Social security

Making sure everyone can get support



Easy Read

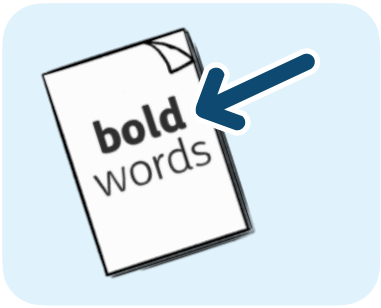
Easy Read



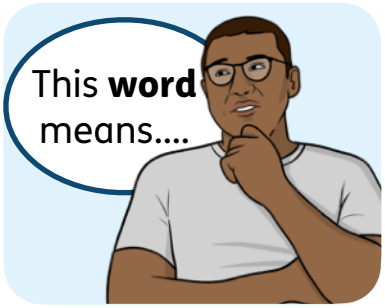
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this report



The **United Nations** has written this report about how countries can make sure that everyone can get **social security**.



The **United Nations (UN)** is an organisation that brings many countries to work together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



Social security is money and support from the government to protect people who are in need.



Social security can help people who:

- Do not have money.
- Have an illness.
- Cannot work.

Social security



Everyone in the world should be able to get social security. It is a **human right**.



Human rights are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



Social security includes pensions and disability benefits.

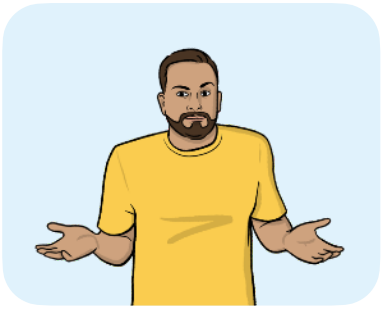


Countries must make sure that people can get help when they need it.

People might need social security because:



- They are sick and cannot work.



- They cannot find a job.

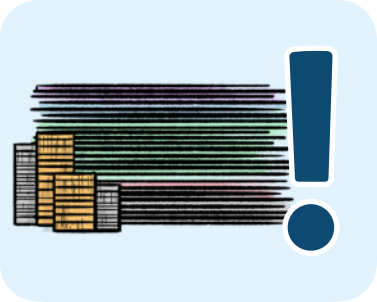


- They are too old to work.



- They cannot work because they have young children.

2030 Agenda



Social security is an important part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.



The 2030 Agenda is a plan that many countries agreed on in 2015 for making the world a better place by 2030.



Social security helps everyone to have enough money to live a good life, even when they face unfairness, war, or **climate change.**



Climate change is all about big changes in the weather. For example, storms getting worse than they used to be. Or having less rain in some places.



Social security helps people to have enough food, good health and clean water.



We have written ways to help countries to make their social security systems better.

How countries are doing



Social security helps make actions and decisions fairer by giving people money and services, like better healthcare.



By 2030, 590 million people around the world will live in **extreme poverty**.

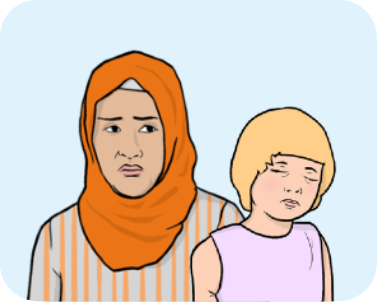


Extreme poverty means that they cannot afford the things they need to live.



This shows that we need to help more people get social security quickly.

It can be hard for people to get social security. It is often harder for:



- Women and girls.



- Persons with disabilities.

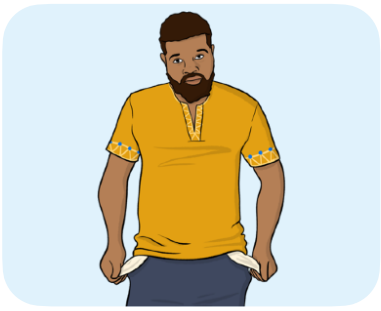


- Older persons.



- Children.

It is also often harder to get social security for:



- Persons living in **poverty**.

  Poverty means not having enough money to buy the basic things you need to live.



- **Refugees**.

  Refugees are people who have gone to live in a different country because it is not safe to live in their own country.



- **Migrants.**

  Migrants are people who move from one place to another.



