protection system in the context of climate change. The revised strategy, which will guide Jordan's social protection agenda up to 2033, aims to enhance shock-responsiveness, sustainability, and inclusion, reinforcing social insurance, assistance, and labour market linkages to build a more resilient and equitable system.

In June 2024, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) launched workshops for an internal visioning strategy for social security to propose a medium-term

reform agenda, enabling more gradual, progressive coverage that ensures a basic package of protections to workers in all forms of employment, a system that is affordable and attractive for all, and restores long-term sustainability. As part of this long-term vision, a nationally funded contribution subsidy scheme is envisioned to support low-income workers overcome their financial barrier to participation. The SSC closed registrations for the donor-supported Estidama++ pilot programme in January 2025 and started exploring means of institutionalisation given the programme's success. The SSC is also reviewing its unemployment protection scheme to improve its adequacy and alignment with international social security standards.

The ILO, working with the World Bank and the IMF has assisted SSC in conceptualizing and costing its new visioning strategy. On the specific initiative of contribution subsidies, the ILO worked with the SSC beginning in August 2023 to pilot a time-bound subsidy to over 37,500 vulnerable workers, generating evidence on this important mechanism for extending coverage.

Financing support: European Union, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and the Social Security Corporation (SSC) of Jordan. Visit our [country page](#).

Lebanon ●●

At the beginning of 2024, Lebanon officially launched its National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) structured around five pillars: 1) social assistance, 2) social insurance, 3) social welfare, 4) employment opportunities for the most vulnerable, and 5) financial support for access to education and health. The document lays out a comprehensive long-term vision for social protection, and foresees key reforms including a more inclusive pension scheme for private sector workers, income security for older persons and improved medical coverage for persons with disabilities. Following its adoption, the government began working actively with development partners, including the ILO, on implementation of the NSPS and its core components. The ILO, alongside UNICEF, the European Union, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, renewed commitments to supporting national stakeholders in implementing the strategy through technical assistance to the pension reform, the national disability allowance and social health protection, as well as the facilitation of sector-wide dialogue among technical and social partners.

In 2024, Lebanon also renewed the National Disability Allowance (NDA), instituted in 2023, up to September 2025. The NDA is a categorically targeted monthly allowance of around US\$40, disbursed to 27,000 persons with disabilities aged 15 to 30 residing in Lebanon including non-nationals. In light of the humanitarian fallout from the conflict affecting the country, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), in partnership with the ILO, UNICEF, and the EU, has decided to provide an emergency top-up of US\$100 to 10,000 NDA beneficiaries through the existing delivery framework. The ILO, working with UNICEF and the EU, has assisted

national stakeholders in expanding and strengthening the NDA, including through identification of eligible individuals, outreach to affected and displaced persons, and technical assistance to improve the delivery of cash benefits. This initiative marks the ILO's first emergency response under its plan to address Lebanon's crisis, focusing on social protection and sustainable job creation. In collaboration with national authorities, UN agencies, and partners, it complements humanitarian efforts and supports long-term recovery.

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

Occupied Palestinian Territory ●●

In 2024, with ILO's technical support and €67 million secured through contributions from the European Union (EU), France, and Spain, the Ministry of Social Development introduced the first-ever rights-based social allowances for persons with severe disabilities and older persons, in line with international social security standards. These payments benefited over 15,000 individuals with severe disabilities and nearly 18,000 older persons in the West Bank, each of whom received US\$70 per month covering ten months of 2024, from January to October. Once circumstances allow, plans are in place to expand the beneficiary pool to the Gaza Strip. The ILO, in collaboration with the European Union, France, and Spain, has been supporting the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), through the provision of technical advice and capacity-building, on the design and delivery of the new social allowances to ensure their inclusiveness and sustainability, and their anchoring in a rights-based framework.

The Social Protection Cash and Voucher Assistance Thematic Working Group (SPCVA TWG) constitutes the main humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN) coordination mechanism in the social protection sector in the OPT. In August 2024, the SPCVA TWG held a virtual workshop series focusing on how partners can better meet the needs of the Palestinian people by delivering assistance in more efficient, effective, collaborative and coordinated ways across the HDPN. The series consisted of six workshops that convened representatives of the MoSD and humanitarian cash actors to reflect on the work that has been done and define top priorities for 2024 and 2025. Increased coordination and joint planning, as well as continued strengthening of national capacities of the Palestinian Authority, were among key areas identified. The ILO plays a key role in providing technical support, facilitating the thematic working group, and enabling constructive dialogue among all parties.

Additionally, the ILO has been working on strengthening the capacity of MoSD to engage in HDPN discussions and improving the operations of its own programmes. Indeed, the ILO played a key role in initiating the Triple-Strand Safety Net (3SSN) Task Force to enhance coordination among the three major social safety nets in OPT operated by MoSD, UNRWA, and WFP. Led by MoSD, the 3SSN aims to improve the coverage,

adequacy, and integration of humanitarian and national safety nets, ensuring alignment with national policies and promoting collaborative planning across the nexus. The ILO also produced a policy brief and other knowledge material to operationalise HDPN coordination and long-term strengthening of national social protection systems.

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

Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia

The ILO continues to provide technical support for social protection systems building, policy development and programme design for extending coverage of social insurance and cash transfers in Cambodia. Building on earlier achievements, including the development of a new scheme for the self-employed under the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and a National Strategy for the Development of the Informal Economy with the support of the EU funded project "Improving synergies between social protection and public finance management", the ILO has continued its support, namely through capacity building efforts aimed at NSSF officials.

Representatives from Cambodia participated in a training workshop organized by the ILO and the Republic of Korea on employment injury insurance and unemployment insurance held in Seoul in December 2023 (previously unreported). During the workshop, Cambodian delegates, along with participants from other ASEAN countries, participated in discussions and field visits to gain insight into the practices implementing such schemes in the Republic of Korea and the lessons learned. The workshop led to the development of a country action plan for Cambodia, focusing on enhancing social protection systems by drawing inspiration from the Korean models and recognizing the importance of investing in good governance to improve social protection coverage and administration in Cambodia.

Cambodia joined the Global Accelerator as a pathfinder country through a high-level commitment by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance on 28 July 2023.

Financing support: European Union, donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). Visit our [country page](#).

India ●

In 2024, important efforts towards the development of an ecosystem for extending social protection to platform workers in India were carried out, with the support of the ILO. Notably, high-level consultations were conducted in the State of Karnataka in March, which is working to introduce the "The Karnataka

Platform based gig workers (Social Security & Welfare) Bill 2024”, to which the ILO has been providing extensive inputs and recommendations.

The ILO also facilitated a high-level capacity building exercise for 10 senior government officials from the central and state government at ITC-ILO in Turin. Two senior officials from the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE), Government of India, and representatives from the States of Assam, Jharkhand, Telangana, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Kerala were trained on ILO conventions, recommendations and global good practices on the platform economy. Since October 2024, as part of the ILO, MOLE Joint Action Plan, the ILO has been developing technical options for effective scheme design and the development of an action plan for social protection extension to gig and platform workers in India. Additionally, the ILO has been providing inputs and recommendations to the Social Security Framework for Platform Workers under the Central Provident Fund Commissioner, in the capacity of ‘Special Invitee’ as the only international agency invited to be a member of the dedicated committee.

The ILO has also been supporting, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, improvements in data collection and verification to ensure that existing social security schemes managed by the central government are reflected in official statistics and the measurement of SDG indicator 1.3.1. As a result, there has been improvement in capturing social protection coverage in India and was one of the contributing factors to the significant increase in the category of persons ‘covered by at least one social protection benefit’ from 24.4 percent in the previous World Social Protection Report 2020-22 to 48.8 percent

in the latest WSPR 2024-26. Significant changes have been observed particularly in the effective coverage of children below 15 years.

Financing support: The ILO’s Regular Budget and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Visit our [country page](#).

Indonesia

In September 2024, the Government of Indonesia committed to advance a series of key reforms to the country’s unemployment insurance scheme, first implemented in 2022 with the ILO’s support. These include: the extension of unemployment benefits to workers with fixed-term contracts, as well as setting the income replacement level at 45 percent for the entire six-month benefit duration period (as opposed to reducing it to 25 percent in its second half). Additionally, the ILO has facilitated knowledge exchanges between social security institutions, such as through the convening of the regional experts meeting “Asia Expert Roundtable on Unemployment Protection 2024” in Jakarta, held on 9-10 October 2024”, with Japan’s financial support.

A key milestone has been the Ministry of Finance’s development of a detailed reform proposal that incorporates several core recommendations from assessments conducted within the scope of the ILO’s projects in Indonesia. The reform proposals include a restructuring of the defined-contribution old-age saving scheme to ensure 65 percent of contributions are reserved for retirement, while the remaining can be withdrawn under certain conditions and only once a set retirement age is reached. Additionally, reflecting the project’s actuarial recommendations, the proposal includes a gradual increase in contributions



to the old-age pension scheme (JP) from 3 percent to 9 percent over a 10-year period, with employers contributing an additional 4 percent and workers contributing an additional 2 percent. Furthermore, the statutory retirement severance is set to be reformed and integrated into the pension scheme. The ILO facilitated multiple high-level technical meetings with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Manpower, the Ministry of National Development Planning, the Coordinating Ministry of Human Development, the National Social Security Council, trade unions and employer's organizations. The ILO provided actuarial reviews of these proposals, particularly on the adjustment of contribution rates to ensure long-term financial sustainability of both the JP and the old age defined-contribution (JHT) schemes.

Indonesia joined the Global Accelerator as a pathfinder country through a high-level commitment by the Minister of National Development Planning on 7 June 2023.

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

Lao People's Democratic Republic ●●

With ILO support, Lao PDR introduced in 2024 important amendments meant to increase coverage and adequacy of the country's health insurance scheme, by revising the reimbursement rate and co-payment policy, through the Adoption of Decree 824/MOH/2024, affecting an estimated 7 million people in the country. The ILO had conducted an actuarial analysis of the scheme in 2022, and it had subsequently produced technical briefs and recommendations on its financing that informed the development and adoption of the Decree. Additionally, with the support of the ILO, a review of the governance and administration models of the National Health Insurance Bureau (NHIB) was conducted, comparing gains and losses across different administrative frameworks, so as to offer decision-makers informed options for reform.

Throughout 2024, the Lao Social Security Organisation (LSSO) has been working on the development and establishment of a dedicated unit to social security inspection within their own structure, coordinated with the labour inspection service of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW). Toward this end, the ILO convened trade union representatives and members of civil society to conduct training and capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening local capacities to monitor and implement existing requirements for social protection coverage in the tea and coffee sectors. These capacitation efforts allowed for a local pilot of the LSSO's own new social security inspection service, which aims to increase compliance with social security legislation, and increase affiliation, especially among rural workers. The ILO has also provided support with the drafting and operationalisation of the dedicated Decree on social security inspections, including through training. Concurrently, the LSSO has established mobile social security offices, which are able to register people, collect contributions, disburse benefits, and overall facilitate access to social protection services nationwide, especially in rural and remote areas.

Finally, the Government requested the support of the ILO for the mid-term review of the National Social Protection Strategy, encompassing an analysis of the implementation of its different components, including of measures for the expansion of social health insurance, social security, and social assistance/welfare. The ILO carried out the review and published a report on it in July 2024.

Financial support: China, European Union, the Multi-donor Programme (MUL) of the Flagship Programme funded by Belgium and Luxembourg and United Nations Peace and Development trust Fund (UNPDF) funded by the Government of China. Visit our [country page](#).

Nepal ●

In 2024, Nepal started the implementation of new contributory social security schemes for informal, self-employed and migrant workers through development of operational guidelines to extend contributory social protection to Nepalese working abroad, self-employed persons, and workers in the informal sector. Registration to the Social Security Fund (SSF) is voluntary for the estimated 8 million informal and self-employed workers, and offers protection for medical care, maternity leave, work injury, disability, survivors and old age pensions. For Nepalese working abroad, representing 1.2 million workers, the scheme does not provide for medical and maternity leave. The scheme for workers in the informal sector will be partially subsidized by government contributions, in lieu of employers. The ILO supported the design and costing of the schemes, and supported the drafting of the operational guidelines.

In Nepal, the Global Accelerator is supporting the National Planning Commission and other national stakeholders to define a roadmap that aligns with Nepal's National Development Plan and its long-term vision to achieve middle-income status by 2030 while pursuing decent jobs creation and social protection extension.

Financing support: Germany, the ILO's Regular Budget and the UN Joint SDG Fund. Visit our [country page](#).

Pakistan ●

The provincial governments of Punjab and Sindh have made significant progress in formulating draft labour codes that are more inclusive and recognize excluded groups of workers and workplaces. These reforms aim to extend labour and social protection to workers in the informal economy and contractual workers. The ILO is providing support to provincial Governments of Punjab and Sindh to carry out these legal reforms through the ILES project funded by the EU. This support includes technical inputs to the draft codes. Facilitating dialogue and consultation and cross fertilisation of the learning from the reform process at a regional level.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the provincial government is rolling out its social protection strategy with a focus on establishing an overarching authority to coordinate

social protection programmes and schemes in the province. This strategy prioritizes digitalizing the social protection landscape by developing a single integrated socioeconomic registry. This registry aims to better track all the schemes and ensure that beneficiaries receive adequate benefits through a coordinated system. The ILO is providing technical assistance through the Digital Convergence Initiative. This initiative involves mapping the social protection landscape, reviewing systems from an interoperability perspective, developing programming interfaces for data exchange, and creating common standards required to monitor the programmes. The ILO's support includes the development of a unified registry of beneficiaries, promoting the adoption of common digital standards and tools, and ensuring interoperable social protection systems. The ILO has been collaborating with various stakeholders, including the Social Protection Reform Unit (SPRU) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, GIZ, and other partners, to implement these reforms. The collaboration aims to integrate and digitalize social protection schemes, ensuring that all beneficiaries receive adequate benefits through a coordinated and efficient system.

In July 2024, Pakistan officially joined the Global Accelerator in a letter from the Minister of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development to UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and will develop a national roadmap through consultations with stakeholders to implement the initiative.

Financing support: European Union and donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). Visit our [country page](#).

Philippines

In 2024, the ILO facilitated a collaboration among key national institutions, including the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the Social Security System (SSS), and the National Economic and Development Authority. The partnerships culminated in the first tripartite-plus meeting on formalization, held in early 2024, which brought together government officials, employers, workers, and informal sector representatives to strategize on extending social protection and promoting decent work. Additionally, the ILO has worked with local governments to pilot integrated formalization strategies in targeted sectors such as retail trade, agriculture, and construction.

Meanwhile, the ILO also supported efforts in Siargao in 2024, in partnership with the Government of Japan, to provide social protection coverage and cash-for-work programs to coconut farm workers affected by Super Typhoon Rai. Activities included interactive community-based social protection orientations, as well as PhilHealth and SSS registration drives, and the deployment of digital support services with free internet access to facilitate registrations, with community leaders playing a key role in the verification process.

Another major milestone came in March 2024, when the Philippines formally became part of the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, as confirmed by DOLE. The initiative aligns with the Philippine Development Plan and the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan for 2023-2028 and aims to create decent jobs and extend social protection, initially focusing on the construction and transport sectors.

Financing support: Donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). Visit our [country page](#).

Samoa

The ILO has provided technical assistance and South-South Cooperation (SSC) learning opportunities over the years to constituents in Samoa to explore options for accelerating the ratification of international labour standards relevant to social security together with other Pacific Island Countries. While no formal activities have taken place during the 2024 reporting period, the groundwork laid through past technical assistance and SSC learning opportunities continues to provide a strong foundation for future engagement in this area.

