



**WORLD Policy
Analysis Center**

Income and Social Protection

Public Use Data Dictionary



INCOME AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PUBLIC USE DATA DICTIONARY

CONTENTS

About the Data	1
Overview of Organizations	1
Building the Data Center	1
The Poverty Database.....	4
Data.....	6
Country Identifier Variables.....	6
The Poverty Database	7

ABOUT THE DATA

OVERVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONS

The WORLD Policy Analysis Center has collected and analyzed information on laws and policies relevant to human health, wellbeing, and equality in the following areas: child marriage, education, income, discrimination, work-family, equality, health, disability, child labor, as well as social, economic, civil and political rights.

In creating this dataset, our goal was to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the data we present. We look forward to receiving feedback from data users if they believe that any individual countries have been placed in the wrong category. If you are aware of an error in our data, please contact us at world@ph.ucla.edu to report the error. Please provide a link to the relevant law from which the information can be verified.

BUILDING THE DATA CENTER

We examine constitutional and legal provisions as they set a foundation for citizens' rights and are a first step toward improving outcomes. Across countries, having laws on paper does make a difference in practice. Laws and constitutional rights lead to change by shaping public attitudes, encouraging government follow-through with inspections and implementation, and enabling court action for enforcement. Even when local enforcement is inadequate, laws may still have an impact by shaping the terms of political debate and providing levers for civil society advocates. Laws are a mechanism by which power can be democratically redistributed, changes in institutions can be created to ensure greater fairness, and a social floor guaranteeing minimum humane conditions can be established.

When determining the laws, rights, and policies that should be included in the data center, we gave priority to policies that are supported in two ways: with research evidence on their importance to human development, health, or well-being in a variety of geographic, social, and economic circumstances; and with widespread global consensus on their value. If a policy mattered only under a very particular set of circumstances, it was unlikely to make our list.

DATA SOURCES

In selecting data sources to analyze, we had several priorities. Did the source provide primary data on the question we were looking for? For example, if we were looking for information about minimum age of marriage laws, we would always prefer to read the laws themselves (a primary source) rather than a secondary summary or description of them. Primary sources allowed us to better understand the law or policy and helped us avoid errors that might have been introduced in the secondary sources. Working with primary sources also had the advantage of enabling us to provide links to actual legislation and constitutions for those interested in passing new laws or creating reform in their countries. Documents were reviewed in their original language or in a translation into one of the UN's official languages.

When legislation was not available, either because it had not been collected or because we were examining areas that are often not legislated, such as education policy, we gave priority to country reports on their policies submitted to international organizations. We recognize the limitations of country reports, primarily that countries may claim to be doing more than they in fact are in order to cast a more favorable light on their approach, but this limitation is partially mitigated by countries' awareness that nongovernmental organizations and experts will have the opportunity to make recorded comments on the accuracy of many reports to the UN that are linked to international agreements. We turned to official country reports for two reasons. First, as we reviewed the reports, it became clear that many countries do acknowledge gaps in their laws, policies, and programs. For example, many countries that charge tuition for education acknowledge this in their reports to the International Bureau of Education. Second, we saw them as a source for initial mapping that national governments, having filed the reports themselves, would find valid.

Although we used primary data and global sources whenever possible, we also used secondary sources when information was unclear or lacking on particular countries, or when a substantial number of countries were missing even from the most comprehensive sources. In choosing these secondary sources, we gave priority to those that were comparable across multiple countries, such as regional sources. When we were using information sources that covered a limited number of countries, we aimed to ensure that the information they contained could be made consistent with our other sources.

