

# *Civil Society Call* for a *Global Fund for Social Protection* to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and to build a better future

*We, civil society and faith-based organizations, trade unions and members of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, in view of the global harm from the COVID-19 pandemic, call on governments worldwide to ensure – through national and global solidarity – that national social protection floors are made available to all people with the help of a **Global Fund for Social Protection**. National floors of social protection are vital to leave no one behind. They ensure universal access to essential health care as well as basic income security across the life course.*

## **We recall that**

- The member states of the United Nations have long agreed on the fundamental human rights of all people to social protection and to health;<sup>1</sup>
- Despite this, more than two thirds of the world's population are still denied the right to comprehensive social protection;
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people without protection is increasing significantly, with the number of people that are food insecure alone projected to double to a quarter of a billion this year;
- Social protection systems are a proven direct and fast-acting mechanism that reduce and prevent poverty, help counter inequality, and can unleash the creativity and productive capacity of people by providing a basic level of security that ensures dignity and access to all essential goods and public services;
- Social protection is a vital investment in socio-economic development and in resilience in view of natural and climate disasters, economic and other humanitarian crises;
- Social protection systems offer highly effective safeguards against the social and economic fallout of the present and future health and socio-economic crises; and

- Many studies have shown that ensuring a basic level of social protection for all is affordable for most countries and entirely achievable through the solidarity of the international community.

## **We recognize, that**

- Many national governments develop, implement and monitor social protection floors, with the participation of civil society, trade unions and informal worker organizations;
- Generally and principally the financing of social protection systems must fall to national budgets;
- There are, nevertheless, a few countries where technical support for the setting-up of national social protection floors and co-financing from the international community are required due to multiple factors, including high socio-economic vulnerability and persistent low levels of national revenue;
- Based on conditions in the pre-COVID-19 era, some 10 to 15 countries have social protection financing gaps amounting to more than 10 per cent of their GDP, and require temporary international co-financing of minimum social protection floors, while they strengthen domestic resource mobilisation.

<sup>1</sup> As enshrined, for example, in articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), articles 9 and 12 of the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), ILO Recommendation 202 (2012) as well as other instruments and confirmed by the Sustainable Development Goals (2015).

## We call on all governments

- **To create a Global Fund for Social Protection**, based on the principle of global solidarity, to support countries to design, implement and, in specific cases, provide temporary co-financing for national social protection floors. The mandate of the Fund would be to:
  - Support the introduction or finalization of national social protection floors with the full participation of people of all ages, including women, people with disabilities, minorities, and those living in poverty in their design, implementation and monitoring;
  - Ensure that national social protection floors are prepared for sustainability and for expansion in the event of shocks that affect entire communities;
  - Co-finance – on a transitional basis – the costs of setting up social protection floors in low-income countries where such transfers would otherwise require a prohibitively high share of the country's total tax revenue;
  - Support the strengthening of domestic resource mobilisation, including international tax regulation, to underpin the future sustainability of national social protection systems;
  - Offer additional support for specific shock-responsive social protection interventions in countries where floors have not yet been established.

## We envisage, that

- The Global Fund for Social Protection would:
  - Be governed by a board, representative of both recipient and donor states, civil society organizations, trade unions and informal workers organisations in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and ILO Recommendation R204 (2015);
  - Be governed by the principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, notably the respect for country ownership, national financial co-responsibility and the necessary support for national systems;
  - Operate under the principles of accountability, transparency and participation;
  - Be financed through a combination of different sources such as:
    - Representing a greater focus of existing international development aid resources and development finance facilities;
    - Specifically earmarked sources, such as national, regional or global financial transaction taxes (FTT), an arms trade tax, carbon taxes, air ticket solidarity levies, and levies on profits;
    - Increased development aid, multilateral grants and funds for emergency response;
    - Voluntary contributions of individuals and other donors.
- UN organizations and development and humanitarian aid organizations, including civil society active in the countries of focus will deliver technical country support.

