



► The ILO World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Reflections on access to social protection in Europe

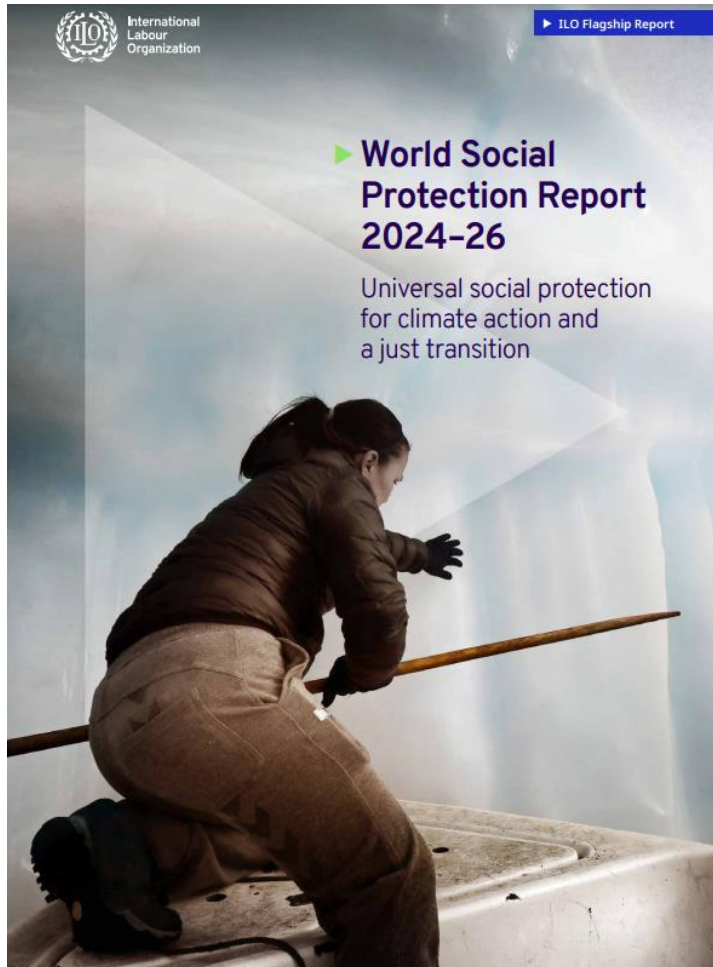
Mutual learning workshop

“Access to social protection: data, indicators and monitoring systems”

Brussels, 26-27 November 2024

Christina Behrendt, Head of the Social Policy Unit
ILO Universal Social Protection Department, Geneva

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



- ▶ Gives a **global overview of recent developments in social protection systems**, including floors, following a life-cycle approach. This edition focuses on the essential **role of universal social protection in enabling climate action and a just transition**. ([link to report](#))
- ▶ Based on **improved statistical data**, for the first time with trend data (2015-2023), available online in the [World Social Protection Database](#),
- ▶ **High-level launch event** at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, New York, 24 September 2024. ([link to recording](#)).
- ▶ The report is being **translated** in French and Spanish.
- ▶ The **Executive Summary** is available in 9 languages: (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese).
- ▶ **Regional companion reports** are being prepared. The one for Asia and Pacific is already available. ([link](#))



Key messages of the report

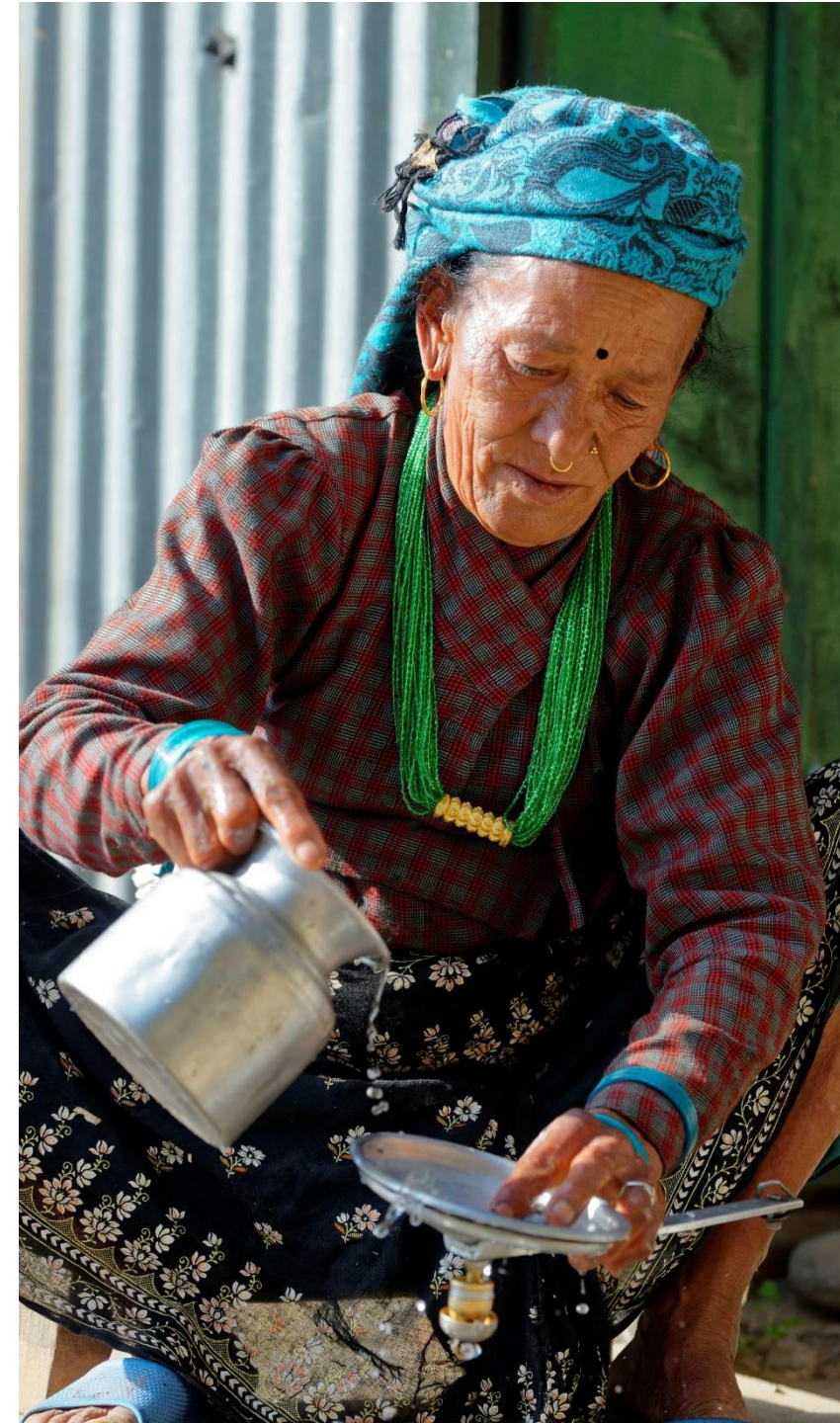
- ▶ **A milestone surpassed:** over half the world's population (52.4 per cent) is now covered by some form of social protection. Yet, this progress is too little and too slow: 3.8 billion people still have no social protection at all.
- ▶ Especially in countries at the **frontline of the climate crisis**, coverage is often particularly low.
- ▶ **Universal social protection systems** can help realize climate ambitions and facilitate a **just transition** – they are a powerful tool and enabler as part of an integrated policy approach.