CODING FRAMEWORKS

Conceptually, frameworks had to be developed that allowed the comparison of laws and policies across all the world's countries, even when there was a great deal of variation in the approach taken by individual nations. Questions that originally seemed simple to answer across all countries rarely were. For instance, countries do not simply prohibit or allow child labor below a certain age; many permit work below the minimum age in certain industries or under specific conditions. Once children are allowed to work, there is a range of legislation addressing when they can work, for how long, and under what conditions. As another example, we originally thought that the minimum wage could be captured by a few currency figures. However, we found enormous variation in everything from how the minimum wage was set to how it was determined, and whether and when it was increased to who was exempted. Despite this complexity, the minimum wage was straightforward compared to analyzing a question about equal rights in constitutions. What domains should constitutions cover in providing equal rights? Does it matter if they have a general equal-protection clause but do not spell out specific groups? Which named groups should be captured, and how can this be done consistently? As well, citizens are rarely simply denied or granted certain rights; these rights are subject to provisions regarding whether they can be denied under certain circumstances, whether the nation guarantees the right or just aspires to it, whether positive action can be taken for certain populations, and whether citizens are permitted to defend the right in court, among others.

In developing analytic approaches for each policy area, we began with the essential features, based in intrinsic characteristics of the policy or law, research evidence on important features, and global agreement where it existed. For example, in the case of child labor, international agreements and the evidence base distinguish light work from general employment and hazardous work. In the case of equal rights in constitutions, international agreements have forged consensus on the importance of equal rights across a wide range of features, including gender, ethnicity, and disability, among others; they also underscore the importance of equal rights in social and economic, as well as civil and political, areas.

After determining a set of key features, research analysts read laws and policies from 20 to 30 countries to develop closed-ended categories according to which these features could be coded while capturing the full variety of approaches taken by countries. They then tested this coding system on an additional 10 to 20 nations before implementing it for all countries.

Our priority was to ensure that the richness and variety of approaches that different countries took were well captured. At times, research teams would have already analyzed 60 to 80 countries before coming across a single country whose approach to a particular problem was different enough in important ways that it could not be adequately captured within the coding scheme. In these cases, the coding scheme was revised to add the elements necessary to capture new features of legislation and policymaking that had presented themselves. All previously coded nations were reviewed to determine whether the revised coding system would alter how they were analyzed. In other words, the new coding system, better adapted to the full variety of approaches nations around the world take, was applied to all countries in the end.

The data sources available contained systematic information on legislation and policies but not on implementation. To ensure consistent approaches across countries, reports that contained comprehensive information on policies but only limited incidental information on implementation were coded only for policies. Obtaining systematic sources of information on implementation should be a pressing priority for global organizations.

CODING PROCESS

Coding is the process by which an individual researcher takes a piece of information in legislation, policy, or constitutions and translates it into a set of features that can be mapped, quantitatively analyzed, and readily understood and shared. For example, a researcher would review many pieces of labor legislation and use them to answer such questions as the following: At what age can children or youth engage in hazardous work? How many hours are they permitted to work per day or per week? To capture this information as reliably as possible, coding was carried out whenever feasible by team members fluent in the relevant language of the original documents or in the language into which it had been translated.

Although the coding was designed to be as straightforward as possible to increase reliability, some questions required judgment calls. To make our approach transparent and consistent, the rules for making these judgments were captured systematically in a codebook used by everyone involved in the particular database.

Policies, laws, constitutions, reports, and secondary sources were coded independently twice, and the results of each coding were compared to minimize human error. Where there was disagreement due to human error and the answer was straightforward, the coding was corrected. Where researchers arrived at different conclusions based on judgment, the two researchers discussed the best answer on the basis of coding guidelines and coded their consensus answer. Where they did not agree, a team meeting was called to determine the best way to proceed.

ACCURACY, ANALYSIS, AND UPDATING

Nations that were outliers on particular policies were verified using external sources whenever possible. We recognize that even with all the efforts to provide information that is as accurate as possible, errors are nearly inevitable. The UN and other sources we used may not always have the most up-to-date legislation where primary data were used. Any error or omission in national reports that we used will also be reflected in our data. Finally, even with the double coding, the research team can make errors. We look forward to receiving feedback from readers if they believe that any individual countries have been placed in the wrong category. We will update country reports in our databases when we receive new primary sources of legislation or policy, indicating that changes should be made.

