Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors
Narrative Report
November 2019 – December 2021

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I. KEY AREAS OF WORK

The main activities in the period included advocacy for social protection floors and for the Civil Society Call for a Global Fund for Social Protection, at global and regional political forums, disseminating position statements and research reports and the implementation of an advocacy project in selected developing countries (Senegal, Uganda, Nepal and Cambodia) which are being carried out in 2020-2023.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact in the world and in the work of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, as it created a massive and unprecedented global rise in the need of social protection, with very disparate responses from different countries, due to their different capacities and also different governmental policies and ideologies. As a result inequalities have increased both within and between countries, poverty and unemployment have risen and the need for new concepts and paradigms around social protection and care in general has been highlighted in many international fora.

On the other hand, confinements around the world deeply affected the way in which social movements, unions and NGOs -including the members of the Global Coalition- work and mobilize, creating new obstacles and challenges to their already difficult work, in moments when they are very needed.

The work of the secretariat during this period was to support the work of the GCSPF that was very active particularly on the Global Fund for Social Protection.

A. Advocacy impact

During this period the GCSPF maintained its presence as an active participant in several international policy-making processes, including intergovernmental fora.

a) United Nations Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD)—tracing its roots to the United Nations Social Commission, founded in 1946—advises the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on a range of social policy matters that the Council might act upon. Members of the GCSPF participated in various activities of the fifty-eight session (10 – 19 February 2020) and the fifty-nine session (8 – 17 February 2021) of CSocD, the first one was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the second one in an hybrid (in-person and digital) format due to COVID-19.

1) The side event “The Right of all to Roofs and Floors: Affordable Housing and Universal Social Protection” organized by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN, UNDESA, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd/Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors was held on February 12, 2020 during the CSocD58. Further information is available here.

2) The virtual side event “Building Roofs and Raising Floors Through Inclusive Digital Technologies and A Global Fund for Social Protection” co-organized by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors and Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) was held on February 12, 2021 during the CSocD59. The flyer flyer, the concept note, the video and the notes are available.

The side event was chosen by UN DESA to be posted and promoted on their platform. The post is here.
b) United Nations Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up

Members of GCSPF have participated in discussions and lobbying in preparation for and at the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FiD) Follow-up, which continues intergovernmental discussions and monitors implementation of the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. In a related initiative, the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica and the Secretary-General initiated a series of intergovernmental and interagency discussions on “Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond,” in which members of the Global Coalition participated.

1) Nicola Wiebe spoke on behalf of the GCSPF at the Civil Society Meeting “Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond” held by the UN Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General with civil society on 2 November 2020. She spoke about the rationale and need for the Global Fund for Social Protection, details of the civil society call for this were shared and responded to in the meeting and the GCSPF SPF film was shown in the course of the meeting. The video of the intervention on Social Protection is here and the PDF version is available here.

The High-level Meeting provided the opportunity to comment on the menu of options, strategize on how to strengthen the role of the United Nations in economic governance and explore how to keep the momentum for FiD in the coming period. The video of the event is here. Further information is available here. Members of the Global Coalition also participated in the meeting.

2) In preparation for the 2021 Financing for Development Follow-up Forum, the NGO Committee on Financing for Development organized a breakfast consultation of civil society with UN ambassadors and other national and agency representatives at the UN on 15 January 2021. Members of the Global Coalition participated in preparing that meeting, which focused on financing the response to the pandemic, including its impact on mobilizing funding for more adequate social protection. The concept note and list of speakers is here and the report of the consultation is here.

3) Ana Zeballos spoke on behalf of the GCSPF at the Civil Society Meeting “Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond”, Cluster 2: socio-economic response: social protection, gender, youth, health, education, and human rights. The consultation with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations was held under the auspices of the International Labour Organization and co-organized by the NGO Committee on Financing for Development and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP). The event was held on 11 March 2021. The concept note and programme of the event are here. Ms. Zeballos highlighted the need for the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection, the PDF version is available here. Members of the Global Coalition also participated at the High-level meeting. Further information is here. The final report is here.

c) High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is convened annually under the auspices of ECOSOC to monitor and follow up on the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, which contains the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 2020 session was held from 7 to 16 July under the theme of “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The 2021 session was held from 6 to 16 July under the theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the
decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. GCSPF members participated in various events at HLPF.

1) The virtual side event “Decade of Action to achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030” took place on 12 July 2021.

The event was co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations; Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia; Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection - USP2030; Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors; Global Call to Action Against Poverty; International Labour Organization; The World Bank; International Network for Social Protection Rights (INSPIR West-Africa); United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD); Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Protestant Agency for Diakonie und Development; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC). Watch the recording

d) UNGA 75 & UN People’s Forum for the UN We Need

The event UN75 People’s Forum “We the peoples: The Future We Want the UN We Need” sent a strong message to the UN and Member States that a stronger multilateral system is needed as a matter of urgency, and that the UN75 High Level Event on 21 September 2020 needs to be the catalyst for the transformative changes urgently needed to successfully address 21st century global challenges. The Forum was held on May 2020. Members of the GCSPF participated in the event and contributed suggestions including that of universal basic income and a global fund for social Protection. Watch the videos.

The Report Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2020 was launched at a virtual event on 17 September 2020. The GCSPF and several members of the Global Coalition contributed to the Spotlight Report. The chapter “We are only as safe as the most vulnerable among us. Strengthening public health and social protection systems in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” by the GCSPF is available in here.

e) International Labour Organization

The GCSPF looks to the leadership of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as the primary international forum—indeed, the only tripartite forum of representatives of governments, employers and workers—for developing the concepts and standards of social protection and the social protection floor, as through its recommendation 202, adopted in 2012. Trade union members of GCSPF regularly participate as delegates to ILO meetings while CSO members may engage in consultation with ILO. Specific activities are noted below, as well as engagement with the ILO and World Bank initiative called USP 2030 (see following forum).