Why is social protection so important?

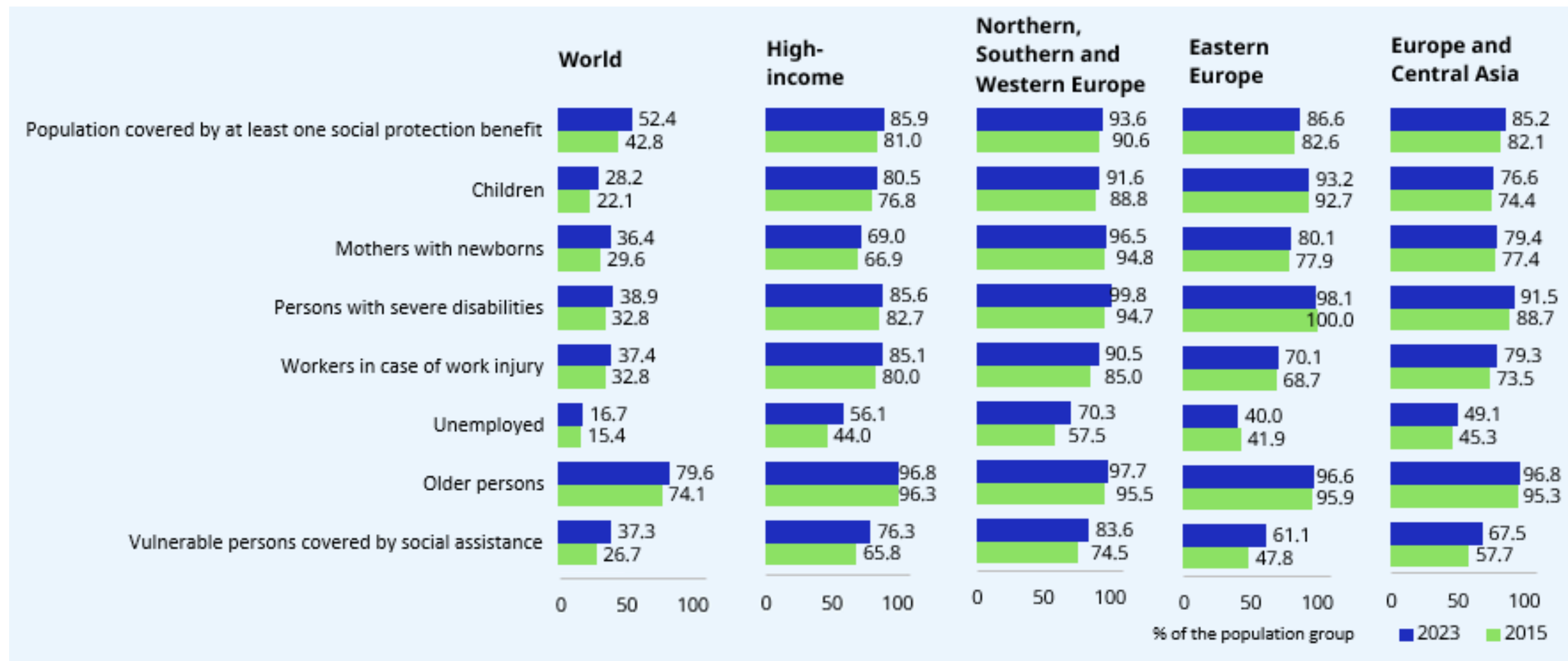
- ▶ Directly and indirectly supports **mitigation efforts**
- ▶ Supports **adaptation efforts**
- ▶ **Generates public support for climate and just transition policies**

How can universal social protection best help?

- ▶ **Getting the basics right** to effectively address both lifecycle and climate risks, and ensuring that systems are well prepared to adapt quickly to new challenges.



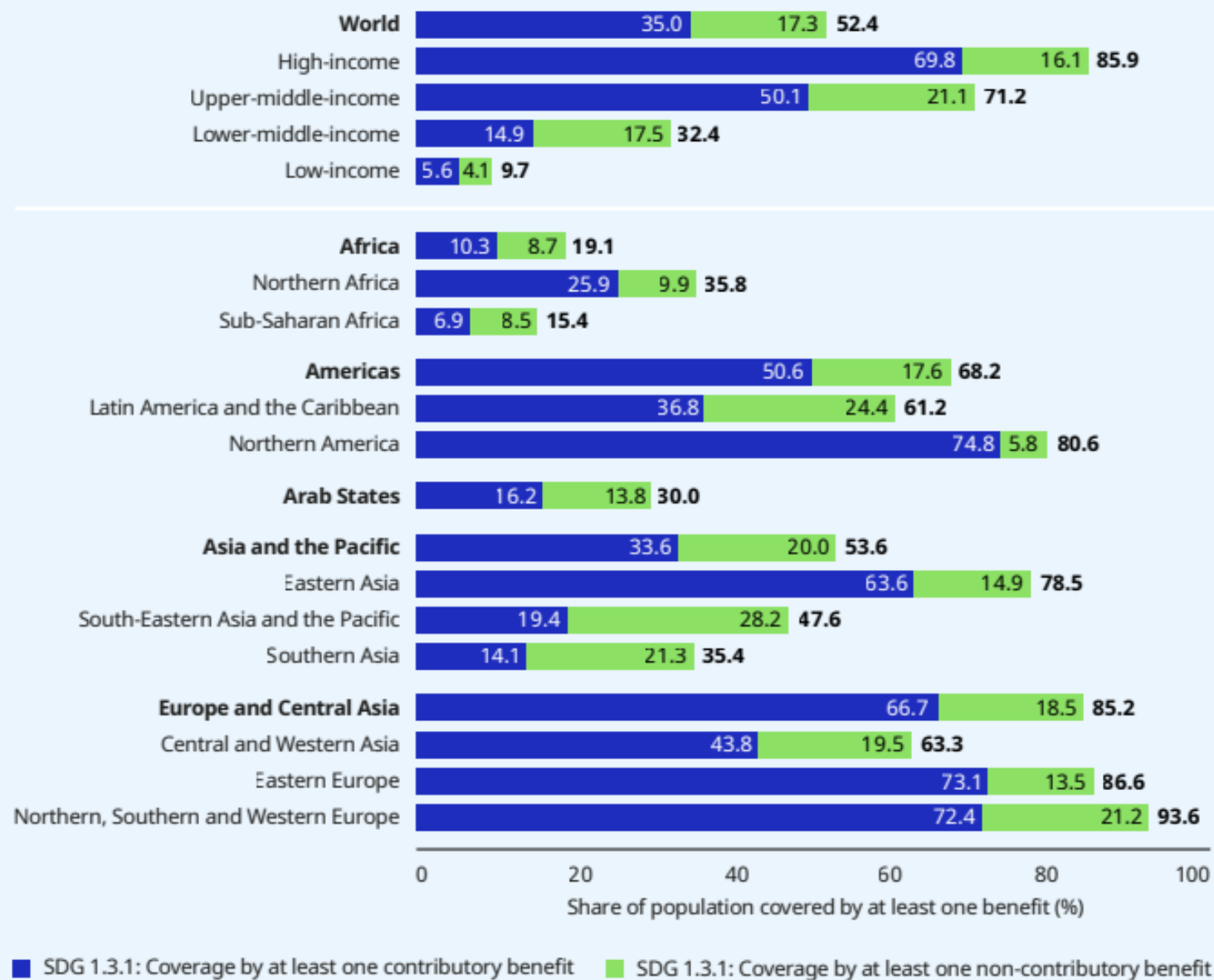
Effective social protection coverage (SDG indicator 1.3.1)



