
Well-designed social protection and labor programs bolster people and help economies grow.

Integrated systems of social protection and labor programs help reduce poverty and create inclusive growth through:

- **resilience**: insuring against impacts of different shocks
- **equity**: protecting against dire poverty and loss of human capital
- **opportunity**: promoting human capital and access to productive work.

Through its 2012–2022 Social Protection and Labor Strategy, the World Bank lays out an agenda to help low- and middle-income countries build, improve, and harmonize their social protection and labor programs; to increase their capacity to respond to crises and shocks; support poverty reduction and inclusive growth; and build on the best global knowledge of what works.

The Social Protection & Labor Strategy calls on World Bank engagement to be:

- **Country-tailored**
- **Evidence-based**
- **Broadly collaborative across sectors**

We live in a time of great risk and opportunity. Risk and the quest for opportunity are central features of life in our interconnected world.

There is an increase in economic shocks and epidemics, flowing across national borders. Yet, the number of people in extreme poverty – less than $1.25 a day – is at its lowest in more than thirty years.

Despite positive trends, poverty remains pervasive. Millions of people still struggle to lift themselves out of poverty and seek productive employment. They need effective social protection, gender equality and job opportunities.

The World Bank 2012–2022 Social Protection and Labor Strategy is to increase the number of people who are covered by effective social protection and labor programs worldwide.

**A core goal of the World Bank’s new Social Protection and Labor Strategy is to increase the number of people who are covered by effective social protection and labor programs worldwide.**

**Resilience**

- Insuring against impacts of different shocks

**Equity**

- Protecting against dire poverty and loss of human capital

**Opportunity**

- Promoting human capital and access to productive work

**Social Protection Coverage for the Poorest 20% Population, %**

- 0 – 30
- 31 – 57
- 58 – 75
- 76 – 100
- No data

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Well-designed social protection and labor programs:

- Are affordable
- Help families provide for their needs in times of crisis
- Promote human capital and access to productive work
- Help children grow up healthy and well-fed and go to school
- Create access to better jobs
- Empower girls and women
- Promote greater equity and opportunity for all

Only 3 out of 5 of people in the developing world have any form of social protection.

The Social Protection & Labor Strategy aims to increase the number of people covered by effective social protection and labor programs worldwide.
The World Bank’s Social Protection and Labor Strategy is built on:

**Inclusion**
helping countries extend social protection and labor to the poorest countries and people, making it responsive, productive, and inclusive of children, the very poor, disabled, those in the informal sector, and women.

**Systems**
helping countries create harmonized systems for social protection and labor, with customized solutions that can address program fragmentation and help people deal with multiple risks.

**Jobs**
stressing the central role of jobs as the door to opportunity, helping countries expand productivity and the quality of work, improving people’s access to better jobs and income, preserving and building their skills.

**Knowledge**
highlighting the central importance of knowledge and evidence in social protection and labor practice, especially stressing global South-South flows of knowledge about what works.

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Europe’s RSBY health insurance program has reached 100 million by 2017 and expects to reach 300 million by 2024.

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Thailand’s social pension program reaches 93% of the most impoverished elderly.

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The number of people receiving support through Ethiopia’s PSNP program increased by 30% during the drought in the Horn of Africa.

The Philippines has met the crisis in food costs by getting cash transfers to over 3 million households.

In Brazil, almost 25% of the population now gets cash support which helps more children stay in school and graduate.

In Bangladesh, 850,000 girls are still in the classroom thanks to scholarships for schooling.

In Kenya, a food-for-work program keeps people fed and employed through the year, and increased their farm outputs by 52%.

In Liberia, a cash-for-work program allows young people to earn money and gain skills.

Afghanistan, Jordan, Laos PDR, Liberia, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Nepal are all taking part in a 20-million dollar program to help teenage girls get work and access banks.

Liberia has created a cash-for-work program that allows young people to earn money and gain skills.

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