



**Oral Statement**  
**Human Rights Council – 50<sup>th</sup> Session**  
Interactive Dialog with the Special Rapporteur on  
Extreme Poverty and Human Rights  
**Non-take-up of rights in the context of social  
protection**

Make Mothers Matter welcomes the excellent report of the SR.

This critical question it raises is particularly relevant for mothers and other unpaid caregivers. Child poverty can have a long-term impact on children's health and education, and be costly in the long run. It is therefore crucial to address non-take-up by poor families, especially single mothers.

We have 2 comments:

First, the time poverty suffered by parents, mothers in particular, who have to juggle unpaid domestic and care work with paid work, can also be a cause of non-take-up and must be considered and addressed. Access to child benefits and other social protection benefits for families should be facilitated as much as possible - or even better, made universal.

Second, cross-sectorial approaches could help address non-take-up. For example, to ensure that social protection supports early childhood development, the moment of birth is key to sensitise parents not only on child health issues, but also on the importance of birth registration and availability of social protection benefits. Since globally, 83% of births are now attended by a skilled health worker<sup>1</sup>, these professionals could be trained to do so. Child health books can be another useful tool to provide information and guidance beyond child health.

We at MMM fully support the call to governments by the Special Rapporteur to urgently address non-take-up; but would urge non-take-up by families with children to be prioritised.

As reminded in the report, social protection is an investment, not an expense to be minimized – and in the case of children, it is the best investment a country can make.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: UNICEF 2020 - <https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/delivery-care/>