

Figure 3: Korea's current social protection measures leave out significant groups of the population. Gaps could be reduced through various methods.

– Stylised social protection coverage of the Korean working-age population today and with the suggested reforms –

A. Social protection coverage of the working-age population in Korea today

Social protection coverage in Korea today		Social protection in case of unemployment	Social protection for work absence due to sickness	Social protection against poverty
Employed	Regular salaried employees			M
	Non-regular salaried employees	(only some*)		M
	Self-employed persons	V		M
	Contributing family workers			
Unemployed	With adequate UI contributions			M
	- Of which are voluntarily unemployed	(disqualification)		M
	With inadequate/exhausted UI entitlement	M^		M
	- Of which have potential family support	M^		
	New labour market entrants	M^		M

B. Social protection coverage of the working-age population in Korea after implementation of all reforms

Social protection coverage in Korea after reforms		Social protection in case of unemployment	Social protection for work absence due to sickness	Social protection against poverty
Employed	Regular salaried employees		L	M
	Non-regular salaried employees		L	M
	Self-employed persons			M
	Contributing family workers	V	V	M
Unemployed	With adequate UI contributions			M
	- Of which are voluntarily unemployed	(with sanction)		M
	With inadequate/exhausted UI entitlement	M^	M	M
	- Of which have potential family support	M^	M	M
	New labour market entrants	M^	M	M

Legend:

	Employment Insurance (EI)	M	Coverage is conditional on a means test
	Employment Success Package Programme (ESPP)	V	Coverage available only on a voluntary basis
	Basic Livelihood Support Payment (BLSP)	L	Employer liability protections are also in place
	Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)		

Note: Information assumes local nationality status (i.e. excludes non-national workers).

\* Some non-regular salaried workers are excluded from EI coverage, such as dependent self-employed workers, seasonal workers and domestic workers, among others.

^ Two broad groups are exempted from a means test under ESPP – certain “vulnerable groups” under type-1 programmes and jobseekers aged 18-34 under type-2 programmes.

Source: Authors' own compilation.