

**National Human Rights Index**

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**2025**

**Right to Social Security**

Expert Commentary

<b>The score:</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>-0,1</b>
<i>Including scores by component:</i>		
• Existence of an effective social security system	3,3	-0,1
• Support for the unemployed and persons incapable of working	3,7	-0,1
• Support for families, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities	5,8	-0,1

In assessing the situation with the right to social security in 2025, the Index experts assigned lower scores than in 2024. Among the principal reasons:

- entry into force of the reform of the unemployment support system, which has definitively transformed this social guarantee from a mechanism of support into a mechanism of compulsion to work;
- further expansion of instruments of pressure on "social parasites";
- absence of a systemic response to mounting demographic challenges, notwithstanding the adoption of a number of new programmatic documents;
- expansion of the grounds for recognizing a child as being in a "socially dangerous situation" (which are frequently used for politically motivated persecution).

At the same time, experts noted a number of improvements: the expansion of the right to a care allowance for families with children with disabilities, and the balanced execution of the Social Protection Fund (SPF) budget for the year (although the latter is attributable to short-term growth in nominal wages rather than to structural reforms).

On 19 December 2025, at a session of the VII All-Belarusian People's Assembly, the Program of Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2026–2030<sup>1</sup> was approved. The Program is structured around seven priorities: (1) national demographic security – preservation of the population, strengthening of national health, and support for the family; (2) development of human potential, quality education, and the nurturing of a harmonious and patriotic individual; (3) creation of a high-quality and convenient living environment; (4) growth of competitiveness, acceleration of technological

<sup>1</sup> [Утверждена программа соцэкономразвития Беларуси на 2026-2030 годы](#)



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development, and digital transformation; (5) strong regions; (6) strengthening of the state's defense capability and the development of the defense sector of the economy; (7) realization of tourism potential.

Also in 2025, implementation of the state program "Social Protection"<sup>2</sup> was drawing to a close. It envisaged the allocation of 5 billion rubles for the provision of quality social services, the development of institution-substituting forms of care, and the creation of an accessible environment. Although both Programs were evidently adopted with due regard to the provisions of the National Strategy "Active Longevity – 2030,"<sup>3</sup> it is only marginally oriented toward strengthening the activity and functional capacity of elderly persons.

Under the normative requirement of continuity between state programs – including with respect to their titles – the program defining state policy in the social sphere for 2026–2030 will be entitled "Society of Equal Opportunities"<sup>4</sup> (adopted 24 December 2025). Among its principal priorities are: the improvement of social support for elderly citizens and persons with disabilities, the enhancement of their quality of life, and the creation of a barrier-free environment. The extent to which the program promotes the activity and functional capacity of elderly persons may be gauged primarily from a few provisions:

- creation of an accessible environment (in practice an obligation that is carried over from program to program, while many polyclinics even in Minsk still lack elevators and adequate restroom facilities);
- possibility for pensioners to continue working without a deduction from their pension;
- provision of rehabilitation aids to those in need.

An allocation of 3.8 billion BYN is planned for implementation, with social services to reach 230,000 persons. The new program narrows its scope – from "citizens in difficult life situations" to two specific groups: citizens of older age and persons with disabilities. Issues of child and family support have been transferred to the program "Development of the Demographic Potential."<sup>5</sup>

A comparison of the state programs reveals the following significant changes:

- Reformulation of objectives: from "protection" to "equal opportunities" (the old program spoke of "further improvement of social protection for the population and the formation of an accessible living

<sup>2</sup> [Государственная программа «Социальная защита» на 2021 – 2025 годы | Министерство труда и социальной защиты Республики Беларусь. Официальный сайт](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Постановление Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 03.12.2020 г. № 693 «О Национальной стратегии Республики Беларусь "Активное долголетие - 2030"» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Постановление Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 24.12.2025 г. № 763 «О Государственной программе "Общество равных возможностей" на 2026-2030 годы» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Gosprogramma-razvitie-demogr.potentsiala-2026-2030.pdf](#)



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environment"; the new program envisages "improving the accessibility and quality of social support taking into account the differentiated needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities");