## We therefore call on all governments

***To establish a Global Fund for Social Protection that will help bring an end to avoidable human suffering, poverty, extreme inequality, ill-health and avoidable deaths associated with the current and future crises, and for them to invest in the development of national social protection floors in all countries through the principle of national and global solidarity.***



## Global and regional organisations and networks

ACT Alliance	International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)
Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)	International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC)	International Federation on Ageing
Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)	International Movement ATD Fourth World
CNCD-11.11.11	International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)
CommonAge	International Presentation Association (IPA)
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
Dementia Alliance International (DAI)	Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
Dominican Leadership Conference	Network for Transformative Social Protection - Asia (NTSP)
Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape	Oxfam International
Fight Inequality Alliance (FIA)	Save the Children
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)	Sisters of Charity Federation
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
Global Social Justice	The Grail
HelpAge International	Unanima International
Human Dignity	VIVAT International
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate	

## National organisations and networks

Albanian Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology	Albania
Albanian Society for All Ages (ASAG)	Albania
Centro de Envejecimiento Activo y Longevidad	Argentina
Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC)	Argentina
CISCSA	Argentina
INPADE/FOCO - Foro ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos	Argentina
International Longevity Centre Argentina	Argentina
Mission Armenia NGO	Armenia
Oxfam Australia	Australia
Global Responsibility – Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid	Austrian
Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR)	Bangladesh
Forum for the Rights of Elderly Bangladesh (FREB)	Bangladesh
JusticeMakers Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Resource Integration Centre (RIC)	Bangladesh
Oxfam Solidarité	Belgium
International Longevity Centre Brazil	Brazil
Alzheimer Community Support of Burundi (ACSB)	Burundi
Human Health Aid Burundi	Burundi
Open Hands Foundation	Burundi
HelpAge Cambodia	Cambodia
ACAMAGE	Cameroon
Fondation MOJE	Cameroon
Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN)	Canada
International Longevity Centre Canada	Canada
Oxfam Canada	Canada
Oxfam-Québec	Canada
Asociación Cultural Casa del Niño	Colombia
Asociación Gerontológica Costarricense (AGECO)	Costa Rica
International Longevity Center Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Oxfam IBIS	Denmark
CEOSS	Egypt
Eshraka Association for Community Development	Egypt
Fiji Council of Social Services	Fiji
The Pass It On Network	France
Ageing with a Smile Initiative	Gambia
Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World)	Germany
HelpAge Deutschland	Germany
Kindernothilfe	Germany
Oxfam Germany	Germany
Center For Innovative Social Development Ghana	Ghana
HelpAge Ghana	Ghana
Management of Community And Family Aid Foundation-Ghana	Ghana
Reproductive Health Education Ghana	Ghana
Oxfam Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Asia Dalit Rights Forum	India
Association for Senior Living India (ASLI)	India
DadiDada Foundation	India
Foundation for Sustainable Development and Climate Action (FSDCA)	India
Global Forum on DWD	India
GRAVIS	India
Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC)	India
The Inclusivity Project (TIP)	India
Oxfam Ireland	Ireland
GCAP Italy	Italy
Oxfam Italy	Italy
Amman Centers for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)	Jordan
Ardager	Kazakhstan
NGO Forum Astana	Kazakhstan
Kazakhstan Ayelderi Association	Kazakhstan
Ageing Concern Foundation (ACF)	Kenya
Association for Single Mothers Kenya	Kenya
Centre for Ageing and Rural Development	Kenya
City of Kisumu Urban Areas Association (CKUAA)	Kenya
County Trackers Elderly Foundation	Kenya
Focus of Disabled Persons	Kenya
Kenyan Aged Require Information, Knowledge and Advancement (KARIKA)	Kenya
Senior Women Citizens For Change	Kenya
Bayazhan	Kyrgyz Republic
