



WHAT IS SOCIAL SECURITY?

Social security is the protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and to guarantee income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner.

FACTS ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

■ Only one in five people in the world has adequate social security coverage, while half the world's population is without any social security protection.

■ In many sub-Saharan and South Asian countries, social security reaches fewer than 10% of the working population.

■ Lack of social security coverage is largely concentrated in the informal economy, where women are more likely to be working.

■ Various middle-income countries (e.g. Republic of Korea, Costa Rica and Tunisia) have shown that it is possible to provide pension and health coverage to all citizens.

■ Some low-income countries have made progress in extending social security coverage through collaboration between governments and community-based organizations.

Social Security...

A universal need for workers, their families and their communities.

An essential means for creating social cohesion.

An indispensable part of government social policy.

A powerful tool to prevent and alleviate poverty.

An instrument to achieve human dignity, equity and social justice.

... a basic human right.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON
SOCIAL SECURITY AND COVERAGE FOR ALL

A basic right that few enjoy...

Social security is recognized in international agreements as a universal human right. Yet, only one in five people in the world has adequate coverage, while more than half the world's population has no social security protection at all.

A foundation for progress...

Social security contributes to economic development, and it is a powerful tool to prevent and alleviate poverty. Social security augments social cohesion and it enhances worldwide productivity.

A new consensus...

In 2001, representatives from governments, workers' and employers' organizations, meeting at the International Labour Conference, reached a new consensus on social security. They agreed that the highest priority should be given to "policies and initiatives, which can bring social security to those who are not covered by existing systems".

Accordingly, the Conference directed the International Labour Office to launch a major campaign to promote the extension of social security coverage.

"Security is an essential element of the decent work agenda, and social security is a major instrument to achieve it. We must continue to build our capabilities, with universality our aim."

Juan Somavia
Director-General
International Labour Office

THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND COVERAGE FOR ALL

Improve overall understanding of social security...

- Conduct research on the extension of social security.
- Document best practices worldwide.
- Increase understanding of unfulfilled social security needs.
- Develop new mechanisms to reach out to workers in the informal economy.
- Create guidelines for extending social security.

Achieve concrete improvements in social security coverage...

The ILO currently provides technical assistance on the extension of social security in more than 30 countries. These activities focus on:

- Diagnosis of unfulfilled social security needs, and development of ways to meet them.
- Training and policy discussion with stakeholders.
- Strengthening institutions and social dialogue.
- Formulation and implementation of action plans.
- Establishing networks of supportive individuals and institutions.
- Monitoring and evaluating results.

Raise awareness among key actors and mobilize them...

- Governments, employers' and workers' organizations.
- Social security institutions and civil society organizations.
- International organizations and donor governments.



A universal need

A universal challenge