

# SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.0)

## 0. Indicator information

### 0.a. Goal

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### 0.b. Target

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 the vulnerable

### 0.c. Indicator

Indicator 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable

### 0.d. Series

Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection cash benefit

Proportion of children covered by social protection benefits

Proportion of women giving birth covered by maternity benefits

Proportion of persons with disabilities receiving benefits

Proportion of unemployed receiving benefits

Proportion of workers covered in case of employment injury

Proportion of older persons receiving a pension

Proportion of vulnerable persons receiving benefits

Proportion of poor population receiving social assistance cash benefit

### 0.e. Metadata update

2022-03-31

### 0.f. Related indicators

3.8.1; 3.8.2; 1.a.2

### 0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

International Labour Organization (ILO)

## 1. Data reporter

### 1.a. Organisation

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International Labour Organization (ILO)

## 2. Definition, concepts, and classifications

### 2.a. Definition and concepts

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**Definition:**

The indicator reflects the proportion of persons effectively covered by a social protection system, including social protection floors. It also reflects the main components of social protection: child and maternity benefits, support for persons without a job, persons with disabilities, victims of work injuries and older persons.

Effective coverage of social protection is measured by the number of people who are either actively contributing to a social insurance scheme or receiving benefits (contributory or non-contributory).

#### Concepts:

Social protection systems include contributory and non-contributory schemes for children, pregnant women with newborns, people in active age, older persons, for victims of work injuries and persons with disabilities. Social protection floors provide at least a basic level in all main contingencies along the life cycle, as defined in the Social Protection Floors Recommendation 2012 (no. 202) referred to in SDG 1.3.

When assessing coverage and gaps in coverage, distinctions need to be made between coverage by (1) contributory social insurance, (2) universal schemes covering all residents (or all residents in a given category), and (3) means-tested schemes potentially covering all those who pass the required test of income and/or assets.

### 2.b. Unit of measure

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Percent (%)

### 2.c. Classifications

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Social protection functions specified under: Convention 102 Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, and Resolution concerning the development of social security statistics, adopted by the Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

## 3. Data source type and data collection method

### 3.a. Data sources

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The main data source is the **Social Security Inquiry (SSI)** (online questionnaire <https://qpss.ilo.org/>), the ILO's periodic collection of administrative data from national ministries of labour, social security, welfare, finance, and others.

Since 1950, the ILO's Social Security Inquiry has been the main global source of administrative data on social protection. Secondary data sources include existing global databases of social protection statistics, including those of the World Bank, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, HELPAGE, OECD and the International Social Security Association.

This forms the **World Social Protection Database (WSPDB)**. It provides a unique source of information and serves as the basis for the ILO flagship World Social Protection Report, which periodically presents development trends of social protection systems, including floors, providing data for a wide range of countries (214 countries and territories).

### 3.b. Data collection method

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### Obtaining internationally comparable data for global monitoring

Data is collected using the SSI questionnaires, which are filled in direct collaboration with government agencies - Ministries of labour, ministries of finance, social protection institutions and others. The collected data collected is revised by the Social Protection Department in order to identify internal inconsistencies between data and indicators, and detect major differences regarding indicators calculated in previous years. When significant discrepancies are detected, the questionnaires are sent back to the countries, including detailed comments, for further revision and adjustments. In many cases direct contact with national counterparts are required, as SSI application lies on a strong coordination with our governmental counterparts.

#### 3.c. Data collection calendar

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Continuous (214 countries and territories in three years)

#### 3.d. Data release calendar

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Continuous (after new data for the country are processed) on <https://wspdb.social-protection.org>

#### 3.e. Data providers

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National data is provided by national Ministries of Labour, Welfare, Finance, National Statistical Institutions and others, as well as by social security and social protection institutions.

#### 3.f. Data compilers

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International Labour Organization (ILO)

#### 3.g. Institutional mandate

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Data compilation on the functioning of social security/social protection systems and monitoring progress are the responsibilities undertaken by the ILO in view of its mandate to assess the compliance with international standards in this field, in particular the conventions and recommendations on social security adopted by the member States of the ILO.

