

PROMOTING INCLUSION THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION

Report on the World Social Situation 2018



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social.un.org/rwss

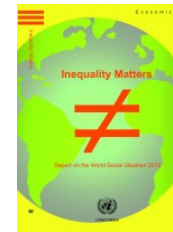


RWSS: flagship publication on social issues, 23 editions since 1952

**Report on the World Social Situation 2005:
The Inequality Predicament**



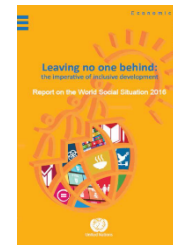
**Report on the World Social Situation 2013:
Inequality Matters**



**Report on the World Social Situation 2007:
The Employment Imperative**



**Report on the World Social Situation 2016:
Social Inclusion**



**Report on the World Social Situation 2010:
Rethinking Poverty**



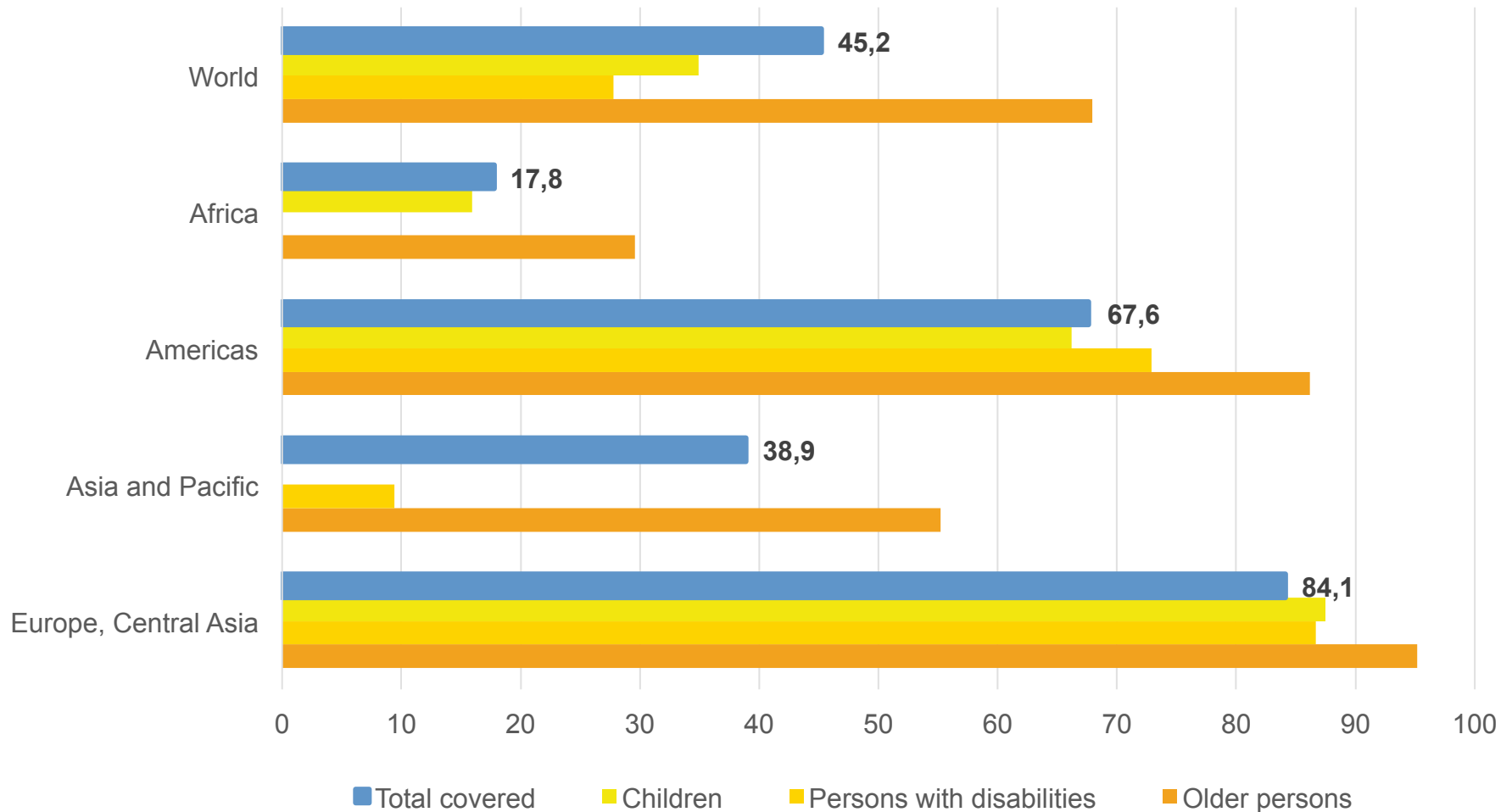
Why focus on social protection? Consensus on social protection as tool to promote sustainable development and “leave no one behind”



