



► Universal Social Protection for Climate Action and a Just Transition

ILO Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All
Development Partners Meeting 2025

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World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal Social Protection for Climate Action and a Just Transition



Access full report
HERE

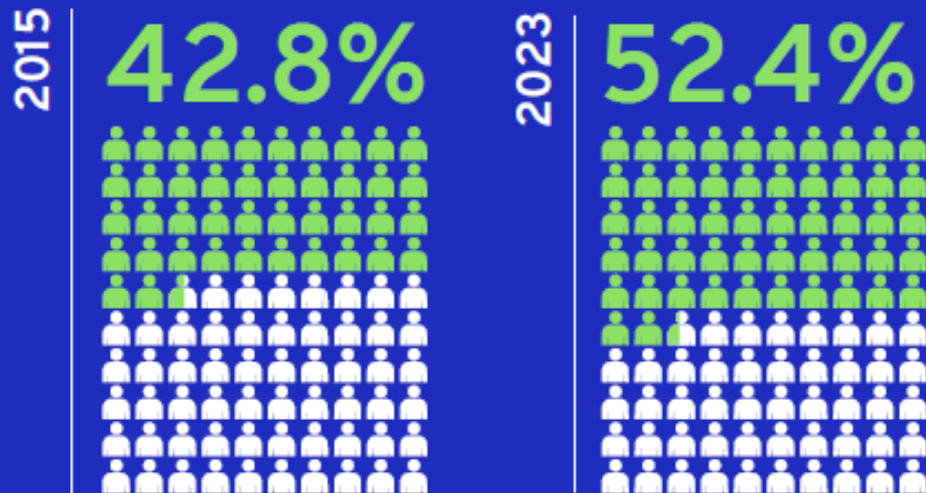


- ▶ **A milestone surpassed:** over half the world's population is now covered
- ▶ Heartening progress yes, but still too little and too slow.
- ▶ Protection in countries on the climate crisis frontline is woefully low
- ▶ Containing that crisis requires an integrated policy approach: social protection is a powerful tool
- ▶ **Universal social protection systems** can help realize climate ambitions and facilitate a **just transition**

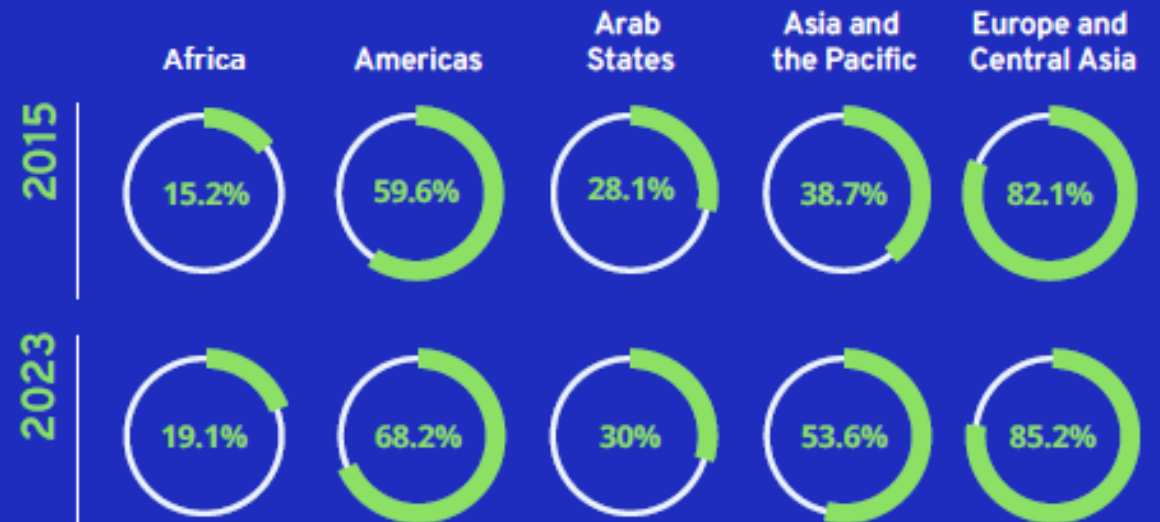
Overview of effective coverage across the lifecycle (SDG 1.3): Share of the population with at least one social protection cash benefit

Trends in global effective coverage rates 2015 and 2023

Share of the global population with at least one social protection benefit 2015 and 2023