Effective social protection coverage (SDG indicator 1.3.1)

- ▶ Effective social protection coverage varies strongly across regions:
 - ▶ Overall coverage
 - ▶ Relative weight of contributory and non-contributory mechanisms

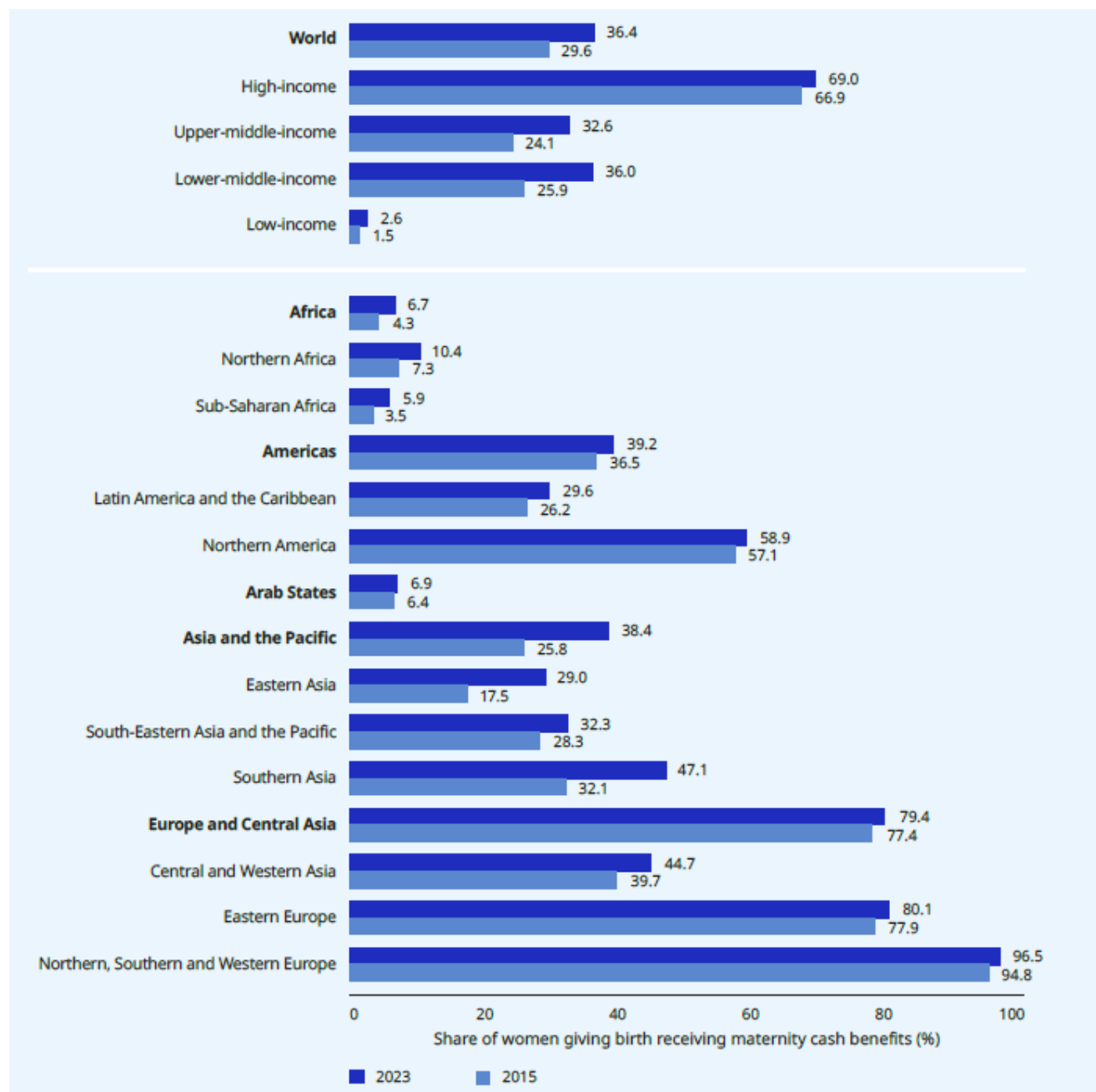
► **Figure 3.4 SDG indicator 1.3.1 on effective social protection coverage by at least one cash benefit, global, regional and income-level estimates for contributory and non-contributory benefits, 2023 (percentage)**



Maternity, paternity and parental leave benefits

- ▶ **Lack of income security** forces many women to keep working into the very late stages of pregnancy and/or to return to work prematurely, **thereby increasing health and poverty risks.**
- ▶ This is often compounded by a lack of adequate **maternity care**, with financial barriers remaining a leading cause of foregone maternal care
- ▶ **Climate change affects pregnant women directly and indirectly**, in the long and short term, and can be caused by sudden as well as slow-onset events.
- ▶ **Yet, only 36.4% of women with newborns** worldwide receive a maternity cash benefit.
- ▶ **Large regional variations:** coverage of childbearing women is 79.4 percent in Europe and Central Asia, compared to a mere 6.7 per cent in Africa, compounded by a lack of affordable access to maternal and new-born healthcare services.
- ▶ Paid paternity and parental **leave promote gender equality and the equitable sharing of care responsibilities.**