- Introduction of a social services market with private sector participation: the new program explicitly states the objective of "creating conditions for the development of a market for social services" and "expanding the participation of public associations and private-sector entities in the provision of social services, including under the state social procurement mechanism," whereas the old program provided for the state social procurement mechanism but did not frame it as a systemic developmental priority. Experts regard this as a very positive shift but note that experience with the implementation of the state social procurement mechanism shows that such innovations encounter very significant resistance due to bureaucratic barriers, the absence of a right to make mistakes, and the reluctance to take risks on the part of both procurers and service providers. Nonetheless, in deteriorating economic conditions, private entrepreneurs may become a driver of this process;

- Continuation of the shift from the residential to the home-based and semi-residential model: the new program advances "the development of long-term care as the priority form of home-based patronage," "the provision of the system with professional care personnel," and "the organization of comprehensive support for family-based care" as "key vectors." The old program developed institution-substituting forms but did not frame long-term care as an independent strategic priority. Experts noted that this too is a positive change that has long been promoted by social NGOs, but suggested that in practice the situation of those in need of care is more likely to deteriorate, since there is a catastrophic shortage of care specialists: there are known cases where Territorial Centers for Social Services of the Population (TCSSPs) are ready to pay cash for training sessions for social workers delivered by NGO specialists, and those who receive any training at all tend to seek individual employment, with their private services carrying a high price tag. Accordingly, there is a high risk that this formal change will merely legalize the social system's failure to provide care services to a large number of elderly persons in need;

- Digitalization: the new program includes "centralized automation of the activities of territorial centers for social services" as an independent priority;

- Shift of the framework from international SDG standards to national documents: the old program was explicitly oriented toward the achievement of the SDGs and contained an annex on the comparability of indicators with SDG indicators; the new program refers primarily to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development to 2040, the Government's Program of Activities for 2025–2029, and merely mentions SDG 10 ("Reduced Inequalities") as one point of reference. The National Strategy "Active Longevity – 2030" is also not mentioned (it was adopted on the basis of the SDGs).

Experts noted that the Program "Society of Equal Opportunities" for 2026–2030 was formulated on the basis of a demographic forecast dating from 2020 that has not been revised in five years; the document accordingly fails to account for the current dynamics of population aging and post-COVID changes in the health status of the elderly. Despite the formal appearance of a state demography program and the "National Health" program, the emphasis in demographic policy has shifted exclusively to stimulating the birth rate; the issues of healthy longevity and care for an aging population have not been



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systematically addressed. The topic of dementia, which was actively discussed prior to 2020, has effectively disappeared from the agenda. The number of persons with dementia, including those with post-COVID cognitive impairment, is growing, while the state lacks reliable statistics, does not fund relevant research, and is not developing the care infrastructure.

The Social Protection Fund for 2025 was executed with a surplus (revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately 500 million rubles), attributable to the accelerated growth of nominal wages rather than to structural reforms. Nonetheless, this situation creates an illusion of systemic sustainability, and the state failed to take advantage of the start of the five-year planning cycle to respond to long-term risks.

### • Existence of an Effective Social Security System

The central legislative event of 2025 in the field of social security was the adoption of Law No. 90-Z,<sup>6</sup> which amended the procedure for the payment of insurance contributions to the Social Protection Fund (SPF) for certain categories of contributors, as well as introducing a number of changes to pension legislation. The key innovations affected several areas:

- For individual entrepreneurs subject to income tax, a differentiated rate of 35% was introduced: if annual income is less than 12 minimum monthly wages (8,712 rubles in 2025), contributions are calculated on the basis of the amount of income actually received; if income equals or exceeds that threshold, the payment is calculated on the basis of 12 minimum monthly wages (MMW).
- From 18 August 2025 (the date of the law's entry into force), SPF bodies issue independent decisions on the recovery of arrears and penalties from individual entrepreneurs in accordance with enforcement proceedings legislation (previously the SPF applied to notaries for the execution of a notarial endorsement for debt recovery).
- As of 2025, the minimum insurance contribution record required to qualify for a labor pension is 20 years.