Global Social Protection Week

Members of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors participated in the Global Social Protection Week organized by the ILO which was held from 25th to 28th November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The objective of the Global Social Protection Week was to provide a roadmap for the future of social protection within the framework of the recently adopted ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work. Video recordings of the high-level segment, selected interviews and photos are posted here.

1) GCSPF Commitments towards achieving Universal Human Rights-Based Social Protection Systems and Floors. The GCSPF delivered a statement at the Commitment session of the High-level Segment on Tuesday 26th. Read the statement here and the audio is here.
2) **Partnering for USP and SDG 1.3.** The GCSPF delivered a statement at the Session Partnership for USP and SDG 1.3 at the Global Social Protection Week on Thursday 28th. Read the statement [here](#).

3) **Financing Social Protection.** Magdalena Sepúlveda and Barry Herman, members of the GCSPF, participated in the panel of the session "Financing Social Protection: Creating fiscal space at the international level" that was held on Tuesday 26th. The audio is available [here](#).

4) **Formulating national policies and strategies and national dialogue.** Aura Sevilla and Michael Cichon participated in the panel. The session was moderated by Cácilie Schildberg. The session was held on Wednesday 27th.

This session brought together governments, social partners, international organizations and development partners to discuss the importance of an effective and inclusive national dialogue for formulating national social protection strategies and policies to build national social protection systems. It explored steps that countries can follow to formulate national social protection policies and strategies based on national dialogue and highlight countries’ experiences and lessons learnt in this regard. [Read more](#).

5) **International Financing for Social Protection Systems.** The technical session "Exploring the feasibility of International Financing for Social Protection Systems" was held on Thursday 28th. Michael Cichon and Markus Kaltenborn were in the panel.

This session brought together leading thinkers from governments, research institutions, the civil society and the private sector in order to discuss the feasibility of international financing for social protection floors. Different proposals for global solidarity mechanisms have been put forward in the past decade. Furthermore, different tax proposals have been discussed (and partly been implemented), including recent discussions on international taxation in the G7. The audio is [here](#) and the concept note is [here](#).

6) **Launch of the publication "The challenge of creating national social dialogues for social protection floors".** The side event "Launch of the publication From international ivory towers to national realities: The challenge of creating national social dialogues for social protection floors", organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung was held on Thursday 28th.

The importance of an effective and inclusive national dialogue for formulating national social protection strategies and policies to build national social protection systems was discussed in the session. And the experiences FES made in a three year project in nine countries where the impact that can be achieved by societal dialogues for the extension or the preservation of social protection almost everywhere.

The publication seeks to contribute to the core objectives of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors and to foster ongoing discussion at the national and international levels on how to better support the achievement of the SDGs and the practical realization of Recommendation 202, as a necessity for any kind of social-ecological transformation towards just and sustainable development.

7) **Video Social Protection Floor.** Only with a solid floor beneath our feet, we can feel safe and start dancing! [Watch the video here](#).

8) **Networking at the Marketplace.** On Wednesday 27th the GCSPF had a stand to present our work as well as publications of our members. The presentations included information shared by the members. The stand was focused on the cluster "Delivering on SDG 1.3: UN and partners" and the main focus was on "The role of civil society for universal social protection". José Florito (CIPECC, Argentina) coordinated our participation at the Marketplace.
109th Session of the International Labour Conference

The 109th Session of the ILO Conference was held from 7 to 18 June 2021. The GCSPF took the floor International solidarity to eradicate poverty: supporting the initiative of a Global Fund for Social Protection to call for the creation of a solidarity based Global Fund for Social Protection; to pool funds while supporting countries design and implement national social protection floors. A Global Fund is the adequate multilateral initiative needed to respond to the consequences of Covid-19 and to build a better future. As an institution of global governance, the Fund would help pull together efforts and decrease the fragmentation of aid, leading to a consolidation of existing financing mechanisms and enabling domestic financing over the long term. Read more

47th Session of the Human Rights Council

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) held its 47th regular session from 21 June to 9 July 2021. The Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors submitted a written statement. This session considered the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights on “The Global Fund for Social Protection: International Solidarity in the Service of Poverty Eradication”. The video is here. Read more

f) Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection (USP 2030)

In 2016 ILO and the World Bank launched the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection as a joint effort to mobilize states and their stakeholders and relevant international organizations to work toward universal access of all in need to adequate social protection by 2030 (see www.USP2030.org). According to its website, USP 2030 has 30 members, including governments, international institutions and civil society and labour organizations. USP 2030 grew out of the activities of a group of donor agencies that meet as the Social Protection Interagency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), also co-led by ILO and the World Bank. Members of GCSPF have been participating in meetings, working groups meetings, conferences and conference calls related to USP 2030 since 2018. Indeed, the GCSPF was invited to join the Interim Steering Committee. Members of the Global Coalition then participated in the working groups of SPIAC-B.

g) International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

As may be inferred from the above, the World Bank has been an important international provider of advice and loans on social protection, albeit with a somewhat different perspective than that of ILO. In addition, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has impacted government social protection programmes through its mandated oversight of national macroeconomic situations and through the terms for correction of macroeconomic imbalances, usually involving austerity that often threatened social protection expenditures. Both institutions have thus been important international forums for discussion of social protection policies.