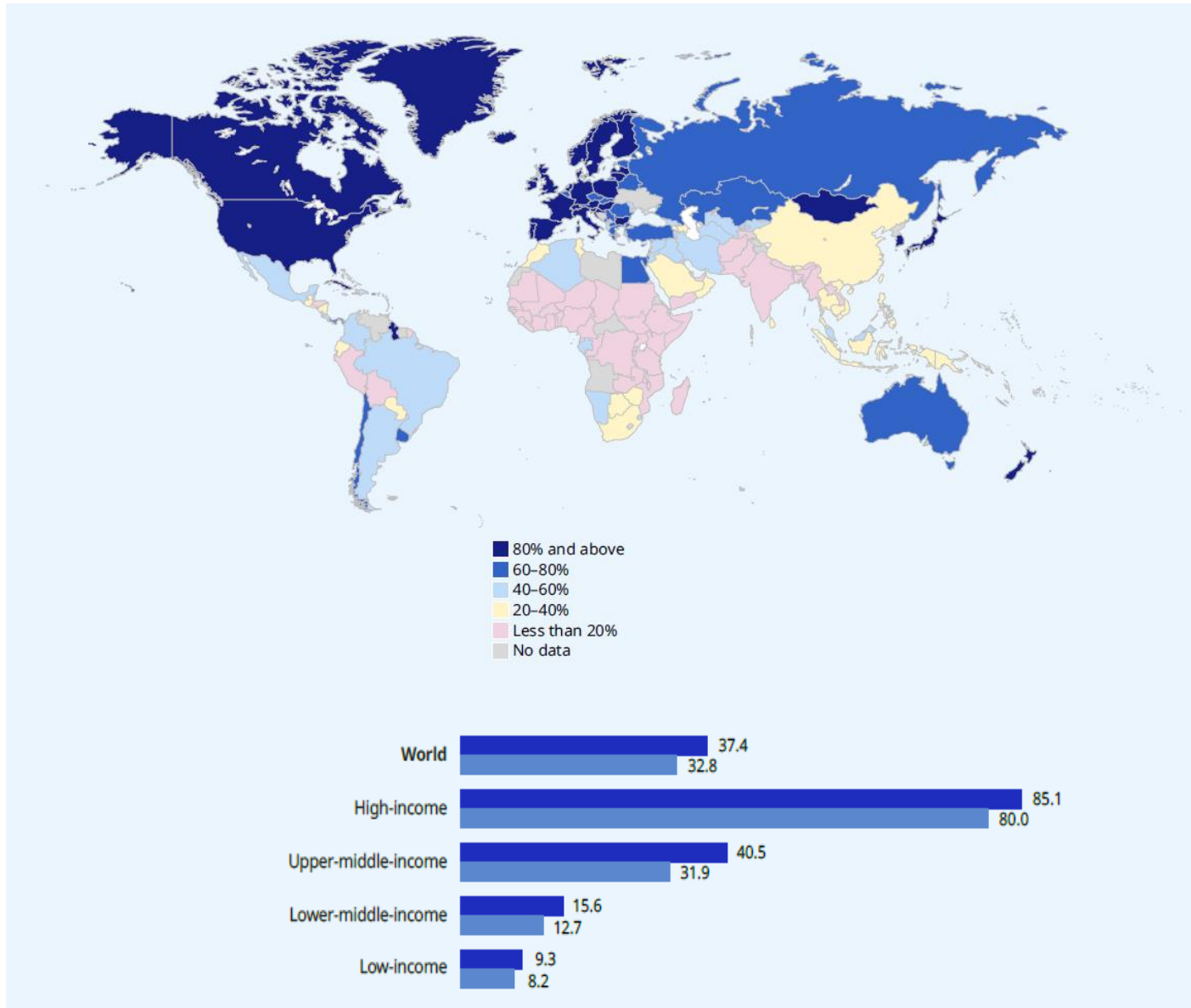
SDG 1.3.1 on effective coverage for maternity protection: % of women giving birth receiving maternity cash benefits, by region, subregion and income level, 2023 or latest available year



Employment injury protection

- ▶ **2.9 million deaths** a year resulting occupational accidents or work-related disease
- ▶ Effective coverage of workers by employment injury insurance (EII) is **still low worldwide at 37.4%**
- ▶ Climate change is already contributing to worsening health conditions and, more specifically, more work-related injuries due to heat stress and other factors
- ▶ Extending employment injury protection to workers in the informal economy remains of high importance.

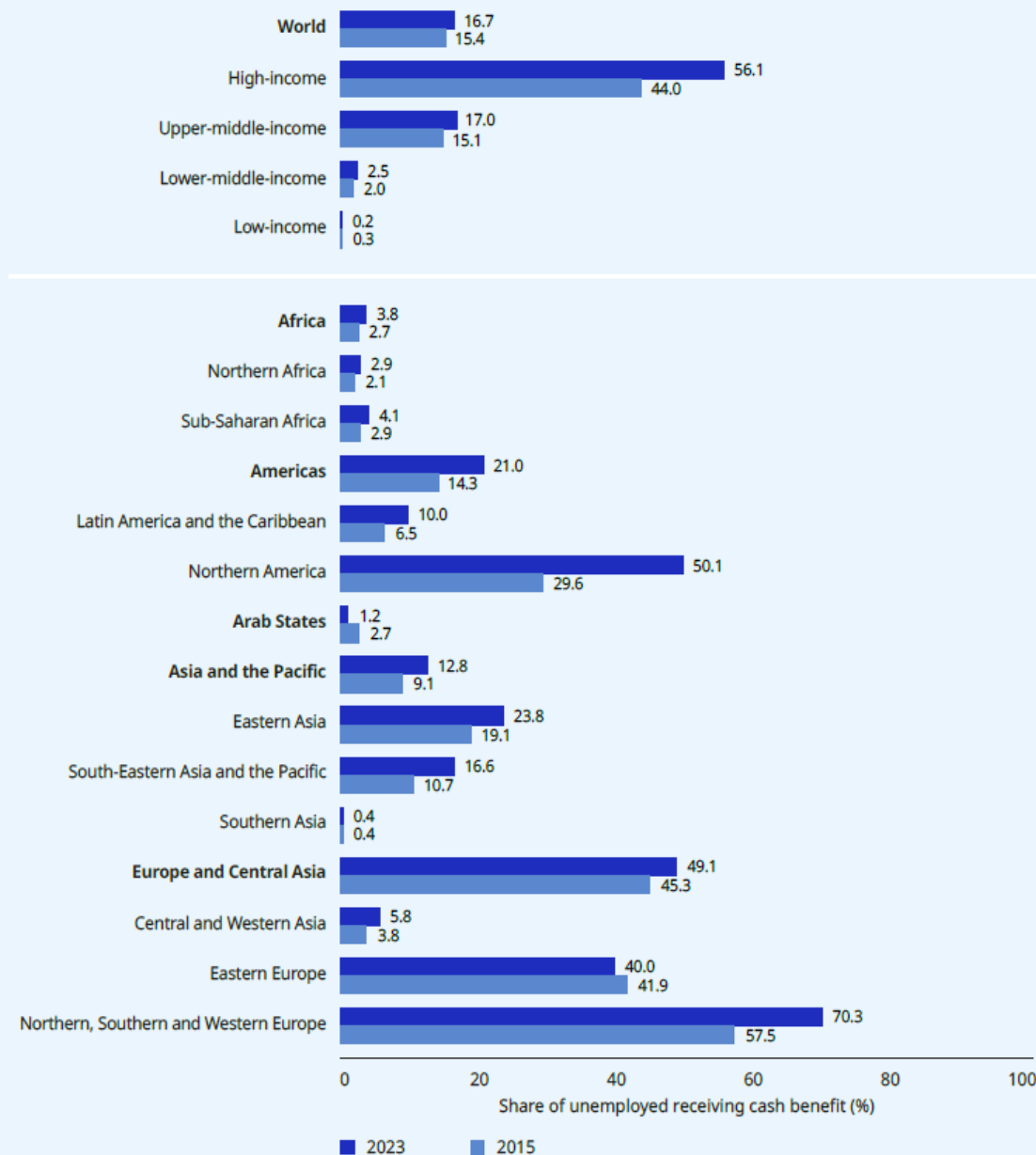
SDG 1.3.1 on effective coverage for employment injury protection: % of labour force aged 15+ years covered by cash benefits in case of employment injury (active contributors) 2023 or latest available year