By Council of Ministers Resolution of 30 December 2024 No. 1055,<sup>7</sup> entering into force on 1 January 2025, a new procedure was approved for the recognition of **children as being in a socially dangerous situation** (SDS) and in need of state protection, and the criteria and indicators of such a situation were defined. The number of administrative offenses for which holding parents accountable constitutes grounds for placing the family in SDS status doubled – from 6 to 12. Among the expanded set of such offenses, four were added that are used for politically motivated persecution: Articles 19.4, 19.10, 19.11, and 19.8 of the Code of Administrative Offenses.<sup>8</sup> According to data provided by an online legal assistance project, in 2025 the topic of "SDS" ranked second among the most frequently submitted consultation requests, accounting for 20% of the traditionally most prevalent category of labor-related

<sup>6</sup> [Закон Республики Беларусь от 12.07.2025 г. № 90-3 «Об изменении законов по вопросам государственного социального страхования и пенсионного обеспечения» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Постановление Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 30.12.2024 г. № 1055 «О признании детей находящимися в социально опасном положении и нуждающимися в государственной защите» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>8</sup> <https://trends.belhelcom.org/storage/reviews/June2025/CIq6C5o1M23dmNqxCufy.pdf>



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inquiries. This clearly indicates that abuses of the SDS mechanism (which had occurred previously) are beginning to be applied more widely, in the process becoming yet another instrument of pressure on the families of persons subjected to politically motivated persecution.

From 1 July 2025, social payments are transferred exclusively to a "basic account."<sup>9</sup> If a recipient did not have a basic account by 1 July 2025, payments were suspended. Resumption of payments was conditional upon the opening of a basic account and the transmission of its details to the social protection authority. This situation affected persons fearful of returning to Belarus for political reasons who were receiving pensions or benefits: the opening of a basic account requires of them additional administrative steps (a power of attorney, the apostillization of foreign documents), and in combination with the "passport decree" – in cases where an individual's passport has expired – makes the opening of such an account impossible. The practical result is the effective deprivation of these individuals of their pensions.

The Law of 12 July 2025 No. 86-Z "On Amendments to Laws on Issues of Securing the Rights of Children"<sup>10</sup> affected a number of aspects of child welfare, including:

- Enshrinement of the priority of raising children within the family;
- Expansion of guarantees for children with special psychophysical development needs (SPDN) and disabilities, including the right to choose an educational institution, the creation of special conditions for learning, and the adoption of measures to create an accessible environment for the child's active participation in social life;
- Detailed specification of guarantees for orphaned children and children deprived of parental care, including monetary payments for personal expenses for children aged 7 and above, and the provision of medicinal products and medical devices (including eyeglasses).

Alongside the positive aspects of social security, the law enshrined directly discriminatory provisions, imposing on parents the obligation to foster children's moral development and to protect them from information harmful to their health and development – including information that "promotes homosexual relations, gender reassignment, paedophilia, or childlessness."

In late December 2025, a government resolution<sup>11</sup> introduced further amendments to the system of state social insurance and pension provision. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection emphasized that the document is aimed at further simplifying the interaction of citizens and organizations with the SPF, as well as at expanding support measures for certain categories of citizens.<sup>12</sup> The resolution approves unified provisions on the confirmation of insurance records, the registration of contribution

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<sup>9</sup> [Минтруда: с 1 июля 2025 г. социальные выплаты будут перечисляться только на базовый счет](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Закон Республики Беларусь от 12.07.2025 г. № 86-З «Об изменении законов по вопросам обеспечения прав детей» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Постановление Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 20.12.2025 г. № 742 «О вопросах государственного социального страхования и пенсионного обеспечения» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Подробности об изменениях в правилах государственного социального страхования разъяснили в Минтруда](#)



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payers, and the rules of personalized accounting, while annulling a large number of old resolutions (more than 70 acts adopted from 1992 to 2025), thereby simplifying the legal framework. The amendments are aimed at full digitalization of interaction with the SPF (through a personal account); periods of military service and service in law enforcement structures are now officially included in the period of contribution payments for the purpose of determining entitlement to sickness and maternity benefits; controls over service-length pensions for security forces personnel have been tightened (pension authorities are now obligated to request information on offenses from the unified state data bank prior to assigning a pension to military personnel and employees of security agencies – the MIA, the Investigative Committee, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and others – while in respect of those to whom a pension has already been assigned, such checks will be conducted annually); and social support for persons caring for individuals with disabilities has been expanded (temporary incapacity benefit may be received for care of a Group I disabled person not only in the event of their illness, but also during their stay in an inpatient facility, at a sanatorium or spa facility, or during medical rehabilitation or habilitation).

Presidential Decree No. 202 of 21 May 2025<sup>13</sup> introduced additional regulation of external labor migration: the supervisory functions of employers were expanded (functions not characteristic of employers), and the migrant's right to freedom of labor was restricted; no adequate procedural guarantees for either party are provided.<sup>14</sup>

- **Support for the Unemployed and Those Unable to Work**

The amendments to the Law "On Employment of the Population," adopted in late 2024 and entering into force on 1 January 2025,<sup>15</sup> which, according to the official account, are designed to eliminate "dependency attitudes" in society, fundamentally reformed the unemployment support system.