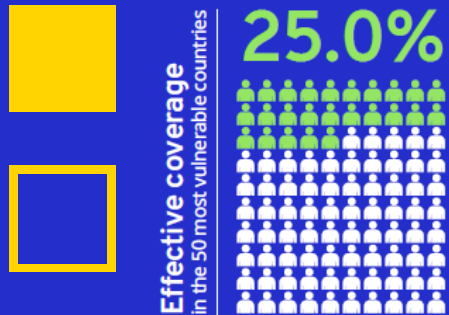


Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (SDG 1.3) by region – 2015 and 2023



Uneven progress of social protection coverage: Implications for a world riven by the climate crisis

Effective coverage in the 50 most vulnerable countries



Effective coverage in the 20 most vulnerable countries

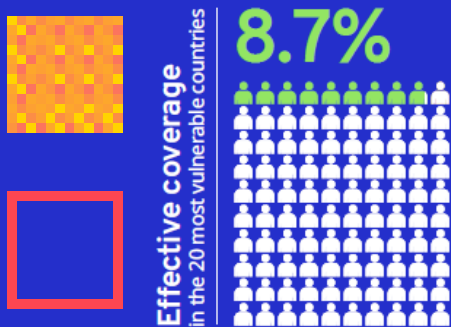
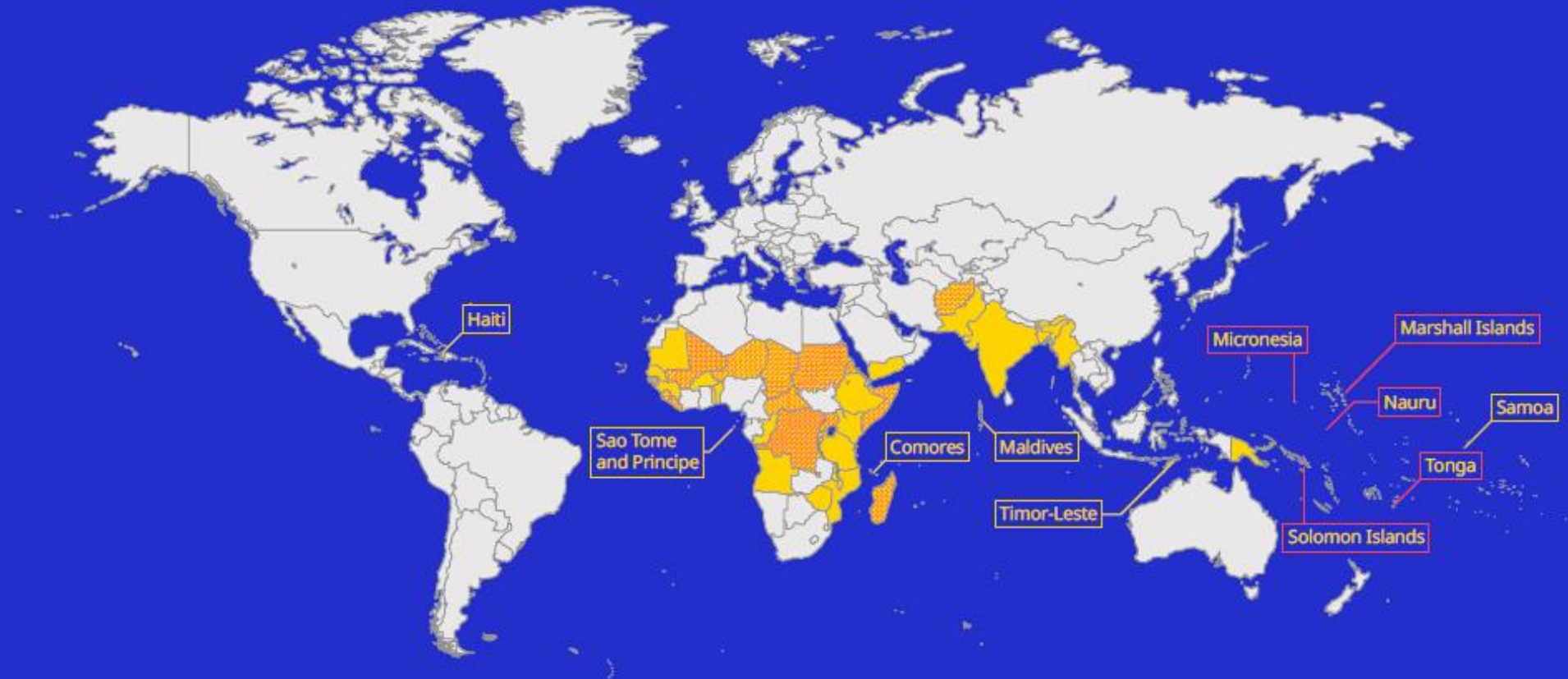