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

Timor-Leste ●

In February 2024, the government, with ILO support, launched a multilingual Social Security Portal available in Tetum, Portuguese, and English. The portal provides information on registration processes, social benefits, rights and duties of employers and workers, and access to forms, documents, and legislation. It also includes key statistics on social security and aims to enhance transparency and accessibility for all citizens. The figures demonstrate significant recent growth in the social security system in Timor-Leste, with registered workers increasing from 50,000 to 146,000 and employers from 240 to 4,700 between 2017 and 2023. The ILO also published a bilingual policy paper on fiscal space for financing social protection presented and discussed during a March 2024 tripartite high-level round table and has supported the government to prepare the legal basis of a National Strategy on Social Protection discussed at the Council of Ministers and currently under revision to integrate government comments.

The ILO has supported in 2024 Timor-Leste to develop a comparative report on Timor-Leste's social security legislation with a particular focus on Convention No. 102. In March 2024, a tripartite workshop was organized by the ILO to present preliminary findings from the comparative analysis. The report was validated by government officials, employers', and workers' representatives, and led to the development of a strategic roadmap for the eventual ratification and implementation of Convention No. 102.

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



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Viet Nam ●●

In June 2024, Viet Nam's National Assembly approved the proposed amendments to the Law on Social Insurance, which represents a major step forward towards the achievement of the country's vision for universal social protection, in line with international social security standards and best practices. The key elements of the amendment are: (1) the institution of a multi-tiered pension system, through the introduction of a non-contributory pension and a "mixed" pension for workers with shorter contribution periods; (2) changes in the eligibility requirements for both contributory and non-contributory pensions, via the shortening of contributory requirements (from 20 to 15 years) and the lowering of the minimum age for receipt of benefits (from 80 to 75); and (3) the extension of mandatory social insurance coverage to new groups of workers including household business owners, part-time workers and non-salaried managers of enterprises and cooperatives. These provisions are projected to facilitate the extension of coverage to around 1.2 million older persons, legally covered under the reformed pension system, and 3 million additional workers who were previously not mandatorily covered. The changes will take effect starting July 2025. Additionally, the Government of Viet Nam adopted a decree in July 2024, which increased the base value for calculation of all social assistance benefits in Viet Nam by almost 40 percent for an estimated 4 million recipients. For the ILO, these reforms represent the culmination of five years of technical assistance and support, which has included sharing of international best practices, provision of technical support and policy advice on the different elements of the law, actuarial valuation of the two social insurance funds, and facilitating dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders at national and subnational level.

In the context of the country's emergency response and recovery plan to the effects of Typhoon Yagi, which caused severe damage and losses to large parts of Viet Nam in September 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) convened the UN Development Group, alongside the European Union, JICA, the ADB, and others, to conduct a Multi-Sector Assessment (VMSA) of recovery needs. The VMSA

was developed between October and December, and included a section on the role of the social protection system for disaster response and recovery. The ILO authored the analysis on disaster effects and impacts for the social protection system and rights-holders. The ILO's contribution focused particularly on addressing the implications of the disaster on the coverage, adequacy, and sustainability of social assistance and unemployment protection, in light of the evident socio-economic disruption caused by the typhoon.

Viet Nam joined the Global Accelerator as a pathfinder country through a high-level commitment by the party central committee, expressed in a resolution of the 8th Plenum of the 13th Party Central Committee, on 24 November 2023.

Financing support: Australia, Ireland, and Japan. Visit our [country page](#).

Europe and Central Asia

Albania ●

The National Strategy on Social Protection 2024-2030 was endorsed by government, emphasizing the implementation of Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2006) and aiming to extend social insurance coverage to so far uncovered workers in the informal economy, to which the ILO has been providing ongoing technical assistance and support. In 2024, the LEAP (Lifelong Empowerment and Protection in Albania) project was launched. LEAP is a joint programme of the Government of Albania, which together with UNDP, UNICEF and ILO, aims to advance an inclusive and responsive social protection system to support individuals throughout their life cycle. Finally, Albania, with the support of the ILO, took another important step towards full implementation of its social protection goals and ambitions, by officially joining the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, with the Government's endorsement of the country's national roadmap in September 2024.

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

Kyrgyzstan

The ILO supported the Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in 2024 with an analysis of its existing social protection system, through the production of an Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) report that mapped out the country's national objectives, strategies, policies, programmes, and schemes of the social protection system. The CODI report is meant to serve as an evidence base for potential social protection reform, informed by social dialogue, and other interventions aimed at improving the functioning of the national system. The CODI report was presented by the ILO to the Government in 2024, which is expected to provide feedback and define next steps based on its recommendations. As part of this larger effort in the country to analyse existing social protection schemes, the ILO has also produced an actuarial valuation of the pension system, which is yet to be endorsed by the Government.

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

Tajikistan ●

In 2024, under the project "Accelerating Universal Social Protection for Achieving the SDGs and Ending Poverty", the ILO has been providing support to the country's ongoing efforts to digitalise the different components of the social protection system, to which other development partners such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have been contributing. The ILO has been assisting the Agency for Social Insurance and Pensions (ASIP) and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) with the development of digital modules for the management information system (MIS) for the contributory component of their national social protection system. Informed by several rounds of consultations with relevant stakeholders. The ILO developed a technical report on the digitalisation of the MIS, including an analysis of existing business processes and entry points, which was submitted to the Ministry.

Digitalisation efforts are part of the broader Action Plan of the National Social Protection Strategy, which was finalised and published in October 2024, with extensive inputs from the ILO and other development partners. To support implementation, the ILO has worked to enable the participation of social partners in knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities, so as to increase national capabilities to monitor and evaluate progress. Additionally, the ILO has carried out calculations for the costing of a maternity benefits scheme inclusive of workers in the informal economy and assessing scenarios to reach the minimum standards of Convention No. 183 to be eventually ratified by the country.

Financing source: Germany, United Nations Peace and Development trust Fund (UNPDF) funded by the Government of China and donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). Visit our [country page](#).

Ukraine

The Ministry of Social Policy is considering a reform of the pension system, introducing a mandatory funded pension pillar, and has reached out to the ILO to ensure that the introduction of the new pillar(s) to the system are aligned with the principles and benchmarks established by ILO social security standards, including Convention No. 102 (ratified in 2016). The ILO prepared four technical notes: on demographics, especially in the context of the ongoing conflict and related displacement, labour market perspectives, macroeconomic framework, and pension system rules. The technical notes were submitted to the Ministry of Social Policy for validation. Additionally, an actuarial valuation of the Pension Fund of Ukraine was undertaken by the ILO and was presented to the Government in November 2024.

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

Uzbekistan

In 2024, the Government of Uzbekistan has been engaged in drafting a Social Insurance Law, which was submitted for discussion to the country's legislature. The new law would provide, for the first time, legal coverage for the contingencies of maternity, sickness, and unemployment, with a staggered entry into force between July 2025 and January 2026. The ILO, alongside other key partners and stakeholders, has provided inputs and its own review to the draft law, promoting its alignment with international social security standards in the context of a life cycle approach.

Following its eventual approval, implementation of the provisions under the new Social Insurance Law is to be articulated through the development of bylaws and of Presidential Decrees, to which the ILO will continue to provide its technical review and support. Indeed, in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Bank, and under the umbrella of the Global Accelerator, the ILO will be aiding the development of a roadmap for the implementation plan of the Social Insurance Law, providing inputs into design and financing options for the new schemes, and delivering capacity-building activities to the National Agency for Social Protection (NASP).

Uzbekistan joined the Global Accelerator as a pathfinder country through a high-level commitment by the Prime Minister on 23 August 2023.

Financing support: Donors to the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). Visit our [country page](#).

► **Box 3: Convention No. 102 ratification campaign**

In 2021, upon a call from the International Labour Conference (ILC), the ILO launched a Global Campaign to systematically promote the ratification of Convention No. 102, the ILO's flagship social security Convention providing the internationally agreed minimum standards for national social protection systems, including on contingencies covered, scheme and benefit design, financing arrangements, and implementation.

The Global Campaign for the ratification of Convention No. 102 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.

The goal is set at bringing the number of ratifications to 70 by 2026, from 67 currently, by partnering with interested ILO constituents to increase awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts for rights-based social protection system building; to carry out comparative assessments of the social protection legal framework against the principles of Convention No. 102; to validate their results with Governments, employers', and workers' representatives and define ways forward toward ratification and implementation.

To boost the visibility and reach of the Campaign, in 2024, the ILO developed a comprehensive resource toolkit accessible through a [dedicated platform](#) in English, [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#), including informative and capacity-building videos, a series of briefs on the Convention, online and interactive resources, and other communication material. These new resources and tools are meant to support constituents in understanding, navigating, and advocating for the ratification of Convention No. 102.

Within the framework of the Campaign, two new ratifications of Convention No. 102 were registered in 2024: the ratifications of [Suriname](#) and [Sao Tome and Principe](#). Speaking on the importance of the ratification, the Minister of Labour and Solidarity of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe said, "the Government recognizes the value of international treaties that provide social protection for all, and demonstrates its commitment to fighting social injustice by promoting equity and social opportunity for workers and their families."

Since the Campaign's launch in 2021, eight Member States have now ratified this landmark Convention, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Iraq, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Suriname, while many others have formally inquired about the Campaign, including Armenia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Indonesia, Malawi, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zambia. The ILO is supporting a number of other countries in assessing how their social security systems align with the Convention No. 102: Angola, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Saint Lucia, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, and South Africa.

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



► Minister of Labour, Employment Opportunity and Youth Affairs of Suriname in an event on the ratification of Convention No. 102, November 2024.

2.2 Select 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 5 focus areas: (i) extending social protection to workers in the informal economy; (ii) social health protection; (iii) social protection financing; (iv) digital transformation of social protection systems; and (v) adaptive social protection in climate and humanitarian contexts. While this report highlights achievements in select areas for brevity, more information on each of the 16 special thematic areas is available on the [Social Protection Platform](https://socialprotectionplatform.org).

Extending social security to workers in all types of employment, including those in the informal economy

With the support of the Flagship Programme, especially at country-level, the ILO has crucially supported countries' efforts to extend social protection to workers in all types of employment, including those in the informal economy, recognizing that all should enjoy their right to social security. The ILO works closely with various ministries – labour, social affairs, finance and economy, as well as social security institutions, and

social partners to ensure that social protection legal and policy frameworks are inclusive of workers in all types of employment, and are extended to those in the informal economy, which can facilitate their transition to the formal economy. This requires reducing the administrative, financial, and information/awareness barriers that employers and workers face vis-à-vis the social protection system. Social dialogue is essential to achieve the extension of coverage to workers in all types of employment, as it ensures inclusive measures that reflect their lived experience and address their specific needs, while enjoying broad-base support.

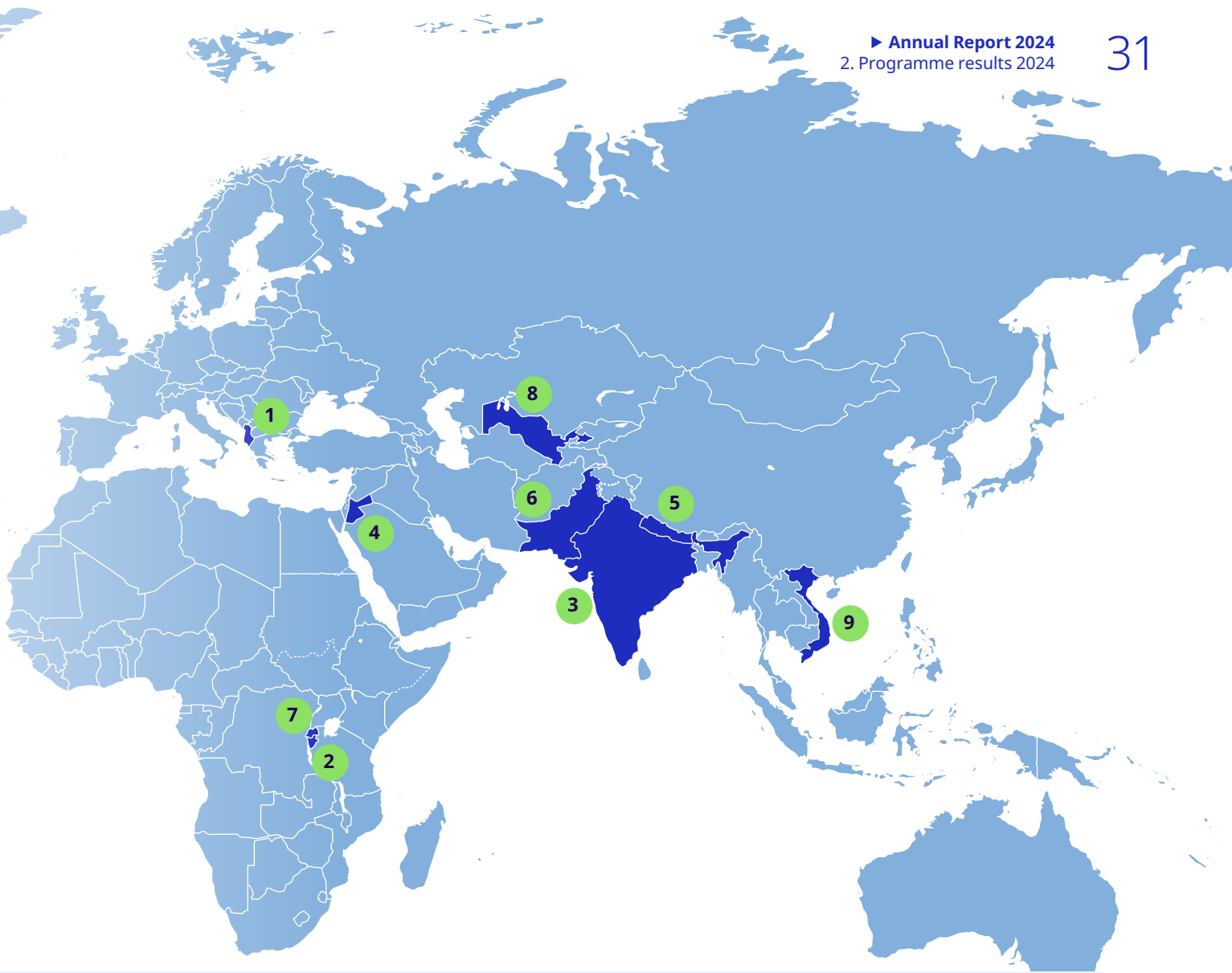
The ILO, through the Flagship Programme, has facilitated social dialogue and exchange to support the design of policies and strategies to extend social protection to workers in the informal economy. Advocating for a meaningful and sustainable improvement of their working conditions and access to social security, the ILO has supported its constituents in developing innovative practices based on evidence and conducting feasibility studies using its policy, legal, analytical and actuarial expertise, guided by international labour standards, to build the case for inclusive approaches. This work draws on, and contributes to, the global guide and electronic policy resource package on the extension of social security to workers in the informal economy.³

Global and regional highlights include:

- Country experiences and practices to extend social protection to workers in the informal economy supported by the Flagship Programme informed the report of the general discussion during the forthcoming 113th Session of the International Labour Conference on innovative approaches to tackling informality and promoting transitions towards formality to promote decent work.
- The tripartite [African Regional Forum](#) 'Innovative Approaches to Addressing Informality and Promoting Transitions Towards Formality', organised in Abidjan on 13-15 November 2024, highlighted the importance of accelerating social protection coverage across Africa, currently averaging at 19 percent, and showcased initiatives from Zambia, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cabo Verde to extend social protection to workers in the informal economy. Key takeaways included the need for advocacy, comprehensive protection, strong institutions, social dialogue, and regular strategy evaluation.
- The ITC ILO course on Decent jobs for rural youth built capacity of constituents on approaches and experiences to extend social protection and the link with access to decent work for rural youth, 11 October 2024.