Members of GCSPF have sought to influence the institutions through participation in the semi-annual Civil Society Forums that are held before the ministerial meetings of both institutions.

1) Barry Herman and Gemma Adaba prepared a survey of CSOs regarding engagement on international financing of COVID-19 response that was implemented in June 2020. The objective was to facilitate comparison of national-level activities that may be particularly useful for advocacy work by members, and for follow-up with IMF and other institutions.
2) The virtual event “International Solidarity to Support a Robust and Inclusive Recovery – A Global Social Protection Fund” co-organized by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), that was held in the framework of the Spring Civil Society Policy Forum of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The event took place on 25 March 2021. The speakers at the event were: Cathy Feingold (International Director of the AFL-CIO and Deputy President of ITUC); Olivier de Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur for Extreme Poverty and Human Rights); Omar Faruk Osman (Secretary General of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions); Yolande Wright (Head of Child Poverty at Save the Children, GCSPF); Didier Jacobs (Senior Advisor at Oxfam) and Michal Rutkowski (Global Director for Social Protection and Jobs at the World Bank). The video is available in English, Spanish and French. Further information is available here.

3) In November 2021 the ad hoc group on IDA20 of the GCSPF submitted Comments on the social protection elements (Comments to IDA20 draft Deputies Report – Social Protection) in the IDA20 draft Deputies Report in which it criticises the fact that the World Bank continues to promote targeted social safety nets rather than social protection floors in line with ILO standards.

h) African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) has undertaken to consider issues of social security and has thus drafted a protocol on social security on which it seeks political support. GCSPF is supporting these efforts.

i) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1) On August 2021 the GCSPF sent a letter to Mathias Cormann, Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The letter is here.

B. Statements

During the period under review, a number of statements were considered by the Core Team and issued on behalf of GCSPF, as follows:

- The GCSPF submitted a written statement to the 47th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) held from 21 June to 9 July 2021. This session considered the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights on “The Global Fund for Social Protection: International Solidarity in the Service of Poverty Eradication”. The statement is here.


- The GCSPF submitted a Statement “Partnering for USP and SDG 1.3,” at the Session Partnership for USP and SDG 1.3 at the Global Social Protection Week in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28 November, 2019.

- The GCSPF submitted a Statement “GCSPF Commitments towards achieving Universal Human Rights-Based Social Protection Systems and Floors” at the Commitment session of the High-level Segment of the Global Social Protection Week on 26 November, 2019. The audio is available here.
C. Publications

Members of GCSPF prepared various policy briefs and reports for publication during the period under review.

- The **Video Social Protection Floor**, Only with a solid floor beneath our feet, we can feel safe and start dancing! was launched at the Global Social Protection Week organized by the ILO which was held from 25th to 28th November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.


- The third edition of the **Social Protection Floor Index, “Update and Country Studies 2020”** was published in May 2020 by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung for GCSPF. The SPF Index measures the amount of financial resources that a country would have to allocate to social transfers and health services in order to achieve the minimum level of income and health security that would be required under ILO Recommendation 202 concerning national floors of social protection. Further information is available [here](http://example.com) and the publication is [here](http://example.com). An interview to Michael Cichon, an author and developer of the SPFI is [here](http://example.com).

- Several members of the Global Coalition contributed to the report **Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2020** of the Civil Society Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The GCSPF contribution was titled “We are only as safe as the most vulnerable among us. Strengthening public health and social protection systems in response to the COVID-19 pandemic” and is available [here](http://example.com).

- The blog **“What's next for Social Protection: A Global Fund for Social Protection”** by Nicola Wiebe was published as part of the activities to promote and disseminate the results and key discussions of the global e-Conference ‘Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What's next for social protection?’ on December 2020.

- A flyer, with information about the Global Coalition to promote our objectives and main activities was developed and published on the website in December 2020. The flyer is available in different formats and languages (English, Arabic, French and Spanish). The flyer is available [here](http://example.com).

- The **Q&A on the Global fund for social protection** was released in June 2021.

- The Civil Society Training Manual on Public Financial Management for Social Protection by Gemma Adaba and Barry Herman explores the basic concepts, processes and tools that underpin public finance management and it demonstrates the relevance for the strengthening of social protection systems, and for the progressive universalizing of social protection regimes. This manual is part of the Programme “Improving synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management”.

- The **Policy Brief “A Global Fund for Social Protection to promote policy and fiscal space to make the right to social protection a reality for all”** aims to contribute to the discussion around the Global Fund for Social Protection. The Policy Brief was written by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors’ working group on a global financing mechanism for social protection and it was published on October 2021.
D. Civil Society Call for a Global Fund for Social Protection

In view of the global harm from the COVID-19 pandemic, with food insecurity, poverty and loss of livelihoods rising globally, it is essential that national social protection floors are made available to all people – through nation and international solidarity. While recognising that the foremost responsibility for social protection lies at country level, the pandemic puts a spotlight on the need for international solidarity. What is needed is the creation of a solidarity based Global Fund for Social Protection to support countries design, implement and, in specific cases, finance national floors of social protection. It is the adequate multilateral initiative needed to respond to Covid-19 and to build a better future.

On September 2020 over 200 civil society organizations and trade unions unite to call for a Global Fund for Social Protection to protect the most vulnerable during COVID-19 and beyond. Read the press release.

Sharan Burrow (General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC), Prof. Olivier De Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights), Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmena (Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), Presiding Bishop Dr. Shoo (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania – ELCT), Joycia Thorat (Project Officer of the Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action) and Dr. Tavengwa M Nhongo (Director of the Africa Platform for Social Protection - APSP) guide us through different aspects of this new Global Fund explaining why we need the Fund and how it would work. Watch the videos.