- **Unemployed persons.**

  Unemployed persons are people who do not have a job.

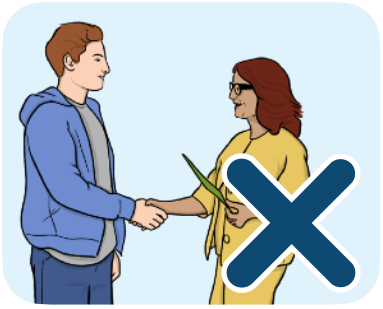


It is also often harder for persons who work in **informal jobs** to get social security, like some cleaners, taxi drivers, care workers and builders.



Informal jobs are not official. People who work in these jobs often do not pay tax, or get government support.

People who do not get help



Some countries do not give enough help to people who need it.

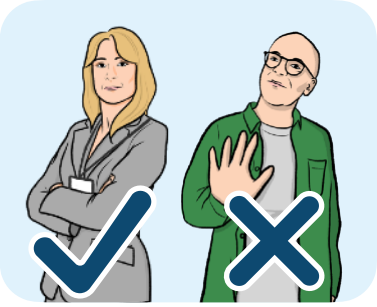


Some of these countries have started to give more people help.

But there are still many people who do not get enough help. Some reasons for this are:

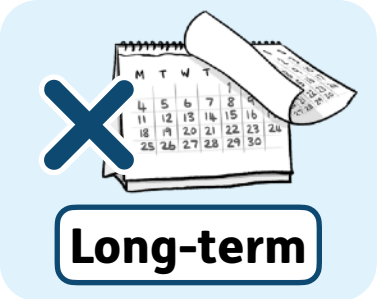


- There are no strong laws and rules to protect social security.



- Some countries only help people who have a job. They do not help people who do not have a job.

Some countries do not give people enough social security because:



- They do not have good plans for giving people long-term help.



- They do not have good plans for giving people enough help.

Some countries do not give people enough social security because:



- They have rules that stop some people from getting help.



- They have rules that are hard for people to follow.



- There are not enough good planners to give help to everyone who needs it.



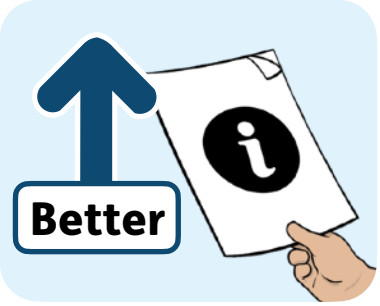
- Some people do not trust the people who are trying to help them, especially official social security service providers.



Sometimes, people do not ask for help even if they need it.



This is a big problem in many countries. It affects people who need help the most.



We need better information to understand this problem better.

Social security and human rights



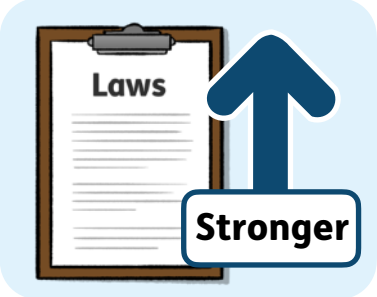
Rules about social security should follow human rights laws.



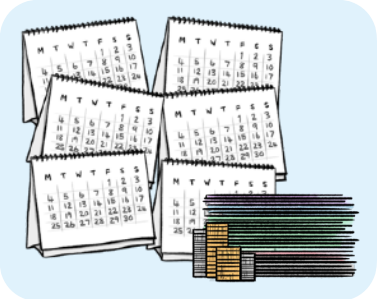
They should also follow the laws and rules of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.



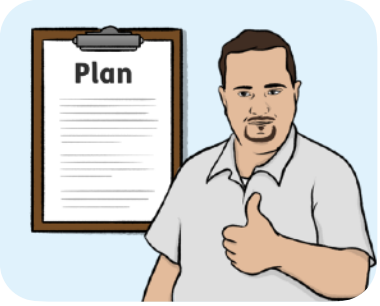
This is an organization that helps workers around the world.



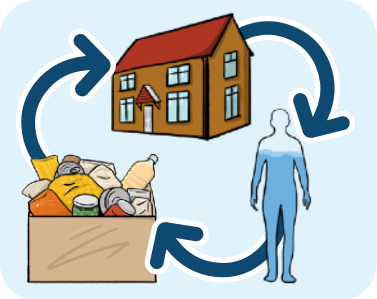
There should be strong laws that make sure that everyone can get social security.