►► The ILO, through the Flagship Programme, has facilitated social dialogue and exchange to support the design of policies and strategies to extend social protection to workers in the informal economy.

3 <http://informaleconomy.social-protection.org>.



1 In **Albania**, the ILO supported the adoption of a new National Strategy on Social Protection (2024-2030) focused on extending social insurance coverage to workers in the informal economy and others underrecognized due to their employment relationship.

2 In **Burundi**, the government has validated a roadmap for the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy following capacity-building activities and workshops in 2024 organized by the ILO.

3 In **India**, the ILO has provided options for scheme design to extend social protection to platform and gig-economy workers at the national level, while high-level consultations were conducted on a new bill which would extend mandatory coverage to workers in this sector at the state level in Karnataka.

4 In **Jordan**, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and the ILO have been developing a visioning strategy for extension of coverage to workers in all forms of employment, and the provision of contribution subsidies following the experience of the Estidama++ Fund.

5 In **Nepal**, social security coverage has been extended to workers in the informal economy and self-employed workers on a voluntary basis, including medical care, maternity leave, work injury, disability, survivors, and old age pensions. Under new operational guidelines developed with ILO support, local government partially subsidises contributions for workers in the informal economy.

6 In **Pakistan**, the Punjab and Sindh governments have been drafting more inclusive labour codes with ILO support to extend labour and social protection to excluded workers and workplaces.

7 In **Rwanda**, the ILO and Rwanda's Social Security Board (RSSB) engaged enterprises to design and pilot innovative solutions for the extension of social protection to seasonal, casual, and contract workers in the agricultural and commerce sectors.

8 In **Uzbekistan**, the Government has made the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy a priority of its engagement with the Global Accelerator, through the design of more inclusive schemes.

9 In **Viet Nam**, the government approved amendments developed with ILO support to extend mandatory social insurance coverage to 3 million previously uncovered workers including household business owners, part-time workers, and non-salaried managers of enterprises and cooperatives.

Expanding social health protection towards universal coverage

The Flagship Programme continued its work to strengthening social health protection schemes and extending their coverage in 2024, through a wide range of interventions delivered in support of constituents at the global, regional and country levels. The ILO has been promoting evidence-based social dialogue and participatory processes for social health protection scheme design and reforms as well as strengthening of institutional operational capacities with the support of the Flagship Programme. The ILO has supported the

development of legal, policy, and financing frameworks, as well as the design and implementation of schemes in line with international social security standards. Finally, the ILO has delivered capacity-building and training initiatives to enable constituents to administer, monitor, and evaluate social health protection benefits, improving the ability of national stakeholders to progressively expand systems towards universality, adequacy, comprehensiveness, and sustainability.

To achieve effective promotion of social health protection, partnerships have been key for joint advocacy on the extension of social health protection coverage, including P4H (see dedicated section), UHC2030 and Connect Asia on Social Health Protection (see below).

At the global and regional levels, the Flagship Programme supported evidence generation and knowledge sharing initiatives, including:

► To achieve effective promotion of social health protection, partnerships have been key for joint advocacy.

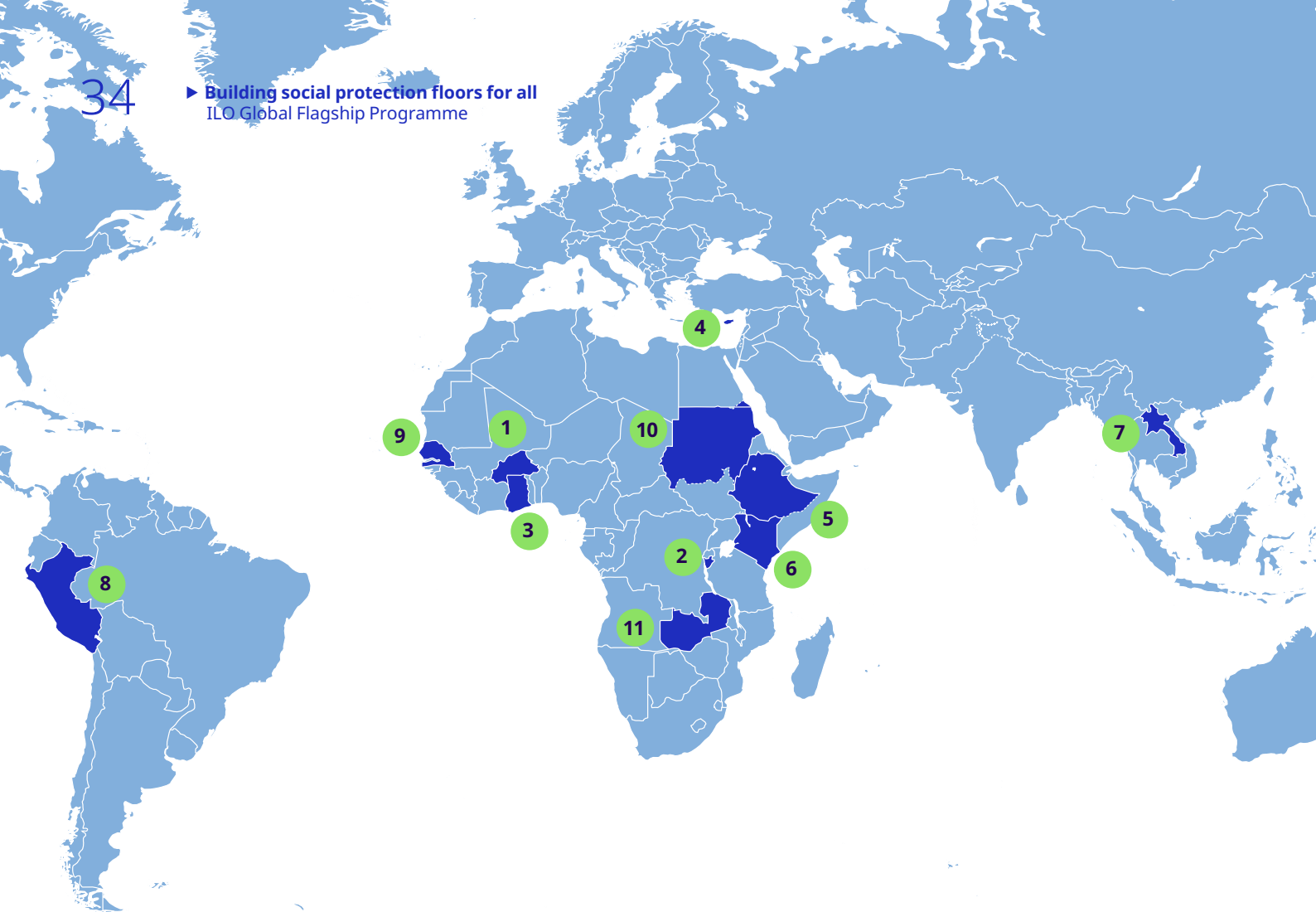
- **South-South cooperation on social health protection in Asia** - Connect Asia on Social Health Protection researched the extent of access to social health protection programs for persons with disabilities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, identifying coverage gaps in population coverage, service coverage, and financial coverage. The findings were subsequently published in a report and infographic and widely disseminated through a webinar (119 participants from 37 countries joined). ILO, as a Connect Network Secretariat in 2024, added another five new members, including three countries that were not previously part of the network.
- **Support to social health protection reforms in Western and Central Asia** - Following a series of webinars organized with the P4H network in 2022-23, the ILO received a series of request for support and knowledge sharing from a range of central Asian countries. In September 2024, "[Extending social health protection: Accelerating progress towards universal health coverage in Central and Western Asia](#)" was published, including a sub-regional analysis of social health protection reforms as well as nine detailed country profiles. The report was launched through a webinar accessible in English and Russian which convened over 100 registrants to share their insights on current reforms and possible ways forward for the extension of coverage and adequacy.
- **P4H Network on Social Health Protection and Health Financing** - 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 one dedicated country focal point (P4H-CFP), stationed in Kenya; as well as one regional technical focal point (P4H-RFP) in Asia (see Collaboration with WHO section). Among others, the P4H Technical Exchange Group (P4H-TEG) advanced inter-sectoral discussions on Aging, elderly care and vulnerable population, social protection for people with TB, climate change and social health protection, and finally the role of mutuals and community-based health insurance in national social health protection systems.
- **Universal Health Coverage Day** - On December 12, to celebrate [Universal Health Coverage Day 2024](#), the ILO and the WHO organized a discussion addressing inter-sectoral action to improve health and wellbeing, particularly in the informal economy. Looking at the challenges faced by workers, enterprises, and households relying on the informal economy for their livelihoods, achieving the SDG targets 1.3 and 3.8 requires more than ever coordinated efforts across health, social protection and employment policies to achieve equity and social justice.



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- **Capacity building** at the global, regional and country levels. In March 2024, several projects under the Flagship Programme supported fellowships from their respective countries to participate to the course [on Social Health Protection](#) delivered jointly by ILO and its training center in Turin. The course was also tailored to specific national circumstances and delivered in Ethiopia in 2024 after a successful delivery in 2023 in DRC. In Asia, the partnership with the Masters in primary health care and social health protection with Mahidol was renewed, ILO provided technical lectures and mobilized EU experts and fellowships were funded to five students from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. **Global research** including on improved coordination between social health protection and occupational health services. In December, the ILO published [“Bridging Social Protection and Occupational Health to Advance Sustainable Development Goals”](#), which draws on three country case studies from the project “Universal Access to Social Protection and Health and Safety at Work” (under the Flagship) to illustrate how coordinated and holistic approaches between these two policy and programming areas can address social and environmental determinants of health and promote better health outcomes for the working population.
- **Support to the International Labour Conference discussion on the Care Economy** - The ILO developed and published a series of briefs on the role of social protection systems to foster decent work in the care economy with a view to feed the discussions around the ILC. The three concerned briefs are:
 - [“Universal social protection for healthy ageing”](#) on how social protection policies can address some of the social determinants of health throughout the life cycle, as well as provide access to health care without hardship to ageing populations.
 - [“Securing access to long-term care without hardship as an integral part of universal social protection systems”](#) which presents the role of universal social protection in securing access to long-term care (LTC).
 - [“Universal social protection for all carers: A necessity for securing long-term care in the context of population ageing”](#) which highlights the need for social protection policies to adopt life-cycle approaches and secure effective coverage for all carers.

All resources on social health protection mentioned above can be found on the Toolkit on Social Health Protection available [here](#).



- 1 In **Burkina Faso**, the ILO supported the Government to enroll over 300,000 people to the National Universal Health Insurance Fund (CNAMU) since 2023.
- 2 In **Burundi**, the ILO has supported the finalization of a new financing strategy for universal health coverage, which will be evaluated for approval and adoption in the first half of 2025.
- 3 In **Cote d'Ivoire**, the ILO has undertaken a joint review with the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) to develop complaint and feedback mechanisms for beneficiaries aimed at improving access to quality services and boosting registration and compliance with contribution payments.
- 4 In **Cyprus**, the ILO has supported the fiscal sustainability of the Health Insurance Organization (HIO) through trainings of its staff on social health insurance principles, actuarial modelling, reporting, and the ILO-HEALTH model, and delivered the third actuarial valuation of the General Healthcare System (GHS) to the HIO.
- 5 In **Ethiopia**, the ILO trained policymakers and administrators overseeing Ethiopia's social health protection programmes on good practices for monitoring and analysing performance, identifying reform priorities, developing policies and financing strategies, and addressing barriers for coverage extension.
- 6 In **Kenya**, the ILO advocated for a smooth transition in the implementation of the new social health insurance law and led a One UN plan of integrated support for the transition.
- 7 In **Lao PDR**, with the ILO's support, the government amended the country's health insurance scheme, improving coverage and adequacy by revising reimbursement rates and co-payment policies.
- 8 In **Peru**, following an ILO actuarial valuation of the main public health insurance scheme (EsSalud) in 2023, authorities have conducted a financial analysis, with ILO support, of the scheme covering police and of health insurance provision by private providers.
- 9 In **Senegal**, the ILO supported operationalization of the National Social Mutual of Artisans (MSNAS) activating 14 regional units in 2024, with healthcare services being provided in clinics throughout the country.
- 10 In **Sudan**, the ILO has evaluated institutional arrangements of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and income and expenditure of its scheme with recommendations for improving performance, expanding coverage and enhancing financial management. Publication of the evaluation is expected in 2025.
- 11 In **Zambia**, the ILO has supported the extension of health insurance coverage to approximately 85,000 social assistance beneficiaries funded by the government and support from the Global Fund on the basis of ILO costing analysis and social dialogue agreements.



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Financing social protection

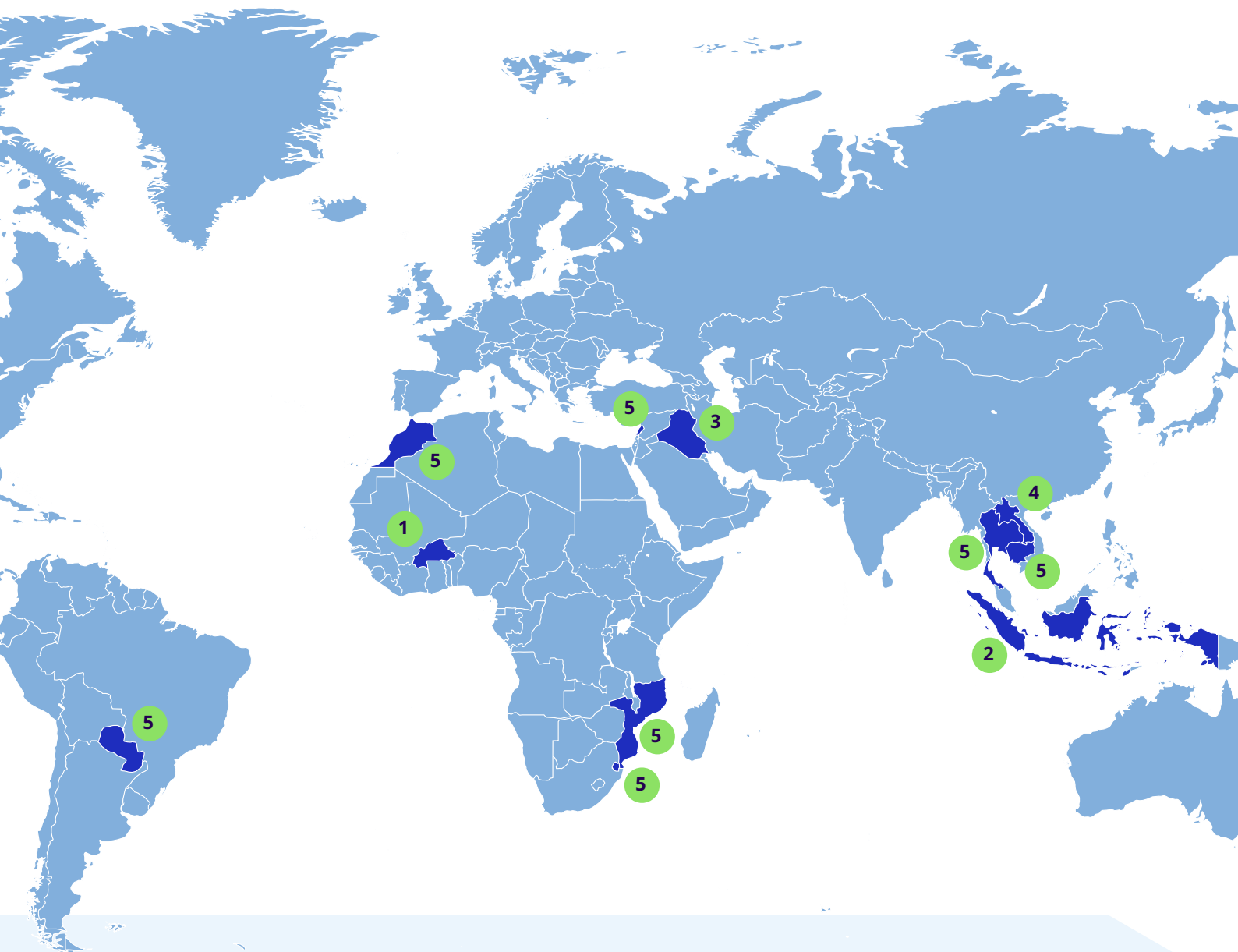
The work on social protection financing under the Flagship Programme has combined global research and the production of tools, while strengthening country support and advisory services. Building on the achievements of the EU funded SP&PFM project and the newly developed methodology to estimate the financing gap for social protection floors, the ILO continued to provide technical support in 2024 to government bodies on assessing coverage and financing gaps. 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).