The launching event of the Civil Society Call for a Global Fund for Social Protection was held at the Global e-Conference “Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?” organised by socialprotection.org which took place from 5 to 9 October, 2020.

The side event was moderated by Alison Tate (ITUC) and the speakers were Valérie Schmitt (ILO), Gabriel Fernandez (APSP), Markus Kaltenborn (Ruhr University Bochum), Sulistri Afrileston (ITUC), Michael Cichon (GCSPF) and Marcus Manuel (ODI). A virtual booth to interact with participants was also set during the virtual event. This session recording is available here.

Members of the GCSFP participated in different activities during the e-Conference.

Nicola Wiebe spoke on behalf of the GCSPF at the Civil Society Meeting “Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond” held by the UN Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General with civil society on 2 November 2020. She spoke about the rationale and need for the Global Fund for Social Protection, details of the civil society call for this were shared and responded to in the meeting and the GCSPF SPF film was shown in the course of the meeting. The video of the intervention on Social Protection is here and the PDF version is available here.

The High-level Meeting provided the opportunity to comment on the menu of options, strategize on how to strengthen the role of the United Nations in economic governance and explore how to keep the momentum for FfD in the coming period. The video of the event is here. Further information is available here. Members of the Global Coalition also participated in the meeting.

The blog “What’s next for Social Protection: A Global Fund for Social Protection” by Nicola Wiebe was published as part of the activities to promote and disseminate the results and key discussions of the global e-Conference ‘Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?’ on December 2020.
In advance of the G20 Employment Working Group meeting held on 15-17 February 2021, the GCSPF called on the G20 to launch an initiative to establish a Global Fund for Social Protection on February 2021. Read here the advocacy letter that was sent to Labour Ministers and Sherpas.

On April 2021 the Civil Society 7 Summit released the “Civil society’s recommendations to the G7” that include the Global Fund for Social Protection under “Global sustainable economic recovery after the pandemic” and link back to the Global Coalition Concept. Read more

US letter for a Global Fund for Social Protection. On May 2021 the US Coalition of the GCSPF sent a letter and a briefing on “Expanding social protection: benefits for workers, businesses, and communities” to the US government to support the global fund at both the G7 and G20. Read more

Johanna Wagman participated on behalf of the Global Coalition in the webinar event “Ahead of the G20 Foreign and Development” Joint Ministerial Session, “Policy Dialogue on G20 response to adequately tackle the impact of COVID-19 on hunger and food insecurity”’. Her notes are here. The agenda of the webinar is here. The event was organised by Civil 20 (C20) and Oxfam and it was held on 15th of June 2021. Further information here.

Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, opened a call and on the basis of the reactions received, he reported to the 47th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2021 with a mapping of the positions adopted, and to identify ways forward. The GCSPF submitted its contribution which is based on “A Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection”. Members of the Global Coalition have also participated, among them, Center for Economic and Social Rights, ITUC, Oxfam, and Markus Kaltenborn.

The virtual ASEAN Regional Forum on Social Protection that Empowers Women organized by OXFAM was held on 29 – 30 June 2021. The forum brought together social protection experts, national and international organizations, civil society organizations, UN agencies, ASEAN Committee on Women, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development empowerment and advancement. Aura Sevilla (WIEGO), Florencia Caro Sachetti (CIPPEC, Argentina), Evelyn Astor (ITUC), Maria Victoria Raquiza (Social Watch Philippines, Philippines) members of the Global Coalition participated on the Forum and spoke about the Global Fund. Further information can be found here. The videos are here.

The virtual side event “Decade of Action to achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030” took place on 12 July 2021 at the High-level Political Forum 2021. The side event was co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations; Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia; Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection – USP2030; Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors; Global Call to Action Against Poverty; International Labour Organization; The World Bank; International Network for Social Protection Rights (INSPIR West-Africa); United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD); Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Protestant Agency for Diakonie und Development; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC). The video is here.

The virtual Side Event “Decade of Action to achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030” on the Theme Austerity & Social Protection was co-hosted by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) and the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) and it was held during the Global People’s Assembly on 22 September, 2021. The video can be found here.

In October 2021, Nicola Wiebe and Markus Kaltenborn participated in a development policy event of the German Green Party, where the Global Fund project was presented. The Global Fund has now been explicitly included in the coalition agreement of the new German government.
E. Advocacy at country and regional level

Through its short history, GCSPF has mainly served to bring together the concerns of national CSOs and international networks regarding social protection floors and present them at international forums as the views of a global coalition. Although many members operate mainly at national level, GCSPF has not been able to assist national platforms by bringing lessons from global advocacy back to country level. This may be changing as the European Commission (EC) invited GCSPF to be part of a multi-country “Action Programme on Synergies in Social Protection and Public Finance Management.” After considerable preparatory discussions beginning in September 2018 and continuing through 2019, GCSPF engagement in the project that begun in 2020.

Through the Action Programme, the EC’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DevCo) seeks to strengthen national social protection systems through technical support, explorative research and capacity development, focusing on public financial management systems, budgeting and financing of social protection. The four-year global action will be implemented primarily by the ILO, with UNICEF as a key implementing partner, in eight countries (Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal, and Uganda) that are interested in strengthening their social protection systems. In addition to the ILO and UNICEF, national civil society is to be actively involved in the design, steering and implementation of the project. The GCSPF has been asked to facilitate this active participation of social protection-focused civil society in Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda. After an extensive process of discussions within a dedicated Technical Working Group (made up of interested members of the GCSPF’s Core Team) and consultations with the EC, ILO, UNICEF and the GCSPF Core Team, an implementation approach for the GCSPF in the Action Programme has been agreed.

