The challenge

Three quarters of the world’s population have no form of coverage to protect them against the individual risks they face in life such as ill health, accidents, disability, old age, death or crop failure. The impacts of these risks are disproportionately harsh for poor sections of the population. Natural disasters, for instance, often hit these people hard, and can worsen their food security situation. The lack of any social protection system can have disastrous financial and social consequences, forcing households deeper into poverty. Demographic change, dwindling natural resources, socio-political and climate-related changes are additional causes of trouble and conflict. These developments not only produce follow-on costs for the national economy as a whole. The preconditions for successful inclusive economic growth also worsen.

Our approach

Social protection is a human right that is enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Social protection systems contribute in the long term to ensuring social peace, cohesion and justice, and they reduce inequality. They are an elementary precondition for participation in societal and economic processes and for sustainable inclusive growth.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports partner countries in their efforts to put in place and develop systems of social protection. We advise governments on how best to develop national social protection strategies and anchor these firmly within society in the long term. Civil society and the private sector, and the poor sections of the population, are involved in deliberations and consultations. The focus is on promoting policies designed to deliver social justice, which ensures universal access to and affordability of public services. Our work concentrates mainly on integrating socio-political approaches by strengthening inter-departmental cooperation, delivering advisory services on social transfers in kind or in monetary form to poor and vulnerable target groups, reducing poverty in old age through sustainably financed old age pension systems, and fostering the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Over and above this, we support governments in developing public and private sector services including microinsurance schemes offering coverage to those working in the informal sector and to particularly vulnerable groups. Informal social protection systems are likewise promoted and integrated.

Our services

Needs and feasibility analyses: We take the political, economic, societal and social situation of a country as the basis for analysing what steps would be appropriate and feasible to introduce social protection systems.

Policy and process advisory services: We offer strategies and approaches that can reconcile the interests of different actors, positions and solutions in an equitable manner, thus helping steer a long-term, successful political process.

Building capacities, resources and capabilities: We deliver organisational and technical advisory services as well as specially tailored training to strengthen the individuals, organisations and institutions involved in establishing and consolidating social protection systems.

Advisory services for implementation: With the support of international experts we provide advisory services on matters relating to the structural organisation of social pro-
tection systems including electronic data processing and the system for paying out social transfer benefits.

**The benefit**

Properly functioning social protection systems improve the living conditions of poor sections of the population and strengthen their self-help capacities. Social justice, in the form of equal opportunities and the same chances for all to participate in economic and social development, goes a long way to underpinning the long-term stability of a society – at political level and within the family. GIZ can draw on a wealth of experience, since Germany has the world’s oldest social protection system. As a federal enterprise we have direct access to experts working in line ministries, public bodies and private-sector actors including insurance companies. We are thus in a position to guarantee our clients not only extensive expertise, but long-standing experience and the pertinent strategies and processes.

**Examples from the field**

**Social protection in Indonesia:** In Indonesia, a country with a total population of around 250 million, more than 28 million people live below the national poverty line. Almost two thirds of the population work in the informal sector. On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is supporting the Government of Indonesia in establishing a comprehensive social protection system. For instance, we are helping Indonesia’s Ministry of Social Affairs to implement institutional reforms designed to guarantee basic social coverage to facilitate registration at local level. We are also advising the Indonesian Government on monitoring the jointly produced roadmap for universal social health protection. The first results include the establishment of the inter-ministerial National Social Security Council, set up with GIZ support, and the establishment of an organisational framework for the up-to-date payment of social transfers, for instance using e-money systems. One acclaimed example of inclusion is the cooperation arrangement with private businesses to improve the chances of people with disabilities of finding employment. GIZ has helped raise the efficiency of the national social transfer programme and increase the number of beneficiaries to over three million poor households.

**Improved access to social services for people with disabilities in Cambodia:** Within the framework of the Social Health Protection programme we are supporting the government in its efforts to improve the quality of public health care available to poor and disadvantaged people, as well as improving access and raising the numbers of the poor and disadvantaged using these services. The project is taking a two-pronged approach: while the inclusion of people with disabilities is ensured in all project measures, specific activities are also promoted that target this particular group. Along with our partner Handicap International, a medical procedure has been developed to identify disabilities at an early stage and provide appropriate treatment for new-born infants and children with disabilities. The project cooperates extremely closely with civil society organisations. The non-governmental organisation Epic Arts is enriching the project’s information campaigns with dance performances to raise awareness within civil society and among health service staff. People with disabilities are strengthened by involving them in the planning processes of health centres and local councils, as well as helping them assert their rights.

**Contact**

Jean-Olivier Schmidt, Head of Competence Center Health and Social Protection
E: jean-olivier.schmidt@giz.de
T: +49 228 24934-330
I www.giz.de