## 4. Other methodological considerations

### 4.a. Rationale

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Access to at least a basic level of social protection throughout the life cycle is a human right. The principle of universality of social protection evidences the importance of social protection systems in guaranteeing decent living conditions to the whole population, throughout their lives. The proportion of the population covered by social protection systems/floors provides an indication of the extent to which universality is accomplished, and thus, how secure are the population's living conditions.

Measurements of **effective coverage** should reflect how in reality legal provisions are implemented. It refers to the percentage of people actually receiving benefits of contributory and non-contributory social protection programmes, plus the number of persons actively contributing to social insurance schemes.

## 4.b. Comment and limitations

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Data is collected through an administrative survey ongoing for decades, the ILO Social Security Inquiry. Whenever countries provide data, the indicator is disaggregated by sex. Indicators disaggregated by country and region are also available.

## 4.c. Method of computation

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Calculations include separate indicators in order to distinguish effective coverage for children, unemployed persons, older persons and persons with disabilities, mothers with newborns, workers protected in case of work injury, and the poor and the vulnerable. For each case, coverage is expressed as a share of the respective population.

Indicators are obtained as follows:

- a) Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection cash benefit: ratio of the population receiving cash benefits under at least one of the contingencies/social protection functions (contributory or non-contributory benefit) or actively contributing to at least one social security scheme to the total population.
- b) Proportion of children covered by social protection benefits: ratio of children/households receiving child or family cash benefits to the total number of children/households with children.
- c) Proportion of women giving birth covered by maternity benefits: ratio of women receiving cash maternity benefits to women giving birth in the same year (estimated based on age-specific fertility rates published in the UN's World Population Prospects or on the number of live births corrected for the share of twin and triplet births).
- d) Proportion of persons with disabilities receiving benefits: ratio of persons receiving disability cash benefits to persons with severe disabilities. The latter is calculated as the product of prevalence of disability ratios (published for each country group by the World Health Organization) and each country's population.
- e) Proportion of unemployed receiving benefits: ratio of recipients of unemployment cash benefits to the number of unemployed persons.
- f) Proportion of workers covered in case of employment injury: ratio of workers protected by injury insurance to total employment or the labour force.
- g) Proportion of older persons receiving a pension: ratio of persons above statutory retirement age receiving an old-age pension to persons above statutory retirement age (including contributory and non-contributory).
- h) Proportion of vulnerable persons receiving benefits: ratio of social assistance recipients to the total number of vulnerable persons. The latter are calculated by subtracting from total population all people of working age who are contributing to a social insurance scheme or receiving contributory benefits, and all persons above retirement age receiving contributory benefits.
- i) Proportion of poor population receiving social assistance cash benefit: ratio of social assistance recipients to the population living below the national poverty line.

## 4.d. Validation

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Validation is organized through the ILO regional and country offices with the Ministry of Labour or another institution that serves as a focal point in the country.

#### 4.e. Adjustments

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Not applicable

#### 4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level

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- **At country level**

Indicators for countries with missing values are not part of the reporting.

- **At regional and global levels**

For SDG regions with insufficient country coverage, imputations are used.

#### 4.g. Regional aggregations

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Global and regional indicators are weighted averages of national indicators with weights equal to the denominators indicated in section 3.3, a-g. Global and regional estimates are based on econometric models designed to impute missing data in countries for which nationally-reported data are unavailable. The output of the models is a complete set of single-year estimates for seven social protection indicators for 169 countries. The country-level data (reported and imputed) are then aggregated to produce global and regional estimates of the social protection indicators.

#### 4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level

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The ILO's Social Security Inquiry is used at the national level to compile the data. All the relevant information (questionnaire, technical guide, etc) can be obtained here: <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=41>

#### 4.i. Quality management

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The processes of compilation, analysis and publication of social protection data, including its quality control, are carried out following the methodological framework and standards established by the ILO Department of Statistics, in compliance with the information technology and management standards of the ILO.

