

Employment & Social Inclusion

in EU International Cooperation and Development

Development is above all about increasing **social inclusion** and ensuring all people have secure livelihoods, enabling them to live a life in dignity, out of poverty.

The best way to achieve this is through access to decent work. This is why the EU works to promote **employment** that is secure, pays a fair wage, provides social protection, and respects labour rights and standards, ensuring gender equality, all elements needed for *decent work*.

The reality however is that the majority of workers in developing countries have jobs that are vulnerable, trapping them and their families in poverty. This is especially the case for many young people, women, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

Vulnerable employment is characterised by inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult working conditions, that undermine a worker's fundamental rights. Children of vulnerable workers are more likely to engage in child labour and end up in precarious jobs as an adult. Therefore, without targeted support, poverty is passed from one generation to the next.



In order for workers and job seekers to take advantage of quality job opportunities, the EU supports them in acquiring the necessary skills and training needed for the labour market.

The EU has been supporting the development of Vocational and Educational Training (VET) systems in **more than 30** countries so that the skills of workers and job seekers meet the needs of the labour market.

The EU ensures development works also for persons with disabilities who make up 15% of the world's population. The EU is party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The EU is working to support indigenous peoples to improve their livelihoods and their rights including employment, social and economic rights.



There are **1.4 billion workers globally** in vulnerable employment



There are **over 1.2 billion workers** in developing countries living in poverty



The number of young people in Africa will **double** in 30 years



18 million jobs must be created every year to absorb them into the world of work



152 million children worldwide are obliged to work, which is over 1 child in every 10

Empowering people, building prosperity

JANUARY 2019



When employment is inadequate or out of reach, **social protection** is necessary for people to meet their basic needs, across the entire lifecycle. The EU works to guarantee that everyone has a basic level of protection, as a right, ensuring income security and access to essential healthcare and social services, for children, vulnerable persons in active working age and the elderly.

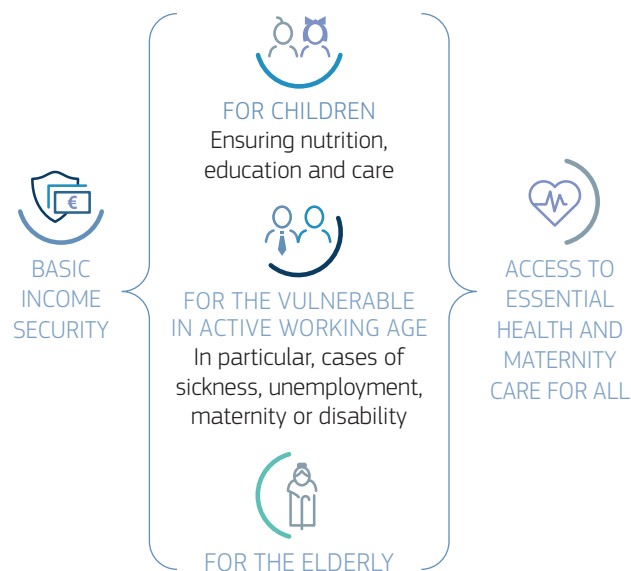


More than **70%** of the world's population is not adequately covered by social protection



Sub-Saharan Africa effective coverage may be as low as **1%** of the population

THE EU WORKS TO GUARENTEE NATIONALLY DEFINED SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS CONSISTING OF:



Increasing access to decent work and social protection coverage, especially for the most vulnerable, is therefore the best route to improving social inclusion, reducing inequalities and combatting poverty, leaving no one behind.

The world has achieved unprecedented levels of progress over the past 25 years, with more than 1 billion people being lifted out of extreme poverty.

Globally, humanity has never enjoyed a higher standard of living, and yet, challenges of extreme inequalities, both within and between countries, marginalisation and a lack of full and productive employment, remain immense and urgent, for many around the world.

There are still more than 800 million people living in extreme poverty, while 1% of the world's population control more than 50% of its wealth.

This is why the EU is committed to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with partner countries, and in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, on Ending Poverty, SDG 8, on Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 10, on Reduced Inequalities, in line with the new European Consensus on Development.



« It is simply unacceptable that today global inequality between people is at its highest level in history. This is why the European Commission is promoting employment and social inclusion to reduce inequalities, particularly between men and women. »

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development,
Neven Mimica

Labour Rights and Standards
Indigenous Peoples Youth Inclusion
Forced Labour Inequalities
Vocational Education and Training
Social Protection Informal Economy
Social Dialogue Decent Work
Disabilities Child Labour
Youth Employment

For more information:
https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-development/employment-and-decent-work_en

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