The underlying aim of the GCSPF is to strengthen national civil society organizations, their capacities and structures, to enable civil society actors to meaningfully participate in national social protection dialogues, amplifying the voices and concerns of communities and beneficiaries and develop capacities to engage in discussions with governments on social protection design and financing as well as on monitoring and social accountability.

Three GCSPF member-organizations with already-existing country presence were selected to enter into a contractual relationship with the ILO, which will administer the project overall, and take on the responsibility to ensure its effective implementation in line with the objectives of the GCSPF. The three organizations are HelpAge, which will take a coordinating role in Uganda, Oxfam in Cambodia and WSM in Nepal and Senegal.

A specific Memorandum of Understanding was developed to set out how the project will be implemented and to establish the link between GCSPF and the three coordinating organisations. In addition, specific Terms of Reference were drafted to operationalize the engagement of the three GCSPF members at country-level.

As the country exercises got underway in 2020, modalities have to be developed to inform GCSPF of progress and challenges encountered, including when needs are identified for specific technical capacities and experiences for the four countries that may exist among GCSPF members. One working group of these three organizations was created and the documents produced by this project are included in Annex 2. Further information is available here. The official website of this programme is here.

And at a regional level, a series of video/zoom conferences and a workshop in the Latin America region with participation of experts, trade unions, feminist organizations, academics and activists with a common inspiration in social and economic justice to debate on the monitoring, advocacy at national, regional and international levels was projected to be carried out in 2021 and 2022. These activities hope to strengthen networks at national and
regional level and will be an opportunity to reinforce the work of the GCSPF on (sub)regional level, as has been proposed in our Core Team strategy meetings. These activities will be in Spanish and open to our members and interested partners from all our networks.

An initial meeting among invited organizations from all around Latin America was held virtually on April 21, 2021. The meeting gathered 15 participants from 12 countries as well as regional and global networks. Most of the country-based participants felt overwhelmed by the accumulation of emergency work that they and their organizations were doing, either on the forefront of the fight against Covid-19 or against its social consequences, organizing food distribution, popular soup kitchens or the struggle against domestic violence, among other considerations, often additional to their continuing regular work. Under such conditions it was felt that the proposed agenda about how to envisage the “day after” and the post-pandemic reconstruction, with emphasis on social protection and the care systems, should be postponed until the beginning of 2022, when according to most projections the “emergency phase” will largely be over and the reconstruction mood will make the need for a debate and organizing such as the one proposed more evident.

Rafael Rofman (Director of the Social Protection Department, CIPPEC, Argentina) participated in the Future of Social Security in the Americas (Conferencia Interamericana de Seguridad Social. Foro: El futuro de la seguridad social en América Latina) organized by CISS, UPS2030 and CLACSO that took place on September 28-30, 2021. The presentation “Cambio demográfico y seguridad social en América Latina” is here.
II. STRENGTHENING THE GCSPF

During the reporting period, GCSPF has grown in size and taken on additional activities (see above, in particular). This section of the narrative on activities from November 2019 to December 2021 reports on the growth of membership, meetings held, secretariat activities and communication.

A. Membership

As of December 2021, the Global Coalition has 112 member organizations (several of them are regional or global networks) and seven individual members. The regional distribution of the organizations is as follows: 25 from Africa, 23 from Asia, 28 from Europe, 7 from Middle East and North Africa (MENA), 19 from North America, and 5 from Latin America and more than 11 with a regional or global focus.

There are members in the following 44 countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China (Hong Kong), Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda (first time in this list), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The complete list of member organizations and individual members is available [here](#).

Twenty-five organisations and three individuals’ members are part of the Core Team. Members of the Core Team are from the following regions: three from Africa, four from Asia, eleven from Europe, one from MENA, one from North America, two from South America, more than 5 with a Global focus and three individual members which are based in Europe. The list is available [here](#).

New members

Ten organizations joined the GCSPF from November 2019 to December 2021, the organizations are: The Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA), Human Dignity, Ageing Nepal, National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal (NACASUD-Nepal), AbibiNsroma Foundation (ANF, Ghana), the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), Action Contre La Faim France (ACF-France), Pakistan Evaluation Association (PEA), the Youth Mentoring Agents for Development Organisation (YOMADO) and Human Rights Watch (HRW). Odile Frank joined as individual member.

Further information about them is available in [Annex 1](#).

B. Secretariat

The secretariat or administrative coordination of the Global Coalition has been hosted by Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute, ITeM) based in Montevideo, Uruguay. ITeM is a tax-exempted, secular, non-profit institution that also hosts the international secretariat of Social Watch.

The secretariat received financial support from the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) from January 2017 till June 2020, from ITeM in July and August 2020 and from Brot für die Welt since September 2020 to August 2022.
The main role of the secretariat is to ensure a timely and regular information flow between the members of the GCSPF, to facilitate the communications (further information below), and to support the planning and organization of meetings and activities.

**C. Meetings**

1) **Strategy meeting**

The strategy meeting brought together Core Team members as well as regional members and experts to discuss pressing issues on its agenda and to chart a way for future activities. The meeting was co-organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) – Geneva, Brot für die Welt and the Secretariat and took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 and 25 November 2019. The CT meeting was held before the Global Social Protection Week: Achieving SDG 1.3 and universal social protection in the context of the Future of Work held in Geneva from 25 to 28 November 2019.