Figure 2.3b The 20 and 50 countries most vulnerable to climate change and their weighted average effective coverage by at least one social protection cash benefit, 2023



Protection gaps are associated with significant underinvestment in social protection

- ▶ Social protection ‘**Financing gaps**’ remain large (Fig 3)
- ▶ To enable climate action further investment is required
- ▶ A ‘social protection floor’ in Africa requires an additional US\$25.6 billion per year, equivalent to 17.6% of GDP
- ▶ Ambition to improve social protection is stymied by significant **underinvestment**, especially in low-income countries
- ▶ Coverage must increase and so must **adequacy**
- ▶ The climate crisis will only increase the need for social protection
- ▶ The **costs of inaction on investment are enormous** and multifarious
- ▶ **Climate justice requires the real materialisation of climate finance and tax justice**

Figure 3. Financing gap for achieving universal social protection coverage per year, by social protection benefit, by region and income level, 2024 (percentage of GDP)

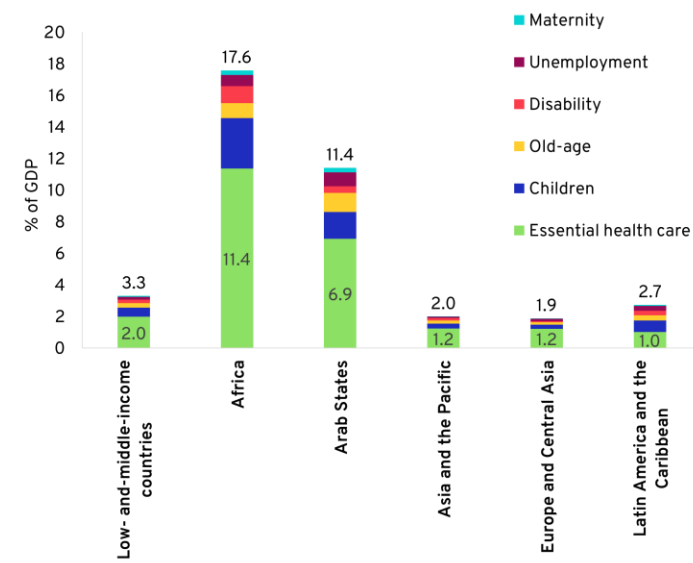
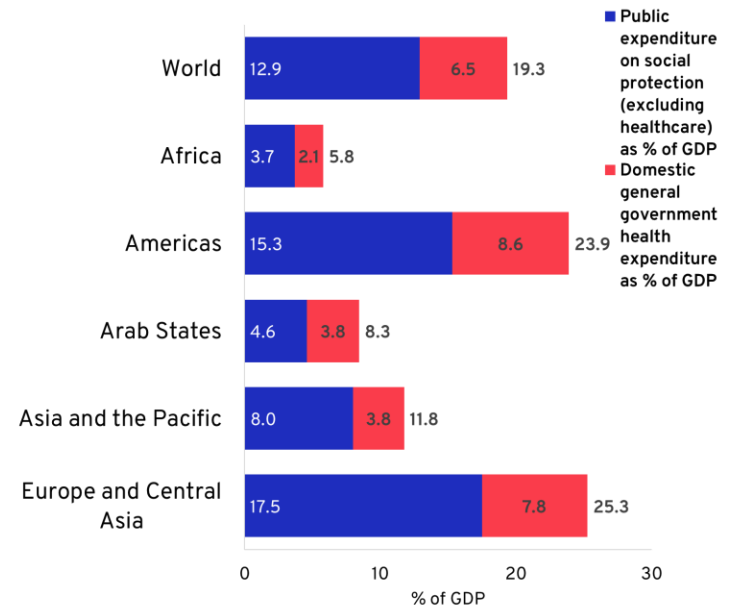
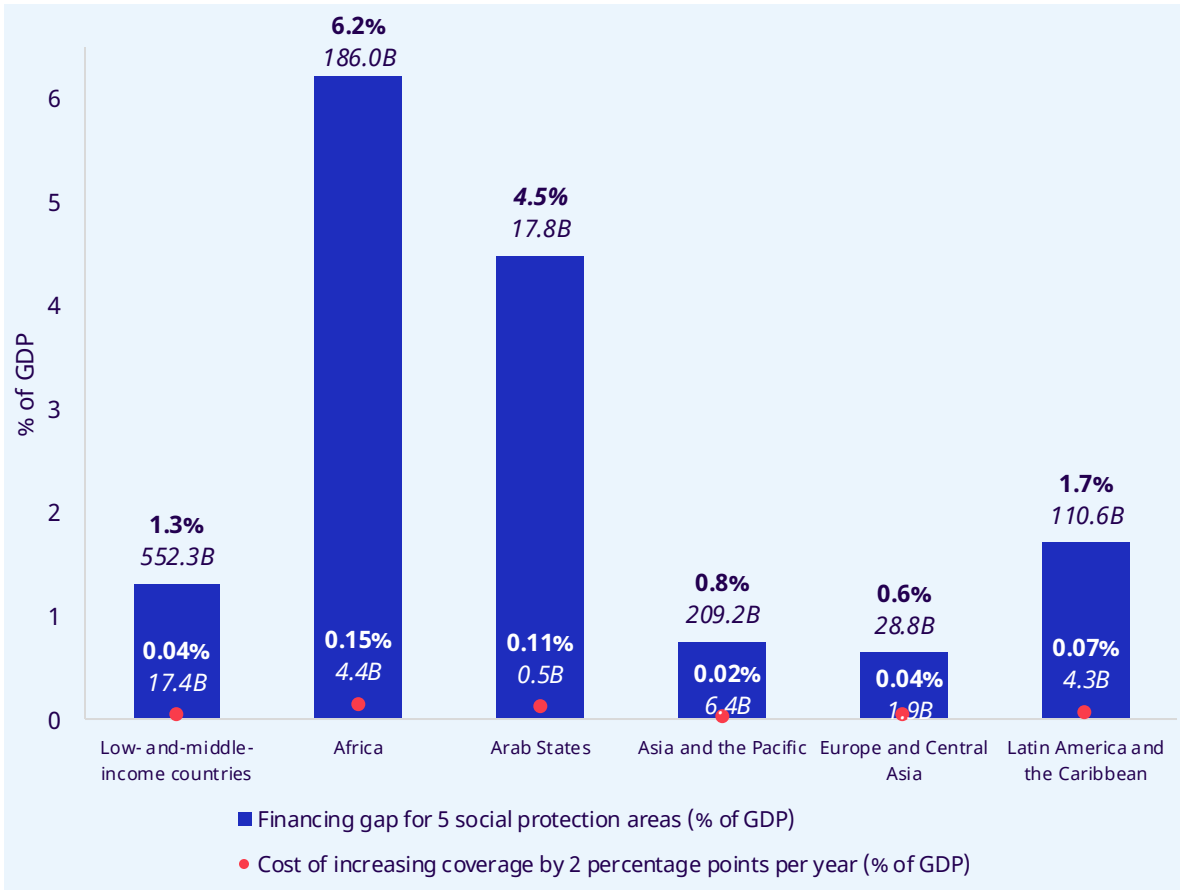


Figure 4. Public expenditure on social protection (including healthcare) as % of GDP



A Call for Action on Financing Social Protection

Financing gap for achieving universal social protection coverage in 5 key cash benefits per year, by region, 2024, and cost of increasing coverage by 2 percentage points per year (% of GDP and USD billions)



Source: Calculations based on Cattaneo et al. 2024.

Note: The 5 key cash benefits include: children, disability, unemployment, old age, and maternity benefits.

Between 2015 and 2023, 42 countries and territories, representing 51 per cent of the global population, achieved an average growth rate in aggregate social protection coverage at or above 2 percentage points per year

