



International  
Labour  
Organization

## Progress Report – Western Africa

01/01/2023 – 30/11/2023

ILO GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME ON BUILDING SOCIAL  
PROTECTION FLOORS FOR ALL - PHASE II

Project Code: GLO/21/34/MUL



Regional workshop to discuss and define the role played by social mutual organisations in national social protection systems ©ILO, 2023



**Belgique**  
partenaire du développement

**LUXEMBOURG**  
AID & DEVELOPMENT



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Donor: Belgium and Luxembourg  
Admin Unit: ILO DWT for West Africa Country Office for Senegal, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau (DWT/CO-Dakar)

Project title:	BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS FOR ALL SUPPORT TO THE 2ND PHASE OF THE ILO GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME (2022 - 2025) - WESTERN AFRICA STRATEGY
Report type (pick one):	Annual
Reporting period:	From January to November 2023

### Linkages

ILO Strategic Policy Outcome: Outcome 8: Universal Social Protection

Sustainable Development Goal: SDG 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 and SDG 3.8. Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

### Preparation and review

Report prepared by: Dramane Batchabi, 01/12/2023

## 1. Regional context

In the first decade of this century, strong growth in mutual social organizations led to extending social health protection coverage, particularly to workers in the informal economy in urban and rural areas. In 2009, with the support of the ILO, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Commission adopted Regulation No. 07/2009/CM/WAEMU of 26 June 2009, regulating mutual social organizations in the countries covered by WAEMU. Since the 1970s, a vast movement in favour of universal health coverage has been underway, and governments have been considering setting up national social health protection systems, in most cases with the creation of national institutions in charge of social health protection. This raises the question of the best institutional architecture for achieving universal health coverage and, in particular, the role of mutual social organizations within that architecture and their links with the national institutions responsible for social health protection.

Over the past few years, the WAEMU Commission has also stepped up its social protection activities by establishing a department responsible for social protection which is implementing a range of measures to assist its Member States.

For its part, the Inter-African Conference on Social Security (CIPRES) initiated a reflection on extending social protection to workers in the informal economy, and in December 2022, its Council of Ministers adopted a guideline on the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy.

## 2. Progress report

**Outcome 1. Western Africa: Tripartite constituents have the capacity and tools to promote integrated, adequately funded policies to support the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy**

*Output 1. On-demand expertise on integrated social protection policies, including financing policies, is available in the subregion*

### **Regional training on the financing of social protection**

The ILO, in collaboration with the WAEMU Commission and UNICEF, organized a regional training course on financing social protection in September 2023, which brought together participants from WAEMU Member States.

### **Production of statistics on social protection**

The ILO has been working with CIPRES to collect statistical data on social protection in CIPRES Member States. Working sessions were organized on data collection tools and methodology, and CIPRES was provided with technical support to collect data from national social security funds.

*Output 2. The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Inter-African Conference on Social Security (CIPRES) have strengthened their capacities to support their Member States in implementing social protection policies in line with ILO principles and standards*

### **Determining the role of mutual social organizations in national social health protection systems**

Mutual social organizations are community-based organizations that provide social services, particularly healthcare, to workers in the informal economy. The ILO has been working with the WAEMU Commission to

determine the role that mutual social organizations can play in national social health protection systems. In the context of that project, in 2023 a working paper was drafted on the lessons learned from international experiences of this matter. This document then served as the basis for a workshop, held in Dakar in October 2023, which discussed and defined the role of mutual social organizations in national social health protection systems in the WAEMU zone. The event brought together 24 representatives of the WAEMU Social Mutual Consultative Council, the social partners from the WAEMU zone and development partners (5 women and 19 men).

At the end of the workshop, the working paper on the roles of social mutuals in national social health protection systems in WAEMU countries was validated. In 2024, the project will support the publication and dissemination of the working paper in 2024.

### **WAEMU social protection strategy**

In 2022, the ILO supported the WAEMU Commission in developing the first draft of the WAEMU social protection strategy. In the framework of that project, in 2023, internal consultations were held within the WAEMU Commission to review and finalize the social protection strategy in line with international social security standards. In July 2023, a workshop attended by all the departments of the WAEMU Commission allowed the adoption of the WAEMU social protection strategy. In 2024, the project will focus on disseminating the strategy in all the WAEMU Member States.

### **Technical support to the WAEMU regional working group on social health protection**

The WAEMU regional working group on social health protection comprises health protection experts from the eight Member States and provides a forum for consideration and proposals on the subject of extending universal health coverage in the region.