Unemployment protection

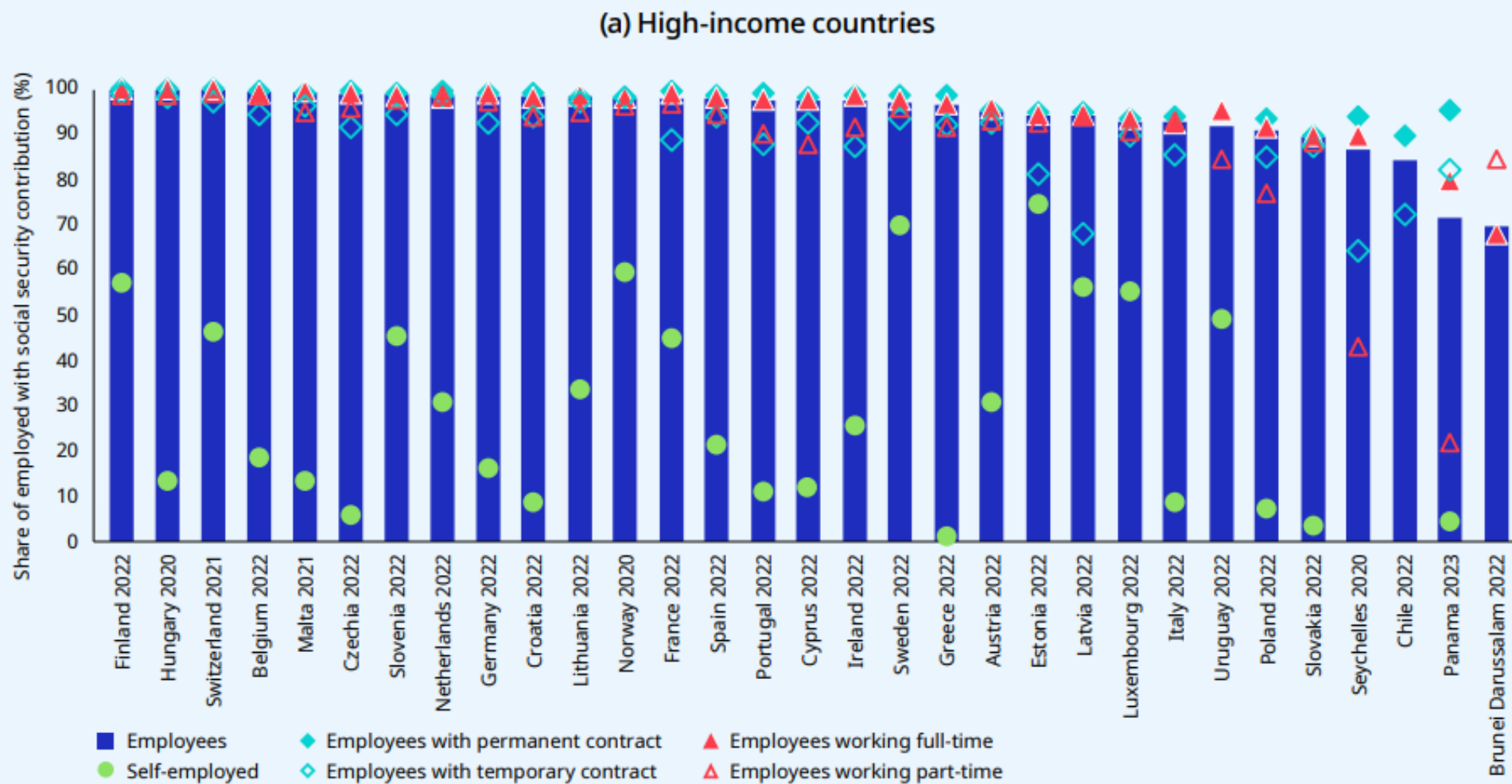
- ▶ Globally, **92 countries** and territories have implemented **unemployment protection schemes**, primarily through social insurance schemes, although some rely on tax-financed mechanisms.
- ▶ However, progress in adopting and improving unemployment protection schemes has slowed down as unemployment rates returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- ▶ **Only 16.7 per cent of unemployed workers** worldwide actually receive unemployment benefits, with large regional disparities
- ▶ Unemployment protection programmes are also of paramount importance in **supporting people adapt to economic transformations** (i.e. technological innovations and climate change).
- ▶ However, many existing schemes are not prepared to tackle climate-related challenges.
- ▶ Integrated unemployment protection systems covering all workers are key for ensuring smooth labour market transition in the context of climate action.

SDG 1.3.1 on effective coverage for unemployment protection: % of unemployed persons receiving cash benefits, 2020 or latest available year