With effect from 1 January 2025, by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 1064,<sup>16</sup> a uniform benefit amount of 40 rubles was established for all categories of unemployed persons (previously the benefit amount was linked to the base amount and was differentiated; the maximum benefit was 2 base amounts, i.e. 80 rubles). In addition to unifying the benefit amount, the rules for the assignment of the unemployment benefit were changed.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> [Указ Президента Республики Беларусь от 21.05.2025 г. № 202 «О повышении роли нанимателей в области внешней трудовой миграции» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>14</sup> <https://trends.belhelcom.org/storage/reviews/January2026/aLhKTZx4Pnk9NqjtRTRy.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> [Закон Республики Беларусь от 11.10.2024 г. № 36-3 «Об изменении законов по вопросам занятости населения» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Постановление Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 31.12.2024 г. № 1064 «Об установлении размера пособия по безработице» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Как получить пособие по безработице | Министерство труда и социальной защиты Республики Беларусь. Официальный сайт](#)



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- The benefit payment period was reduced from 6 to 3 months (13 calendar weeks) – the payment of the benefit for 6 months (26 calendar weeks) is retained for two categories only: citizens within 5 years of reaching retirement age, and those residing in territories with a tense labor market situation;
- The maximum period of registration with the employment service was reduced from 18 to 12 months;
- The unemployed person must register with the employment service within one month of the date of dismissal; and prior to that date must have been in an employment relationship for at least 5 years (previously 12 months sufficed).

The benefit amount of 40 rubles represents a negligible 8.2% of the subsistence minimum (487.72 rubles as of 1 August 2025) and does not provide a minimum income level (ILO Convention No. 102 requires that the unemployment benefit constitute no less than 45% of the wage of a skilled male worker). The simultaneous increase in the required employment record threshold from 1 to 5 years significantly narrows the pool of eligible recipients.

By Council of Ministers Resolution of 27 August 2025 No. 465,<sup>18</sup> with effect from 1 October 2025, a new procedure for settlements in the housing and utilities sector was approved, affecting "persons not engaged in the economy": payment at effectively increased tariff rates was made applicable to all residential premises owned by or in the use of such persons (previously the increased tariff applied only to the "social parasite's" share in a dwelling; it now covers the entire volume of services consumed – heating, hot water, gas – across all dwellings owned by the individual). Those included on the "social parasite" list report significant increases in utility payments.<sup>19</sup> Such measures effectively impose additional financial burdens on persons who are already deprived of income.

- **Support for Families, Children, the Elderly, and Persons with Disabilities**

**Pension** increases in 2025 were carried out from 1 February at 10% (the adoption of the Decree<sup>20</sup> on pension increases on 20 January – six days before the presidential elections\* – arguably contained a populist element) and from 1 September at 5%.<sup>21</sup> As a result, according to the preliminary assessment of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the average old-age pension increased over the year (from February 2026 compared to February 2025) by 138 rubles, or 14.8%.

From 1 February 2025, in connection with a 2.2% increase in the budget minimum of subsistence (BMS), the minimum labor and social pensions, as well as supplements, increments, and supplementary payments to pensions, were increased. The care allowance for a Group I disabled person or a person

<sup>18</sup> [Постановление Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 27.08.2025 г. № 465 «О расчетах в сфере жилищно-коммунального хозяйства» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Откуда такие цифры в жировках? В Беларуси пересчитали платежи для тунеядцев - 17.11.2025](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Указ Президента Республики Беларусь от 20.01.2025 г. № 33 «О повышении пенсий» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Указ Президента Республики Беларусь от 14.08.2025 г. № 308 «О повышении пенсий» – Pravo.by](#)



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who has reached the age of 80 amounted to 447.64 rubles (100% of the BMS); for care of two or more – 537.17 rubles (120% of the BMS).

Among supplementary payments to pensions are the so-called "age" supplements – received by more than 540,000 persons aged 75 and above. From 1 August 2025, the monthly supplement to the pensions of non-working pensioners aged 80 and above amounted to 121.93 rubles (100% of the minimum old-age pension), and for those aged between 75 and 80 – 91.45 rubles (75%).<sup>22</sup> At the same time, such payments do not cover the actual cost of care where care is required, and do not account for the specific features of cognitive impairment, which commences well before the threshold age of 80.