In April 2024, the ILO published the Working Paper [“Financing gap for universal social protection”](#), which provides updated estimates of the financing gap to attain universal coverage for social protection floors, encompassing 133 low- and middle-income countries. Estimates show that, for low- and middle-income countries, the financing gap to achieve universal coverage of social protection floors is 3.3 per cent of GDP annually, but for low-income countries, it amounts to an overwhelming 52.3 per cent of their GDP annually. The ILO also published the working paper on [“Combating inequalities: what role for universal social protection?”](#), whose findings are featured in the [UN Secretary General Report on Financing for Sustainable Development](#), which has informed preparations for the 4th International Conference on Financing For Development. The primary aim of this study is to provide evidence regarding the impact of social protection benefits, taxes and social security contributions in reducing income inequalities. The study

employs a well-established methodology to estimate the partial redistributive effect of contributory and non-contributory pensions, family benefits, unemployment benefits, sickness and employment injury benefits, disability benefits, social security contributions, as well as income and property taxes.

In December 2024, the ILO organised two side events to the Second Preparatory Committee Session for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Ff4D) focused on increasing the financing space for the achievement of universal social protection. The first one, organised jointly with the USP2030 partnership on [“Achieving Universal Social Protection: Actionable Recommendations for Ff4D”](#) focused on the importance of investing in social protection as a cornerstone of equitable and sustainable development. The second one on [“How to design, deliver and finance gender-responsive social protection systems?”](#), highlighted the centrality of gender-responsive social protection to address gender-specific risks and barriers that hinder women’s full participation in economic and social life.

In December, the ILO and USP2030 launched a [call to action](#) to prioritize investments to extend social protection coverage (SDG indicator 1.3.1) by at least 2-percentage-points per year. The ILO estimates that if countries growing below the 2pp per year align with the call to action, the proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit will be at 64.5 per cent in 2030 or 5.5 billion people. This represents an increase of 400 million people covered compared with the status quo scenario, where every country continues to increase social protection effective coverage at its historical growth rate observed over the past 10 years.



1 In **Burkina Faso**, the ILO supported the government adoption of dedicated provisions for financing the country's Universal Health Insurance Scheme (RAMU), following the adoption of a first set of five such provisions in 2023.

2 In **Indonesia**, the government developed a reform proposal incorporating recommendations from ILO assessments, which aims to improve the financial sustainability of the old age pension system by restricting withdrawals from the defined-contribution saving scheme and increasing contributions to the old age social insurance scheme over a 10-year period.

3 In **Iraq**, the ILO published a policy note in collaboration with the IMF and the World Bank, entitled "[Towards an Inclusive, Equitable](#)

[and Sustainable National Pension System in Iraq](#)", which provides an assessment of the fiscal sustainability of the pension system and proposes options to improve its sustainability, and engage social partners and other stakeholders to achieve a more equitable and inclusive pension system in line with relevant ILO conventions and recommendations.

4 In **Lao PDR**, the ILO conducted an actuarial analysis of the health insurance scheme to inform the revision of its financing modalities through the adoption of an administrative decree.

5 The second phase of the **ILO-IMF partnership** has begun in-country activities in 2024, including developing dedicated recommendations for social protection spending in the IMF Article IV reports in **Cambodia**,

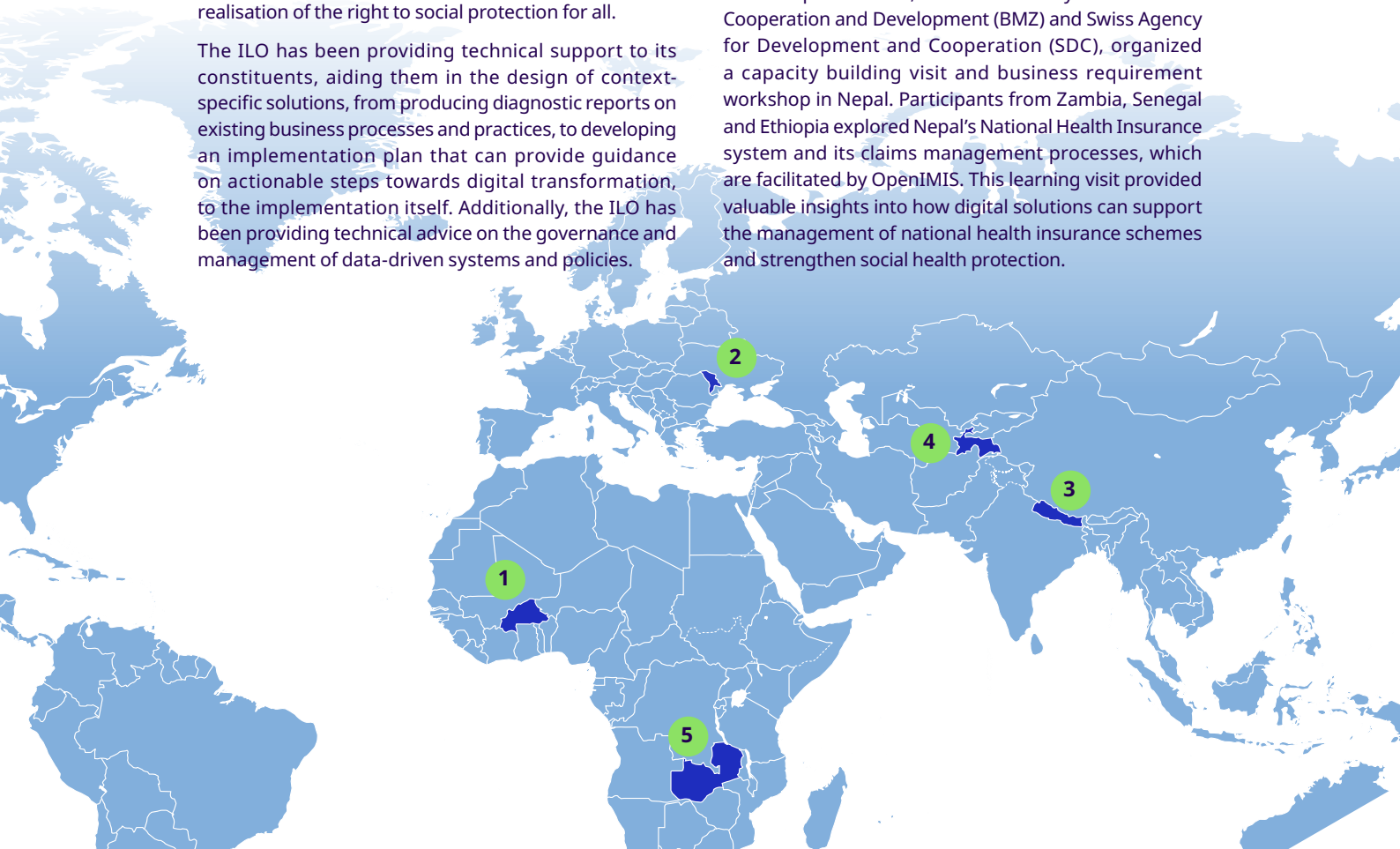
Comoros, Morocco, Mozambique and **Thailand**; providing technical assistance on financing for social protection reforms in **Lebanon, Eswatini** and **Thailand**; promoting gender-responsive social protection design in **Morocco** and **Paraguay**; allocating resources from a national wealth fund to social protection spending in **Mozambique**; facilitating formalization of jobs and enterprises in **Paraguay** and **Thailand**.

Digital transformation of social protection systems

Through the Flagship Programme, in 2024, the ILO has continued its support to the digitalisation of national social protection systems, promoting the institutional, organisational, technological, and cultural adjustments needed to ensure all stakeholders can effectively benefit from more accessible and responsive public social protection services. Information and data management technologies can greatly enhance service delivery capacity which, together with strong legal, policy, and financing frameworks, is essential for the effective realisation of the right to social protection for all.

The ILO has been providing technical support to its constituents, aiding them in the design of context-specific solutions, from producing diagnostic reports on existing business processes and practices, to developing an implementation plan that can provide guidance on actionable steps towards digital transformation, to the implementation itself. Additionally, the ILO has been providing technical advice on the governance and management of data-driven systems and policies.

In 2024, ILO collaborated with the OpenIMIS global programme to develop a new training course on the design, planning and implementation of social protection management information systems (MIS). This training aims to strengthen the capacity of ILO constituents in preparing, developing and maintaining MIS to enhance the efficiency, coordination and effectiveness of social protection systems. In the spirit of multi-country knowledge exchange, the ILO and GIZ, supported by the European Union, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), organized a capacity building visit and business requirement workshop in Nepal. Participants from Zambia, Senegal and Ethiopia explored Nepal's National Health Insurance system and its claims management processes, which are facilitated by OpenIMIS. This learning visit provided valuable insights into how digital solutions can support the management of national health insurance schemes and strengthen social health protection.



1 In **Burkina Faso**, the ILO supported implementation of a digital management information system for the National Universal Health Insurance Fund (CNAMU) based on the OpenIMIS open-source platform.

2 In **Moldova**, the ILO supported the government to develop a management information system based on the OpenIMIS platform, introducing simplified systems to declare and register day labourers to pay social security contributions through a digital payment system.

3 In **Nepal**, the ILO supported the Social Security Fund (SSF) to develop a new MIS based on OpenIMIS architecture to manage pensions, survival benefits, maternity and sickness benefits and disability allowances. This has introduced new functionalities, including employer and employee portals for registration and contact with the social security administration, as well as management and disbursement of social security benefits.

4 In **Tajikistan**, the ILO has supported the development of an MIS for the

country's Agency of Social Insurance and Pensions (ASIP) including assistance in diagnosing business processes through a technical report presented to stakeholders for validation.

5 In **Zambia**, the ILO has supported digitalization efforts through the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) for the establishment of a national taskforce to guide digitalization efforts and advocate for greater convergence in line with interoperability standards and guidelines.

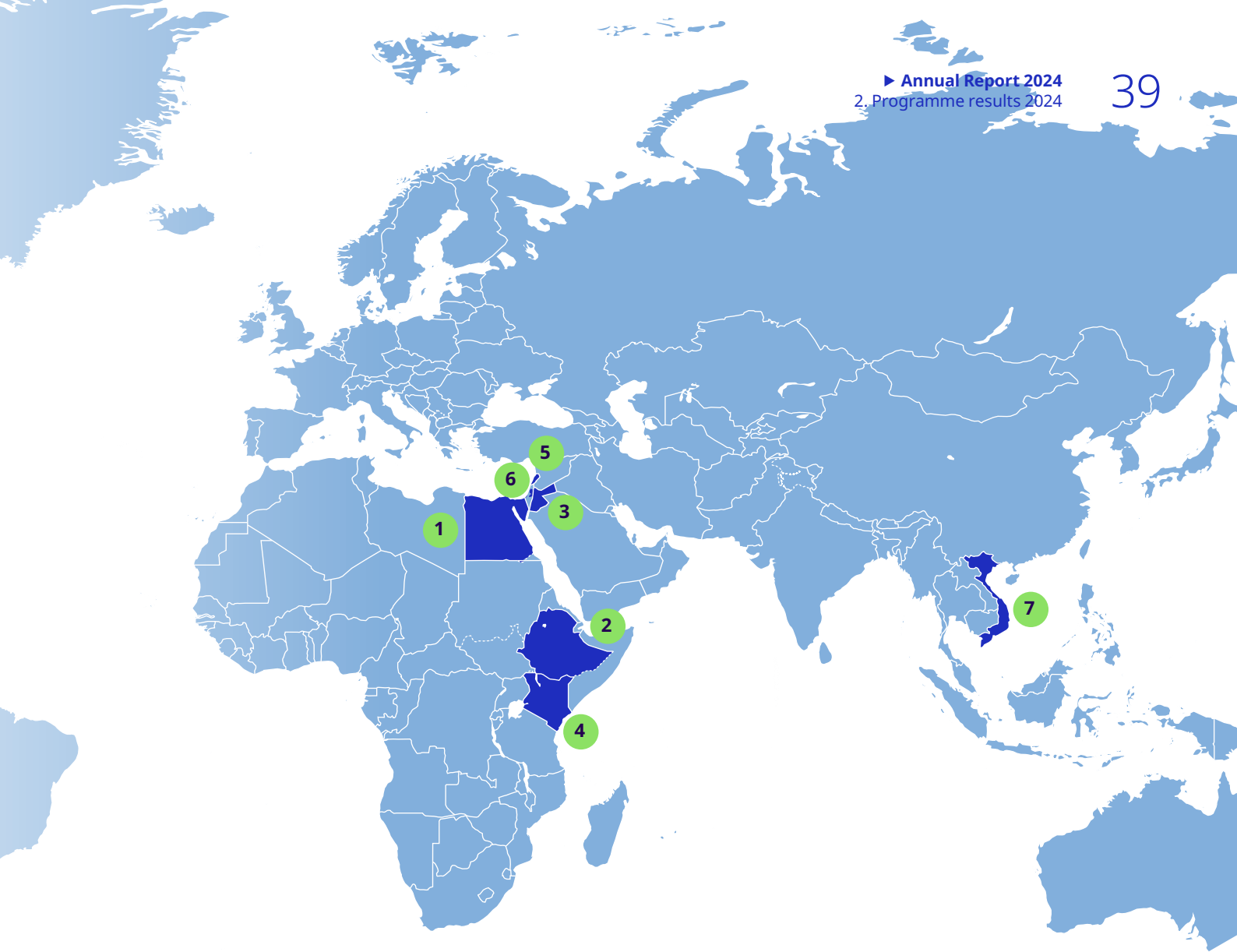
Social protection in climate change and humanitarian crisis contexts

In 2024, the ILO contributed to strengthen the global knowledge and thinking on the role of universal social protection in climate action and for a just transition, by focusing the 2024-26 World Social Protection Report on this topic. The report provides an expansive analysis of the current state of social protection systems around the world, focusing on the climate crisis and the role of social protection in the transition to a more sustainable world. This includes, among many key functions, what social protection systems can do to support a just transition to greener economies and societies, and address the socio-economic impacts of climate-induced shocks and stressors, such as disasters and other adverse climate events. It also included sections on social protection for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons in the context of other crises, including wars and internal conflicts and on the humanitarian-development peacebuilding nexus. To help countries find concrete entry points for strengthening their social protection systems in the context of climate change, the ILO also developed an innovative diagnostic tool which is being piloted in Jordan (see more information below).