#### 4.j Quality assurance

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The compilation of social protection data is based on the ongoing implementation of SSI at the country level. The cycle of application and processing of data, information and indicators from the SSI is carried out in close coordination with the government offices of the countries concerned, with technical supervision by ILO specialists in the field offices. The information collected at the country level through the SSI is complemented with information from other national sources in order to calculate a set of variables and indicators that make up the World Social Protection Database. Quality control practices include consultations with government agencies providing the information, comparisons with the values of the variables and indicators obtained in previous years, and application of a set of calculation and verification algorithms.

## 4.k Quality assessment

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The final assessment of the quality of social protection information is carried out by the Public Finance, Actuarial and Statistics Unit of the ILO's Social Protection Department. This process follows the standard quality criteria established by the ILO Department of Statistics. In cases of doubt about the quality of specific data, these values are reviewed with the participation of the national agencies responsible for producing social protection data. If the issues cannot be clarified, the respective information is not published.

## 5. Data availability and disaggregation

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### **Data availability:**

The Social Security Inquiry/World Social Protection Database includes data on 214 countries and territories. As of March 2017, ILO is processing the Social Security Inquiry data for approximately 70 countries per year.

An updated pre-filled version of the questionnaire is sent to the countries in April-May.

### **Time series:**

From 2015 (for some series from 2000)

### **Disaggregation:**

Whenever data are available, the indicator is disaggregated by sex and age groups.

## 6. Comparability / deviation from international standards

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### **Sources of discrepancies:**

Estimations are based on administrative data produced by countries (SSI).

## 7. References and Documentation

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### **URLs:**

[ILOSTAT](https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/)

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/>

[World Social Protection Data Dashboards](https://wspdb.social-protection.org)

<https://wspdb.social-protection.org>

Social Security Inquiry (questionnaire):

<https://qpss.ilo.org/>

Social Security Inquiry. Manual 2018:

<http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessourcePDF.action?ressource.ressourceId=53711>

ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation (n°202), 2012

[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID,P12100\\_LANG\\_CODE:3065524](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID,P12100_LANG_CODE:3065524)

World Social Protection Report 2020-22

<https://wspr.social-protection.org>

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## 0. Indicator information

### 0.a. Goal

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### 0.b. Target

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### 0.c. Indicator

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### 0.d. Series

Proportion of population covered by social insurance programs (%) SI\_COV\_SOCINS

Proportion of population covered by social assistance programs (%) SI\_COV\_SOCAST

Proportion of population covered by labour market programs (%) SI\_COV\_LMKT

### 0.e. Metadata update

2021-07-02

### 0.f. Related indicators

1.a.1 Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programs

1.a.2. Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

1.b.1. Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending in sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups.

### 0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

World Bank (WB)

## 1. Data reporter

### 1.a. Organisation

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World Bank (WB).

## 2. Definition, concepts, and classifications

### 2.a. Definition and concepts

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**Definition:**

Coverage of social protection and labor programs (SPL) is the percentage of population participating in social insurance, social assistance, and labor market programs. Estimates include both direct and indirect beneficiaries.

**Concepts:**

This indicator is estimated by program type, for the entire population and by quintiles of post-transfer and pre-transfer per capita welfare distribution. Programs are aggregated into social insurance, social assistance, and labor market according to ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) classification. Indicators for all social protection and labor programs (SPL) are generated by aggregating the social assistance, social insurance and labor market figures, taking into account program overlaps.

ASPIRE is the World Bank's premier compilation of indicators to analyze the scope and performance of social protection programs. Developed by the Social Protection and Jobs (SPJ) Global Practice, ASPIRE provides indicators for 125 countries on social assistance, social insurance and labor market programs based on both program-level administrative data and national household survey data. ASPIRE is an ongoing project that aims to improve SPL data quality, comparability and availability to better inform SPL policies and programs.

