



ONLINE EVENT

ENDING CHILD POVERTY: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION, CARE SYSTEMS AND DECENT WORK

17 October 2023, 09:00 AM (EDT)

#ENDCHILDPOVERTY

Global Coalition to End Child Poverty:

- 20+ member initiative to raise awareness about children living in poverty across the world and support global and national action to alleviate it



Global Coalition to End Child Poverty

ARE COUNTRIES COMMITTED TO ENDING CHILD POVERTY BY 2030?
A review of Voluntary National Review Reports from 2017 to 2022

ENDING CHILD POVERTY: A policy agenda

CHILD POVERTY: A CALL TO TACKLE ITS PERSISTENCE
July 2021

Executive Summary

Before the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2019, 689 million people across the world were living in extreme poverty¹ and 1.3 billion in multidimensional poverty². Children are disproportionately impacted by poverty: they are twice as likely as adults to be living in extreme³ and multidimensional poverty⁴. People living in extreme poverty are often among the chronically poor and their children struggle to escape poverty. Children growing up in extreme poverty are more likely to experience extreme poverty in adulthood compared to their peers who experience moderate or no poverty (Bird, 2010⁵; Bird and Higgins, 2011⁶). Children in chronically poor households are also more likely to experience malnutrition and stunting and wasting⁷, which will affect their cognitive and physical development and their life-long earnings. They are far less likely to complete primary school, let alone gain the secondary school education that is necessary for them to obtain decent work in the formal sector. They have less access to good quality health care, meaning that they are more likely to experience illness or even die prematurely. Social and institutional maltreatment (stigma and discrimination; family separation) towards children and families living in extreme poverty create additional obstacles to break the vicious cycle of exclusion and poverty.

Money invested early in childhood and during adolescence means that less needs to be spent later in the life course to keep people out of poverty. Since poverty affects boys and girls differently (for instance, early marriage and pregnancies or caregiving responsibilities for girls), special attention needs to be given to the gendered impact of poverty. Equally important are investments in social protection systems providing children and their caregivers with income support and links to other services which can be critical in meeting children's basic needs and allowing families in poverty to stay together and lead a life of dignity. In addition, strong emotional support systems for children are needed as well as policies combating stigmatisation, fostering social cohesion and integration.

ENDING CHILD POVERTY: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION, CARE SYSTEMS AND DECENT WORK

Online Event



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Global Policy &
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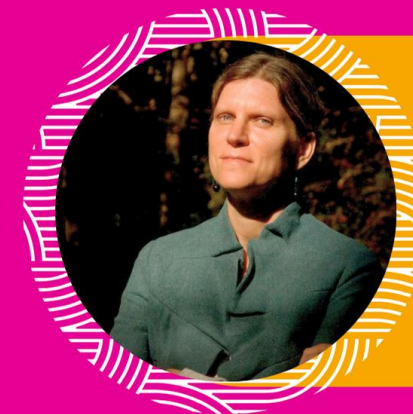
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► **Social protection, care and decent work
to eradicate child poverty and improve
children's well-being**

Online event on the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty
Ending Child Poverty: The Role of Social Protection, Care Systems and Decent Work
17 October 2023

Christina Behrendt, Head of Social Policy Unit, ILO Social Protection Department

The state of social protection for children worldwide: stalled progress

- ▶ 1.5 billion children – 3 in 4 children aged 0-15 – do not receive child or family benefits, with troubling regional disparities
 - ▶ Africa: only 12.6% of children receive child or family benefits
 - ▶ Asia and Pacific and Arab States: effective coverage remains also below 20% of children
- ▶ Overall social protection coverage has made little progress, with more than half of the global population (53%) unprotected
 - ▶ Africa: only 17.4% of the population is effectively covered
 - ▶ Asia and Pacific: effective coverage increased to 44% of the population
- ▶ Closing coverage gaps requires greater investment in universal social protection systems
 - ▶ Social protection expenditure remains far too low: UMICs spend 0.5% of their GDP on social protection for children and LICs only 0.1%.
 - ▶ Financing gap for social protection floors has increased by 30% during COVID-19, yet national fiscal capacities and international support are overstretched.
 - ▶ Investment in social protection is indispensable for reducing child poverty, addressing inequalities and vulnerabilities, and ensuring well-being, social inclusion and social justice