The ILO has provided its support under the Flagship Programme to social protection system strengthening in contexts of climate change and humanitarian crisis, working with its constituents to ensure that people continue to enjoy their rights-based access to social protection in the face of shocks, and that systems can be leveraged to deliver additional support, including to the losses and damages incurred in disasters and conflicts. The ILO, in close coordination with national stakeholders, humanitarian actors, and other development partners, promotes the role that social protection systems can play in ensuring an inclusive response to crises, promoting a just recovery, and building resilience, adaptiveness, and preparedness to future shocks.

Throughout the year, the ILO has been engaging in relevant global fora and processes, which include the following:

- Throughout 2024, the ILO actively engaged in the SPIAC-B Working Group on Linking Humanitarian (Cash) Assistance, including on drafting of guidance to implement its Common Principles at the country-level (see dedicated section for more information).
- The ILO continued to co-chair the USP2030 working group on social protection and climate change, which in 2025, developed a [guidance note for integrating social protection in the Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#). The ILO is also an active member of the BMZ/GIZ task force on linking adaptive social protection to climate finance.
- In March, the ILO was invited by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for responding to Loss and Damage to [present on its approach](#) to responding to loss and damage through social protection.
- In May, the ILO, UNICEF, SIDA organized a panel discussion at the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, to promote universal social protection and share perspectives to strengthen social protection systems in the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, including from government and social security institution representatives from Kenya and Jordan.
- An ILO social protection specialist was also selected by UNFCCC as one of the experts to support the development of indicators to track progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation, particularly related to the target on poverty and livelihoods, including through adaptive social protection measures for all.
- In October, ILO social protection specialists participated in the Global Forum on Social Protection in Fragility and Conflict, organised in Rome, which highlighted the importance of investing in national social protection systems in contexts of crisis from the onset, and not as an afterthought. Participants agreed on mainstreaming a “social-protection-system-first” approach when considering how to support government and other national stakeholders in addressing the socio-economic consequences of shocks and crises, as expressed in the resulting [final forum report](#).
- In November, the ILO hosted a panel discussion at COP29 on the role of social protection for climate change adaptation and information sessions to support delegates interested in better integrating social protection in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



1 In **Egypt**, the ILO with UNHCR has supported the government to integrate refugees into the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS), including through a feasibility study and consultations for the design of a pilot in two governorates.

2 In **Ethiopia**, the ILO and UNHCR have supported a feasibility study to improve financial protection for refugees accessing health services while reducing costs for UNHCR as it provides life-saving treatments.

3 In **Jordan**, the ILO piloted a diagnostic tool designed to assess national social protection systems in the context of climate change and just transition, which has brought together social protection and climate change stakeholders under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC).

4 In **Kenya**, the ILO and partners supported extension in 2024 of the Haba Haba savings programme to

774,000 newly eligible refugees and asylum seekers providing them with access to the old-age savings scheme. The revised scheme offers refugees and asylum seekers an opportunity for economic inclusion, which could improve well-being and reduce future dependency on humanitarian aid.

5 In **Lebanon**, the ILO and partners have supported the National Disability Allowance (NDA) to be delivered to 27,500 persons with disabilities through the escalation of the humanitarian crisis in 2024 and even topped up for 10,000 beneficiaries affected by the crisis to address immediate needs.

6 In the **Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)**, the ILO has continued work on humanitarian-development coordination through the Social Protection Cash and Voucher Assistance Thematic Working Group (SPCVA TWG) and its support to systems building, and

developed in May 2024 a Recovery Programme under its Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the OPT including social protection as one of three key pillars for response and recovery efforts.

7 In **Viet Nam**, the ILO has helped to inform the country's emergency response and recovery plan to the Typhoon Yagi, which caused significant loss and damage to the country in September 2024. The ILO authored analysis on disaster effects and impacts for the social protection needs of those affected as part of the country's Multi-Sector Assessment (VMSA).

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2.3 Update on building strategic partnerships

Establishing and strengthening strategic partnerships plays a pivotal role in advancing the right to social protection and assisting countries in developing resilient national social protection systems. These systems must be universal, sustainable, adaptable to evolving challenges, comprehensive across all stages of life, and aligned with broader policy frameworks. Collaboration is also key to fostering political commitment, ensuring national ownership of universal social protection, and enhancing awareness of the ILO's approach, which is reflected in inter-agency tools and joint country-level initiatives. By engaging in various partnerships, the ILO has facilitated harmonized messaging and coordinated efforts to support countries effectively. This section explores how these collaborations were further deepened in 2024 to drive meaningful impact at the national level and advocate for universal social protection at the global level.

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

Through the [UN Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions](#), the ILO works with other UN agencies as well as the World Bank to support countries in achieving universal social protection by working on 1- integrated policy approaches combining social protection with employment policies and programmes to support the formalization of enterprises and employment and promote just transitions; 2- systematic engagement with ministries of finance and public development banks, on financing strategies, to close the financing gaps and invest in sectors of the economy that can create decent jobs with social protection; 3- multilateral collaboration based on inclusive country platforms (with Ministries of Finance, Labour, Planning as well as social partners and civil society organizations) and enhanced UN/IFI collaboration.

The Global Accelerator builds upon past experiences under the Flagship Programme, such as the EU-funded project on “Improving synergies between social protection and public finance management”,

which initiated work on social protection financing and public finance management, supported innovative approaches for the extension of social protection to the informal economy and promoted concrete collaboration between UN and civil society on the ground.

Since its inception in 2021, the Global Accelerator continues to play a key role in enhancing policy coherence and providing additional opportunities for joint, coordinated action towards universal social protection. In 2024, an additional ten (10) countries joined the Global Accelerator increasing the total number of pathfinder countries to 18 (Albania, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam). In 2024, the governments of Albania, Malawi and Paraguay formally endorsed their national roadmaps. The governments of Cambodia, Indonesia, Namibia and Uzbekistan are in the process of doing so.

The Global Accelerator Steering Group was established in February 2024 to share information on Global Accelerator implementation, foster South-South learning and cooperation, support global advocacy based on evidence, and mobilize resources and partnerships. This lively platform organized 7 events in 2024 including a two-day technical and policy oriented workshop. The Steering Group helps create direct links between national stakeholders and partners of the initiative, and is instrumental for promoting the Global Accelerator's vision and results in global fora such as FFD4 and WSSD.

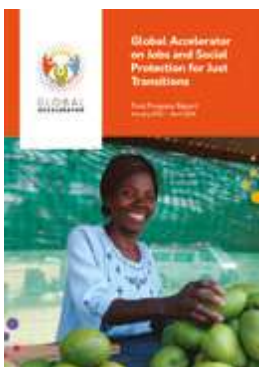
In February 2024, the first round of funding was launched by the UN Joint SDG Fund and the Technical Support Facility (led by the ILO, and including UNICEF, UNDP, UN WOMEN, WFP and FAO) to support Global Accelerator activity implementation on the ground. Totalling US\$17.8 million the first funding round was allocated across 23 in-country projects in 14 pathfinder countries and a global component to provide technical assistance to country teams, support knowledge development, and global advocacy. In 2024, additional resources were mobilised for the M-GA with contributions from Ireland and Germany €1.2 million (US\$1.24 million) and €20 million (US\$20.7 million)

respectively. In addition, France and Korea committed €300 thousand (US\$310 thousand) and US\$1.3 million, respectively, to ILO to further support projects on the Global Accelerator.

To foster further collaboration with public development Banks (PDB), the Finance in Common Summit (FICS) Coalition for Social Investment, with the support of the Global Accelerator, established a working group on “Harnessing the Social Impact of PDBs financing for just transitions”. It provides concrete opportunities for PDBs to support national GA roadmaps implementation through technical assistance, budget support, concessional financing and infrastructure loans. It also helps in building evidence of the social impact of PDBs’ investments by promoting and applying impact measurement methodologies such as the Structural Model for Sustainable Development (SMSD).

Responding to requests from UN Country Teams, the Global Accelerator Technical Support Facility (TSF) developed technical tools to be made available to pathfinder countries and the wider UN Development System to support the acceleration of investments in decent jobs and social protection. New tools and products launched in 2024 include guidance for the development of Global Accelerator roadmaps, an

informality dashboard, a macroeconomic diagnostics tool, and the adaptation of the Structural Model for Sustainable Development. The TSF developed a theory of change and results framework for the Accelerator and is currently in discussions with the UN Development Coordination Office on its efficient streamlining into already existing UN results measurement frameworks. The [first progress report](#) of the Global Accelerator was published in April 2024.



Governments continue to show interest in joining the initiative, and engagements are ongoing with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan. Implementation of the projects supported by the various funding streams will be a key priority. To continue the support to pathfinder countries for the development and implementation of their national roadmaps, a second funding round will be launched in April 2025.

The TSF has set out prioritized workstreams for the implementation of the global project supporting its work for 2025, with continued country level engagement and technical support to pathfinder countries, and at global level engagements with PDBs and participation at key global events including the Fourth Financing for Development Forum (FfD4) and Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) and the Financing in Common Summit.

More information on the [Global Accelerator](#)

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

Eight years from its formal constitution by the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030) continues as an indispensable platform for its 53 members, including governments, international and regional organisations, UN agencies and other development partners, social partners and CSOs, to come together, share knowledge and expertise, and collectively advocate to ensure the realisation of social protection for all.

In 2024, the USP2030 and its technical working groups have developed a wide range of resources, including knowledge material and guidance notes, and hosted several events aimed at raising awareness around universal social protection and laying out the path to its achievement. Additional to its pre-existing thematic groups, namely on digital transformation, social protection and climate change, financing social protection, and food systems transformation, the Partnership decided to constitute a temporary task team dedicated to its preparations to two key events planned for 2025: the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2).

The fifth Membership Assembly of the USP2030 was held in May 2024, bringing together more than 80 representatives of international and bilateral development agencies, labour and social ministries and other social protection practitioners. The meeting included updates from the working groups on financing, food security, and digital convergence, and discussed the role of social protection in addressing climate change risks, as well as the Partnership’s synergies with the Global Accelerator and how to leverage them to advance common objectives. To this end, an inception meeting was held in December for a dedicated working group on the linkages between decent jobs and the extension of social protection, which would cover topics such as social protection and the informal economy, decent work, employment and domestic resource mobilization for social protection systems, and new forms of work.

Important achievements have also been realized by the thematic working groups under USP2030, all contributing towards ensuring the original USP2030 Call to Action is closer to being reality. Highlights from each working group include:

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

In 2024, the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) expanded efforts across its core workstreams: standards development, country implementation, and knowledge products. Key achievements included

the release and endorsement of new standards by the USP2030 coalition, such as those for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and Social Protection Management Information Systems (SP-MIS), Social Registry and SP-MIS; and Integrated Beneficiary Registry and SP-MIS, and Disability. Standards for Farmer Registries are under review.

In 2024, the European Union joined the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as a co-funder of the DCI, as well as France (Expertise France) and Spain (FIIAPP) through their support for country-level interventions. These new partnerships strengthen the support for digital transformation in social protection systems the DCI is able to provide, accelerating progress in a growing number of countries. Indeed, by 2027, DCI aims to assist at least 10 countries, including the already selected Senegal, Zambia, Rwanda, Peru and Pakistan, in advancing digital transformation and interoperability, with additional “light touch” support available to others. This commitment underscores DCI’s role in driving innovation in social protection implementation worldwide.

► **USP2030 Working Group on Climate Action**

Co-chaired by ILO, FAO and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the working group’s efforts in 2024 focused on supporting the development of the next round of countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, which are due in 2025. Most importantly, a [joint guidance note](#) on integrating social protection in NDCs was published ahead of COP29 in November, which working group members presented in different forums, including on the sidelines of the Forum on Social Protection in Fragility and Conflict in Rome, COP29 and in internal seminars across various organisations, including the World Bank, the ILO, FAO, and the NDC Partnership, among others. The working group has also been working closely with the BMZ/GIZ task force on adaptive social protection and climate change on a complementary note, directed at climate and environment ministries.

The working group also served as a platform to coordinate social protection-related engagements at COP29, and hosted a post-COP debrief session on relevant social protection-related takeaways. Earlier in the year, the working group had hosted a technical knowledge-sharing seminar on social protection and climate finance, together with the USP2030 Financing Working Group, and another technical session on social protection’s role in just transition.

► **USP2030 Working Group on Financing Social Protection**

The group on financing has led work under the USP2030 initiative in its preparations for the FfD4. In December 2024, USP2030 launched a [Global Call to Action](#) to increase public investments in universal social protection, urging countries to expand coverage by at least 2 percentage points annually to

meet SDG Target 1.3. The call was launched at the Second Preparatory Committee Session for FfD4, presented alongside new ILO estimates on financing gaps for achieving universal social protection in developing countries around the world. To this end, the group also developed a [policy brief](#) on how to reduce the social protection financing gaps, as well as a [joint statement](#) on linking climate and social protection finance. Some of its other ongoing workstreams include the development of guidance materials for better engagement between ministries of finance and ministries with a mandate for social protection, and a discussion on re-thinking social insurance financing in a changing world of world.

► **USP2030 Working Group on Social protection and Food Systems Transformation**

In 2024, the UN Food Systems Summit Coalition (UNFSS) and the USP2030 Working Group on Social Protection and Food Systems Transformation advanced key initiatives. Building on the workshops conducted during the previous year, a strategic workplan was developed to enhance country engagement, and support was provided to the launch of the G20’s Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty initiated under Brazil’s presidency.

Another highlight of the year was their participation in the 52nd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS52), which stressed integrating social protection, food security, and health systems to combat poverty and malnutrition. A side event, co-organized by WFP, FAO, and UNICEF, showcased adaptive strategies like Timor-Leste’s Bolsa da Mãe program, Pakistan’s Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) initiative, and Mexico’s efforts on addressing the triple burden of malnutrition. Experts emphasized global collaboration and innovative, integrated approaches to address poverty, malnutrition, and climate risks, including in fragile contexts, for sustainable progress on global food security.

More information: <https://usp2030.org>

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

Throughout 2024, SPIAC-B members remained actively involved in promoting social protection, fostering policy coherence, and sharing knowledge. On March 19, 2024, the 15th SPIAC-B meeting took place, bringing together members to review ongoing initiatives and discuss emerging priorities. The meeting featured updates from various SPIAC-B working groups, including those focused on humanitarian cash and social protection, climate change, gender, digital social protection, and disability. Each working group provided insights into their recent achievements and current efforts, and member agencies also shared updates on their respective contributions to advancing social protection policies and programs.



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The meeting included an update on the joint knowledge-sharing platform, www.socialprotection.org, which serves as a central hub for collaboration and information exchange on social protection. Progress on the development and finalization of Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools was also reviewed, and a new draft tool on management information systems, the [“Playbook on Digital Social Protection Delivery Systems towards Dynamic Inclusion and Interoperability”](#) tool, was presented and aims to support countries in assessing and enhancing their social protection information management practices.