NATIONAL AND SUBNATIONAL LEVELS

The WORLD Policy Analysis Center databases focus largely on the national level. However, in federal systems, states or provinces may legislate a variety of areas. In some cases, omitting subnational legislation is not a significant omission—in China, for example, laws can be passed by provinces as well as the national government, but most legislation is in fact passed nationally. In other countries, like the United States, legislation may be equally passed by the federal government and by states, but historically, once most states have had guarantees, these have typically become federal. However, in other federal contexts, like Canada, federal and provincial jurisdictions are quite distinct. Many social policies are under the jurisdiction only of provinces. In this case, not having subnational information is a greater omission.

Initial data analysis has focused on national-level law and policy collected by the UN and other global organizations. In the future, we hope that a team will be able to analyze information about state/provincial policies and laws in all federal systems for each area.

THE INCOME AND SOCIAL PROTECTION DATABASE

Income and Social Protection Policies

The WORLD Policy Analysis Center analyzed data from relevant legislation and details of social security systems drawn from the following sources as of March 2012:

- Legislative texts accessed via the ILO's NATLEX database and official government gazettes;

- Social Security Programs Throughout the World (SSPTW) reports;
- ILO's TRAVAIL Database of Conditions of Work and Employment Laws;
- European Union's Mutual Information System on Social Protection; and
- Mutual Information System on Social Protection of the Council of Europe.

If the sources mentioned above did not have recent data on minimum-wage rates, information was drawn from the U.S. Department of State's Human Rights Reports.

All data about minimum-wage policies were based on information relevant to the years 2010 and 2011.

Only family benefits provided on a statutory basis—that is, established by law are captured; because data sources offer very limited detail on non-statutory programs (and by definition there are no legislative documents that detail them), these were not included.

DATA

While exhaustive methods were used to collect data, comparable information was not always available for all 193 UN member states for every indicator. In these cases, the relevant variable will be blank in the datasets.

COUNTRY IDENTIFIER VARIABLES

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
country		Name of country
iso2		2-digit ISO country code
iso3		3-digit ISO country code
region		Country geographical region (World Bank classification)
World Bank Country Income Group (wb_econ)	1: Low-income 2: Middle-income 4: High-income	Country income group classification (World Bank: February 2014)

THE INCOME AND SOCIAL PROTECTION DATABASE

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
How is minimum wage established? (minwage_leg)	1: Not established by law or collective bargaining 3: Set by collective bargaining only 5: Set by law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not established by law or collective bargaining includes cases where there is no minimum wage legislation as well as where legislation provides a framework for establishing the minimum wage, but the country has not yet implemented one. Set by collective bargaining usually means that groups representing entire sectors or professions negotiate with employers to establish a minimum wage that applies to most or all workers. Even if employers in a particular sector do not hold membership in the organization that sets the minimum wage for that sector, they must honor the minimum wage set by collective agreement for a particular sector or profession. Set by law means that legislation establishes the minimum wage for the country.
At what level are minimum wages set per day? (minwage_ppp)	1: No national minimum wage 2: \$2PPP or less 3: \$2.01 - \$4 PPP 4: \$4.01 - \$10 PPP 5: More than \$10 PPP 999: Collective bargaining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No national minimum wage includes cases where there is no minimum wage legislation as well as where legislation provides a framework for establishing a minimum wage, but the country has not yet implemented one. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies. Where a series of minimum wages are set by occupation, sector, region, etc., we used the lowest established minimum wage. In exceptional cases where there was a primary minimum wage with an exception designed for a small percentage, the primary minimum wage was used. For example, in the United States, the federal minimum-wage level does not apply to employees who receive tips. These workers are guaranteed a lower minimum level with the assumption that combined with the tips they receive, their

