

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN INDIA



International
Labour
Organization

A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR (SPF) IN INDIA IS FEASIBLE

India has a large number of social protection schemes, both at the central and state levels, which cater to different segments of the population. The range of these schemes is wide, covering basic education and health, employment promotion, workers' social security, and food and nutrition security. In other words, the schemes span almost the entire realm of social policy, including workers' rights at work.

The size, increasing informality, and heterogeneity of India's workforce (around 490 million) lead to low levels of social protection and high vulnerability among India's workers. The characteristics of the workforce also constrain the expansion of social protection, mainly due to the dearth of appropriate institutional arrangements and policies, but also due to a lack of visibility and voice of such workers and other supply side considerations. This calls for strategies to extend social protection to India's uncovered population.

The Government of India has endorsed the concept of national floors of social protection at various national (e.g. 45th Session of the Indian Labour Conference, New Delhi 2013) and international forums (G20 and International Labour Conference).

POLICY REFORM INITIATIVES TO EXTEND SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE

In recent years, social protection and its extension to informal economy workers has assumed great importance. The Government of India follows a comprehensive approach aimed at preventing deprivation and ensuring that all individuals have access to basic income security and essential health care.

The social security legislative reform, as part of the labour law reform, aims at streamlining the multitude of social

security laws, closing coverage gaps and improving outcomes for both employers and workers.



At the same time, various states within India are exploring possibilities to set up comprehensive social protection systems, based on the concept of national SPFs.

To improve coverage and service delivery for construction workers (around 50 million), central and state governments, together with social partners, are examining ways to improve the implementation of legislation regulating social security provisions for construction workers.

I would like to admit that I was not aware of the concept of the SPF. When exposed to it, through workshops conducted by the ILO, I started looking at social rights also.

- Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Cuttack, Odisha

We should not limit our discussions on SPF to the policy level, but transform them into a programme of action.

- Dr. Navneeta Rath, Head of Department of Sociology, Utkal University, Odisha



FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

India's Constitution recognizes the right to social security. The importance of national SPFs is highlighted in the United Nations Development Action Framework 2013-17. Likewise, the building of a national SPF is identified as a priority in the ILO's Decent Work Country Programme for India (2013-2017).

With your support, we can:

- Strengthen the capacities of tripartite partners, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders, for supporting the finalization of the draft Labour Code on Social Security and Welfare.

US\$ 300.000

- Formulate evidence-based gender equitable options for building a state-based SPF through a process of social dialogue with broader participation of all stakeholders (for two states).

US\$ 700.000

- Extend coverage for construction workers and their families through the improved implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare (Regulations of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996.

US\$ 1.000.000

LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports on the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can contribute to the efforts of the Government of India on social protection and improve millions of lives, you can contact:



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