Coverage gaps for workers: by status in employment

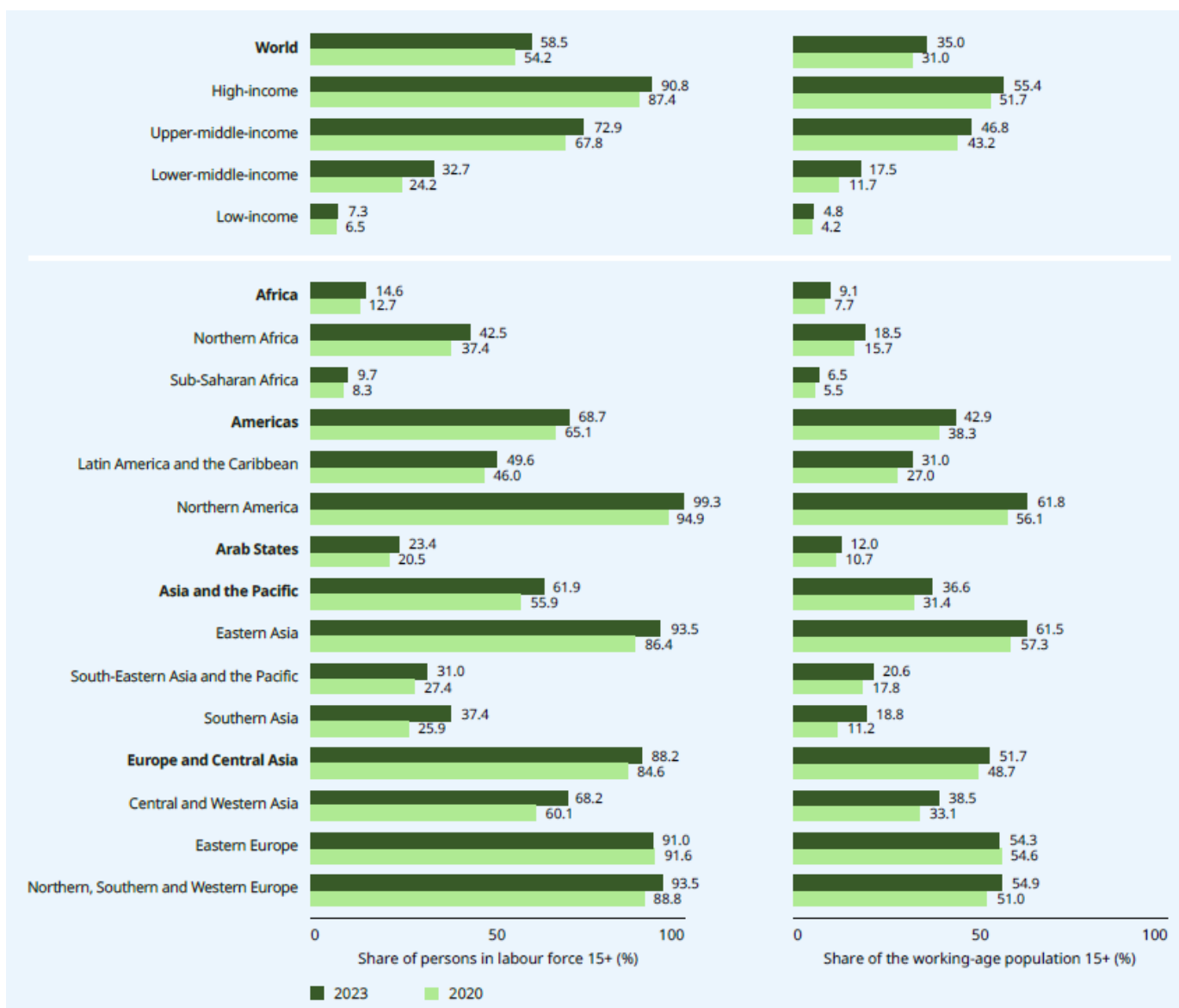
► **Figure 3.5 Employed population contributing to social security, by status in employment, type of contract and working-time arrangement, selected countries and territories, latest year (percentage)**



Social protection for older women and men still faces coverage and adequacy challenges

- ▶ Future **pension coverage of today's working age population** is limited, partly due to high levels of informality and low levels of female employment.
 - ▶ 58.5% of the labour force 15+ is covered by a pension scheme (active contributors)
 - ▶ 35% of the working-age population is covered by a pension scheme (active contributors)
- ▶ Expenditure on pensions accounts for **7.6% of GDP** on average worldwide.
- ▶ Mitigating the climate crisis: pension funds are uniquely positioned to divest from high-carbon to low-carbon assets

SDG indicator 1.3.1 on Effective coverage for old-age protection: Share of persons in labour force and working-age population aged 15 and over covered by a pension scheme (active contributors), by region, subregion and income level, 2020 and 2023 (percentage)





World

Country/territory Income level

Other groups Region

Search

World

Africa

Northern Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa

Americas

Reset Filter

Select function

All

Children

Maternity

Sickness

Work Injury

Disability

Unemployment

Old-age

Healthcare

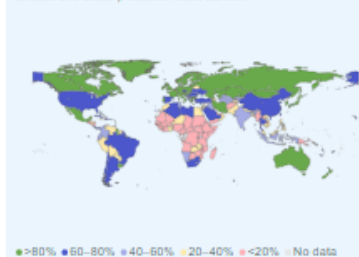
Background information

2023 or latest available year

Indicator	Value
Total population (0+)	7'711'266'271
Self-employed in total employment (%)	47.2
Old-age population (65+)	702'697'028
Female labour force part. rate (%)	47.2
Children (0-15)	1'974'745'573

SDG 1.3.1 effective coverage

at least one social protection cash benefit

Boundaries shown do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO. See [full disclaimer](#).

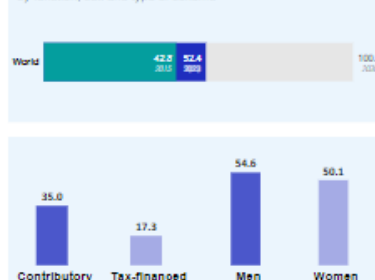
Graphs

Maps

Tables

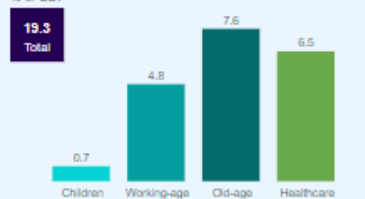
SDG effective coverage (% of the population group)

by function, sex and type of scheme

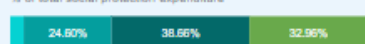


Social protection expenditure by guarantee

% of GDP



% of total social protection expenditure



ILO conventions and legislations

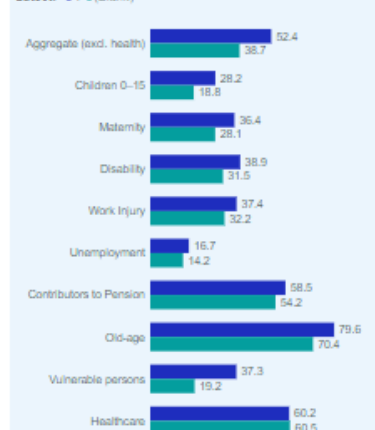
Status of ratification of up-to-date ILO Conventions and social protection branch anchored in legislation.

Function	Legislation	Ratification
Children	132	43
Maternity	175	82
Sickness	181	59
Work Injury	181	110
Disability	184	56
Unemployment	102	36
Survivors	184	64
Old-age	185	72

Effective coverage (% of the population group)

Components of the SDG 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex and function

Latest: ● (Blank)



Source: ILO modeled estimates, 2024; World Social Protection Database, based on the Social Security Inquiry; ISSA Social Security Programs Throughout the World; ILOSTAT; national sources. UNWFP, WHO, IMF.

Note: See Annex 2 for a methodological explanation. Global and regional aggregates are weighted by population. Estimates are not strictly comparable to the previous World Social Protection Report due to methodological enhancements, extended data availability and country revisions.