There should be enough money to pay for social security for a long time.



Social security plans and programs should be clear and help people through their whole lives.



Social security is connected to many other things, like good health, basic housing, water and food.



So it is important that countries make sure that social security is working well.

Basic support



Basic support is help that everyone should be able to have if they need it.

It could include things like healthcare and money to live.



This means that everybody can get the things they need to live.



This is important for making sure that everyone gets their human rights.



Countries can make their own plan for this, based on what is best for them.

Helping everyone

Countries should make sure that:



- Everyone can get help.



- People who need help get the support they need.



Some countries have done a good job with this.



Some countries have also made sure that people who work in informal jobs get help.

Women



Women often do not get enough support from social security programs.



Countries should make sure that women get the help they need.



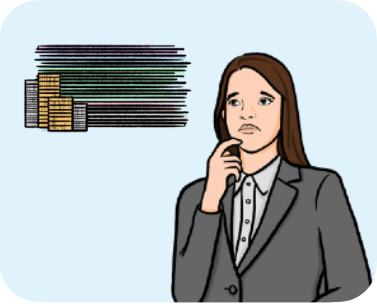
Many women work in informal jobs, like care work.



Social security should help them.

Good social security can support women to become stronger and get out of poverty.

Paying for social security



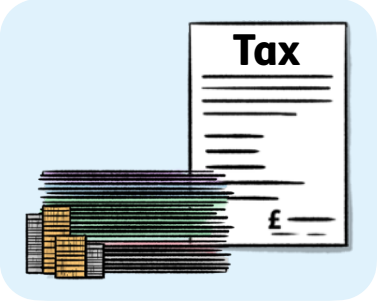
Some countries do not have enough money to give everyone social security.



There are different ways to make sure countries have enough money for social security.



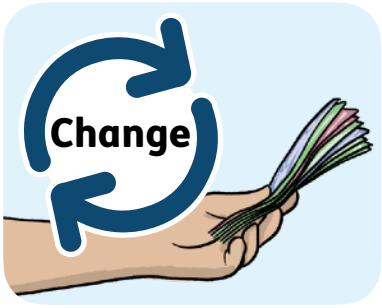
Countries should make sure that people and companies pay the right amount of tax.



Tax money is usually used for social security benefits.



Richer countries can help other countries to pay for social security.



A lot of countries owe a lot of money. We need to change the way this works so that these countries can pay for social security.

What countries should do

We think that countries should:



- Agree to follow the UN and ILO rules about social security.



- Make sure that their laws about social security are fair, and follow human rights laws.



- Make sure that everyone can get support, including older people, people with disabilities and children.



- Make sure that everyone can get basic support.

We also think that countries should:



- Make sure that social security is enough to give people a good life.



- Check that they are not being unfair, especially for people who do not have computers or do not know how to use them to claim social security.



- Make it easier to apply for social security.

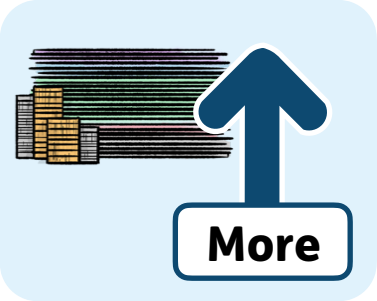


- Make sure that people who work in informal jobs can get social security.



- Make sure that women and girls can get support.

We also think that countries should:



- Spend more money on social security.



- Make sure that countries have enough money to pay for social security.



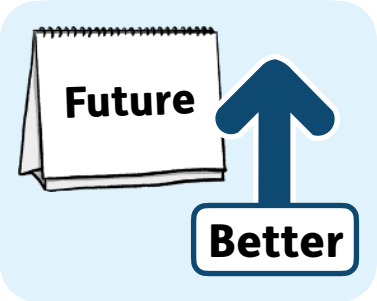
- Write laws to say that people have the right to social security.



- Support the UN in our work to protect people's human rights.



Richer countries should think about spending money to help pay for social security systems in other countries.



We also think that countries should work with the UN and other countries to make a better future where everyone gets their rights.

Find out more



You can look at our website here: www.ohchr.org/

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