•**Target 1.3.** *Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable*

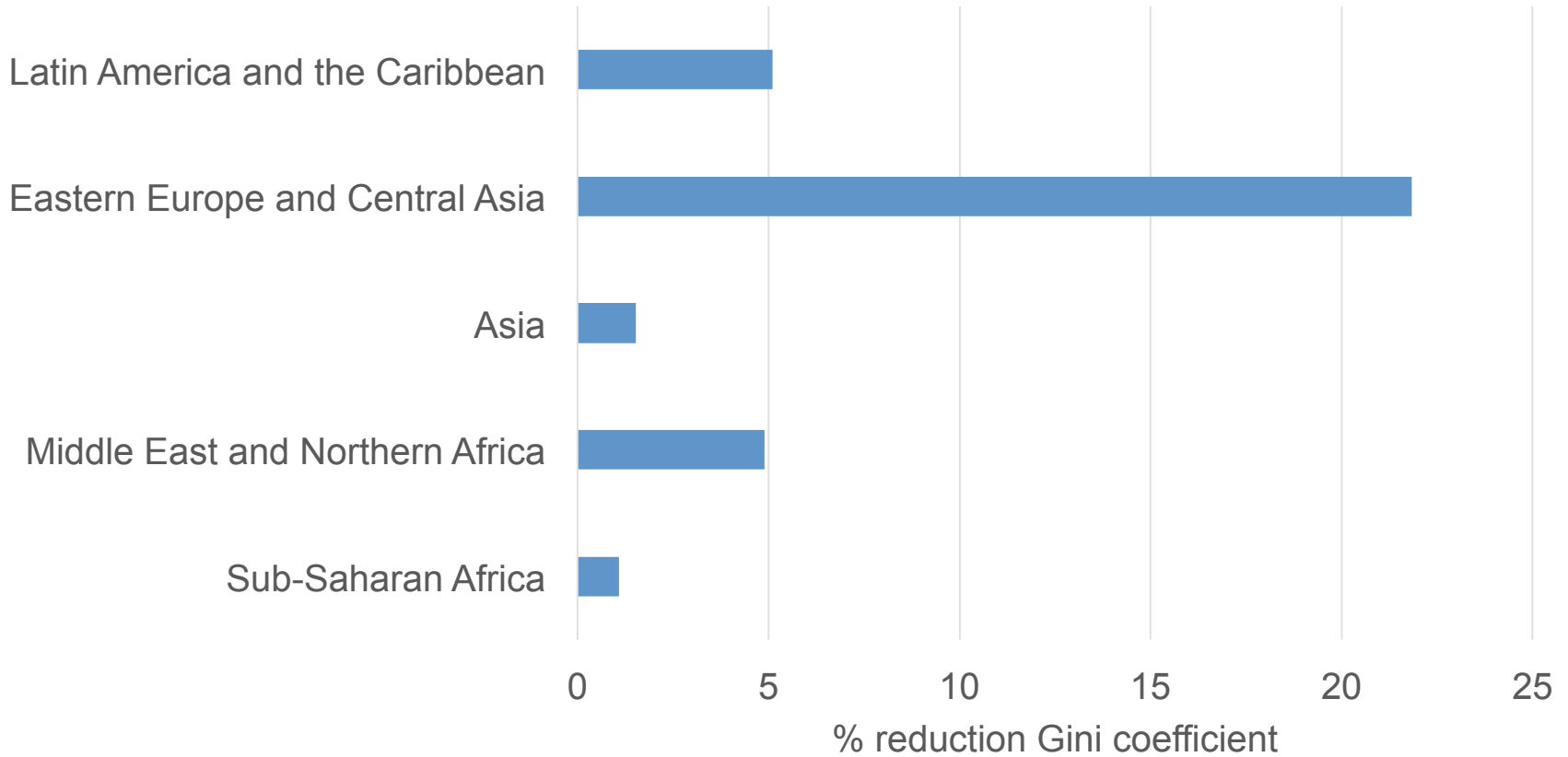
•**Target 10.2.** *By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status*

Only 45 per cent of the world population is covered by at least one social protection scheme (ILO, 2017)





Impact of social protection on the Gini coefficient (% reduction)





But, what is the impact of social protection in promoting the inclusion of all? (target 10.2)

Specific focus on children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.

- What are the barriers to the effective coverage of the groups selected?
- Is social protection addressing the disadvantages faced by these groups? Is it helping reduce inequalities across groups?
- How should social protection programmes be designed and implemented to address the needs of these groups?