In 2023 the ILO supported this group by providing a resources expert to facilitate its technical meetings. As a result, a handbook on the key challenges involved in extending health coverage (such as financing and healthcare service offer) and a document on good practices for extending health coverage were developed. With the project's support, in 2024 these documents will be formatted and distributed in the Member States to contribute to the implementation of social health protection systems adapted to achieve universal coverage.

### **Capacity-building for CIPRES members on international social protection standards**

In November 2023, the project organized a training session for members of the CIPRES Supervisory Committee on the topic of international social protection standards. The training session, held in Lomé, Togo, strengthened the participants' technical competencies on the ILO social protection standards and provided an opportunity to make a rapid diagnosis of how the Supervisory Committee operates. It resulted in the following recommendations: (1) Set up a system for certifying and classifying social protection institutions (SPIs) in accordance with standards and ratios; (2) Transmit the deliberations of the sessions of SPI boards of directors on the Supervisory Committee's reports; (3) Explore the implementation of the "name and shame" methodology for monitoring SPIs; (4) Explore cooperation between CIPRES and sub-regional, regional and international institutions, in particular with a view to ensuring proper supervision of SPIs; (5) Strengthen the social partners' knowledge of CIPRES standards and ratios; (6) Draft a technical note for States on how to treat Supervisory Committee reports; (7) Carry out visits, where necessary, to States to assess the status of implementation of the Committee's critical recommendations; (8) Strengthen the supervisory bodies responsible for the inspection of SPIs; (9) Raise governments' awareness of the importance of a good governance of the funds of the SPIs; (10) Promote the international social security standards and the standards of CIPRES at national level.

OUTPUTS: Overall delivery assessment <sup>1</sup>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly satisfactory Implementation of almost all (>80%) outputs is on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and almost all (>80%) indicator milestones have been met.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory Implementation of the majority (60-80%) of outputs is on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and the majority (60-80%) of indicator milestones have been met.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Some (40-60%) outputs are being implemented on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and/or only some (40-60%) indicator milestones have been met.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very unsatisfactory Few (<40%) outputs are being implemented on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and/or only a few (<40%) indicator milestones have been met.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a self-assessment.

## Summary outcome(s)

OUTCOME ACHIEVEMENT <sup>2</sup>				
Indicator	Baseline (before project start)	Indicator Milestone (compare planned against actual)	Target (end-of-project goal)	Immediate Outcome Summary
Outcome 1. On-demand expertise on integrated social protection policies, including financing policies, is available at the subregional level.				
No. of managers and representatives of workers' and employers' organisations who have benefited from capacity building to improve synergies between social protection and public finance management.	0	43 (8 women, 35 men) tripartite constituents from Africa trained in social protection and public finance management	43	On track: most milestones achieved
No. of countries whose social protection data have been collected by the ILO	3	6	16	
Outcome 2. The West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Inter-African Conference on Social Security (CIPRES) have strengthened capacities to support their members in implementing social protection policies in line with the principles and standards of the ILO.				
No. of publications on lessons learned from international experiences in integrating social mutuels into national social health protection systems.	0	1	1	On track: most milestones achieved

<sup>2</sup> On the basis of a monitoring and evaluation plan.

### 3. Collaboration and partnerships

All the activities were carried out in collaboration with CIPRES and the WAEMU Commission. To implement certain activities, partnerships were established with the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the Belgian organization WSM and USAID.

### 4. Main problems and corrective measures

The activities went ahead as planned without any major difficulties.

### 5. Summary of progress and outlook

The intensive technical support provided to the WAEMU Commission and CIPRES by the ILO in 2023 will contribute to improve the assistance that these two sub-regional organizations are able to provide for Member States in extending social protection to workers in the informal economy.

At the level of the WAEMU Commission, the question of the role of mutual social organizations in national social health protection systems was discussed, and a document was produced to guide Member States. In addition, a handbook on the key challenges involved in extending health coverage and a best practice document have been developed to support Member States in strengthening their social health protection systems.

The capacities of CIPRES Supervisory Committee members have been strengthened, which should improve their oversight of national social protection institutions. A three-year work plan for cooperation between CIPRES and the ILO has been drawn up.

Collaboration with and support for these two regional organizations will continue throughout 2024, in particular for the dissemination of the CIPRES guidelines on extending social protection to workers in the informal economy, consultations with Member States on the WAEMU social protection strategy, and the holding of regional events to promote social protection.