

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS

The social protection floor framework consists of a set of essential services and income security measures that enable all women, men and children to realize their human rights, as laid out in the International Labour Organisation Resolution 202.

Sustainable Development Goal 1, Target 1.3 calls on countries to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, to end poverty by 2030.

There are two dimensions to the social protection floor:

Horizontal dimension: countries should extend social protection at least at a minimum level to everyone.

Vertical dimension: countries should gradually increase benefit levels to an adequate level since many schemes offer low levels of benefits when introduced.

Access to essential health care for all



To protect people from the financial hardship associated with sickness, injury, pregnancy, and other health issues, governments should ensure everyone can access essential health care services.

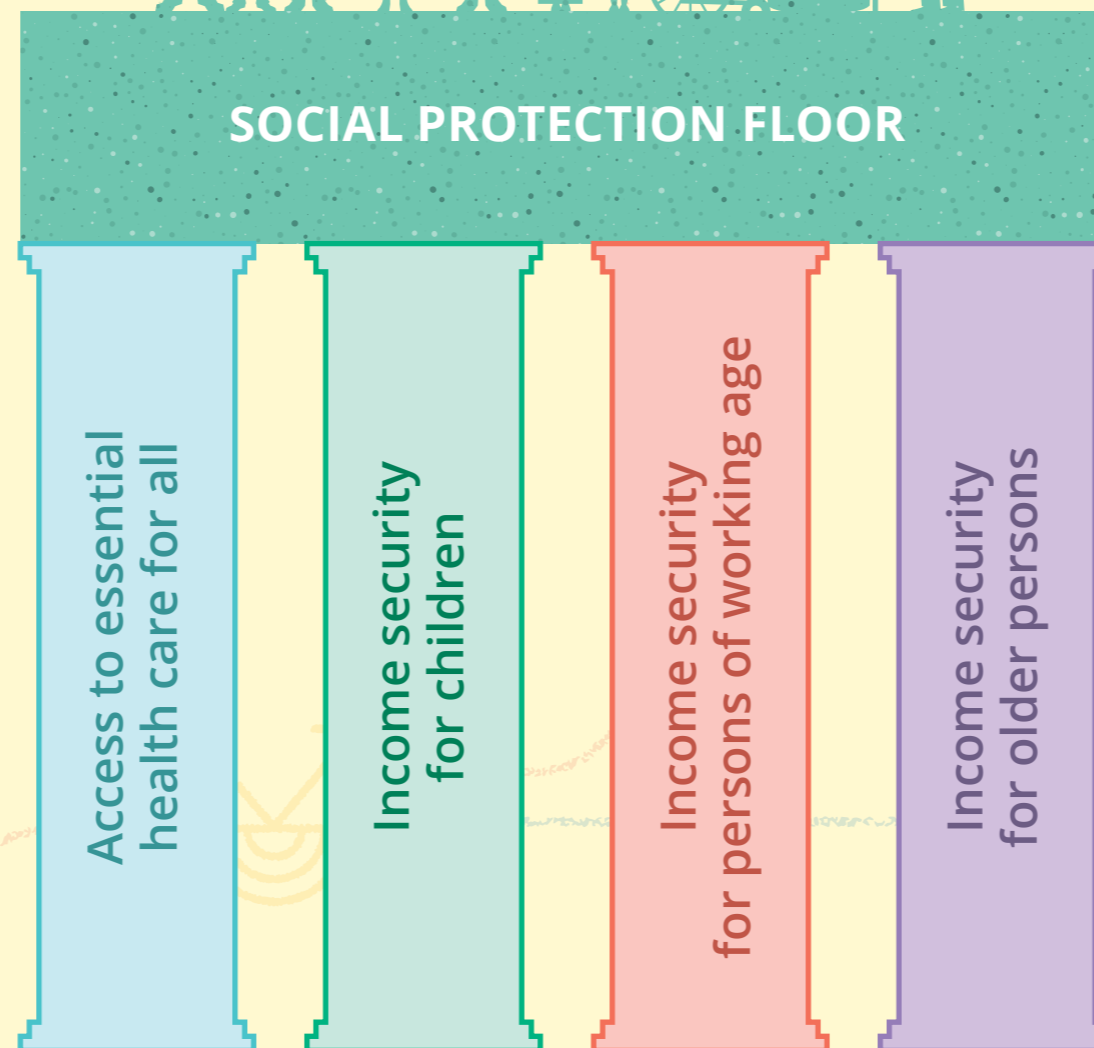
At least 4 out of 10 people in Asia and the Pacific do not have any health care coverage. For many more, unexpected and reoccurring health care expenses can cause financial catastrophe.

Income security for children



Governments need to invest in social protection schemes that protect children from the devastating risks associated with intergenerational poverty.

Only 21 of 49 countries in the region offer benefits to family with children. More than 7,000 children under the age of five die every day in Asia and the Pacific, mainly from preventable causes. Many could have been saved through adequate social protection.



Income security for working age



Governments are required to provide basic income security for persons of working age who are unable to earn sufficient income, including those in the informal economy.

Only 2 in 10 working-age adults in Asia and the Pacific are covered by unemployment benefits and only 3 out of 10 mothers with newborns receive maternity benefits.

Income security for older persons



Governments need to provide income security for older persons to ensure access to food and other essential goods and services.

Just over half of all older persons in the region receive an old age pension. This leaves many older persons with no choice but to continue working as long as they can, often for low pay and under hazardous conditions.