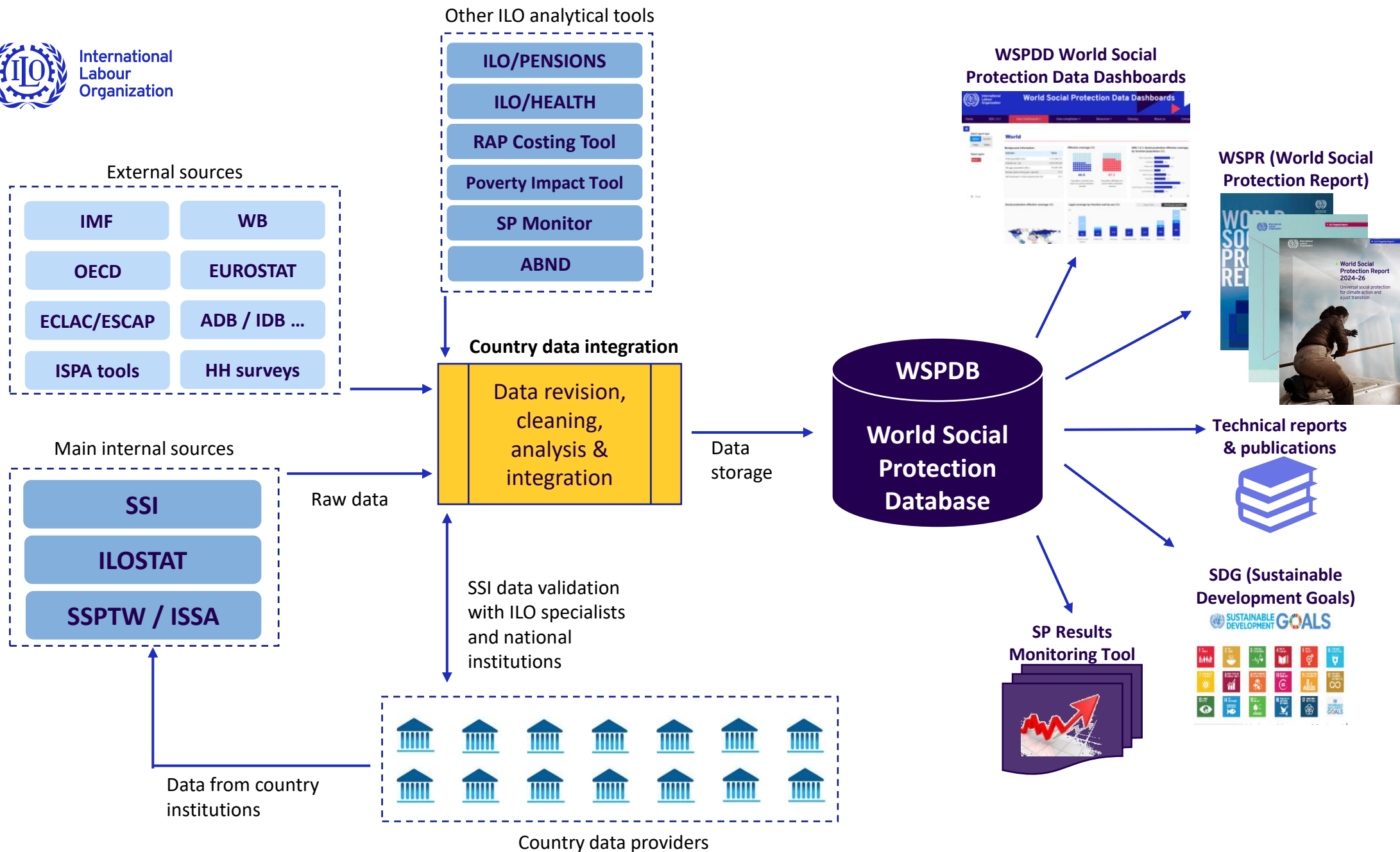
Information by country, region, subregion, income level, special groupings + function

- Legal information by programme (type of programme, year of the first law, sources of financing, level of benefits, eligibility conditions)
- Ratification status
- Legal coverage as % of the labour force and as % of the working-age-population by sex (2023 estimates)
- Effective coverage (11 indicators incl. SDG 1.3.1) as % of the relevant population group (2015-2023 estimates), by sex* and contributory/non-contributory*
- Public SP expenditure by social protection guarantee as % of GDP (2023)
- Others

*for selected indicators

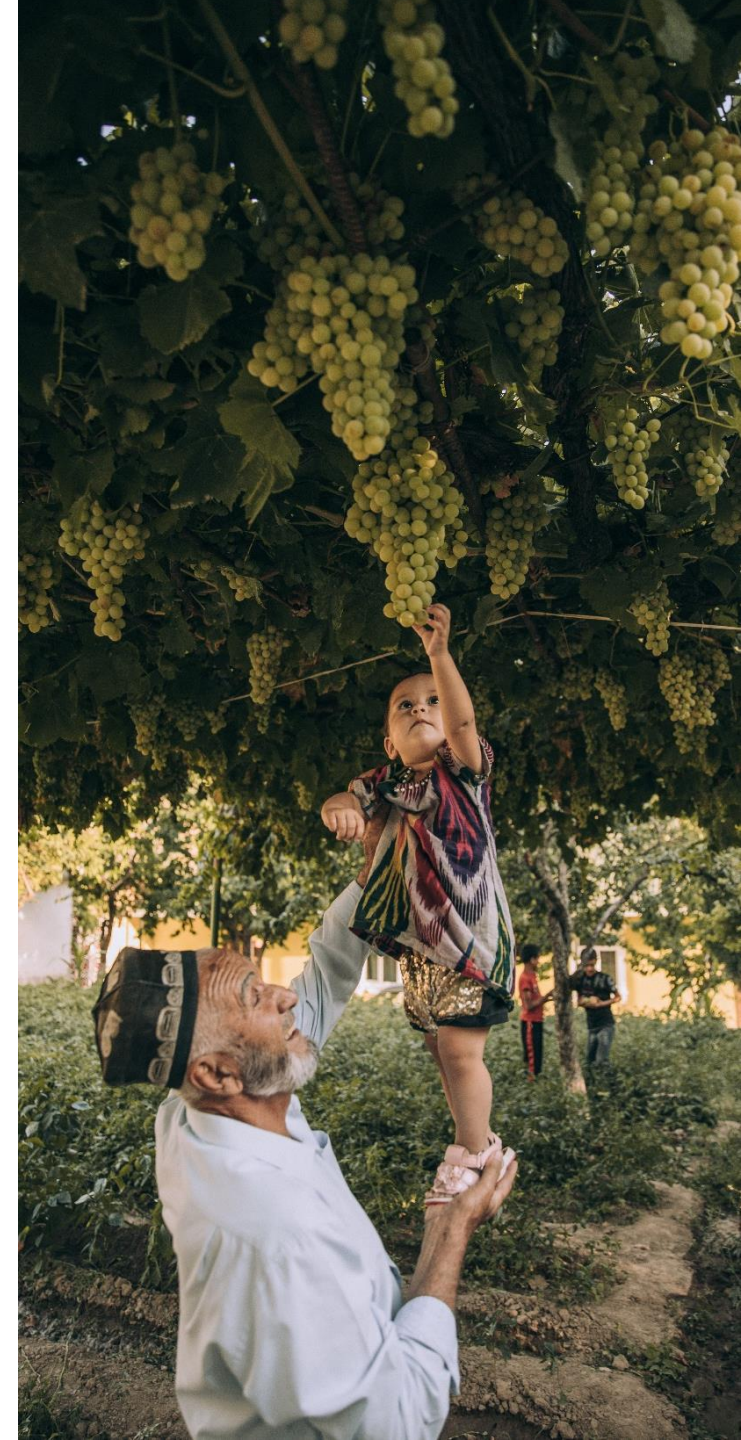
ilo.org

Note: methodology available in Annex 2 of the report



► The way forward: getting the basics right (1) Policy orientations and priority actions