The meeting of the core team of the GCSPF highlighted opportunities and challenges existing in the area of implementing social protection floors and charted the way forward for the activities of the Coalition. Among the key issues discussed were how to provide support to Coalition members in terms of information sharing and the coordination of regional activities, the preparation of “shadow” reports in the context of the monitoring and evaluation of international commitments, advocacy for and promotion of resolutions dedicated to social protection systems. The issue of financing social protection and new approaches in that area were also discussed.

The aim of this meeting was to bring together the members of the Core Team in order to share information among the members on activities in their working area, to discuss and develop future strategies and actions on all levels with specific focus on the regional, national and local level in developing countries, to discuss and decide respective action plans for 2020 and 2021 and to meet with international experts of the ILO and the Human Rights system during the ILO’s Social Protection Week and to strengthen their partnership.

The report of the meeting is available [here](#), further information is available [here](#).

2) **Informal meeting**

Usually when members of the GCSPF participate in different meetings or conferences, they took advantage of these opportunities to hold informal meetings. The aim of these meetings is to exchange information and develop proposals for further action to be discussed by the full Core Team for final decision. During this particular period and due to Covid-19 many international meetings were moved to a virtual format, for that reason only one face to face meeting took place in New York and it was hold on 10 January 2020.

**D. Working Groups**

In November 2019 nine working groups (WGs) were established to frame the work of the Global Coalition in 2020 and 2021. A new working group was created in 2021.

The working groups are as follows: 1) Strategy on social security standards, 2) Human Rights Monitoring of the Implementation of the four Social Security Guarantees, 3) IMF Social Financing Strategy / IMF Country Level
Monitoring Initiative, 4) Future Engagement with USP 2030, 5) EU DEVCO Project, 6) Joint Engagement at CSocD, CSW, and HLPF 2020, 7) Strategy on global financing mechanism (e.g. global fund, also including the discussion on a new UN tax body), 8) The role of UHC as a cross cutting issue, 9) The right to be cared, 10) IDA20.

During this period conference calls were held with coordinators and/or members of the WGs. These calls serve to update each other on all the core activities they were designated for and also to coordinate future activities. Three conference calls were held in 2020 (in February, June and November) and one in 2021 (May). Links to the notes of the conference calls are as follows: 1st call on February 13, 2020, 2nd call on June 10, 2020, 3rd call on November 6, 2020, 4th call on May 6, 2021, 5 call on December 14, 2021.

Further information about these WGs, including the documents prepared by each of them, is available in Annex 2.

E. Terms of Reference

The second version of the Terms of Reference of the GCSPF was approved by all the members in February 2018. This version is available here.

In 2020, taking into account concerns and suggestions shared during the 2019 CT meeting, a working group of the CT prepared a proposal with changes to the ToR. This draft will be discussed in the next meeting of the CT.

F. Information and communications

Given the vast scope of the GCSPF and its members, successful communication plays a vital role in a wide array of its functions. As such, the GCSPF recognizes the importance of effective and up-to-date communication methods, and strives to implement them in an innovative and practical manner.

1) Mailing lists

The main communication tools to reach the Global Coalition membership are the mailing lists. News and information are disseminated by the secretariat through three email lists, one for all the members, another one for the members of the Core Team and the third one is for the wider distribution of the electronic newsletter and important information to members and non-members.

2) E-Newsletters

The GCSPF monthly E-newsletter, with articles featuring news from the Global Coalition, the members as well as new resources and articles of interest has been published monthly by the secretariat since June 2017.

Thirty-three issues (#30 to #62) have been published in twenty-six months (from November 2019 to December 2021). Twenty-five of them (76%) include information of activities, publications, etc, organized or co-organized by the Global Coalition.

There is a specific mailing list which is set only for distribution of the monthly newsletter. The newsletters are also published on the website and are available here. Special issues have been published during international meetings; some of them were sent to those that participated in those particular meeting, such as HLPF, CSocD, etc.
3) Website

The website is permanently updated by the secretariat, with input from the members. The website was completely reorganized for the launching of the Civil Society Call for a Global Fund for Social Protection in September 2020.

4) Social Media

As another means of fostering communication in and between our members and civil society in general particularly to promote our own activities, the Global Coalition has a Facebook page and a twitter account. The Facebook page has now more than five thousand “friends” and more than six hundred followers. The twitter account has 946 followers. A special campaign to connect better with our own members was done in 2020.

5) Flyer

A flyer, with information about the Global Coalition to promote our objectives and main activities was developed and published on the website in December 2020. The flyer is available in different formats and in different languages (English, Arabic, French and Spanish). The flyer is available here.

6) Market place

Networking at the Marketplace. The GCSPF had a stand to present our work as well as publications of our members at the Global Social Protection Week organized by the ILO on November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The presentations included information shared by the members. The stand was focused on the cluster "Delivering on SDG 1.3: UN and partners" and the main focus was on "The role of civil society for universal social protection”.

ANNEXES

1. New members
2. Working Groups
ANNEXES

(Only the information that it is not published on the website is included as annex.)

Annex 1. New members

The following organizations and individual members joined the GCSPF from January 2020 to August 2021.