Pursuant to the Law of 11 November 2024 No. 37-Z "On Amendments to Laws on Issues of Veterans,"<sup>[^24]</sup> entering into force on 1 May 2025, enhanced healthcare guarantees were established for survivors of the Siege of Leningrad. State social benefits include: free provision of medicinal products, free fabrication and repair of dental prostheses, priority service in healthcare organizations, free provision of technical aids for social rehabilitation, priority free sanatorium and spa treatment, free travel on urban and suburban transport, and a 50% discount on housing and utilities services.

The **"Family Capital" program** was extended for the period 2025–2029.<sup>23</sup> From 1 January 2025, the family capital amount is 33,275 rubles. As of 1 October 2025, 149,250 "Family Capital" deposit accounts had been opened for large families.<sup>24</sup>

From 1 August 2025, the one-time birth benefit for the first child amounted to 10 BMS (4,877.20 rubles), and for the second and subsequent children – 14 BMS (6,828.08 rubles). The benefit for women who registered with a healthcare organization before the 12th week of pregnancy amounted to 100% of the BMS (487.72 rubles).<sup>25</sup>

From 1 August 2025 to 31 January 2026, monthly child care benefits for children up to the age of 3 are as follows: for the first child – 931.91 rubles (35% of average wages); for the second and subsequent children – 1,065.04 rubles (40% of average wages); for a child with a disability – 1,198.17 rubles (45% of average wages).

A one-time financial assistance payment is provided to large families (raising three or more children) regardless of income. The payment amount for each school-age child is 30% of the BMS in force on 1 August 2025.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>22</sup> [Вырастут доплаты к пенсиям и пособия. Что меняется в Беларуси с 1 августа](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Закон Республики Беларусь от 11.11.2024 г. № 37-З «Об изменении законов по вопросам ветеранов» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Указ Президента Республики Беларусь от 30.10.2024 г. № 403 «Об изменении указов Президента Республики Беларусь» – Pravo.by](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Льготы, выплаты и новые возможности: как государство заботится о семьях с детьми](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Размеры госпособий семьям, воспитывающим детей, увеличиваются с 1 ноября](#)



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From 1 November 2025, the amounts of state benefits for families raising children, calculated on the basis of the BMS, were increased by 0.7%. The one-time benefit upon the birth of the first child amounted to 4,910.90 rubles; upon the birth of the second and subsequent children – 6,875.26 rubles.

From 1 January 2025, for women who have given birth to four children and raised them to the age of 8, the insurance record required for the assignment of an old-age pension was reduced from 10 to 5 years – the same as provided for women with five or more children.<sup>27</sup>

From 1 January 2025, a number of innovations<sup>28</sup> in respect of social support for **families with children with disabilities** entered into force. In particular, the right was established to assign a benefit for children over the age of 3 from certain categories of families, and in cases where the child has reached the age of 18 and been assigned a Group I disability classification (disability from childhood), and one of the parents is providing care for that child and receiving a care benefit.

From 2025, the right to a benefit for children aged 3 to 18 was extended to cover cases where the child with a disability has reached adulthood and is assigned a Group I disability, and a parent is providing care. The right to a benefit for children over the age of three was also established in cases where children are pursuing fee-paying education not only at their family's own expense but in other circumstances as well.

Additionally, the right to an early old-age pension was extended to fathers of children with disabilities (disabled from childhood) – previously this right was available only to mothers.

Experts note the existence of an informal practice in certain districts whereby, instead of processing a care benefit for a child with a disability, a relative is employed at reduced hours (at remuneration comparable to the benefit amount) within the social services structure. For the family, this appears to be a simpler and faster procedure; however, it may be presumed that in the process employment indicators are improved and the burden on the SPF is reduced. This practice is not reflected in any way in the official statistics on social services, making it impossible to assess actual coverage. The practice is of an ad hoc nature and varies depending on the position of the local authorities.

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<sup>27</sup> [Вырастут доплаты к пенсиям и пособия. Что меняется в Беларуси с 1 августа](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Закон Республики Беларусь от 12.07.2025 г. № 90-З «Об изменении законов по вопросам государственного социального страхования и пенсионного обеспечения» – Pravo.by](#)



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