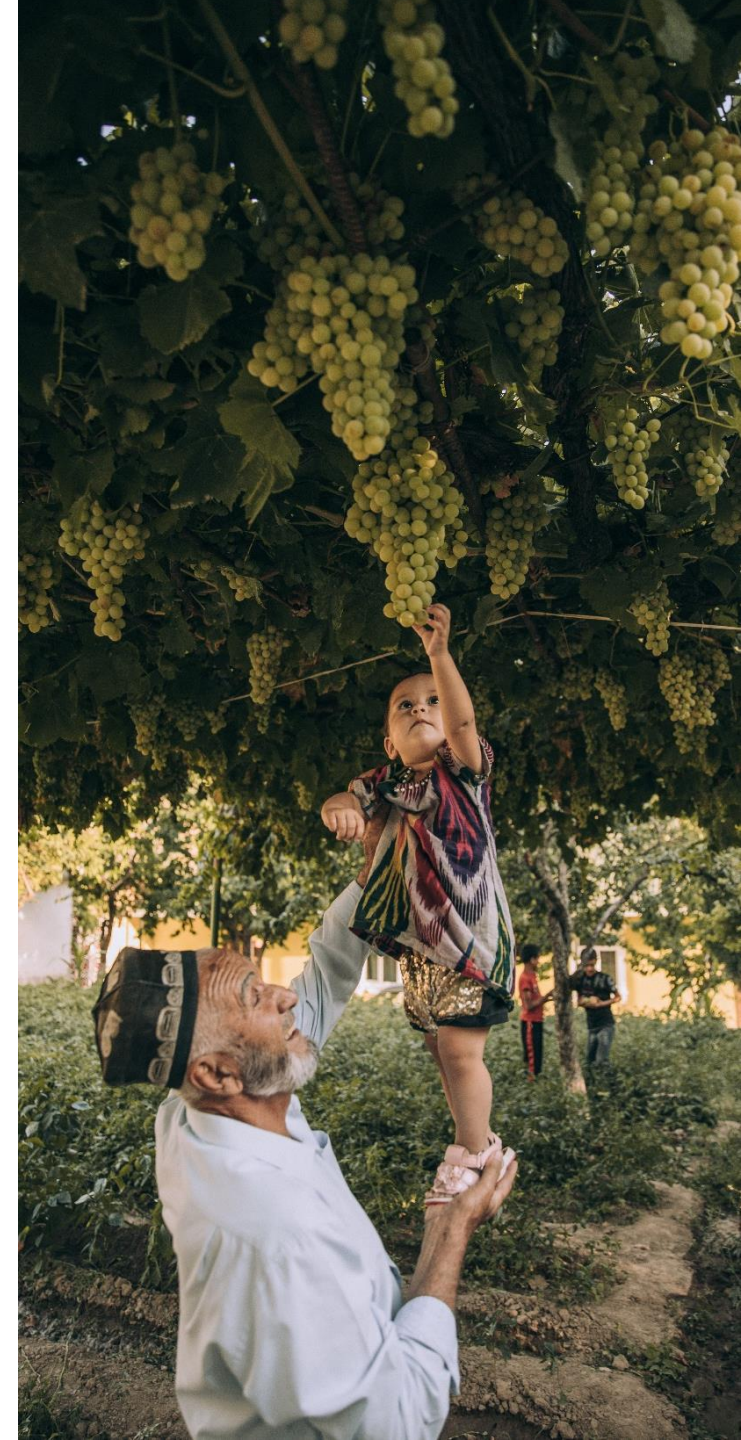
- **Universal social protection** is essential to support a just transition to a green economy, to rectify long standing inequalities and inequities, and to help people, societies and economies in navigating change (including demographic and technological change).
- Social protection policies should be **reinforced**, guided by **international social security standards** and supported by **effective social dialogue**.
- **Coverage and adequacy gaps must be closed – towards ensuring adequate protection for everyone**
 - Guaranteeing at least a basic level of social security for everyone (a social protection floor)
 - Progressing towards higher levels of protection for as many people as possible
 - Particular attention to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including women, workers in informal employment and migrants.
- Extending adequate protection to workers in all types of employment including self-employment:
 - to reduce their **vulnerability** and enable them to **seize opportunities**, including transitions from the informal to the formal economy
 - to support **their life and work transitions**
 - to help them to **better navigate the future of work**



The way forward: getting the basics right (2)

Policy orientations and priority actions

- ▶ **Making social protection systems gender-responsive.** The climate crisis intensifies some of the drivers of gender inequalities, which can lead to exacerbated vulnerability through the life cycle. Social protection can mitigate this by:
 - ▶ Reinforcing social health protection mechanisms to accelerate universal health coverage
 - ▶ Facilitating access to care and other services, and promote a more equal sharing of care responsibilities
 - ▶ Strengthening linkages between social protection and labour-market, employment, tax and other areas to address gender inequalities
- ▶ Ensuring **sustainable and equitable financing of universal social protection systems**
 - ▶ Securing **sufficient fiscal space** through progressive taxation and social insurance contributions, and where necessary **international support**.
 - ▶ **Harnessing climate finance** for social protection at national and international levels can support this objective.
- ▶ **Reinforcing social protection systems:**
 - ▶ building **comprehensive social protection systems** ex-ante
 - ▶ enhancing **institutional capacities and preparedness** for better delivery
 - ▶ reinforcing **monitoring mechanisms to inform policy-making**



Key reports and guidance material

- ▶ [World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal social protection for climate action and a just transition](#)
- ▶ [World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Social protection at the crossroads – in pursuit of a better future](#)
- ▶ [High-level panel discussion: Social protection at the crossroads – in pursuit of a better future](#)
- ▶ [Policy resource package on extending social security to workers in the informal economy](#)
- ▶ [Extending social security to self-employed workers: lessons from international experience](#)
- ▶ [Social protection systems and the future of work: Ensuring social security for digital platform workers](#)
- ▶ [Extending social security to workers in the platform economy](#)
- ▶ [Extending social protection to the cultural and creative sector](#)
- ▶ [Guide on extending social security to migrant workers](#)
- ▶ [More than a Billion Reasons: The Urgent Need to Build Universal Social Protection for Children](#)

Other key resources

- ▶ [ILO Social Protection Platform](#)
- ▶ [World Social Protection Data dashboards](#)
- ▶ [Toolkit on ILO Social Security Standards](#)
- ▶ [Joint UN Social Protection and Human Rights web platform](#)
- ▶ [Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection \(USP2030\)](#)
- ▶ [ILO website](#)

