

SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.1)

0. Indicator information (SDG_INDICATOR_INFO)

0.a. Goal (SDG_GOAL)

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

0.b. Target (SDG_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 (SDG_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 (SDG_SERIES_DESCR)

SI_COV_SOCINS - Proportion of population covered by social insurance programs [1.3.1]

SI_COV_SOCAST - Proportion of population covered by social assistance programs [1.3.1]

SI_COV_LMKT - Proportion of population covered by labour market programs [1.3.1]

0.e. Metadata update (META_LAST_UPDATE)

2025-06-11

0.f. Related indicators (SDG_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

(SDG_CUSTODIAN_AGENCIES)

World Bank (WB)

1. Data reporter (CONTACT)

1.a. Organisation (CONTACT_ORGANISATION)

World Bank (WB)

2. Definition, concepts, and classifications (IND_DEF_CON_CLASS)

2.a. Definition and concepts (STAT_CONC_DEF)

Definition:

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

beneficiaries (number of individuals who live in a household where at least one member participates in a social protection program).

Concepts:

Coverage is estimated by three social protection areas: social insurance, social assistance and labor market programs. The indicator is calculated for the entire population and for the poorest quintile, which is generated using per capita income or consumption including transfers.

The source of the indicator is the Atlas of Social Protection: Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE). 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 Labor (SPL) Global Practice, ASPIRE provides indicators for 130+ 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 (UNIT_MEASURE)

Percent (%). Beneficiaries as percent of total population and the poorest quintile.

2.c. Classifications (CLASS_SYSTEM)

The World Bank's classification of social protection and labor market programs includes 3 areas and 12 program categories, as follows:

1. Social insurance: Contributory pensions and other social insurance;
2. Labor market: Active and passive labor market programs;
3. Social assistance: Unconditional cash transfers, conditional cash transfers, social pensions (non-contributory), food and in-kind transfers, schools feeding, public works, workfare and direct job creation, fee waivers and targeted subsidies, and other social assistance.

3. Data source type and data collection method (SRC_TYPE_COLL_METHOD)

3.a. Data sources (SOURCE_TYPE)

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

3.b. Data collection method (COLL_METHOD)

Unit-record data of nationally representative household surveys are collected by national statistical offices (NSOs) and provided to the World Bank (WB) for analytical purposes. The ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) 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 SPL categories are documented in detail and validated with World Bank country task teams leaders in close coordination with national counterparts.

To generate the indicators, the following variables are also used: household identification number, location (urban/rural), household size, welfare aggregate (income or consumption), household weight, and two poverty lines: a relative poverty line, that defines the poorest 20% of the welfare distribution, and the international poverty line of PPP \$22.15 per day.

2. Welfare aggregates

Households are ranked in quintiles of percapita welfare (income or consumption). ASPIRE makes special efforts to include the most updated welfare aggregates officially agreed with NSOs and harmonized by the World Bank's Global Monitoring Database 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 2017 values and then expressed in 2017 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 developed by the World Bank.

3.c. Data collection calendar (FREQ_COLL)

Ongoing process

3.d. Data release calendar (REL_CAL_POLICY)

Ongoing process

3.e. Data providers (DATA_SOURCE)

World Bank

3.f. Data compilers (COMPILING_ORG)

World Bank

3.g. Institutional mandate (INST_MANDATE)

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 its involvement, capacity, knowledge and impact in SPL. In this context ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) is the main World Bank tool to track the outcomes of the SPL strategy.

4. Other methodological considerations (OTHER_METHOD)

4.a. Rationale (RATIONALE)

ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) 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. 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 (REC_USE_LIM)

Information on country social protection and labor (SPL) programs included in ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) is limited to what is captured in the respective national representative household survey and does not necessarily represent the universe of programs existing in the country. In addition, the periodicity in which household surveys are produced by national statistical offices vary across countries, therefore, ASPIRE does not include balance panels for regional aggregates.

Despite the above limitations, household surveys have the unique advantage of allowing analysis of program impact on household welfare. Hence, ASPIRE indicators based on household surveys provide an approximate measure of SPL systems performance.

4.c. Method of computation (DATA_COMP)

ASPIRE: The Atlas of Social Protection - Indicators of Resilience and Equity estimates social protection and labor (SPL) coverage using national representative household surveys. Coverage is estimated as follows:

$$\text{Coverage} = \frac{\text{Number of SPL beneficiaries in the total population (or quintile)}}{\text{Total population (or quintile)}} \times 100$$

ASPIRE SPL coverage 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, such as administrative program level data..

4.d. Validation (DATA_VALIDATION)

ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) uses nationally representative household survey data from national statistics offices (NSOs) to estimate social protection and labor (SPL) performance indicators. NSOs follow their own validation processes to ensure quality. The ASPIRE team relies on these curated microdata and on the validation and harmonization processes done by the World Bank’s Poverty and Equity practice.... Indicators are validated and cleared by the NSOs when required by these institutions before publication.

4.e. Adjustments (ADJUSTMENT)

For regional and global comparisons, monetary variables and welfare aggregates are deflated to 2017 values and then converted to international purchasing power parity (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

(IMPUTATION)

i) Country level

Indicators at the country level are estimated using each of the social protection variables captured in the survey. Surveys may include two variables for the same program: a binary variable indicating program participation, and a continuous variable with transfer amounts. If the number of positive observations in the two variables is not the same, missing values are imputed as follows:

- a) If continuous variable < binary variable: missing values are replaced by the mean transfer amount if there is a corresponding positive answer in the binary variable
- b) If binary variable < continuous variable: missing values are replaced by “1” if there is a corresponding transfer value in the continuous variable.

Indicators are not reported in cases where the aggregated variable for a social protection area (social assistance, social insurance or labor market programs) has positive observations only for 60 or fewer households.

ii) Regional level

No imputations are performed at the country nor regional levels.

4.g. Regional aggregations (REG_AGG)

The regional and global aggregates consist of simple and population-weighted averages of country level indicators. For this, ASPIRE uses the most recent survey by country within the last 10 years.

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

ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) uses national representative household surveys conducted by the national statistics offices (NSOs). These institutions have their own methodologies for the collection and compilation of the data.

4.i. Quality management (QUALITY_MGMT)

The raw data that ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) uses to estimate social protection and labor (SPL) performance indicators are already validated and curated by the NSOs. Microdata with harmonized welfare aggregates are produced and validated by the World Bank's Poverty and Equity Practice based on their own standards. Furthermore, ASPIRE has an internal quality management protocol including a documented workflow, methodological guidances and a specialized software (ADePT) to automate the generation of performance indicators and minimize human errors.

4.j Quality assurance (QUALITY_ASSURE)

To ensure quality of its indicators, the ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) team conducts internal validations, trend comparison, and outlier analysis to detect errors and inconsistencies.

4.k Quality assessment (QUALITY_ASSMNT)

The ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) team peer reviews indicators internally. Indicators are also validated in consultation with World Bank’s Task Team Leaders, specialists and country counterparts.

5. Data availability and disaggregation (COVERAGE)

Data Availability

ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) includes nearly 600 nationally representative household surveys from 130+ countries. Country data represent all regions of the world: East Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean, Middle East & North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

ASPIRE makes a constant effort to update indicators as soon as new country surveys become available. Depending on the availability of surveys, time trends can be estimated for some countries.

Indicators are disaggregated by per capita income/consumption quintiles including transfers.

6. Comparability / deviation from international standards (COMPARABILITY)

Sources of discrepancies:

While efforts are made to ensure consistency between ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection – Indicators of Resilience and Equity) 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 (OTHER_DOC)

URL:

www.worldbank.org

References:

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