

# Global Programme 'Global Alliances for Social Protection'

## Achieving social protection for all through alliances and partnerships

### Context: Why Germany's commitment to social protection matters

Social protection is a human right and an important instrument for the elimination of poverty and inequality. The 2030 Agenda envisions that social protection systems should be accessible to all people worldwide by 2030 (SDG 1).

In recent years the COVID-19 pandemic, the worsening climate crisis, and deepening food insecurity have brought unprecedented attention to the importance of social protection for individuals and societies alike. Despite this, more than half of the world's population of almost eight billion people still has little or no access to any form of social protection.

Germany supports efforts to develop universal, inclusive and adaptive social protection systems which strengthen the resilience of the population to individual life risks and collective crises. During Germany's presidency of the G7 in 2022, development ministers set a goal of providing access to social protection for an additional one billion people worldwide by 2025 to ensure a socially just transition to green, carbon-neutral economies. Germany also encourages greater coordination between bilateral, multilateral and national actors to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal social protection.

### Approach: Five areas of the programme to support the implementation of social protection initiatives

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the 'Global Alliances for Social Protection' (GASP) programme aims to advance the implementation of selected international social protection initiatives at the global and national levels. The programme focuses on five areas:

1. Developing digital public goods for health and social protection;

					
Programme title	Global Alliances for Social Protection (GASP)				
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); openIMIS co-financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)				
Region	Worldwide, including Rwanda and Uzbekistan. openIMIS is used in 10 countries in Africa and Asia. Activities related to the Global Shield are planned in selected Global Shield Pathfinder Countries.				
Duration	09/2023 - 08/2026				
Financial volume	21.648.600 € (including 1.850.600 € from SDC)				

2. Setting standards for greater interoperability in digital social protection;
3. Improving financing for adaptive social protection;
4. Enhancing cooperation between bi- and multilateral actors; and
5. Strengthening country leadership and ownership of social protection.

### openIMIS: The leading digital public good for health and social protection

openIMIS is an open source software which facilitates the administration of health financing and social protection schemes. Supported by a vibrant community of users, developers, implementers and academics, openIMIS is adaptable to different programme and country needs, and interoperable with various data exchange formats. The software, which is free to download, customise and use, is already used for managing the data and processes of more than ten million beneficiaries in ten countries.

The coordination desk of the openIMIS Initiative, hosted by GIZ, promotes the use, continuous development and further integration of openIMIS with other digital systems. Following the successful merger of the World Bank's CORE-MIS solution into the openIMIS

architecture in 2023, the tool now offers expanded functionalities, including the potential to act as a social registry. openIMIS is being expanded to additional partner countries with support from GASP and through partnerships with the International Labour Organization, the International Social Security Association, the World Bank, and the World Food Programme.

### **The Digital Convergence Initiative: Setting standards for greater interoperability**

Digital solutions which are interoperable – and easy to use, integrate, maintain and scale – are essential for the coordinated and efficient provision of social protection services. The **Digital Convergence Initiative** (DCI) is a joint effort to develop and disseminate consensus-based transnational technical standards as the basis for a harmonised, interoperable digital ecosystem for the management of social protection systems. Such standards will allow different systems – from social registers and civil registers, to identification and payment systems – to be flexibly linked, reducing the time and cost of developing solutions at country and programme level. GASP supports the implementation of the DCI by facilitating dialogue formats, such as webinars and workshops (e.g. **Talking Interoperability, Interoperability in Action**), and by providing technical support for the development of global standards and their integration at country level.

### **The Global Shield and beyond: Financing for adaptive social protection**

Many countries face challenges in growing the fiscal space needed to finance social protection, and specifically the flexible expansion of social protection coverage and benefit levels for managing collective risks. To improve financing for adaptive social protection, GASP supports selected pathfinder countries of the **Global Shield against Climate Risks** (e.g. Bangladesh, Ghana, Malawi, Pakistan and Senegal) to link suitable climate risk finance solutions with social protection programmes. This enables anticipatory, rapid and effective responses to climate-related risks and thereby minimises losses and damages among vulnerable populations.

To develop common recommendations for the sustainable financing of adaptive social protection GASP also supports dialogues between national partners and bilateral and multilateral partners, including the International Labour Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This includes, for example, domestic resource mobilisation and socially equitable taxation, and ensuring that national partners benefit from coordinated support from development partners.

### **Bi- and multilateral cooperation: Accelerating the development of social protection systems**

Close cooperation between different international actors, and between bilateral and multilateral development cooperation efforts, can accelerate the development of social protection systems and make them more sustainable. As part of a broader strategic partnership with the World Bank, GASP provides complementary support to World Bank investments in **Rwanda** and **Uzbekistan** by strengthening the capacity of local and national governments to further develop and improve the digital backbone of their social protection systems. In addition, GASP supports the efforts of the **Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions** to test new modalities for linking multilateral and bilateral development cooperation in countries where German development cooperation has a social protection portfolio.

### **Leadership programme: Empowering decision-makers for effective social protection reforms**

Finally, the programme works to strengthen the ownership and capacity of decision-makers in partner countries to implement social protection reforms through the development of a social protection leadership programme. Through a combination of proven methodologies and sharing of first-hand experiences, participants in the programme will be better able to steer reform processes and coordinate the cooperation across different government institutions and ministries in areas including digitalisation, financing, social protection and climate risk financing. Modelled on the successful **Leadership for Universal Health Coverage (L4UHC)**, the programme will accompany concrete social protection reform processes at country level, thereby contributing to the improvement of national social protection systems.

Published by:  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Global Programme 'Global Alliances for Social Protection' (GASP)

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36+40  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15  
E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de/en](http://www.giz.de/en)

Author:  
Karen Birdsall

Design:  
Karsten van der Oord

Photo credits:  
Deepak Kumar, Unsplash

As at:  
January 2024