First draft FfD4 Outcome Document

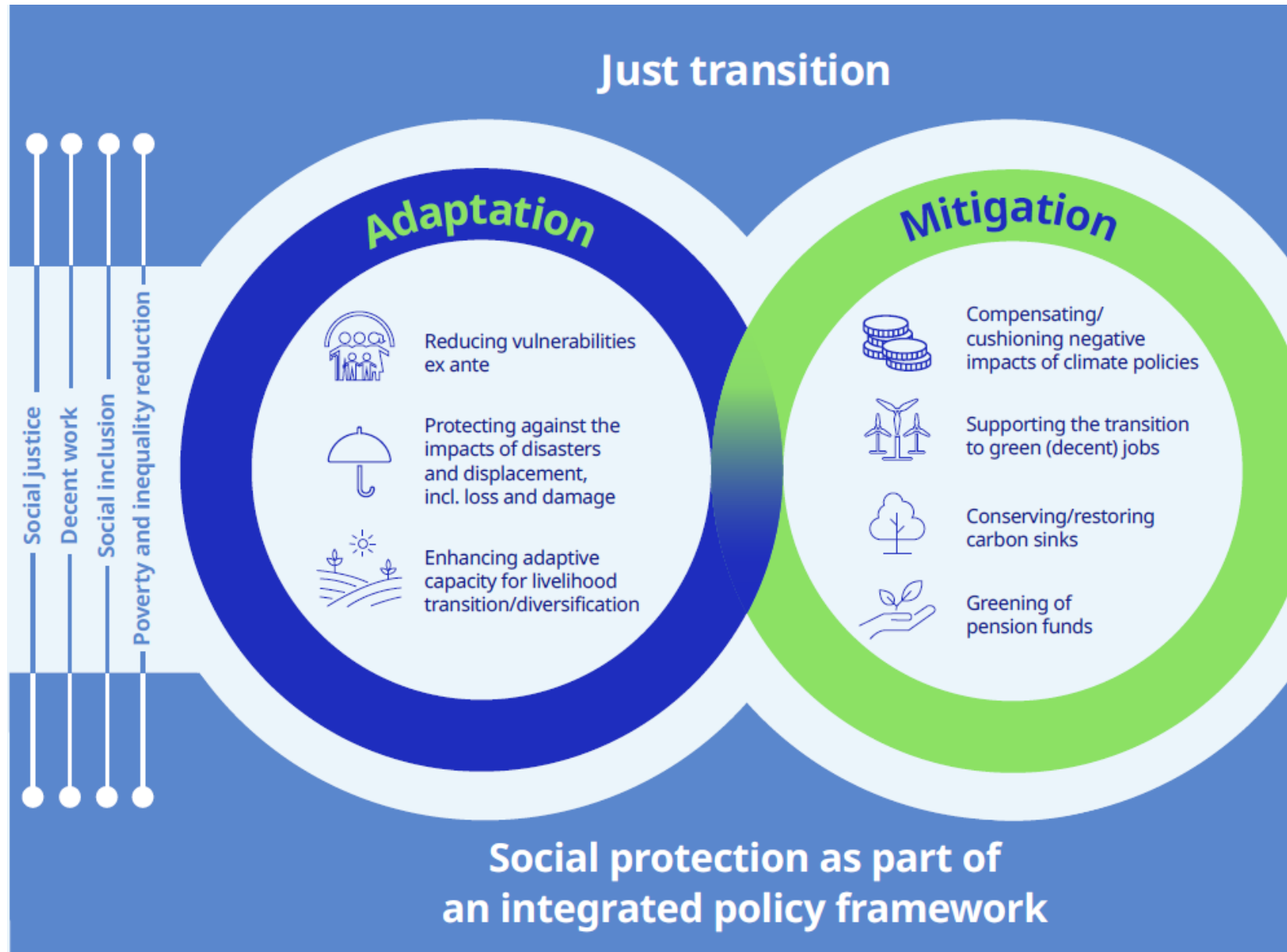
j) We encourage countries to integrate the financing of social protection floors aligned with **International Labour Organization** recommendations into their country-led plans and strategies and will support countries that aim to increase social protection coverage by at least two percentage points per year

Food for Thought Paper WSSD2

Member States may wish to consider a realistic target to extend social protection coverage by at least two percentage points per year.

The **support of ILO constituents and UN Member States** is needed **now** to ensure that the 2pp target is kept in both the FfD4 and in the WSSD2 outcome documents

Joining the dots: The untapped symbiosis of social protection and climate action policies



What next? Policy orientations and priority actions

Back to the basics:

- ▶ Establishing social protection floors
- ▶ Strengthening institutional preparedness & the Global Flagship Programme

Financing for social protection

- ▶ Domestic resource mobilisation
- ▶ Revenues from explicit and implicit fossil fuels and subsidies
- ▶ International climate financing: Role of Loss & Damage Fund?



► **Thank you for listening!**