Another key agenda item was the discussion of the G20 Initiative for a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. Members reviewed a G20 request for SPIAC-B to submit inputs on the role of social protection in addressing food insecurity and hunger, outlining key messages and strategic priorities for the submission. The [report](#) was presented at the first meeting of the Global Alliance Task Force Against Hunger and Poverty in February 2024.

The SPIAC-B Working Group on Linking Humanitarian (Cash) Assistance and Social Protection, following the launch of its [Common Principles for Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection](#) in December 2023, has been engaged in developing guidance notes (“tipsheets”) on how they can be tangibly implemented. Throughout 2024, dedicated interagency task forces were set up and worked jointly

to draft a tipsheet for each one of the principles, and in December 2024 a final draft was produced. Publication and dissemination are planned for 2025.

The SPIAC-B disability working group launched its Guidance Note: [Towards Inclusive Social Protection Systems: Enabling Participation and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#) and the Gender Working Group produced several knowledge products on its workstream related to care and support services, gender-based violence, capacity-building and the 2024 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development.

Other working groups are dedicated to the topics of social protection and climate change, digital social protection and other emerging topics.

ILO-IMF Partnership

The ILO continues to expand engagement in discussions regarding public finance, including through a renewed **ILO-IMF partnership**. Since 2021, the ILO and IMF have collaborated on social protection initiatives beginning in four pilot countries (Iraq, Mozambique, Togo, and Uzbekistan) through the production of joint analysis for expanding fiscal space and identifying sustainable and equitable reform options. In 2024, both organizations decided to embark on a new phase in an expanded set of countries, which include Cambodia, Comoros, Eswatini, Lebanon, Morocco, Mozambique, Paraguay, Senegal and Thailand.

Throughout 2024, the ILO and the IMF have been holding discussions and consultations to identify entry points for joint work in the selected countries, agreeing on a set of deliverables which include fiscal space analyses for social protection reforms, particularly pension reforms, models for social protection extensions to the informal economy and workers in non-standard forms of employment, knowledge products on the positive synergies between social protection and labour market outcomes.

Partnerships with social partners

Engagement with workers' organizations

The Flagship Programme strengthened its engagement with workers' organizations throughout the year. Together with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the ILO organized the 6th meeting of the Social Protection, Freedom and Justice for Workers Network in February 2024 to discuss the role of social protection in ensuring a just and green recovery from recent crises. The event brought together representatives of workers' organizations, experts and practitioners to exchange views and experiences on how to strengthen and expand social protection systems and the necessary financing in the context of the uneven global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. During the discussions, trade union leaders stressed the need to redouble their efforts to advocate for strong commitments on social protection financing, including in many low-income countries where the financing gaps were more significant. The event included interventions by trade unionists from Bangladesh, Chile, Namibia, Senegal and Uzbekistan, among others, and concluded with a call to countries to create the necessary conditions for effective social dialogue and workers' participation in social protection policy debates.

Additionally, the ILO assisted trade unions through the Flagship Programme at the national level to support the development and implementation of social protection policies. For example, through the EU funded BEIT Social Protection Project in **Iraq**, different trade unions were trained and supported to develop a joint action plan to expand their membership and strengthen their representation through enhanced social protection services. This strategy also aims to assist in the effective implementation of the new social security law. As part of these efforts, two training workshops were held in Baghdad and Erbil (Kurdistan) in April and June 2024, where 40 female and male trade union leaders were trained. These leaders are now being supported in conducting worksite visits to reach out to and educate workers.

Trade unions are also supporting non-traditional sectors such as agriculture in **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Mali**, which resulted in the social protection coverage of more than 3,000 workers under the National Social Security Fund (CNPS) and the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM)

for salaried workers. With the support of the ILO, workers' organisations in **Paraguay** also participated in and influenced national dialogue processes contributing to the definition of public policies on social protection, which led to a change in national legislation.

Private-sector partnerships

In 2024, 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.

The partner approach of the ILO and BMZ Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation, supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), piloted the "prototypes" for social protection coverage extension in Rwanda, following their design in two co-creation workshops held in 2023. Three prototypes were selected – one tailored to commercial sales agents, a second one for dairy farmers, and a third one aimed at moto vehicle cooperative members, of which the first two saw implementation in collaboration with the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) at the enterprise level. The pilot increased, firstly, the participants' understanding of social protection, of their rights and responsibilities, of the practical steps needed for affiliation, as well as of the value of social protection coverage for both workers and businesses. Through this highly participatory process, partners were able to identify obstacles to social protection extension and work out solutions that directly addressed these challenges. This was also beneficial for the RSSB, which was able to explore how the prototypes can inform the Board's broader efforts to extend social protection to workers in all types of employment in the country. For more information, see <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowProject.action?id=3145>.

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. For instance, in 2024, the ILO and Nestlé partnered in Mexico to map the national legislative framework around maternity protection, paternity, and parental leave to identify entry points for reform, in line with relevant conventions and recommendations, and to facilitate tripartite consultations and knowledge-sharing.

The ILO partners with Italian energy company **Eni S.p.A.** to improve occupational safety and health (OSH) and social protection in agri-fuel value chains 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 castor and rubber farmers in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire, respectively. In 2024, an assessment of drivers and constraints for OSH and social protection



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improvements was completed in Kenya and started in Côte d'Ivoire. On the basis of the findings, a participatory workshop was held in Kenya with social partners to identify policy and practical options to seize the identified opportunities.

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. Through the second phase of the ACCEL project, the ILO has continued supporting the deployment of universal health coverage in Côte d'Ivoire, with a particular focus on enrolling members of cocoa-producing cooperatives in the Moronou and Nawa regions. This includes assisting cooperatives in establishing focal points to oversee and facilitate member registration, contribution payments, service utilization, and the monitoring of claims and complaints for both members and their families. Additionally, the ILO is supporting the Coffee-Cocoa Council (CCC) in implementing its initiative to finance the payment of contributions to the National Health Insurance Fund for cocoa farmers holding the "carte du producteur de café-cacao" (farmers' card), developed and provided by the CCC. The project has also supported the registration to the Social Regime of Independent Workers (RSTI) through awareness and informative workshops which bring together cooperatives representatives and representatives of the National Social Insurance Fund (CNPS), administrative entity of the RSTI.

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. What sets the EIS Pilot apart is its transformative and incremental approach, following a building-block methodology that progressively develops and strengthens national practice in social insurance. Rather than imposing a fully developed system from the outset, the Pilot evolves step by step, expanding coverage, refining benefits, and enhancing institutional capacity in a sustainable manner. Currently, the EIS Pilot covers all 4 million workers in the RMG sector, including case of commuting accidents, with monthly pensions funded by voluntary contributions from over 65 international brands and retailers. These include Amazon, H&M, Hugo Boss, Inditex, Kik, Montane, Next, OVS, Puma, PVH Corp, Tesco, The Just Group, United Colors of Benetton, VF Corp, Zeeman and many others. Beyond providing financial support, the EIS Pilot systematically collects data on work-related injuries, refining cost estimations for a future nationwide employment injury insurance scheme covering all formal workers in Bangladesh. Set to run until June 2027, the EIS Pilot lays the groundwork for a comprehensive, legislatively embedded employment injury scheme, supported by a robust national institution built upon the best practices developed throughout its phased implementation.

In India, the ILO continues to work with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, in alignment with its mission of improving global health and reducing poverty, to realize an assessment of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS), which is the largest contributory social health insurance scheme in the country. This support has allowed for the production of seminal analysis on extending social health protection to informal sector workers and the conduct of capacity building exercises for officials and management of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.



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Partnerships on health

Providing for Health (P4H) Network

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.

The ILO through the P4H network has actively engaged in supporting social health protection (SHP) on the country and regional level. This engagement was provided through one dedicated country focal person (P4H-CFP), stationed in Kenya; as well as one regional technical focal point (P4H-RFP) in Asia:

- Lao People's Democratic Republic. Support in strengthening capacities of the National Health Insurance Bureau, development of capacity and tools for increased compliance and effective social security inspection, including through the finalisation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as well as generation of evidence based on actuarial analyses to support decision-making,

specifically on financing the National Health Insurance,

- In Kenya, coordination of a One UN position on the transition process between the National Hospitalization Insurance Fund and a new social health insurance agency, which was conveyed by the UN Resident Coordinator to the presidency and for which a follow-up support plan is ongoing with coordinated support from different agencies.
- In Asia the technical regional focal point organized a webinar series on "Equity in Health for All: Advancing Social Health Protection for Persons with Disabilities" in collaboration with UNICEF and the CONNECT network on social health protection. Alignment and collaboration with the CONNECT network were also systematically established and allowed for enhanced strategies to avoid duplications (see CONNECT section below).

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 twice in a virtual mode in 2024. The first meeting focused on the TEG workstream on Aging, elderly care and vulnerable population, while the second addressed

social protection for people with tuberculosis (TB,) climate change and social health protection as well as the role of mutuals and community-based health insurance. Both sessions featured ILO publications and collaborations with the WHO while enabling intersectoral dialogues and perspectives.

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

Collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)

Collaboration with the WHO Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention as well as the Social Determinants of Health Departments led to the organization on 12 December 2024 of a joint ILO-WHO workshop entitled “[Universal Health Coverage & Universal Social Protection: A joint agenda to improve health equity and well-being in the informal economy](#)”, with the input of the Social Protection and Health Action Research and Knowledge Sharing (SPARKS) Network. The event discussed the state of evidence as well as concrete intervention models for inter-sectoral action across health, social protection and labour policies. This initiative advanced joint activities with the WHO Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention Department, the Social Determinants of Health Department, as well as the Global Occupational Health Programme.

In 2024, the WHO and ILO also published a [joint guidance on social protection for people affected by tuberculosis](#). The document lays out key features of adequate social protection for people with TB as part of national social protection systems, as well as identifies entry points for national TB programmes and other stakeholders into national dialogues when it comes to social protection systems design and implementation. The guidance dissemination was the occasion to improve coordination between ILO and WHO regional experts.

The CONNECT Network

The ILO has been expanding its collaboration with [CONNECT](#), a network of public and non-for-profit organizations in Asia working on social health protection (SHP). It supports countries towards the extension of SHP coverage to develop and implement strong, sustainable and comprehensive health policies, strategies and plans towards the achievement of

universal health coverage. Through joint collaborations based on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the network promotes knowledge development and capacity building on social health protection.

In December 2024, Mahidol University established the secretariat for CONNECT under the ASEAN Institute for Health Development (AIHD), by officially nominating AIHD officials to assume the associated roles and responsibilities. This important evolution partakes current efforts to strengthen CONNECT’s Secretariat for better coordination of the platform.

Throughout the year, the Network welcomed five new members, including Thammasat University, Thailand; the Institute for Health Policy, Sri Lanka; the Action to the Community Development Institute, Viet Nam; the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative, Myanmar; as well as the ASEAN Disability Forum; thereby bringing the total number of CONNECT Network members to 18.

The CONNECT Network activities in 2024 included:

- The Mahidol University Master’s degree on Primary Health Care and Social Health Protection, established in collaboration with the ILO and the CONNECT network, was further supported financially and technically by CONNECT members.
- In collaboration with the International Training Center of the ILO, the annual training “*Addressing inequities in access to health care: extending social health protection*” took place in March-April 2024.
- Important research on access to social health protection for persons with disabilities (publication of the report in 2025) as well as on maternity income protection and health care in ASEAN were initiated.
- During the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2024), the Connect Network, led by the Australian National University and ILO, in collaboration with the WHO organized a 90-minutes session on “Building a Resilient Health Workforce for Global Health Security”. The session addressed critical workforce challenges, including health worker shortages and the increasing demand for social care services.

More information: [CONNECT - For social health protection](#)



► 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 GTAC members were consulted in 2024 during the independent mid-term evaluation of the 2nd phase of the Flagship Programme. The ILO is coordinating with GTAC members to organize the 2025 session, which will guide the process for the development of phase III.

A meeting of the **Multi-Donor Programme Steering Committee** was held on 10 December 2024, including representatives of those development partners whose contributions are administered through the pooled funding modality. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Belgian Ministry for Development

Cooperation, the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and programme managers. It allowed to (i) update development partners on the funding and management of the Programme, (ii) approve a 6 months no-cost extension of the current programme, (iii) explore the potential for developing a new Multi-Donor Programme supporting the 3rd phase of the Flagship Programme, (iv) present the progress made and results achieved in 2024 and work plans for 2025 of Central Africa, West Africa and Asia components and (v) get overall strategic guidance from donors.

The Flagship Programme is coordinated by a **management team**, led by the Deputy Director of the ILO's Universal Social Protection Department. This team includes dedicated staff from both the regular budget and development cooperation, based at headquarters, regional offices and within Decent Work Teams. The strategy for the second phase included plans to expand the management team at the regional level by appointing regional focal points for the Flagship Programme. However, due to a lack of funds, this recommendation could not be implemented in 2024. Efforts to prioritize it will continue in 2025.

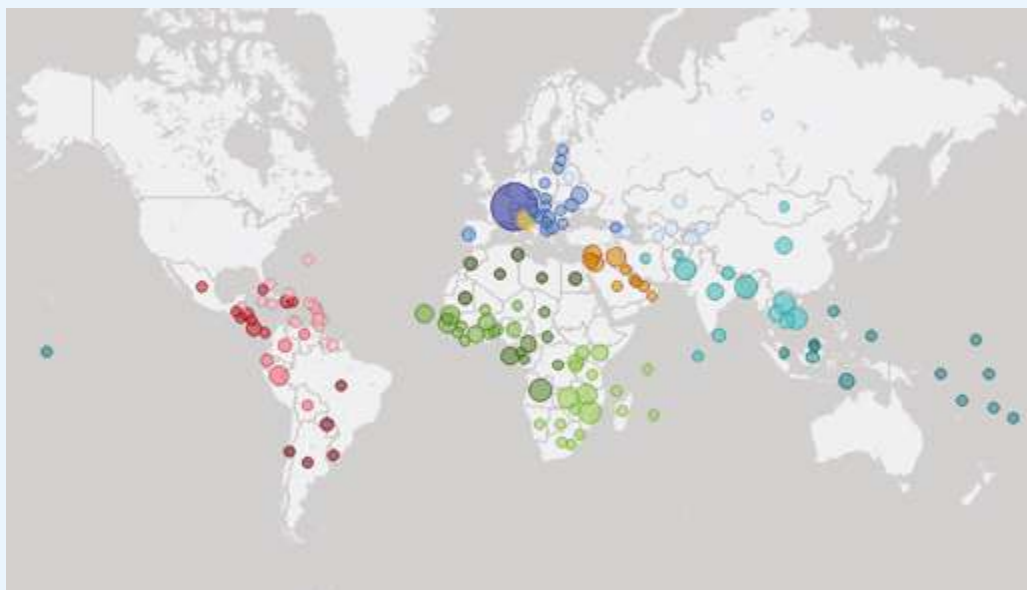
The execution of the Flagship Programme is ensured by the **Global Technical Team on social protection (GTT)**, comprised of social protection specialists and experts operating across country, regional, and headquarters offices. Significant progress has been made in fulfilling the commitment to provide technical expertise to each of the 50 priority countries through the establishment of dedicated country teams. The GTT staff stood at 197 in March 2025, with 74 per cent of GTT staff based outside of ILO HQ spanning 64 countries (including staff in 37 designated as Flagship Programme priority countries) (see Table 5). A digital map of the GTT provides the names of all national and international staff working in the countries and territories (see Figure 3).