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
		<p>income will be at least equal to the general minimum-wage level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal minimum wage set by collective bargaining usually means that groups representing entire sectors or professions negotiate with employers to establish a minimum wage that applies to most or all workers. Even if employers in a particular sector do not hold membership in the organization that sets the minimum wage for that sector, they must honor the minimum wages set by collective agreement for a particular sector or profession. • The level of minimum wages established through collective bargaining is generally not shown because it differs per sector, with the exception of three countries. Belgium and Croatia have a collectively bargained national minimum-wage level below which collectively bargained sectoral minimum-wage levels cannot be set. In Greece, we were able to determine the amount of the lowest collectively bargained minimum wage, and that level has been included.
<p>Is income protection available during unemployment?</p> <p>(ui_leg)</p>	<p>1: No income protection 3: Severance pay only 4: Benefits, but self-employed excluded 5: Government unemployment benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severance pay is compensation that must be provided by an employer to an employee when his or her job is terminated. Severance pay may also be required when government unemployment benefits are available. • Benefits, but self-employed excluded means that the government provides unemployment benefits, but self-employed workers are not entitled to those benefits. This category also includes cases where it is unknown whether coverage is available to individuals who are self-employed. • Government unemployment benefits means the government provides unemployment benefits and coverage for individuals who are self-employed is available. This coverage includes both mandatory and voluntary coverage for the self-employed.

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all types of income protection, eligibility to receive these benefits may depend on a minimum period of employment, the specific type of employment (e.g. full-time, casual), age, and other factors.
<p>For how long is financial assistance available during unemployment?</p> <p>(ui_maxbenlength)</p>	<p>1: No government assistance 2: 20 weeks or less 3: 20.1 – 26 weeks 4: 26.1 – 52 weeks 5: More than 52 weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The variable includes the maximum length of time under ordinary circumstances. It does not include extensions. All durations were converted into weeks for the purposes of comparability. No government assistance includes cases where workers receive no financial assistance from the government but are entitled to severance pay from their employer after termination.
<p>How much financial assistance would an unemployed minimum wage worker receive per day?</p> <p>(ui_minwageppp)</p>	<p>1: No government assistance 2: \$2PPP or less 3: \$2.01 - \$4 PPP 4: \$4.01 - \$10 PPP 5: More than \$10 PPP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These amounts are calculated by putting the minimum wage into the benefit-calculation formula. For example, if unemployment insurance pays workers 45% of their wage the amount shown would be 45% of minimum wage. Where applicable the national minimum of unemployment benefits was used. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies. No government assistance includes cases where workers receive no financial assistance from the government but are entitled to severance pay from their employer after termination.
<p>Do families receive income support?</p> <p>(fb_leg)</p>	<p>1: No known family cash benefits 2: Provided only in certain circumstances 3: Provided subject only to a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash benefits refer to direct financial assistance provided to households by the government, as opposed to other types of assistance such as food stamps or tax. Our data on family benefits include only cash benefits because we were unable to examine other types of transfers to families as

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
	means test 5: Provided without a means test	<p>there was no reliable global data source for this information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided only in certain circumstances includes cases where benefits are available only to specific groups of people, such as single parents or orphans, or as benefits to fund specific aspects of life, such as housing allowances, birth grants, and school allowances. • Provided subject only to a means test includes benefits that are only available to families with incomes below a certain level. • Provided without a means test includes benefits that are available to families without considering their income.
How much are birth or maternity grants available to first-time parents? (fb_birthsupp_amt)	1: No grant available 2: Less than \$50 PPP 3: \$50 - \$149.99 PPP 4: \$150 - \$499 PPP 5: \$500 PPP or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A birth or maternity grant is a one-time or short-term grant given when a child is born to help with the costs associated with having a child. Because the amount of the grant might vary due to birth order, we present information on grants available for the first child in order to have a basis for comparison between countries. • Benefits are adjusted for differences in buying power across countries. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies.
How much financial assistance is available per month to low-income families with two preschool-age children? (fb_modelfam_presch)	1: No known family benefits 2: Less than \$20 PPP 3: \$20 - \$59.99 PPP 4: \$60 - \$149.99 PPP 5: \$150 PPP or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash benefits refer to direct financial assistance provided to households by the government, as opposed to other types of assistance such as food stamps or tax. • Our data on family benefits include only cash benefits because we were unable to examine other types of transfers to families as there was no reliable global data source for this information. • In order to provide a concrete and comparable image of the financial support offered to families across countries, we calculated benefit levels for sample families with a specified number of children of a specified age. For families with preschool-age

