



Social Protection Reform Bulletin

of the Arab Region



Introduction

Welcome to Issue 0 of the Social Protection Reform Bulletin of the Arab Region. This edition covers key policy developments, reforms, and research highlights from across the region. It offers a snapshot of emerging trends in social protection, from new cash transfer schemes and health coverage expansions to subsidy reforms and fiscal policy insights, providing policymakers, practitioners and researchers with timely, region-specific updates.

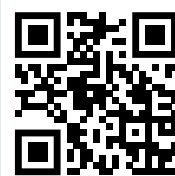
Social protection reform news

Types of benefits		Reform description	Types of reforms
Algeria			
Social health protection 	In May, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security announced that it will henceforth be possible for covered individuals to <u>update “Chifa” health insurance cards</u> at pharmacies after expiration, without the need to visit a centre of the health insurance agency (CNAS).		Delivery  ● Enrollment
Jordan			
Social health protection 	In June, the Government announced that beginning in 2026, children, older persons, and beneficiaries of the National Aid Fund who are covered by subsidized health insurance will be <u>eligible for cancer treatment</u> at the King Hussein Cancer Centre.		Design  ● Population categories covered/eligibility criteria
Lebanon			
Old age 	In April, <u>two laws relating to the teachers’ pension fund</u> were published: one stipulating that contributions should be increased and henceforth paid in United States dollars, and the other allowing the Government to temporarily subsidize this fund in order to finance a reevaluation of pension.		Design  ● Contribution rate
Mauritania			
Family and children 	Disability 	In June, the Ministry of Social Action, Childhood and Family launched <u>a new cash transfer programme</u> for families of children with disabilities in six of the country’s twelve wilayas. This scheme will reportedly benefit 6,000 families in 182 municipalities.	Organizational changes  ● New scheme/fund
Morocco			
Poverty and social exclusion 	In June, the World Bank’s Board of Directors approved \$250 million of financing to support the country’s <u>Support to Strengthening of Social Safety Nets for Human Development Project</u> , which aims to reinforce the new Direct Social Benefit (DSB) programmes.		System level  ● Financing

Types of benefits			Reform description	Types of reforms
Oman				
Other 		In June, through a <u>Royal Decree</u> , Oman has ratified the introduction of a <u>5 per cent income tax</u> on earnings above 42,000 Omani rials (\$109,000).		System level  ● Financing
Old age 		The Social Protection Fund <u>amended</u> Article 81 of the <u>Executive Regulation of the Social Protection Law</u> , allowing individuals to consolidate past contribution periods regardless of age, as long as the request is made within three years of the 2023 Social Protection Law's enactment.		Design  ● Other parametric policy changes
Somalia				
Poverty and social exclusion 	Labour market programmes 	Phase 2 of the <u>Baxnaano programme</u> was launched in May. Launched in 2019, Baxnaano provided cash transfers to 200,000 households with children as of 2024.		Organizational changes  ● New scheme/fund
Tunisia				
Social health protection 	Disability 	Old age 	In May, the Government <u>extended the period to benefit from the waiver of late payment penalties</u> to the CNSS and the CNRPS until the end of this year, following a <u>similar measure</u> adopted last year.	Delivery  ● Contribution payment
Social health protection 	Disability 	Old age 	The President has also instructed the Ministry of Social Affairs to consider innovative mechanisms to <u>diversify the sources of funding for social insurance</u> (CNRPS, CNSS, CNAM), echoing the recommendations laid out in the <u>Comprehensive National Social Protection System and Reforms Country Profile</u> that the Government jointly published with ESCWA: ● Sustainable diversification of funding sources and development of an actuarial model to calculate the real capacity of the pay-as-you-go system.	System level  ● Financing
Unemployment 			A reform regarding the establishment of an <u>unemployment scheme</u> is in the making. It has been included in the 2025 Finance Law, with more specific legislation expected within this year.	Organizational changes  ● New scheme/fund



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