**2.b. Unit of measure**

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Beneficiaries as percent of total population and population groups (quintiles of per capita welfare; poor and non poor)

**2.c. Classifications**

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The World Bank's classification of social protection and labor programs includes 12 categories, as follows:

Social insurance: (i) Contributory pensions, (ii) Other social insurance;

Labor market: (i) Active LM programs, (ii) passive LM programs;

Social assistance: (i) Unconditional cash transfers, (ii) Conditional cash transfers, (iii) Social pensions (non-contributory), (iv) Food and in-kind transfers, (v) School feeding, (vi) Public works, workfare and direct job creation, (vii) Fee waivers and targeted subsidies, (viii) Other social assistance

**3. Data source type and data collection method****3.a. Data sources**

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Data are based on national representative household surveys. Data source is ASPIRE: The Atlas of Social Protection - Indicators of Resilience and Equity, The World Bank (see [www.worldbank.org/aspire/](http://www.worldbank.org/aspire/))

**3.b. Data collection method**

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Unit-record data of nationally representative household surveys are collected by National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and provided to the World Bank for analytical purposes. The ASPIRE team harmonizes social protection information captured by these household surveys to make the analysis reasonably comparable across countries and over time.

The ASPIRE harmonization methodology for household survey data rests on the following three steps:

**1. Identification and classification of social protection and labor (SPL) programs**

Household surveys are carefully reviewed to identify SPL program information. Once this information is identified, two levels of analysis are implemented: first, variables are created for each of the country specific programs found in the survey; second, program variables are aggregated and harmonized into 12 SPL program categories, and 2 private transfer categories. The country specific programs included into these main SPL categories are documented in detail and validated with WB country task teams in close coordination with national counterparts.



In order to generate the indicators, the following variables are also used: household identification number, location (urban/rural), household size, welfare aggregate, household weight, and two poverty lines: a relative poverty line, defined as the poorest 20% of the welfare distribution, and the international poverty line of PPP \$1.90 per day.

### 2. *Welfare aggregates*

Households are ranked in quintiles of percapita welfare (income or consumption). Special efforts are made to include the most recently updated welfare aggregates officially agreed with National Statistical Offices and/or harmonized by the World Bank's Global Monitoring Database (GMD) initiative led by the Poverty and Equity Global Practice. These welfare aggregates are comparable across countries and across years for global poverty monitoring and welfare measurement.

### 3. *PPP conversions*

All monetary variables (transfer amounts) and welfare aggregates are deflated to 2011 values and then expressed in 2011 purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. To this effect, the private consumption PPP conversion factor is used.

Once the information is harmonized performance indicators are generated using ADePT social protection software.

## 3.c. Data collection calendar

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Ongoing process

## 3.d. Data release calendar

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Ongoing process

## 3.e. Data providers

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World Bank

## 3.f. Data compilers

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World Bank

## 3.g. Institutional mandate

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The World Bank supports social protection and labor (SPL) systems in client countries as central part of its mission to reduce poverty through sustainable and inclusive growth. The World Bank's SPL strategy lays out ways to deepen World Bank's involvement, capacity, knowledge and impact in SPL. In this context ASPIRE is the main World Bank tool to track the outcomes of the SPL strategy.

# 4. Other methodological considerations

## 4.a. Rationale

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ASPIRE coverage indicators refer to the 'effective' coverage definition, measuring the direct and indirect beneficiaries who are receiving social protection benefits at the time when nationally representative household survey data are collected. Coverage of SPL programs is estimated for the total population and for different population groups (income/consumption quintiles, urban and rural populations, and poor

and non poor defined by the relative and international poverty lines. ‘Effective’ coverage is directly relevant to SDG 1 of ending poverty in all its forms.

ASPIRE indicators do not include individuals who have benefits guaranteed but are not receiving them at the time when the survey is administered – for example people who actively contribute to old age pensions and are entitled to the benefits when reaching retirement age.

#### 4.b. Comment and limitations

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It is important to note that the extent to which information on specific SPL programs is captured in the household surveys can vary significantly across countries. Often household surveys do not capture the universe of social protection and labor (SPL) programs in the country, in best practice cases, just the largest programs. Many household surveys have limited information on SPL programs, some surveys collect data only on participation without including the transfer amounts; and others include program information mixed with private transfers, making it difficult to isolate individual SPL programs.

Therefore information on country SPL programs included in ASPIRE is limited to what is captured in the respective national household survey and does not necessarily represent the universe of programs existing in the country. In addition, the availability of ASPIRE indicators depends on the type of questions included in the survey. If transfer amounts are available, for example, adequacy and impact on poverty indicators can be generated. If only program participation questions are included in the survey, only non-monetary indicators can be generated such as coverage or beneficiary incidence. As a consequence, ASPIRE performance indicators are not fully comparable across harmonized program categories and countries.

However, household surveys have the unique advantages of allowing analysis of program impact on household welfare. With such caveats in mind, ASPIRE indicators based on household surveys provide an approximate measure of social protection systems performance.

#### 4.c. Method of computation

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Data are calculated from national representative household surveys using ASPIRE: The Atlas of Social Protection - Indicators of Resilience and Equity, The World Bank (see [datatopics.worldbank.org/aspire/](https://datatopics.worldbank.org/aspire/)).

Coverage = Number of beneficiaries in the total population (or group) / Total population (or group).

Generally, ASPIRE indicators are based on a first level analysis of original household survey data (with no imputations) and a unified methodology that does not necessarily reflect country-specific knowledge or in depth country analysis relying on different data sources (administrative program level data).

#### 4.d. Validation

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ASPIRE uses nationally representative household survey data from NSOs to estimate SPL performance indicators. NSOs follow their own validation processes to ensure quality. The ASPIRE team relies on these data and on the validation and harmonization processes done by the World Bank’s Poverty and Equity practice when data is used from their repositories (mainly for welfare aggregates).

Furthermore, results on coverage of SPL programs, as well as other performance indicators, are validated by the ASPIRE team through trend comparison, outlier analysis, and consultations with World Bank’s Task Team Leaders, specialist and country counterparts. Indicators are validated and cleared by the NSOs when required by these institutions before publication.

#### 4.e. Adjustments

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For regional and global comparisons, monetary variables and welfare aggregates are deflated to 2011 values and then converted to international PPP values as explained above (see 3.b. Data Collection method).

#### 4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level

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##### (i) At country level

No imputation

##### (ii) At regional and global levels

The regional and global aggregates are calculated from the most recent values of country data within the last 10 years. No imputation is performed.

#### 4.g. Regional aggregations

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#### 4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level

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ASPIRE uses national representative household surveys conducted by the NSOs. These institutions have their own methodologies for the collection and compilation of the data.

#### 4.i. Quality management

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The raw data that ASPIRE uses to estimate SPL performance indicators are already validated and curated by the NSOs. Data with harmonized welfare aggregates are produced and validated by the World Bank's Poverty and Equity practice based on their own standards. Furthermore, ASPIRE team ensures the quality of performance indicators following the process described above (see 4.d. Validation).

#### 4.j Quality assurance

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#### 4.k Quality assessment

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### 5. Data availability and disaggregation

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#### Data Availability (1998 – 2019)

East Asia & Pacific: 20; Europe & Central Asia: 25; Latin America & Caribbean: 22; Middle East & North Africa: 10; Sub-Saharan Africa: 40; South Asia: 8.

#### Time series:

Unbalanced panels, data depends on survey availability. Panel data by region:

AFR: 80 data points for 39 countries in the time period 1998-2019

EAP: 46 data points for 20 countries in the time period 1999-2018  
ECA: 96 data points for 25 countries in the time period 2004-2018  
LAC: 145 data points for 22 countries in the time period 2001-2018  
MNA: 14 data points for 10 countries in the time period 2002-2012  
SAR: 23 data points for 8 countries in the time period 2004-2017

**Disaggregation:**

Disaggregation of the indicators is done by income/consumption quintiles, rural and urban populations and poor and non poor defined by the relative and international poverty lines.

## 6. Comparability / deviation from international standards

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**Sources of discrepancies:**

While efforts are made to ensure consistency between ASPIRE indicators and World Bank's regional and country reports/national estimates, there may still be cases where ASPIRE performance indicators differ from official WB country reports/national estimates given methodological differences.

## 7. References and Documentation

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**URL:**

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

**References:**

ASPIRE: The Atlas of Social Protection - Indicators of Resilience and Equity, The World Bank ([www.worldbank.org/aspire](http://www.worldbank.org/aspire)).