Figure 1. Percentage of children 0–15 years receiving child or family cash benefits, 2016 and 2020 or latest available year (SDG indicator 1.3.1)

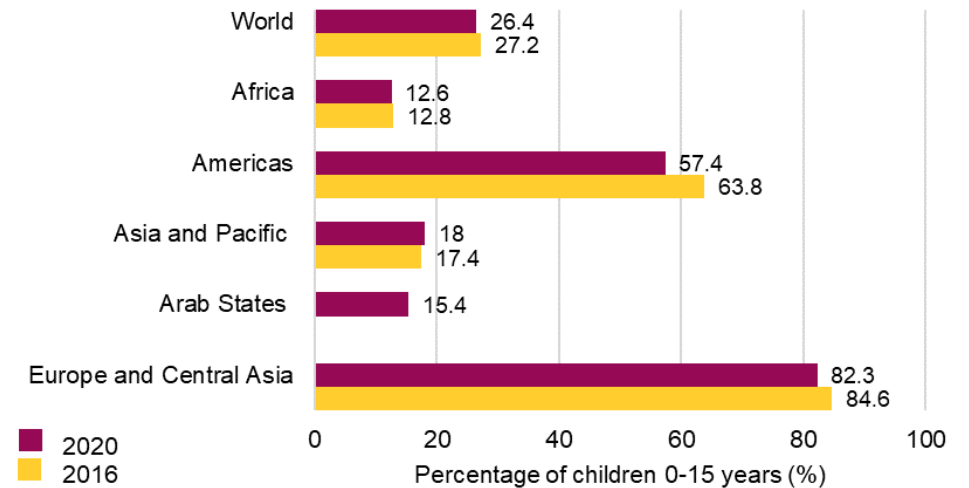
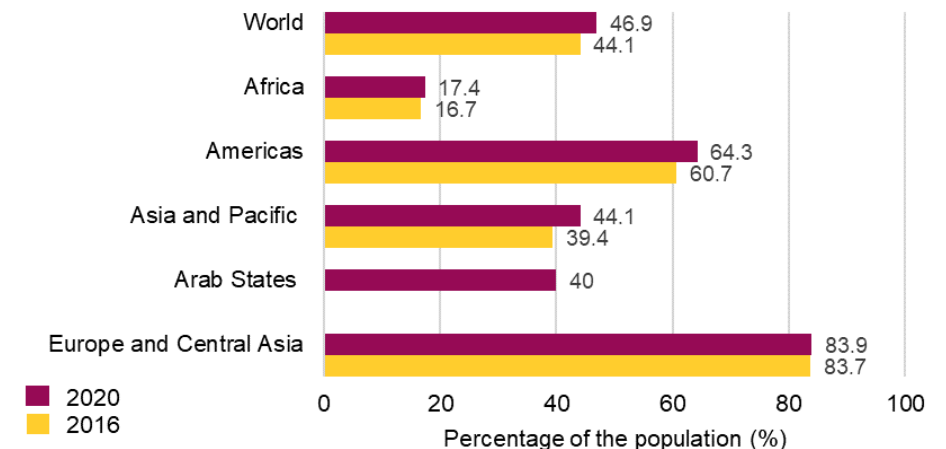


Figure 2. Percentage of the population covered by at least one social protection benefit, 2016 and 2020 or latest available year (SDG indicator 1.3.1)