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
		<p>children, the calculation was made based on a family with two 4-year-old children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When benefits differed according to income level, the lowest income bracket was used as we were particularly interested in financial support available to families with the greatest need. • Benefits are adjusted for differences in buying power across countries. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies.
<p>How much financial assistance is available per month to low-income families with two school-aged children?</p> <p>(fb_modelfam_school)</p>	<p>1: No known family benefits 2: Less than \$20 PPP 3: \$20 - \$59.99 PPP 4: \$60 - \$149.99 PPP 5: \$150 PPP or more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash benefits refer to direct financial assistance provided to households by the government, as opposed to other types of assistance such as food stamps or tax. • Our data on family benefits include only cash benefits because we were unable to examine other types of transfers to families as there was no reliable global data source for this information. • In order to provide a concrete and comparable image of the financial support offered to families across countries, we calculated benefit levels for sample families with a specified number of children of a specified age. For families with school-age children, the calculation was made based on a family with two 8-year-old children. • When benefits differed according to income level, the lowest income bracket was used as we were particularly interested in financial support available to families with the greatest need. • Benefits are adjusted for differences in buying power across countries. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies.

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
<p>How much financial assistance is available per month to low-income families with two teenage children?</p> <p>(fb_modelfam_teen)</p>	<p>1: No known family benefits 2: Less than \$20 PPP 3: \$20 - \$59.99 PPP 4: \$60 - \$149.99 PPP 5: \$150 PPP or more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash benefits refer to direct financial assistance provided to households by the government, as opposed to other types of assistance such as food stamps or tax. • Our data on family benefits include only cash benefits because we were unable to examine other types of transfers to families as there was no reliable global data source for this information. • In order to provide a concrete and comparable image of the financial support offered to families across countries, we calculated benefit levels for sample families with a specified number of children of a specified age. For families with teenage children, the calculation was made based on a family with two 15-year-old children. • When benefits differed according to income level, the lowest income bracket was used as we were particularly interested in financial support available to families with the greatest need. • Benefits are adjusted for differences in buying power across countries. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies.
<p>Do families receive benefits for child care or school costs?</p> <p>(fb_ccschsupp)</p>	<p>1: No benefits for child care or school costs 3: Means-tested benefits 4: Benefits available without means test 5: Both with and without a means test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Means-tested benefits are only available to families with incomes below a certain level. • Benefits available without a means test are available to families without considering their income.
<p>Are benefits available to families with disabled children?</p>	<p>1: No or limited family benefits 2: Means-tested family benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In defining the term “children with disabilities” some countries refer to persons with physical disabilities, some refer to persons with mental health conditions or intellectual disabilities, and some