Babushka Adoption	Kyrgyzstan
Resource Centre for Elderly	Kyrgyzstan
ADRA	Kyrgyzstan
Center for Studies on Aging in Lebanon	Lebanon
Friends of the Disabled Association (FDA)	Lebanon
Lebanese Coalition of Disabled People (LCDP)	Lebanon
National Union on Intellectual Disability (NUID)	Lebanon
Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment (CECAFE)	Liberia
Liberian Association of Retired Persons (LARP)	Liberia
National Senior Citizens Organization of Liberia (NASCOL)	Liberia
Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organisations (MANEPO)	Malawi
Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association	Mauritius
Anglican Church in Mozambique – Bishop of the Diocese of Lebombo	Mozambique
ASADEC (Accao Para o Desenvolvimento Comunitário)	Mozambique
Associação de Protecção do Idoso de Tete (APITE)	Mozambique
Associação Humanitaria de Apoio a Velhice (VUKOXA)	Mozambique
Fórum da Terceira Idade – FTI (National Senior Citizens Forum – Mozambique)	Mozambique
National Campaign For Sustainable Development (NACASUD-Nepal)	Nepal
Nepal Integrated Development Initiatives (NIDI)	Nepal
SDGs National Network Nepal	Nepal
Ageing Nepal	Nepal
National Senior Citizen Federation (NASCIF)	Nepal
Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN)	Nepal
Oxfam Novib	Netherlands
Oxfam New Zealand	New Zealand
Fundación Acción Social para el Desarrollo de la Costa Caribe de Nicaragua (FASDECCAN)	Nicaragua
Association pour l'Intégration de la Femme dans l'Économie Nationale (AIFEN)	Niger
CCOAD	Niger
OLCAN	Niger
ROSEN	Niger
Age Nigeria Foundation	Nigeria
Azar Initiative Empowerment for the Less Privileged	Nigeria
Coalition for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN),	Nigeria
Dave Omokaro Foundation Nigeria	Nigeria
Fantsuam Foundation	Nigeria
Peace Empowerment Foundation	Nigeria
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	Norway
Palestinian Center for Communication and Development Strategies	OPT
AwazCDS-Pakistan	Pakistan
Asociación Central de Funcionarios Públicos y Docentes Jubilados del Paraguay	Paraguay
Mesa de ONG y Afines sobre Personas Adultas Mayores en el Perú	Peru
Pro-Vida Perú	Peru
Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE)	Philippines
Dignidad Movement (Philippines)	Philippines
Good Deed Foundation	Russia
NSINDAGIZA Organization	Rwanda
HumanaS Network	Serbia
GCAP – Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Network	Sierra Leone
Youth Partnership for Peace and Development	Sierra Leone
African Relief Development Initiative	Somalia
Humanitarian Translation for Somalia (HTS)	Somalia
Somaliland Help Age Organization (SOMHO)	Somaliland
Age-in-Action	South Africa
South Sudan Older People's Organization (SSOPO)	South Sudan
Fundación HelpAge International España	Spain
Oxfam Intermon	Spain
Free Trade Union Development Centre (FTUDC)	Sri Lanka
Act Church of Sweden	Sweden
Olof Palme International Center	Sweden
Swedish Foundation for Human Rights (SFHR)	Sweden
Franciscans International	Switzerland
NGO Committee on Ageing	Switzerland
Central Asia Gerontology Centre	Tajikistan
Good Samaritan Social Services Tanzania	Tanzania
Foundation for Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV)	Thailand
Amis des Étrangers au Togo (ADET )	Togo
CHALLENGES International	Togo
Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT)	Togo
Univers de Solidarité et de Développement (UNI.SOL.D)	Togo
Community Restoration Initiative Project	Uganda
Development Research and Training (DRT)	Uganda
Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM)	Uganda
Semuch Older Persons Development Association (SOPEDA)	Uganda
Empower And Care Organization (EACO)	Uganda
Health Nest Uganda	Uganda
Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA)	Uganda
Turbota pro Litnih v Ukraini	Ukraine
Age International	United Kingdom
Oxfam Great Britain	United Kingdom
Gray Panthers	United States of America
Oxfam America	United States of America
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Province of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton	United States of America
Mahalla Belarik	Uzbekistan
Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias In Zambia	Zambia
Retirees' Welfare Bureau of Zambia (RWBZ)	Zambia
Support To Older People-Zambia	Zambia
Senior Citizens Association of Zambia	Zambia

**Find out more, support the call and join more than 200 organisations at [www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/civil-society-call](http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/civil-society-call)**