► 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.

► Table 5: ILO staff working on social protection as of March 2025

	Regular budget	Technical cooperation	Total
ILO Headquarters (SOCPRO)	27	24	51
Regional and country teams	37	109	146
Total	64	133	197

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



Source: ILO, "Flagship Programme <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowWiki.action?id=10>"

The GTT's effectiveness was strengthened through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Various knowledge-sharing meetings were organized in 2024: one to present the ILO Informality Dashboard held on 27 June 2024 (123 attendees); one to discuss the findings of the study on the financing gap for universal social protection held on 18 July 2024 (44 attendees); one to present the Africa Social Protection Clock held on 03 September 2024 (38 attendees) and one focused on integrating social protection into national climate strategies/NDCs held on 28 November 2024 (35 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 [thematic pages](#) providing in-depth information on each thematic area were updated. 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.

► Figure 4: Thematic area excerpts and photos from website



The Technical Support Facility (TSF) operates within the GTT framework enhancing the efforts of country teams by providing prompt, cohesive and high-quality technical assistance in line with ILO standards. Composed of dedicated experts, the TSF focuses exclusively on supporting ILO constituents at the country level. These experts collaborate closely with specialists funded by the ILO's regular budget and play

a key role in delivering technical support for initiatives under the Flagship Programme. During 2021–24, the TSF was strengthened at global and regional levels through the mobilization of resources to maintain existing TSF positions. In 2024 a new position of a specialist on digital social protection was created at ILO HQ (see Table 6).

► Table 6: 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)
Headquarters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► public finance ► health protection ► social protection and climate change ► social protection and employment policy (including unemployment protection) ► extension of social protection to ► workers in the informal economy ► legal drafting and ratification of standards ► actuarial studies ► Management Information Systems ► digital social protection ► cash payment mechanisms ► culture and communication ► statistics Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► health protection Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► health ► actuarial studies 	Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► unemployment protection Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► actuary ► public finance Latin America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► unemployment protection Europe and Central Asia <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:

- Increasing ILO staff presence in seven Flagship Programme priority countries, including Albania, Barbados, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Suriname and Togo.
- Creating five TSF expert positions in the regions (see Table 6 above).

- Mobilizing longer-term resources for the positions to ensure continuity and sustainability of the expertise available to constituents.

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

In-line with the monitoring and evaluation strategy of the Flagship Programme, the independent mid-term evaluation of the 2nd phase of the Flagship Programme was conducted between March and October 2024. A stakeholder workshop was held on 29 August 2024 to present and discuss the preliminary findings of the evaluation. The final report ([executive summary](#) and [complete report](#)) was published in October 2024.

The main purpose of this independent mid-term evaluation is to provide feedback on the implementation status of the second phase of the Flagship Programme (2021 – 2025) at midterm, take stock of achievements and lessons learned so far, and provide guidance and recommendations to inform programme improvement and organizational learning for the remaining period of its implementation, as well as provide input for the final evaluation as relevant.

The evaluation assesses Flagship Programme's performance across six key dimensions: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, management, and sustainability, alongside cross-cutting policy drivers. The summary of the main findings, recommendations and management response to the recommendations are presented below.

Relevance and Coherence

Findings: The Flagship Programme is well-aligned with the ILO's social protection mandate, Decent Work Agenda, and SDGs (targets 1.3 and 3.8). However, coordination with the Global Accelerator needs clearer frameworks to prevent duplication and enhance synergy. While the Flagship Programme's interventions are strategically structured, challenges remain in funding, visibility, and communication. Human resource constraints limit support for in-country initiatives and emerging areas like climate change and Just Transitions.

Key recommendations for enhancing relevance and coherence:

- Strengthen the Flagship Programme- Global Accelerator Coordination: Establish joint planning workshops and stakeholder meetings to define roles and optimize resources.
- Expand Engagement with Social Partners: Improve capacity-building for workers' and employers' organizations, fostering inclusive consultations and national forums.

Effectiveness

Findings: Between 2021 and 2023, the Flagship Programme contributed to 105 institutional changes across 40 countries, extending social protection to 31.3 million people and exceeding targets. Social protection

floors advanced in 50 countries, with seven ratifying Convention No. 102. South-South collaboration has facilitated technical exchanges, yet further expertise is needed in gender-responsive protection and climate adaptation. Expanding social protection for informal workers remains a priority. Reporting mechanisms need better clarity and disaggregated data.

Key recommendations for improving effectiveness:

- Expand the Flagship Programme While Streamlining Thematic Areas: Identify priority countries and enhance collaboration with the Global Accelerator to optimize global social protection efforts.
- Develop Policy Influence Mechanisms: Strengthen decision-maker engagement, technical capacity in digital economy inclusion, and green job strategies.
- Boost Technical Capacities Through South-South Collaboration: Create specialized working groups and enhance knowledge-sharing initiatives in climate change, gender, and informality.

Efficiency

Findings: The Flagship Programme optimizes resources through strategic partnerships, achieving a 70% financial execution rate and 61% expenditure rate by 2023. Coordinated field missions (e.g., in Viet Nam and Zambia) have reduced costs, and extra budgetary allocations have strengthened social protection financing. However, bureaucratic delays, operational inefficiencies, and country-level staffing shortages hinder progress. Enhanced coordination and communication mechanisms are required for more effective policy implementation.

Key recommendations for strengthening efficiency:

- Streamline Administrative Processes: Reduce bureaucratic hurdles, integrate digital project tracking tools, and enhance coordination across the Flagship Programme country offices.
- Enhance Strategic Partnerships: Develop a partnership strategy to engage governments, NGOs, and private sector actors, fostering stronger advocacy and knowledge-sharing.

Management Arrangements

Findings: The Flagship Programme benefits from strong constituent and donor support, but its Technical Support Facility requires stronger senior country-level management and coordination. Multi-donor financing supports resource efficiency, though shifting funds to the Global Accelerator risks financial stability post-2025. Expanding partnerships with private entities,

development banks, and organizations like the EU will enhance sustainability.

Key recommendations for optimizing Management Arrangements:

- Improve Communication and Coordination: Establish a digital platform for real-time updates, newsletters, and thematic webinars.
- Secure Financial and Administrative Sustainability: Develop a long-term fundraising strategy, optimize financial resource allocation, and explore Junior Professional Officer (JPO) hires.

Sustainability and Impact

Findings: By embedding social protection in national legal frameworks, the Flagship Programme ensures long-term government commitments. Strategic partnerships, such as with the IMF on financing social protection, support sustainability. Strengthening funding strategies, exit plans for time-limited projects, and visibility through public engagement are essential for sustained impact. Tripartite involvement has driven policy outcomes in various countries, but earlier engagement is needed for stronger impact.

Key recommendations for ensuring Long-Term Sustainability and Impact:

- Strengthen Tripartite Involvement: Increase early participation of social partners in project planning and enhance their role in policy advocacy and implementation.
- Develop a Comprehensive Sustainability Framework: Integrate risk assessments, financial planning, and innovative financing mechanisms (e.g., social impact bonds) to secure ongoing program success.

Following the evaluation, management of the Flagship Programme provided its responses. Management acknowledges the recommendations and outlines key actions:

Coordination with the Global Accelerator

- Incorporate the Flagship Programme- Global Accelerator interactions into the 2025 strategy for the third phase of the Flagship Programme and strategic documents of the Global Accelerator with concrete country examples.
- Continue efforts to improve results tracking via the Results Monitoring Tool (RMT).
- Align coordination efforts within existing committees (such as the Global Accelerator Steering Committee and the GTAC) to prevent duplication.

Engagement with Social Partners & Civil Society and strengthening Tripartite Involvement

- Systematically involve social partners in the Flagship Programme project cycles.
- Continue capacity-building sessions with workers and employers.
- Strengthen coalition-building and participation in policy dialogues.
- Expand partnerships with initiatives like SOCIEUX+ and enhance employer and worker roles.

Expanding GFP & Reviewing Thematic Areas

- Assess priority countries and thematic areas in the Flagship Programme Phase III development.
- Strengthen the Flagship Programme- Global Accelerator collaboration to optimize resources.

Policy Influence & Capacity-Building

- Engage in political-level policy reform through Decent Work Country Programmes and sector coordination groups.
- Develop tools and knowledge products on best practices in social protection.

Strengthening South-South & Triangular Cooperation (SSC)

- Identify SSC gaps and define corresponding priority areas to be included in the Global Flagship Programme Phase III strategy.
- Strengthen partnerships (e.g., USP2030, SPIAC-B) and explore new collaborations.

Strengthening Communication and knowledge-sharing

- Develop a dedicated communication and visibility strategy.
- Relaunch knowledge-sharing initiatives and thematic webinars.

Ensuring Financial & Administrative Sustainability and Resource Mobilization

- Develop a resource mobilization strategy based on a mapping of donor priorities.
- Develop a sustainable funding strategy integrating multiple financing streams.

- Renew expiring donor partnerships and explore new funding avenues such as public development banks.
- Optimize financial resources through integrated resource management.

Streamlining Administrative Processes

- Further develop and decentralize the Flagship Programme online platform and RMT.
- Improve staff training for enhanced data tracking and accountability.

Ensuring Sustainability of Programme Results

- Enhance sustainability assessments in project design.
- Focus on institutional change, financing mechanisms, and risk management.

In 2024, the following evaluations were conducted on social protection projects in the priority countries of the Flagship Programme:

- Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management - [Final joint evaluation](#).
- Extending Social Protection to Migrant Workers: Exploratory Research and Policy Dialogue in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries - [Final evaluation](#).
- Reducing vulnerability in Lao PDR: Advancing social protection and labour rights and entitlements in the coffee and tea sectors of Lao PDR - [Final independent evaluation](#).
- Strengthening Social Security Office capacities in policy design with a focus on research and actuarial services, Thailand - [Final independent evaluation](#).
- Evaluación agrupada del Programa de Trabajo de la OIT en Paraguay 2018 – 2023 - [Independent evaluation](#).
- Promoting Employment and Social Protection under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Central America and Mexico - [Final independent evaluation](#).
- Establishment of Unemployment Benefit Fund in Eswatini: Towards Comprehensive Social Protection for all
- Support for DRC's tripartite constituents Promoting Employment and Social Protection under the Comprehensive Refugee

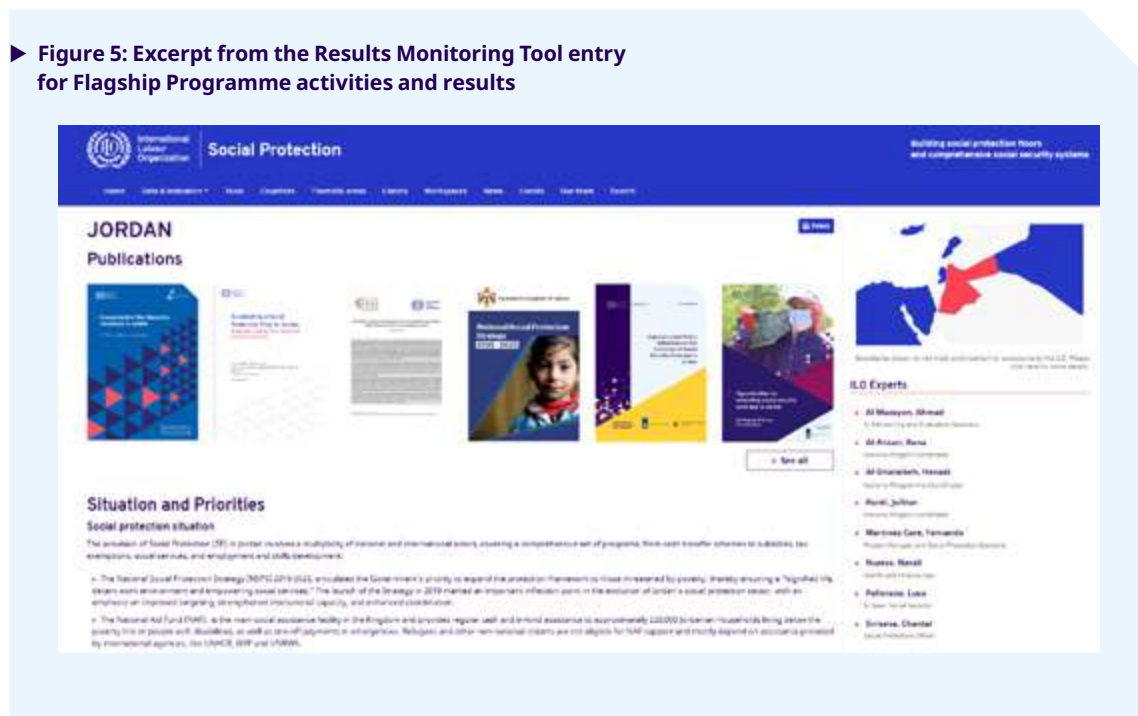


Results Monitoring Tool

The Results Monitoring Tool (RMT), created during the initial phase, offers insights into the institutional transformations facilitated by ILO assistance in various countries. In 2024, enhancements were made to the RMT, including synergies with other existing ILO databases and the addition of more content and visualisations related to progress and results on country 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 country operations and 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 2025.

► Figure 5: Excerpt from the Results Monitoring Tool entry for Flagship Programme activities and results



3.3 Visibility, communication and knowledge sharing

In 2024, the Flagship Programme strengthened its communication and knowledge-sharing efforts, enhancing the visibility of the ILO's initiatives and their impact on individuals. These activities fostered transparency, facilitated the exchange of best practices, disseminated ILO knowledge products and tools, and promoted the organization's vision of extending social protection coverage in line with international social security standards.

►► In 2024, the Flagship Programme strengthened its communication and knowledge-sharing efforts, enhancing the visibility of the ILO's initiatives and their impact on individuals.

Events

In 2024, additional events within the Flagship Programme served as a platform for sharing knowledge products, tools, best practices and innovative approaches to extend social protection coverage.

In September 2024, the ILO held the **Global launch of the World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal Social Protection for Climate Action and a Just Transition** at the United Nations Headquarters in

New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. The event brought together 50 government officials, employers' and workers' representatives and other stakeholders in person and 1,326 on ILO Live and UN Web TV. This high-level event explored the themes and policy recommendations of the World Social Protection Report 2024-26, providing a forum for reflection on key policy messages related to universal social protection and climate action.



► Launch of ILO World Social Protection Report 2024-26 in New York, September 2024. Photo credit: ILO

Many communication and visibility events have been reported under the relevant country results (section 2.1 above) and thematic results (section 2.2 above). Below is a selection of some additional events implemented.

- Event “For a just transition in adaptation: The role of social protection in the Global Goal on Adaptation” held on 19 November 2024 at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ILO-USP2030 Side event “Achieving Universal Social Protection: Actionable Recommendations

for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development “ held on 3 December 2024 in New York.

- FfD4 2nd PrepCom Side event “How to design, deliver and finance gender-responsive social protection systems?” held on 6 November 2024 in New York.
- African Regional Forum “Innovative Approaches to Addressing Informality and Promoting Transitions Towards Formality” held from 13 to 15 November 2024 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.



