



ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR THE PORTABILITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY ENTITLEMENTS AND EARNED BENEFITS



Associated actions

- a. **Establish or maintain non-discriminatory national social protection systems**, including social protection floors for nationals and migrants, in line with the ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors
- b. **Conclude reciprocal bilateral, regional or multilateral social security agreements** on the portability of earned benefits for migrant workers at all skills levels, which refer to applicable social protection floors in the respective States, applicable social security entitlements and provisions, such as pensions, healthcare or other earned benefits, or integrate such provisions into other relevant agreements, such as those on long-term and temporary labour migration
- c. **Integrate provisions on the portability of entitlements and earned benefits into national social security frameworks**, designate focal points in countries of origin, transit and destination that facilitate portability requests from migrants, address the difficulties women and older persons can face in accessing social protection, and establish dedicated instruments, such as migrant welfare funds in countries of origin that support migrant workers and their families



Example practices

For more practices, visit the Migration Network Hub's **Repository of Practices**

Bilateral social security agreements

A World Bank-sponsored project studying four migration corridors between European Union and non-European Union countries (Austria–Turkey, Germany–Turkey, Belgium–Morocco, and France–Morocco) found that bilateral social security agreements (BSSAs) did not create any significant advantage or disadvantage that risked affecting labour mobility on a major scale. The project also highlighted the need for enhanced research around BSSAs in certain areas (such as fiscal fairness). The project also confirmed the idea that migration decisions are marginally impacted by the presence or absence of portability (Holzmann, 2018).

Portable social security benefits for migrants

Portable social security benefits for migrants have great potential to alleviate poverty and contribute to development. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) allows for the accumulation of social security contributions across CARICOM Member States. This allows migrant workers to meet state pension contribution thresholds (Hagen-Zanker, 2018).

COVID-19 pandemic and social protection systems

There are parts of social protection systems that are inclusive of all regardless of status, or include measures specifically targeting migrants who are excluded from state welfare. Some of these measures have emerged to address the widespread loss of employment of people already in in-work poverty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

▪ **Ireland's Pandemic Unemployment Payment:** In Ireland, the Pandemic Unemployment Payment, a weekly cash payment of EUR 350 available for 12 weeks for people who have lost their employment due to COVID-19, includes undocumented workers. Undocumented workers can access information from social welfare services and apply for support free from the fear of their personal data being transferred for immigration purposes (Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, 2020).

▪ **California's Disaster Relief Fund:** A state-wide public-private partnership in California will provide a total of a total of USD 125 million financial support to undocumented migrants impacted by COVID-19. California will provide USD 75 million to a Disaster Relief Fund to support undocumented Californians impacted by COVID-19 and ineligible for other financial supports due to immigration status. Approximately 150,000 undocumented adult Californians will receive a one-time cash payment of USD 500 per adult with a cap of USD 1,000 per household. It will be dispersed through non-profit organizations (see State of California Executive Order N-50-20). Philanthropic partners have committed to raising an additional USD 50 million in disaster relief assistance (Government of California, 2020).

▪ **New York City's COVID-19 Immigrant Emergency Relief:** Using a USD 20 million donation from Open Society Foundations, the New York City COVID-19 Immigrant Emergency Relief programme will create a citywide network of community-based organizations that will provide direct, one-time emergency relief payments

to immigrant families, including undocumented workers (USD 400 per individual, usually with a cap of USD 1,000 per household). This initial funding will reach up to 20,000 undocumented workers and their families affected by COVID-19 related job loss and facing financial distress (City of New York, 2020).



Relevant sustainable development goals



SDG 1: No poverty

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



SDG 3: Good health and well-being

▪**3.8:** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all



SDG 5: Gender equality

▪**5.4:** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate



SDG 10: reduced inequalities

- 10.4:** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies



SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

- 17.18:** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context