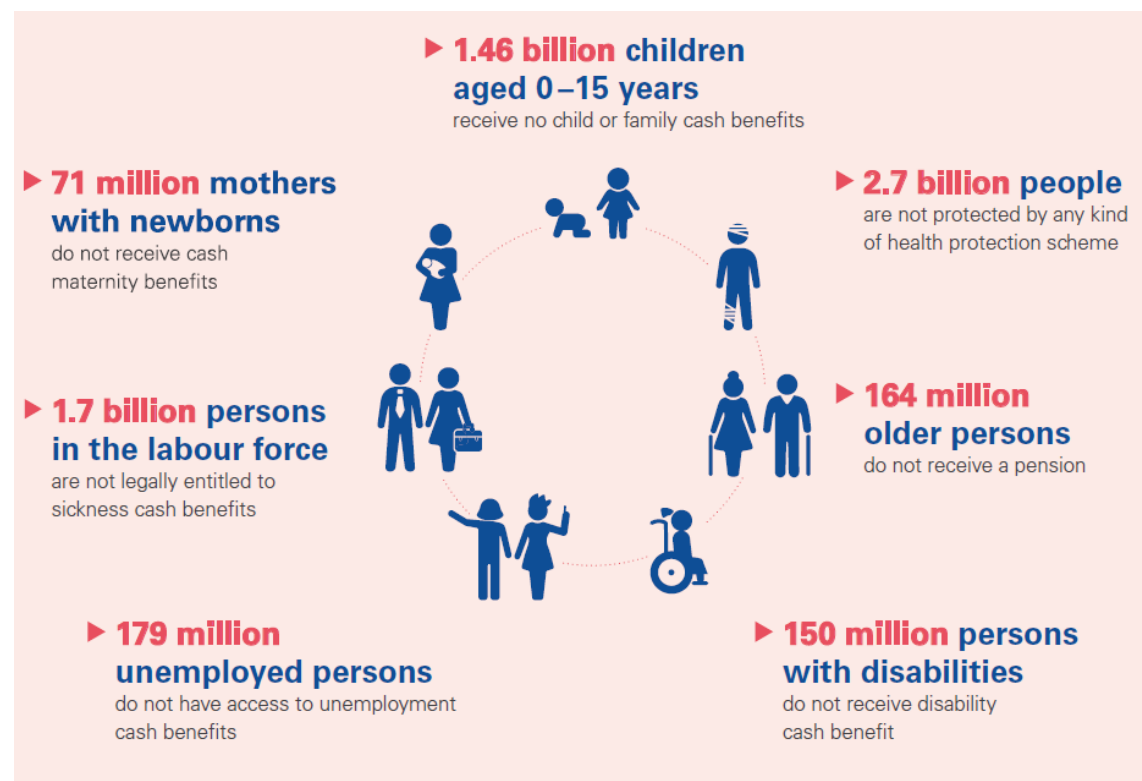


Source: ILO and UNICEF (2023) [More than a billion reasons: the urgent need to build universal social protection for children](#); ILO (2021), [World Social Protection Report 2020-22](#).

Ensuring comprehensive lifecycle protection and closing decent work deficits

- ▶ **The well-being of children cannot be dissociated from that of their parents and other caregivers**
 - ▶ A gap anywhere across the life-cycle is to the **detriment of children**
 - ▶ **Adequate social protection** also for parents and other caregivers is indispensable.
 - ▶ Addressing **decent work deficits** is essential, such as working poverty (214 million workers live on less than \$1.90/day), ensuring fair wages and earnings, and adequate labour and social protection.
 - ▶ **Extending social protection** to 2 billion workers in the informal economy is key to reduce decent work deficits and facilitate transitions to the formal economy
- ▶ **Building rights-based universal social protection systems**
 - ▶ Nationally-defined **social protection floor** that guarantees at least a basic level of social security (income security and access to health care)
 - ▶ **Higher levels of protection** through contributory mechanisms that allow for risk-sharing and solidarity (especially social insurance)
 - ▶ **Sustainable and equitable financing** through taxes and contributions (solidarity!)

Figure 3. The numbers at a glance: The absence of social protection for different population groups and of comprehensiveness for selected benefits



Source: ILO and UNICEF (2023) [More than a billion reasons: the urgent need to build universal social protection for children](#); ILO (2021), [World Social Protection Report 2020-22](#).

How do social protection, care and decent work interact? Example: policies to address child labour

- ▶ Recent ILO/UNICEF study on impact of social protection on child labour highlights key ingredients of a comprehensive strategy:
 - ▶ **Social protection** throughout the life course
 - ▶ Adequate child and family benefits
 - ▶ Maternity, paternity and parental leave benefits
 - ▶ Social health protection to ensure universal health coverage
 - ▶ Ensuring adequate social protection for workers in all types of employment is essential for parents and other caregivers
 - ▶ **Care:** effective access to quality care and related benefits, respecting the rights of care recipients, caregivers and care workers (including their rights to social protection)
 - ▶ **Decent work:** decent and productive employment, ensuring rights and social dialogue, safe and healthy working conditions, fair wages, skills development – and of course labour and social protection