Some main points from group-specific analysis

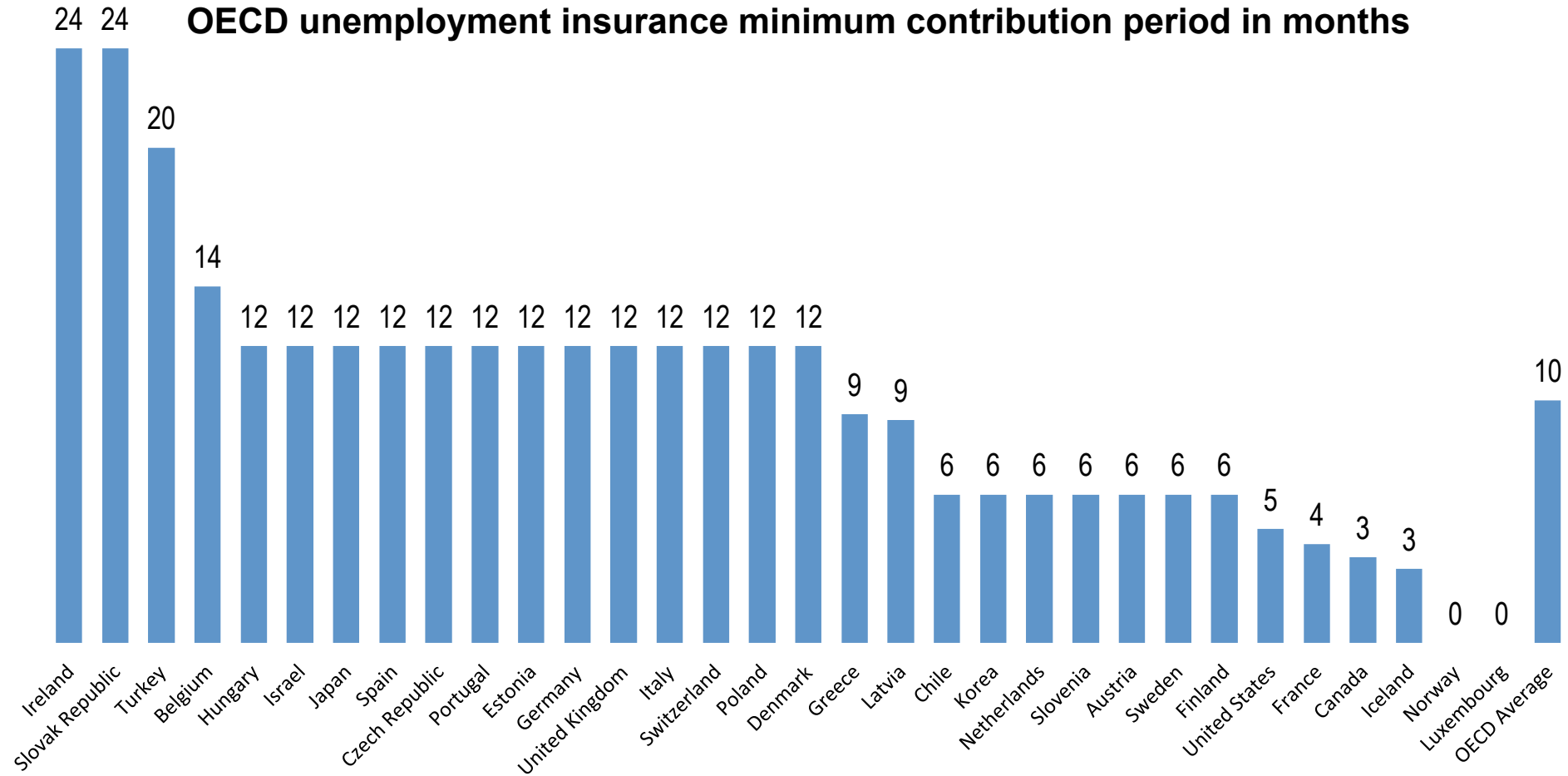
1. What are the barriers to the effective coverage of the groups selected?

Commonalities in the barriers to the effective coverage of the groups selected

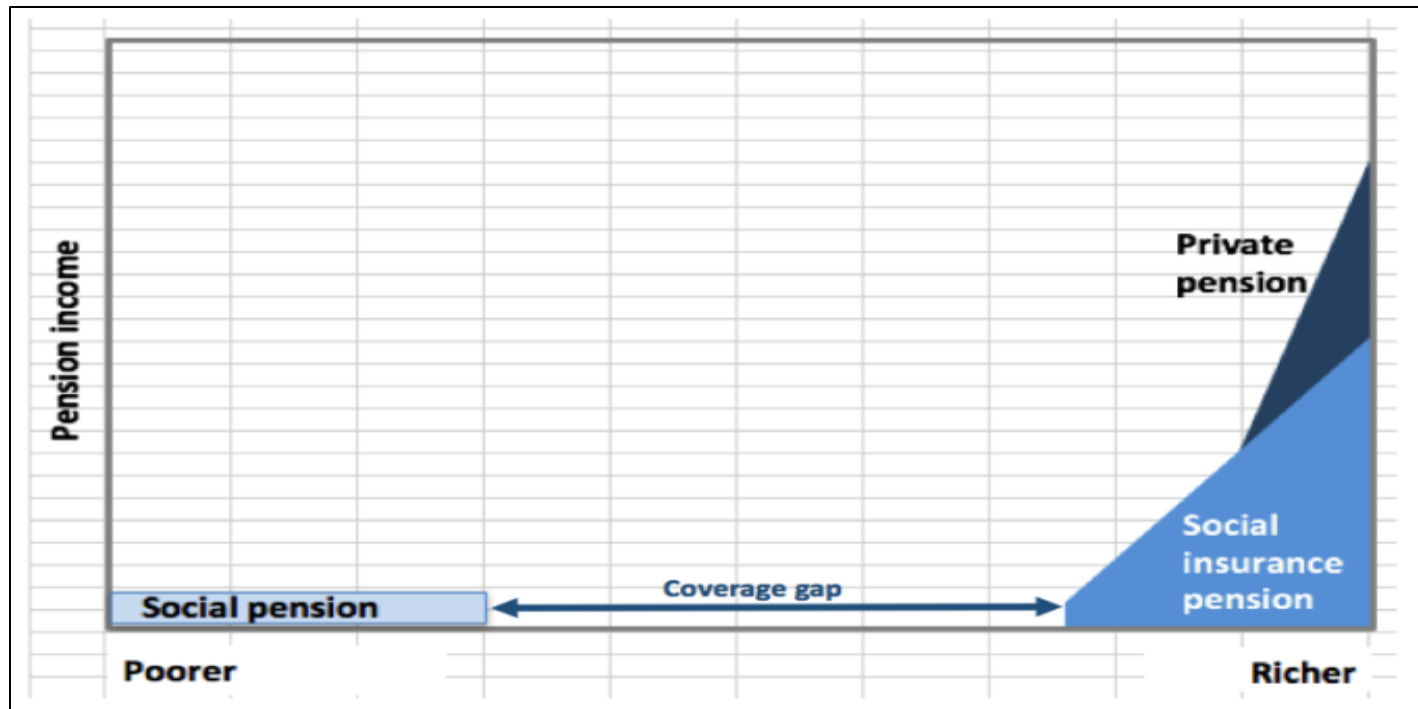
- Informal employment: youth, persons with disabilities, migrants, members of ethnic minorities, especially women
- Location: some indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, migrants
- Policy formulation, design and implementation: contributory and tax-financed measures (non-contributory); targeted vs. universal; conditional vs. non-conditional; registration and payment; accessible information).

Workforce disadvantage limits coverage by contributory schemes

OECD unemployment insurance minimum contribution period in months



Systems with both contributory and targeted schemes can create a coverage gap in the middle



Universal social protection that offers benefits to all is a step in the right direction



Credit: Stephen Devereux, IDS



Credit: UN Photo

But not complete answer!
Must be available *and* accessible

Some main points from group-specific analysis

1. What are the barriers to the effective coverage of the groups selected?
2. Is social protection addressing the disadvantages faced by these groups? Is it helping reduce inequalities across groups?

Even when available and accessible, benefits not always sufficient to address disadvantage and reduce inequalities

- Income security = benefits received, their duration and under what conditions they are provided
 - Tax-financed benefits often lower than contributory benefits
 - Don't always consider group-specific characteristics of poverty and vulnerability
 - Group-specific gaps are too large to be addressed by transfers

Some main points from group-specific analysis

1. What are the barriers to the effective coverage of the groups selected?
2. Is social protection addressing the disadvantages faced by these groups? Is it helping reduce inequalities across groups?
3. How should social protection programmes be designed and implemented to address the needs of these groups?

Social protection to leave no one behind: 3 key conditions

1. Availability: pursuing universal coverage with strong legal framework

- Meeting needs of a diverse population at all stages of the life cycle
- Contributory schemes alone insufficient
- Minimum set of tax-financed alternatives to guarantee coverage
- Strong legal & institutional frameworks

Social protection to leave no one behind: 3 key conditions

2. Accessibility: to all without discrimination

- Special measures still needed, but as complements not substitutes
- Social protection programmes with conditions are less likely to be inclusive
- Simplified administrative procedures
- Participation and consultation
- Beneficiary feedback, including robust grievance mechanisms
- Information and communication

Social protection to leave no one behind: 3 key conditions

3. Adequacy: to provide income security

- ILO Recommendation 202: “basic income security should allow life in dignity”
- Fiscal commitment is required
- Social protection floors are affordable
- Balance between sufficiency and sustainability

But: Social protection alone cannot achieve social inclusion

- Doesn't address stigma and discrimination
- Needs to be linked to appropriate and adequate social services
- Also: There remains a general lack of data on social protection