

AT A GLANCE

Charting a course towards

Universal Social Protection

Resilience, Equity, and Opportunity for All

COVID-19 has hugely disrupted economies and societies across the globe. In addition, the threat of climate change, conflict and fragility, demographic shifts and rapid technological innovation make effective social protection, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable people, crucially important—now more than ever.

Universal social protection (USP), which ensures access to social protection for all whenever and however they need it, is critical for effectively reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

How countries make progress towards USP varies according to political and economic factors specific to each country, but in all cases, building fiscal space and institutional capacity are essential prerequisites.

3 Goals of Social Protection

Resilience

Providing insurance against, and building the capacity to manage shocks

Opportunity

Promoting investments in human capital and helping men and women access productive work

Equity

Reducing poverty and inequality, promoting equality of opportunity, and addressing exclusion

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- What it means -



Diverse needs

- Through the life cycle
- Across the income spectrum
- Taking into account specific needs of women and girls, people with disabilities, and others



Tailored instruments

- Direct transfers and insurance instruments
- Labor market, economic inclusion, care and other services
- Tax financed and privately financed



- How to deliver -

Country specific trajectories



- Will evolve differently in each country based on the social contract, political economy and institutional context

Progressive realization



- Needs appropriate institutional capacity and strong delivery systems
- Needs fiscal space
- Prioritize those most in need and the largest uncovered risks

Financing is a challenge

There is **pressure in almost all countries to raise social protection spending over the medium to long term**, amidst significant fiscal constraints.



Achieving USP requires an integrated effort

Universal Social Protection can only be achieved with a suite of **programs working as an integrated system**.



Areas of focus

There are **5 areas of focus for the World Bank's work to support countries in achieving USP**, with women's and girls' empowerment and climate change as cross-cutting areas:

