KEY TERMS



FAMILY CARE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES

WHAT IS PAID CARE?

Paid care work involves physical activities or services that are provided directly or indirectly by wage workers or self-employed workers on a range of direct care-related activities. This typically includes medical practitioners; early education, primary, and secondary teachers; therapists; nannies or child minders; and personal care workers and domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers.

WHAT IS UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK?

Unpaid Care and Domestic Work consists of activities related to the direct or indirect provision of care services and maintenance of households to ensure the wellbeing of the family members and/or community outside of productive work.

DOMESTIC WORK/ROUTINE HOUSEWORK

- Preparing food/cooking
- Cleaning, dealing with household waste
- Washing, mending, ironing clothes
- Admin/household planning
- Shopping for household goods
- Collection of water, firewood/fuel



DIRECT CARE OF PEOPLE

- Care of children (feeding, bathing, dressing, playing, helping with school work, supervising safety, accompanying a child to school/ clinic/other public services)
- Care of elderly (feeding, bathing, dressing, accompanying an adult to clinic/other public services)
- Care of ill/disabled family members (feeding, bathing, dressing, accompanying an adult to clinic/other public services)
- Care of community members



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WHAT IS SOCIAL PROTECTION?

Social Protection consists of a set of policies and programs that are designed to prevent, protect and reduce shocks, risks and vulnerabilities faced by people during their life cycle, such as pregnancy, unemployment, or old age, and those affecting communities and/or societies at scale, such as flooding or global pandemic like COVID-19. Social protection doesn't only help people meet their basic needs, but also contribute to their long-term well-being, resilience and broader societal goals of equity, social justice, and empowerment.

According to ILO, globally four billion people are left without social protection, while only 29% of the global population enjoys access to comprehensive social security. Additionally, that 7 in 10 unemployed workers receive no unemployment benefits; 4 in 10 people lack access to essential healthcare; 6 in 10 families have no access to child support; 3 in 10 elderly persons have no access to pensions, and only 41.1% of mothers with newborns receive a maternity benefit whilst 83 million new mothers remain uncovered.

SOCIAL PROTECTION CAN



REDUCE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY
by providing equal benefits to all people through principle of solidarity.



REDUCE GENDER INEQUALITY
by creating more and better jobs for women, and reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work.



OVERCOME POVERTY
by seeking to provide relief from existing deprivation and protect individuals and households from the worst consequences of poverty.



REDUCE VULNERABILITY
and increase resilience by scaling up coverage to entire groups of people and households that experience community-wide shocks.



STRENGTHEN AGENCY
by strengthening its link to enabling women's decision making on choices such as marriage and fertility.



SUSTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
by increasing investments in social protection that has shown to contribute to increase labor productivity.



SUPPORT ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY
by contributing to wider environmental sustainability while reducing the vulnerability to climate shocks of individuals and communities.

WHAT ARE FAMILY CARE POLICIES?

Family-friendly policies are the measures and arrangements that have a positive impact on workers' abilities to reconcile work and family responsibilities, as well as advance the development and well-being of children and caregivers. These might include maternity, paternity and parental leave, child and family benefits, free or significantly subsidized childcare, flexible working arrangements, ensuring protection for parents against discrimination and dismissal, breastfeeding support, among others.

HOW CAN FAMILY CARE POLICIES SUPPORTS WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT?

- Increase labour force participation
- Improve work-life balance
- Reduce unpaid care and domestic work
- Increase women's productivity and personal wellbeing
- Improve gender equality in economic participation and reduce women's dropout rates
- Reduce poverty and alleviate financial stress

OTHER CARE-SENSITIVE POLICY CATEGORIES

Care infrastructure

Water, sanitation, energy, transport, food services, health care for the sick (HIV patients, COVID-19 patients), persons with disabilities and/or pregnant women.

Care services

Childcare, older person care, care for persons with disabilities or who are sick, through the state or markets.

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