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
(dc_benprov)	3: Family benefits are not means-tested 5: Specific benefits for disabled children	<p>discuss persons with disabilities in general. For the purposes of our map the term “children with disabilities” captures all of these definitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our data on family benefits include only government-provided cash benefits. We were unable to examine in-kind transfers to families and tax credits as there was no reliable global data source for this information. • <i>No or limited family benefits</i> includes cases where family benefits are available only in certain circumstances such as only to specific groups (for example single parents or orphans), or as benefits to fund specific aspects of life, such as housing or school allowances. • <i>Means-tested family benefits</i> are only available to families with incomes below a certain level. There are no family benefits specific to children with disabilities. • <i>Family benefits that are not means-tested</i> are family benefits available to families without considering their incomes. There are no family benefits specific to children with disabilities.
<p>How much financial assistance is available per month to low-income families with one severely disabled school-age child?</p> <p>(fb_modelfam_scchool_dc)</p>	<p>1: No specific family benefits 2: Less than \$100 PPP 3: \$100 - \$199.99 PPP 4: \$200 - \$499.99 PPP 5: \$500 PPP or more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some countries adjust the amount of these benefits based on the age of the child, the family's income, the amount of benefits received through other schemes, and/or the nature of the child's disability. For the purposes of comparability, we examine the benefits provided to families in the lowest income bracket with one child with the most severe level of disability at a given age. • In order to provide a concrete and comparable image of the financial support offered to families across countries, we calculated benefit levels for sample families with a specified number of children of a specified age. For families with a school-age child, the calculation was made based on a family with one 8-year-old child. • <i>No specific family benefits</i> includes countries with no family benefit scheme as well as countries with general cash family benefits, but no benefits specifically for children with disabilities. • Benefits are only the amount of money targeted toward children

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
		<p>with disabilities. If a country has a general cash family benefit and an additional supplement for children with disabilities, we only consider the amount of the supplement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits are adjusted for differences in buying power across countries. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies.
<p>How much financial assistance is available per month to low-income families with one severely disabled teenage child?</p> <p>(fb_modelfam_teen_dc)</p>	<p>1: No specific family benefits 2: Less than \$100 PPP 3: \$100 - \$199.99 PPP 4: \$200 - \$499.99 PPP 5: \$500 PPP or more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some countries adjust the amount of these benefits based on the age of the child, the family's income, the amount of benefits received through other schemes, and/or the nature of the child's disability. For the purposes of comparability, we examine the benefits provided to families in the lowest income bracket with one child with the most severe level of disability at a given age. • In order to provide a concrete and comparable image of the financial support offered to families across countries, we calculated benefit levels for sample families with a specified number of children of a specified age. For families with a teenage child, the calculation was made based on a family with one 15-year-old child. • <i>No specific family benefits</i> includes countries with no family benefit scheme as well as countries with general cash family benefits, but no benefits specifically for children with disabilities. • Benefits are only the amount of money targeted toward children with disabilities. If a country has a general cash family benefit and an additional supplement for children with disabilities, we only consider the amount of the supplement. • Benefits are adjusted for differences in buying power across countries. To determine purchasing power parity (PPP), economists estimate the amount of money required to purchase the same bundle of goods and services across countries rather than using a simple exchange rate to compare currencies.

Variable Name	Variable Values	Variable Notes
<p>Are there income protections for the elderly? (oa_ben)</p>	<p>1: No government pensions 3: Contributory pensions only 4: Non-contributory pensions only 5: Both contributory and non-contributory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributory pensions are a benefit that individuals are entitled to when they have paid into the country's social insurance, social assistance, provident fund, or equivalent system. Benefits are often determined based on the individual's prior level of earnings. Non-contributory pensions are benefits that individuals are entitled to without having paid into a retirement fund. Benefits are usually a fixed amount meant to ensure a minimum level of income for the elderly. <i>No government pensions</i> means that the government does not provide any kind of contributory or non-contributory old-age benefit. <i>Contributory pensions only</i> means that only individuals who have paid into the government retirement system are entitled to receive benefits. Depending on the country, workers in the informal economy may not have access to contributory pensions. <i>Non-contributory pensions only</i> means that the government only provides a non-contributory benefit to the elderly. <i>Both contributory and non-contributory</i> means that the government provides a contributory and a non-contributory old age benefit. In these cases, the non-contributory pension often acts as a safety net to ensure that all individuals receive a minimum level of income support in old age.