Figure 4. Elements of an integrated social protection system for addressing child labour: overview of identified impact of different social protection schemes on the reduction of vulnerabilities associated with child labour

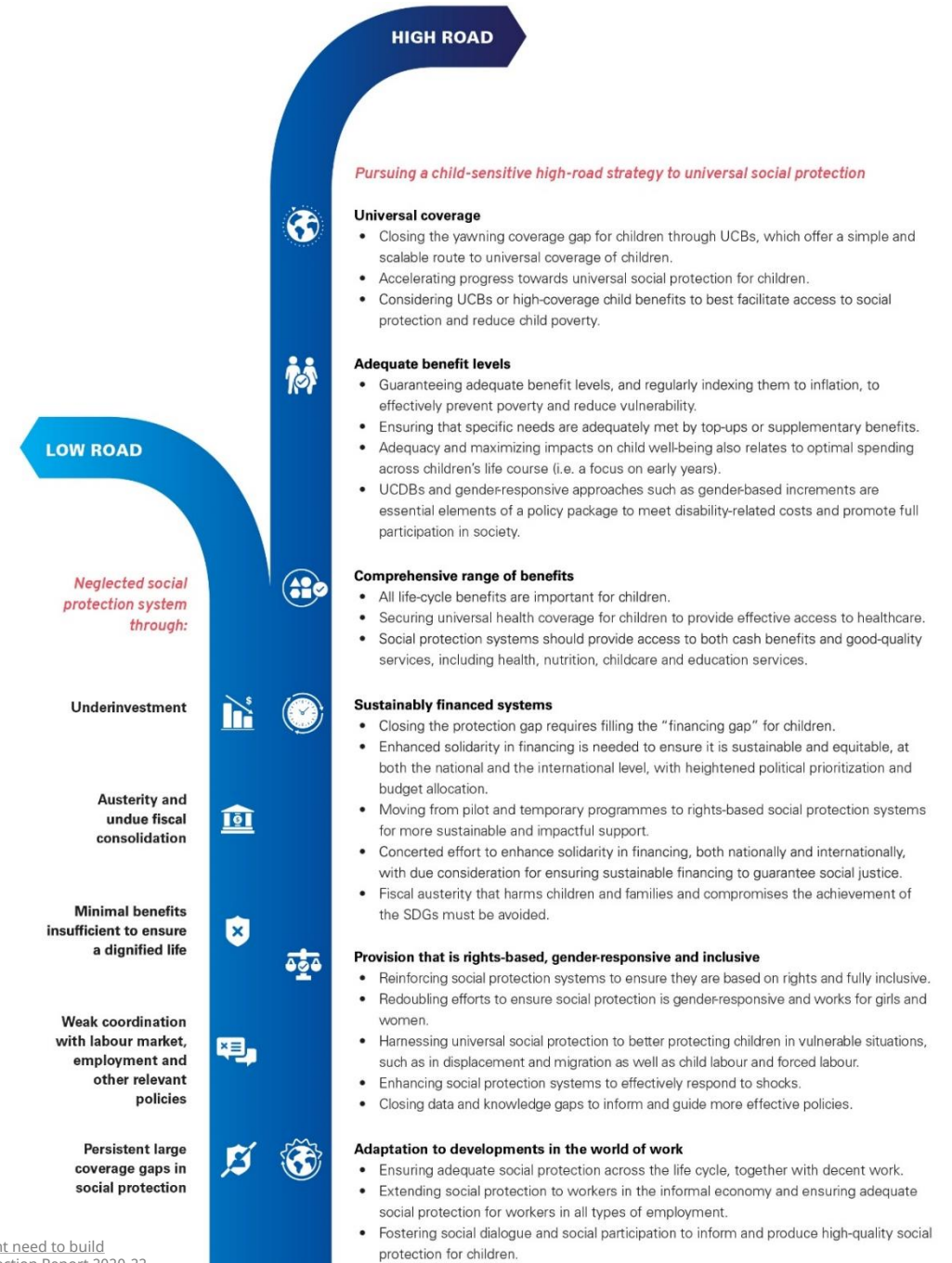
		Challenges rendering households vulnerable to reliance on child labour							
		General poverty and vulnerability	Individual shocks	Collective shocks	Injury and illness	Lack of school access, high costs of schooling	Job loss	Long-term disability	Income insecurity associated with old age
Social protection instruments	Benefits to children and families	Cash transfers							
		In-kind transfers							
		"Cash plus" programmes							
		Quasi-universal or universal child benefits							
	Other benefit categories	Public employment programmes							
		Unemployment protection							
		Maternity protection							
		Old-age pensions							
		Disability protection							
		Social health protection							
		Sickness benefits							
		Employment injury compensation							
		Survivors benefits							
		Universal basic income							

