

SUSTAINABLE AND DECENT SOCIAL PROTECTION

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DEFINITION

Social protection, or social security, is a human right and is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability throughout the life cycle. Social protection includes child and family benefits, maternity protection, unemployment support, employment injury benefits, sickness benefits, health protection, old-age benefits, disability benefits and survivors' benefits. Social protection systems address all these policy areas by a mix of contributory schemes (social insurance) and non-contributory tax-financed benefits, including social assistance.

FACTS

Social protection programs remain inaccessible for the bigger global population. In the case of migrant workers, only 22% in destination countries are covered by social protection.

While 70 out of 163 countries have social protection laws, less than of the 70 countries cover migrant domestic workers.

There is lack of in-depth statistics on various dimensions of social protection programs that are accessible to the migrant workers and their families.

COVERAGE

- Employment injury protection insurance to compensate workers for work-related injuries or diseases, whether full or partial.
- Family and child protection benefits to ensure the healthy and productive development of children
- Health care, long-term care and sickness benefits insurance to protect workers from diseases
- Maternity protection benefits to mothers during pregnancy and post-delivery lactating months
 - Old age and survivors' pensions and related benefits to ensure that dependents are compensated for the loss of the breadwinner
 - Unemployment protection insurance to deal with frictional and structural unemployment
 - Gender-responsive social protection programs
 - Social Protection programs should be accessible to all regardless of their immigration status.

SUSTAINABLE

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SDG TARGETS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION



The inclusion of migrant workers in social protection is central to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its overarching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to leave no one behind.

- **SDG 10** to promote equality through implementing social protection systems and measures for all, including floors and to adopt policies, especially wage and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality.
- **SDG 1** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
- **SDG 3** to 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 as well as the mean to attain gender equality (SDG 5).

AND DECENT

PROTECTION



OVERALL CHALLENGES

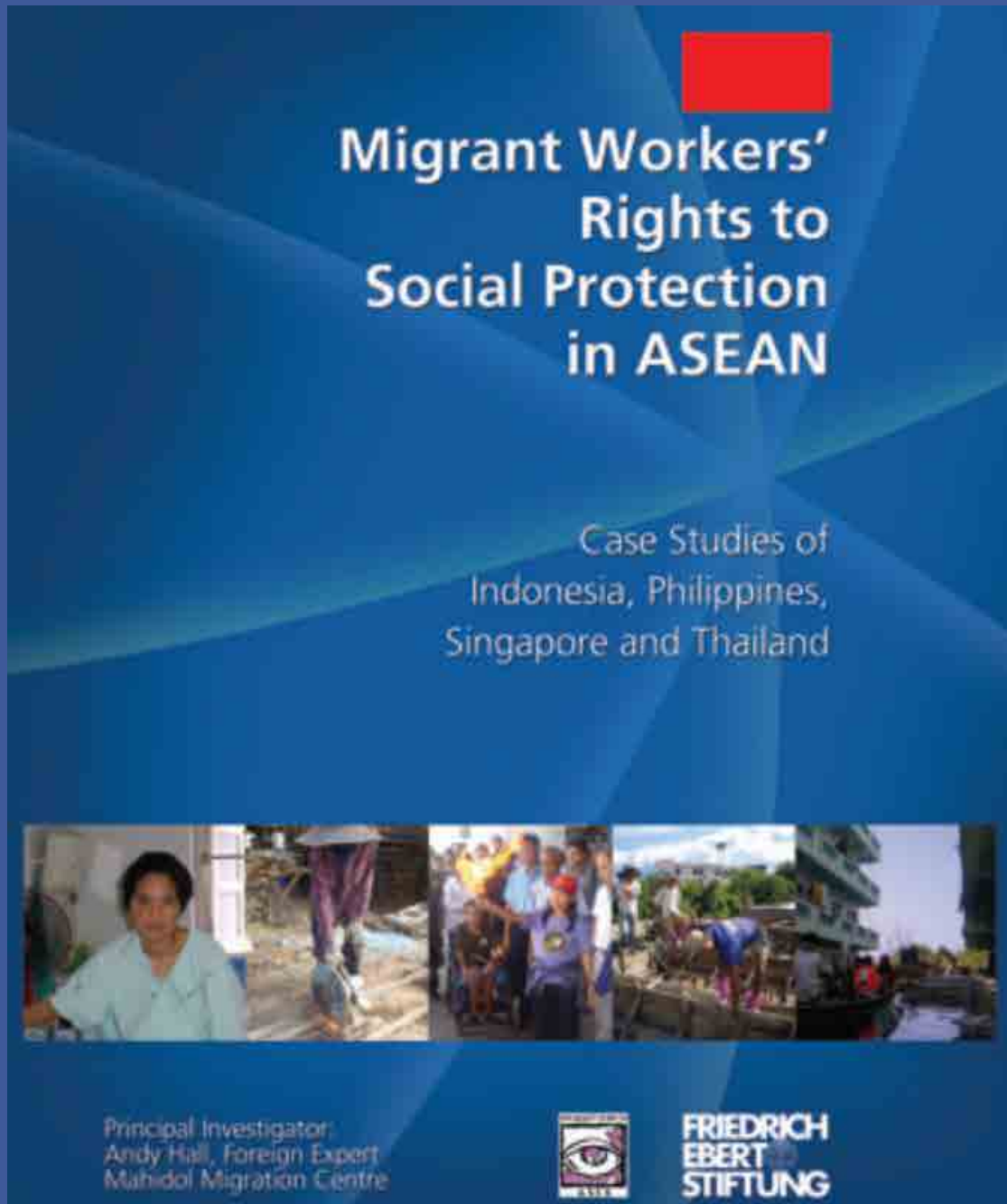


- National labour, migration, and related policies, as well as the associated legal frameworks, do not capture the social protection plight of migrant workers and their families sufficiently. This not only undervalues the economic and social contribution of migrant workers but also exacerbates abuse and exploitation.
- Bilateral labour agreements and memoranda of understanding make discriminatory policies and limited provision for employment protection while largely ignoring the social security protection of migrant workers and their families.

Coverage: Low-wage migrant workers are often excluded or restricted from coverage in destination countries based on nationality or immigration status. In most cases, social security benefits are not accessible for undocumented migrant workers.

Portability: When they are entitled to social security benefits in destination countries, they often lose what they have accumulated during their stay when they return to their country of origin due to restrictions on portability of benefits.

Minimum Qualifying Conditions: Migrant workers often contribute to a social security scheme from which they cannot benefit because their employment period is too short to meet the eligibility criteria required for entitlement to benefits.



Migrant Workers Rights to Social Protection in ASEAN:



Links to References



Links to SP Conventions and Recommendations



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Access more information by visiting our site: <https://socialprotectioncampaign.org>

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