

Social protection – a key tool in climate action

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Link: [Social protection and climate action \(svenskakyrkan.se\)](https://svenskakyrkan.se)



SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE ACTION

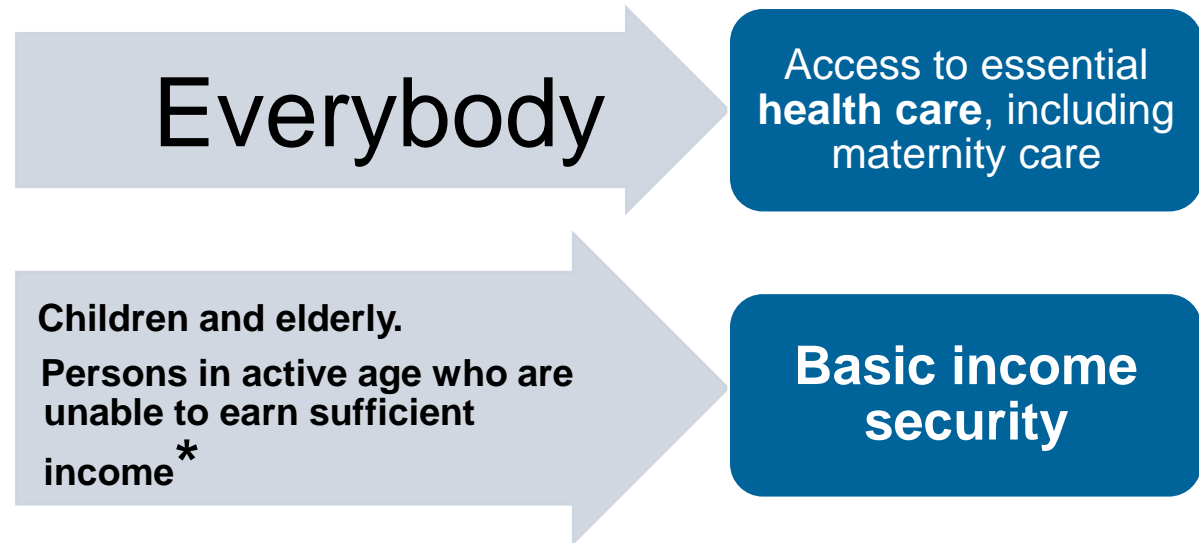
A policy brief by Act Church of Sweden, Olof Palme International Center, Social Policy Initiative and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.




Right to social security: social protection floors a first step



ILO Recommendation 202 (2012):
A globally agreed minimum package



*in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability



What has social
protection to do with
climate change?

1. Coping with risks

Social protection is a key tool to cope with crises for individuals and societies

The climate emergency exacerbates risks at an unprecedented level.



2. Facilitating transition

Having economic security reduces people's fear and resistance to the transition.

→ Social protection makes climate action possible.



“Adaptive” and “shock-responsive” social protection?

- Flexibility need respond rapidly and be scaled up in times of co-variate shocks
- Social protection is shock-responsive and adaptive by definition.
- In reality: ASP is often narrowly poverty targeted.
- Lesson from Covid-19: broad/universal programs are possible to scale up quickly.





Social protection in climate action

Climate adaptation: Social protection builds resilience

- Possibility to invest in livelihood adaptation
- Health and care services
- Transform underlying vulnerabilities (women, persons with disability, others)

Today: growing interest, but seldom in long-term adaptation



Loss and Damage: Support people in situations that are beyond adaptation

- Direct relief so save lives, prevent hunger
- Bridge crises, prevent spiralling debt,
- Prevent negative coping strategies
- Prevent migration
- Support workers when heat waves makes it impossible to work safely
- Address vulnerabilities



Move from needs-based humanitarian response to rights-based social protection.

Mitigation: Social protection ensures a Just Transition

- Unemployment protection.
(Globally, only 19 per cent of unemployed workers covered)
- Active labour market policies
Skills development and on-the-job training programmes.
- Include informal sector.
- Address gender and intersecting inequalities and discrimination.



UBIG an option: SPI example from South Africa



- Benefits both laid-off workers in coal mines and secondary and tertiary jobs around the mines.
- Not sufficient income, but a necessary social protection floor on which additional livelihoods can be built.



Recommendations

(summary version)

1. Invest in universal social protection

1. Support developing countries' efforts to implement social protection floors.
2. Intensify the work to formalise the informal economy and prevent tax evasion → deliver social protection for all.
3. Strengthen the capacities of community based social protection mechanisms.
4. Develop innovative schemes for social protection that address the needs of informal and other “atypical” workers.
5. Ensure that all social protection programmes promote gender equality.

2. Climate-proof social protection

6. Do not create separate social protection programmes to manage climate risks.
7. Plan for uncertainty. Prepare for upscaling in emergencies.



3. Pay for Loss & Damage and enable countries to expand social protection

8. Recognise responsibility for and allocate funds to address climate-induced Loss and Damage.
9. Address the link between Loss and Damage and social protection in national climate plans.
10. Refrain from pushing private insurance as a major approach to handle loss and damage.
11. Address the capacity and funding gap of the humanitarian system through expansion of social protection systems that address Loss and Damage.



4. Support Just Transitions worldwide

12. Make binding national commitments to Just Transition, including social protection for workers.
13. Let trade unions and other civil society organisations be part of shaping systems for social protection.
14. Ensure social protection of workers in the entire supply chain.
15. Consider a Universal Basic Income Grant (UBIG) as an element of a social protection floor where social protection systems are lacking.



Questions?

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Svenska kyrkan 

Comments

- Neil Cole, JET Just Energy Transition investment plan commission of SA government
- Privata pengar också
- Frågor

What has social protection to do with climate change?

1. Social protection is a key tool to cope with crises for individuals and societies and the climate emergency exacerbates risks at an unprecedented level.
2. Social protection makes climate action possible – having economic security reduces people's resistance to the transition.