The Uganda Reach the Aged Association

The Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) is a national voluntary not-for-profit, non-government organization whose vision is a dignified, self-fulfilled poverty free ageing Uganda and a mission is to champion the realization and preservation of a dignified quality of life for older persons in Uganda. URAA was founded in 1991 by a group of older persons (OP) themselves and is affiliated to HelpAge International. URAA has a membership of over 480,000 older persons in the 80 district associations (230,000 Male and 250,000 Female) were it operates.
The aim of URAA is to provide a platform for fellowship, mutual support, hope and a voice to Ops. Specifically, the organization focuses on advocacy to raise awareness on Op’s issues and fight stigma to Ops through the rights-based approach aimed at promoting dignified living by advocating and promoting equitable access economic empowerment, social welfare, treatment, care and support, and wellbeing of OPs. Further information here

Human Dignity

Human Dignity promotes and defends economic, social and cultural rights in Sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to advance ESCR and reduce inequalities through capacity building, advocacy, documentation, research and litigation. Human Dignity is federating the first ever francophone African platform on ESCR.

Human Dignity is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organisation created in January 2014 and based in Paris. Since 2017, we hold the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Special Consultative Status.

Contact information: Mrs Seynabou Benga, Director
www.hdignity.org / Twitter:@HumanDty / Facebook : @ForHumanDignity

Ageing Nepal

Ageing Nepal, is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization based in Kathmandu that was established in 2011. Ageing Nepal is a not-for-profit Non-Government Organization (NGO) registered with the government of Nepal and is also affiliated to Social Welfare Council (SWC). Ageing Nepal is a member based organization operated by trustees, member representatives and professionals.

Ageing Nepal has ECOSOC Special Consultative Status, and is member of HelpAge Global Network and it is member of the Steering Group of GAROP.
Major areas of work: Awareness building, Consultancy services and Human Resource Development.
Further information can be found here.

Contact information: Krishna M. Gautam, Chairperson
http://www.ageingnepal.org / Twitter:@AgeingNepal
National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal (NACASUD-Nepal)

NACASUD-Nepal affirms its contribution to build on peaceful, just, equitable, inclusive, resilient and prosperous world. So, it works for peace, justice, human rights, democracy, governance and sustainable development. NACASUD-Nepal is a non-profit making, voluntary, and non-partisan organization that was established in January 2017. NACASUD-Nepal is a collective platform of development professionals, civil society activists and persons involved in social movements. The general objective of the organization is to establish equality based social justice by safeguarding the values of democracy, human rights, justice and sustainability. NACASUD-Nepal aims to contribute in achieving SDGs at local level. NACASUD-Nepal is engaging with federal, provincial and local governments in the country. Moreover, it is engaging with Civil Society Major Groups, NGOs, UN Agencies, INGOs etc. on sustainable development agenda and other public issues.

Contact information: Daya Sagar Shrestha  
http://nacasud.org.np/  
Twitter: https://twitter.com/nacasud  
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Nacsud

AbibiNsroma Foundation, Ghana

AbibiNsroma Foundation (ANF) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation established in 2020 in Ghana, and committed to identifying, promoting and empowering grassroots to develop innovative solutions for the developmental challenges in Ghana and Africa. Through capacity building, training, research, advocacy and community development in the areas of energy, climate change and environment, natural resources, education, health and agriculture, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene to enhance Sustainable Development in Ghana and Africa as whole.

Further information can be found here  
Contact information: Robert Tettey Kwami Amiteye, Executive Director  
info@abibinsromafoundation.org and abibinsromafoundation@gmail.com

Institute of Global Homelessness

The Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) drives a global movement to end street homelessness. Our vision is a world where everyone has a home that offers security, safety, autonomy, and opportunity. Founded in 2014, IGH is the first organization to focus on homelessness as a global phenomenon with an emphasis on those who are living on the street or in emergency shelters. It is a partnership between DePaul University (Chicago, USA), and Depaul International (London, UK), which provides direct services for people experiencing homelessness in the UK, Ireland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Croatia, USA, and France. The IGH staff and Advisory Committee work with a broad network of world-class advisors, experts, and organizations — balancing geographies, cultures, and skills.

Contact information: Lydia Stazen, Executive Director, lstazen@ighomelessness.org  
**Action Contre La Faim France | ACF-France**

Created in 1979, our Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) – Action Against Hunger – is fighting against hunger in the world. Its mission is to save lives, eradicating hunger through the prevention, detection, and treatment of malnutrition, in particular during and after emergency situations caused by conflicts and natural disasters.

Today, Action Against Hunger is a major player in the fight against hunger in the world. Structured on an international network, that provides a coordinated response in nearly 50 countries.

The French organization, which legal name is "Action Contre la Faim – France", is now member of the Global Coalition. Further information can be found here. Our 2019 narrative report, in French, is here. Our 2018's report which is in English is here.

*Contact information:* Johanna Wagman (Advocacy Analyst – Rights and Essential Services)

**Pakistan Evaluation Association (PEA)**

Pakistan Evaluation Association (PEA) is a voluntary association that promotes evaluation across Pakistan at national and sub national levels. PEA, as a professional body, advocates the culture of transparency and accountability through Evaluation in the government, private sector, and civil society.

PEA is an active Voluntary Organization Promoting Evaluation (VOPE). In a very small tenure it establishes to champion, advocate, and become voice of evaluation community at the national level. PEA is currently one of the only active evaluation associations in the country and region.

Further information can be found here.

*Contact information*
Sarah Davies, Coordinator
Sarah.davies88@hotmail.co.uk, pakevaluationassociation@gmail.com
Twitter, Facebook

**Youth Mentoring Agents for Development Organization - YOMADO**

The Youth Mentoring Agents for Development Organisation (YOMADO) is a non-government, non-profit organization that works at the grass roots level. It is a volunteer membership organization for young people. It was established in Rwanda in 2014, following the participation of (Young) founding members in a World Vision Rwanda Leadership and Governance program as beneficiaries. YOMADO was legally recognized by the Rwandan Government in 2015.