► Participants in the African Regional Forum “Innovative Approaches to Addressing Informality and Promoting Transitions Towards Formality” in Côte d'Ivoire, November 2024. Photo credit: Victoire Umuhire/ILO

Publications

In 2024, the ILO launched its flagship report, [World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal Social Protection for Climate Action and a Just Transition \(WSPR 2024-26\)](#), providing a global overview of progress made around the world since 2015 in extending social protection, with a sharp focus on the climate crisis and the need for climate action to transition to a more sustainable world. Complementing the WSPR 2024-26, the [Asia and the Pacific regional companion report](#) highlighted key developments, challenges, and priorities for social

protection in the region. In 2024, [52 country briefs](#) on national examples of extending social protection were published online and promoted through social media. Additionally, the ILO has published numerous other reports, guides and documents that explore emerging topics and innovative international experiences in extending social protection coverage to previously excluded groups. A sample of this publications is shown below in Figure 6.

► Figure 6: Sample of ILO reports, guides and other documents published in 2024



► Publication: [“World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal social protection for climate action and a just transition”](#)



► Publication: [“World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific”](#)



► OHCHR-ILO Fact Sheet: [“Right to Social Security”](#).



► ILO Working paper 113: [“Financing gap for universal social protection: Global, regional and national estimates and strategies for creating fiscal space”](#)



► ILO Working Paper 128: [“Combating inequalities: what role for universal social protection?”](#)



► ILO Working Paper 132: [“Making social protection work for gender equality: What does it look like? How do we get there?”](#)



- ILO brief: [“Social health protection for climate action”](#)



- ILO brief: [“Universal social protection for all carers: A necessity for securing long-term care in the context of population ageing”](#)



- ILO brief [“The promise of universal child benefits: The foundational policy for economic and social development”](#)



- ILO brief: [“Why are unemployment individual savings accounts not an adequate and equitable solution to unemployment protection?”](#)



- ILO brief: [“Making social protection work for gender equality: What does it look like? How do we get there?”](#)



- ILO brief: [“Closing the financing gap for universal social protection”](#)



- ILO brief: [“Étendre la sécurité sociale aux travailleurs de l'économie informelle”](#)



- ILO brief : [“Étendre la sécurité sociale aux travailleurs indépendants”](#)



- ILO brief : [“Étendre la sécurité sociale au secteur culturel et créatif”](#)



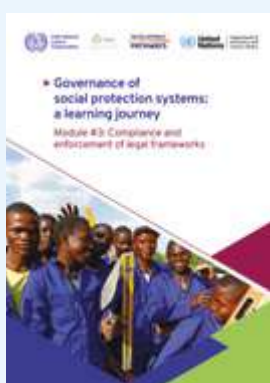
- Publication: [“Bridging Social Protection and Occupational Health to Advance Sustainable Development Goals”](#)



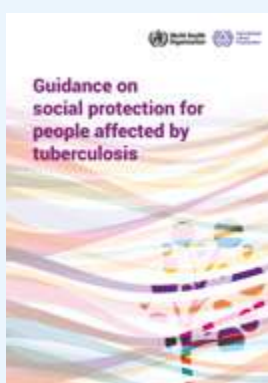
- Report [“Improving Synergies Between Social Protection and Public Finance Management – Final Report”](#)



- ILO Fact Sheet: [“Improving social protection financing through synergies with public finance management”](#)



- Guide: [Module #3: Compliance and enforcement of legal frameworks](#)



- Guide: [Guidance on social protection for people affected by tuberculosis](#)



- Report: [“Fiscal Space for Social Protection in Timor-Leste”](#)



- Report: [“Just energy transition in Indonesia: The role of social protection in facilitating the process”](#)



- Report: [“Assessment of the Cambodian National Social Security Fund's health insurance schemes”](#)



- Report: [Extending social health protection: Accelerating progress towards universal health coverage in Central and Western Asia](#)



- Country brief: "[Mozambique: Advocacy for social protection through the annual social protection week](#)"



- Country brief: "[Mexico: Mexican Social Security Institute pilot programme for domestic workers](#)"



- Country brief: "[Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia: Child and family grants](#)"

Online tools

ILO Social Protection Platform (www.social-protection.org) continues to serve as the authoritative reference for social protection practitioners worldwide. In 2024, the Platform boasted over 121,000 users throughout the year, including more than 300,000 individual page impressions. The World Social Protection Data Dashboards were viewed by more than 14,500 users (50,000 views) and the country pages by nearly 24,000

users (38,000 views). Meanwhile, more than 3,300 copies of the ILO's flagship World Social Protection Report (2020-22) were downloaded from the Platform in 2024.

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 provide an overview of the social protection situation, government priorities and the ILO's projects and results. The pages also highlight opportunities, including financing gaps, for development partners to support ILO work to achieve tangible results.
- [Thematic pages](#) 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](#) is a resource for policy makers, social protection administrators, social partners, civil society organizations, development actors, university students and others involved or interested in social protection issues. The MOOC, which is available in [English](#) and [French](#) was produced

in partnership with the SDG Academy and the French National School of Social Security (EN3S) thanks to the support of Belgium. In 2024, the social protection MOOC had attracted over 887 participants (including in the English and French versions).

Newsletter

News items on the Flagship Programme are included in [Social Protection Outlook newsletter](#) that has 5,243 subscribers. This includes country results, new publications, multimedia content and events. Four Social Protection Outlook newsletters were published in 2024.

ILO Voices

A story showcasing the impact of the Flagship Programme's activities in Senegal on individuals was released on 11 September. It features the article "[A social protection benefit transformed our daily lives](#)", along with a [video](#) and a collection of photos of a woman who received an increased family social protection benefit from the Senegalese government with the support of the "Improving Synergies Between Social Protection and Public Finance Management" (SP&PFM) Programme.

3.4 Resource mobilization

An additional **US\$8.1 million** in resources were mobilized and received for the Flagship Programme

across **21 new development cooperation projects** begun in 2024 (Table 7).

► Table 7: Number of new projects and associated funding approved, 2021-2024, by year		
	Number of new projects	Amount of new funding approved (in US\$)
2021	17	28,802,595
2022	9	9,320,393
2023	36	17,680,757
2024	21	8,095,069

As a result of the resources mobilized and received in 2024 for new projects, the overall funding gap for implementation of the second phase of the Flagship Programme declined to **US\$27.9 million** at the end of 2024 (Table 8), a further reduction from the previous gap of US\$36 million reported at the end of the last programme year (2023). Resource mobilization carried out to meet the funding needs of the programme's remainder has been achieved through a combined

effort of ILO HQ, regional offices, decent work country teams and country offices.

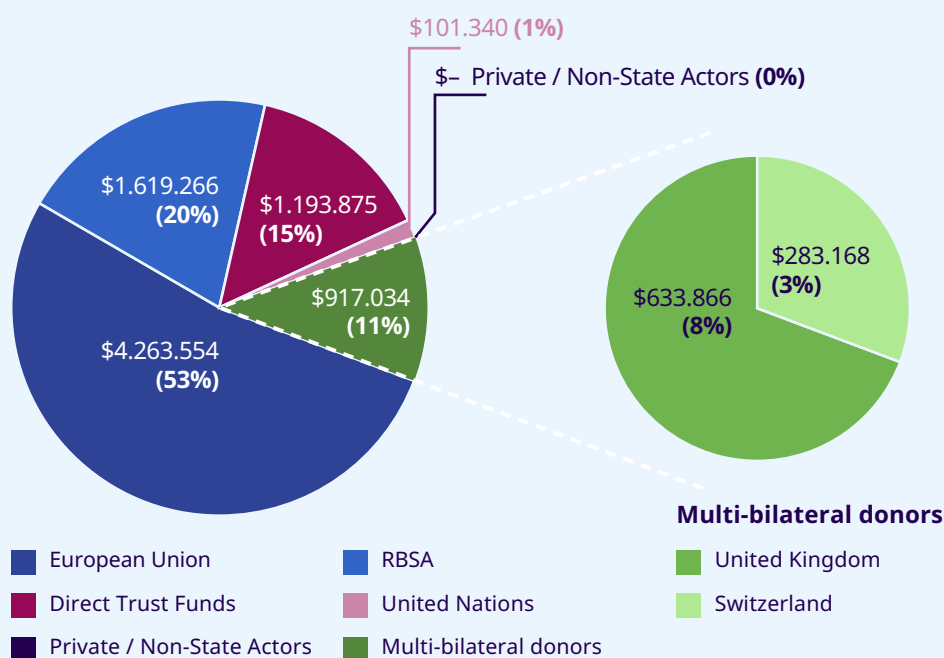
In several countries, Flagship Programme projects will be completed in 2024 and 2025. Partners are invited to support the ILO in its efforts to continue the work in the countries, consolidate the institutional changes already achieved and increase the impact in terms of extending social protection.

► Table 8: Funding gap of the Flagship Programme as of 31 December 2024	
Resources required for the Flagship Programme (in-country and thematic support) (estimated)	US\$ 160,000,000
Mobilized before 1 August 2021 and partially covering the second phase, incl. US\$10 million in regular budget resources allocated to the Programme	US\$ 85,000,000
Mobilized during second phase (2021 – 2023)	US\$ 39,024,757
Mobilized in 2024	US\$ 8,095,069
Remaining funding gap (end 2024)	US\$ 27,880,174

The largest share of resources received for new projects in 2024 were provided by the European Union (53 per cent) (see Figure 7), including for new projects approved and begun in Lebanon and Iraq (see Box 4). Beyond the contributions already received, additional outlays to reach over US\$13.7 million are expected in future in the two countries as the projects are implemented over

subsequent years. European Union contributions also allowed for the launch of a new multi-country project to support the standardisation and the interoperability of inclusive social protection digital systems with US\$3 million over three years (of which US\$1 million allocated in 2024).

► Figure 7: Resources for new projects in 2024, share by partner classification, US\$, per cent



► Box 4: Strengthening social protection in Iraq and Lebanon with new European Union support

With support from the European Union, the ILO's Global Flagship Programme on social protection is advancing critical reforms in Iraq and Lebanon with a planned envelope of more than **US\$13.7 million** over several years (of which US\$2.3 million allocated in 2024) to build inclusive and sustainable social protection systems. In Iraq, a new project begun in 2024 aims to enhance social security for private sector workers and their families by strengthening regulations, boosting institutional capacities, and ensuring a more inclusive and responsive social protection system. The project aims to digitally transform the supply chain of the Public Distribution System (PDS), making food security more efficient and accessible and to provide the Social Safety Net (SSN) with a digital facelift, allowing for faster, more effective social assistance delivery. Meanwhile in Lebanon, on the heels of the adoption of the National Social Protection Strategy, National Disability Allowance, and budget allocations for social grants, new EU support begun in 2024 will continue to address systemic gaps by strengthening the national social protection system and expanding coverage for key vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, older persons, and refugees.

Meanwhile, allocations from the ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) represented the next largest share of resources received for new activities in 2024 (20 per cent) (See Box 5). These contributions have provided essential un-earmarked core funding to the Flagship Programme that were deployed across six countries in 2024, as well as for regional activities in Africa and at the global level. Meanwhile, new projects from direct trust funds (15 per cent) continued to provide social security institutions with sound actuarial reviews and advice that ensure the long-term fiscal

sustainability of social security systems. Over 11 per cent of resources received for new projects were provided by bilateral partners, including the United Kingdom through a new project to strengthen social protection in Lebanon and by Switzerland for a new global project on social health protection. Meanwhile, contributions from other entities within the United Nations system (over US\$100 thousand) are supporting a new project funded by the digital transformation window of the Joint SDG Fund to facilitate the digitalization of local social protection mechanisms in Ecuador.

► **Box 5: New RBSA resources in 2024**

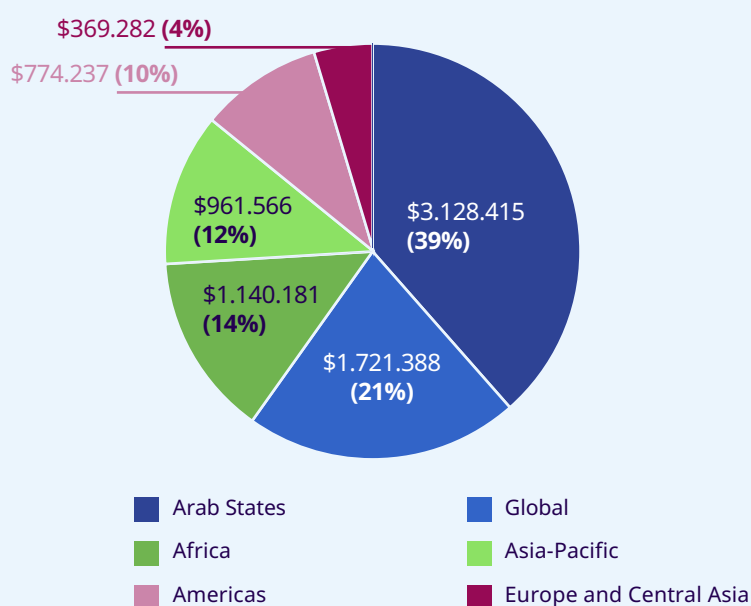
New Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) resources in 2024 amounted to nearly a fifth of all new 2024 resources for the Flagship Programme. The RBSA mechanism allows development partners to provide un-earmarked core funding to the ILO, and has benefited from the generous contributions of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.⁴ In 2024, US\$1.6 million were allocated to new activities in Jamaica, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cambodia and Cameroon in addition to regional and global activities.

In 2024, the ILO also continued to implement projects through pre-existing partnerships with the private sector, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as well as the Italian energy multinational Eni S.p.A. and Nestlé, S.A. to expand access social protection and occupational safety and health measures for workers within their supply chains.

The US\$8.1 million in resources for new projects in 2024 were allocated across 14 countries, as well as for

regional activities in Africa and at the global level. The largest share (39 per cent) of allocations received for new projects in 2024 supported activities implemented in the Arab States region, followed by global activities (21 per cent), the Africa region (14 per cent) and the Asia-Pacific region (12 per cent) (see Figure 8). Meanwhile, activities implemented in the Americas accounted for over 10 per cent of all contributions for new projects in 2024, followed by activities implemented in Europe and Central Asia (4 per cent).

► **Figure 8: Resources for new projects in 2024, share by implementation region, US\$, per cent**



While the resource gap for the Programme's second phase has shrunk steadily alongside resource mobilization efforts, a significant resource gap remains.

Throughout 2025, the ILO will redouble efforts needed to close this gap and meet the financial and performance targets of the Programme in the final stretch of its second phase ending in 2025.

4 See [RBSA \(PARTNERSHIPS\) \(ilo.org\)](https://www.ilo.org/partnerships)

► 4. Conclusion

Sustainable social protection systems are needed for long-term resilience and societies that can adapt to complex challenges ahead. Strengthening these systems requires regular investments and sustainable sources of financing. Initiatives like the Global Accelerator integrate social protection with employment generation and enterprise development to promote the macroeconomic conditions needed to generate domestic revenue for social protection expansion. These efforts and others require the existence of well-functioning social protection institutions and governance in order to succeed. To this end, the ILO's Flagship Programme remains dedicated to strengthening the foundations and building institutional capacities for achieving universal social protection.

► In 2024, more than 18 million people benefited from enhanced social protection coverage in countries supported by the ILO's Flagship Programme and its partners.

In 2024, more than 18 million people benefited from enhanced social protection coverage in countries supported by the ILO's Flagship Programme and its partners. As a global leader in advancing rights-based social protection, the ILO's Flagship Programme offers a crucial platform for its partners to contribute to policies aligned with their values, international labour standards and internationally recognized human rights, while making a significant contribution to several SDGs.

Social protection plays a pivotal role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, and demographic shifts. By promoting adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection, the ILO's Flagship Programme not only helps countries build stronger systems today but ensures that future generations are supported as they navigate uncertain landscapes in economic security and human dignity.



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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