

PROMOTING ADEQUATE, COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL

The majority of the world's population is not covered under any type of social protection scheme and less than 30 per cent enjoy comprehensive coverage. Women, workers in the informal economy and workers in non-standard forms of employment are disproportionately under-protected. This is in spite of the fact that social protection is an essential tool in eliminating poverty, as well as a driving factor in boosting employment, fostering skills development, formalising work, reducing inequality and achieving inclusive economic growth.

Governments and international institutions often put forward the unaffordability of universal social protection schemes as a reason for reduced access to social protection, and austerity measures have led to recent cuts to vital social protection benefits and services in many countries. However evidence shows that extending social protection is economically feasible in the vast majority of countries. In the short term, 71 countries could achieve social protection floors for all by allocating an extra 2% of GDP or less. Governments just need to get their priorities straight to fund them.

Unions are calling on their governments to ensure social protection for all by implementing agreed international commitments, including ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors and UN Sustainable Development Goal target 1.3 to extend social protection. Adequate, predictable financing for social protection should be

ensured through ensuring employers pay their fair pay of contributions, progressive taxation, and tackling tax evasion.

- » Less than 30% of the world is covered by comprehensive social protection systems (ILO World Social Protection Report)
- » Financing social protection is feasible for most countries. In the short term, 71 countries could achieve Social Protection Floors for all by allocating an extra 2% of GDP or less. (FES SPF Index)
- » Currently 10% of the world's GDP is held in tax havens, while just 0.23% of global GDP would suffice to provide social protection floors for the entire world's population.
- » (ILO World Social Protection Report 2017-2019; IMF 2018 Piercing the Veil report)