YOMADO is a youth development Organisation in Rwanda that provides services and leadership to meet the emerging needs of young people and their families in our community.

YOMADO provides an array of academic, social, and emotional development services that respond to the unmet needs of the young people we serve. Those services include academic assistance, life skills education, social skill development, recreational and athletic activities, cultural and artistic activities, parental support, crisis intervention, mentoring, case management, and individual, group, and family counseling.

*Contact information:* Emmanuel Nshimiyimana (emmyfanfare@yahoo.com)
https://yomado.org/ - Facebook: yomado
Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch (HRW) investigates and reports on abuses happening in all corners of the world. We are roughly 450 people of 70-plus nationalities who are country experts, lawyers, journalists, and others who work to protect the most at risk, from vulnerable minorities and civilians in wartime, to refugees and children in need. We direct our advocacy towards governments, armed groups and businesses, pushing them to change or enforce their laws, policies and practices. To ensure our independence, we refuse government funding and carefully review all donations to ensure that they are consistent with our policies, mission, and values. We partner with organizations large and small across the globe to protect embattled activists and to help hold abusers to account and bring justice to victims.

Respect for human rights is closely intertwined with addressing poverty and extreme inequality. HRW research exposes how people experiencing poverty are often more vulnerable to having their rights violated and abuses can further entrench barriers to people meeting their basic needs. We also document how extreme economic inequality contributes to corruption and mismanagement of public resources. We push governments to end abusive policies that contribute to poverty, and advocate respect for human rights that can help achieve the building blocks for a dignified life – such as affordable healthcare, quality education, adequate housing, a living wage, social protection and safe drinking water, as well as the rights to unionize, protest, and participate in political decision-making. Further information can be found here and here.

Contact information: Lena Simet, Senior Researcher on Poverty and Inequality

Individual member

Odile Frank

Odile Frank represented several organizations that are members of the GCSPF. In 2020 she has joined the GCSPF as individual member.
Working Groups for 2020 - 2021

Nine working groups (WGs) were confirmed at the Core Team (CT) Strategy Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2019. The report of this CT meeting is [here](#).

These nine WGs frame the work of the Global Coalition in 2020 and 2021. Working Group #10 was created in August 2021. You are invited to join them, please feel free to contact the responsible/coordinators of the WGs and/or the secretariat.

Conference calls with coordinators and/or members of the WGs were held to update each other on all the core activities they were designated for and also to coordinate future activities.

Three conference calls were held in 2020 (in February, June and November) and two in 2021 (May and December). Links to the notes of these conference calls are as follows: 1st call - February 13, 2020, 2nd call - June 10, 2020, 3rd call - November 6, 2020, 4th call - May 6, 2021, 5th call - December 14, 2021.

Please find below information about the working groups and links to all the documents that have been shared by members of the WGs.

1. Strategy on social security standards

Responsible: Odile Frank.

[Concept note, 10 November 2019](#)

2. Human Rights Monitoring of the Implementation of the four Social Security Guarantees

Coordinators: Wouter van Ginneken and Ebenezer Durojaye.

[Note 9 February 2020](#)
[Update on CESCR Concluding Observations to South Africa on Social Security/Protection](#)
[Information note 6 November 2020](#)
[Information about South Africa, November 2020](#)
[Information note, December 2021](#)

3. IMF Social Financing Strategy / IMF Country Level Monitoring Initiative

Responsibles: Barry Herman and Roberto Bissio.

[Note to start a WG discussion](#)
[Information note 5 November 2020](#)
[Information note, May 2021](#)
4. Future Engagement with USP 2030

Responsibles: Bart Verstraeten, Nicola Wiebe.
Concept note and work plan, February 2020
Information note, November 2020
Information note, documents (2021 workplan of USP2030, Advocacy material), May 2021
Information note, December 2021

5. EU DEVCO Project

EU/UNICEF/ILO/GCSPF project on social protection and public financial management
Website of the Global Action
Responsibles: Chandranshu (HelpAge), Uzziel Twagilimana (WSM), Hilde Van Regenmortel (Oxfam).
Inception workshop (Brussels, December 2019)
Programme, Concept note, Work plan, Management.
The inception phase narrative reports for Cambodia (Oxfam), Nepal (WSM), Senegal (WSM) and Uganda (HelpAge) are here.
2020 Annual reports of GCSPF countries (Cambodia, Nepal, Uganda, Senegal), and 2021 training manual on PFM by Barry Herman and Gemma Adaba Report December 2021, PFM Training (powerpoint).

6. Joint engagement at CSocD, CSW and HLPF 2020

Responsibles: Winifred Doherty, Sylvia Beales (APSP).
Concept note, November 2019
Updated information, June 2020

7. Strategy on global financing mechanism (e.g. global fund, also including the discussion on a new UN tax body)

Responsibles: Nicola Wiebe and Michael Cichon.
A proposal for the decade of action on the SDGs 2020-2030.
Civil Society Call for a Global Fund for Social Protection to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and to build a better future
Conceptual framework and results of discussions, January 2020

8. The role of UHC as a cross cutting issue

Responsibile: Odile Frank.
Concept note, 10 November 2019
L’accès universel aux soins de santé (Odile Frank, Revue Quart Monde 2020/3 N°255)

9. The right to be cared

Responsibile: Roberto Bissio.
The concept note is available here.
Note on Argentina, 6 November 2020.

10. World Bank

Responsibles: Gunnel Axelsson Nycander and Johanna Wagman.
Information about this group.
IDA20 and social protection: Comments on proposed policy commitments (word file and pdf file), September 2021
Comments on the social protection elements in the IDA20 draft Deputies Report, November 2021