Evidence of child labour reduction impact exists
 Despite lack of child labour studies, high probability of a protective impact on child labour
 No identified impact

Source: ILO and UNICEF (2022) [The role of social protection in the elimination of child labour](#).

6 action points for taking the high road to ensure universal social protection for children

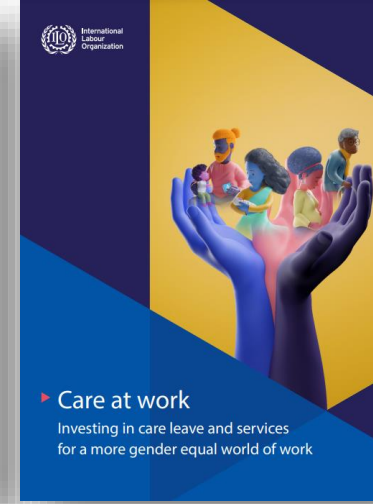
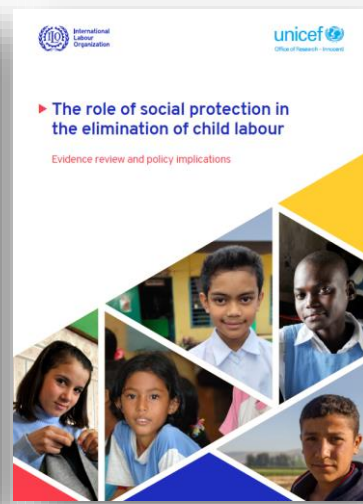
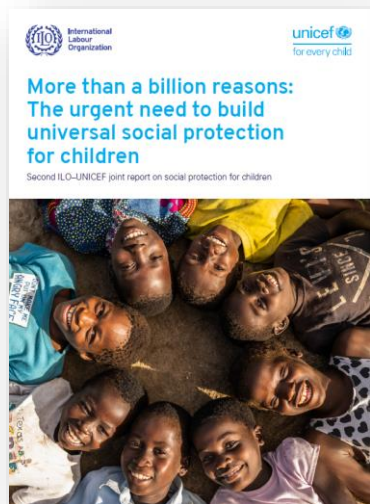
- ▶ Accelerate progress towards **universal coverage for all children** as a critical step towards improving their well-being (such as universal child benefits)
- ▶ Guarantee **adequate benefit levels and quality services** to generate meaningful change in children's lives.
- ▶ Provide a **comprehensive range of benefits** that supports children and families through a life-cycle approach, including income security and access to health care, nutrition, childcare and education.
- ▶ Ensure **sustainably financed social protection systems**, ensuring solidarity in financing through taxes and social insurance contributions, avoiding fiscal austerity that harms children – the cost of inaction are enormous!
- ▶ Build **social protection systems, including floors, that are rights-based, gender-responsive and inclusive** and that can effectively respond to multiple shocks and crises
- ▶ Ensure that **social protection systems are adapted to developments in the world of work – Decent work** for parents and other caregivers is essential for preventing poverty and vulnerability, reducing inequalities and for fostering well-being, dignity, social inclusion and a strong social contract.





▶ **Thank you for listening!**

Read more:

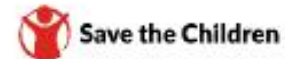


Click [here](#) for the Call To Action

presented by Jennifer Yablonski



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The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty

A Call to Action to expand social protection and care systems and promote decent work to address child poverty

A staggering 333 million children live in extreme poverty, struggling to survive on less than \$2.15 per day, and more than 800 million children subsist below a poverty line of \$3.65 per day.¹ Beyond income metrics of poverty, half of the 1.1 billion people experiencing multidimensional poverty (MPI) are children, even if their share of the global population is only around 30 percent.² Approximately one billion children are deprived of their basic rights and needs in areas such as health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and housing.³