

## How can the ABND and CODI tools be used together in a country?

### Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND)

The Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) exercise is a methodology developed by the ILO in collaboration with UN agencies. It has been applied in 15 countries across the world. It is a process of national dialogue involving governments, employers, workers, civil society and development partners. The process helps to design a national social protection strategy and advocate for its endorsement. As social protection is cross-cutting in nature, the ABND requires active participation as one UN according to the strengths and mandates of different agencies.

The ABND consists of three steps. First, the tool reviews the social protection schemes in a country, identifies the gaps and challenges, and recommendations to address them. Second, the cost of the recommendations or the cost of completing a Social Protection Floor (SPF) over the next few years is estimated. Third, the recommendations are presented to the government for their endorsement and further action.

The strength of the ABND lies in the fact that it is based on a continuous and sustained national dialogue process. The recommendations are an outcome of the dialogue process (and in some countries, a consensus between participating agencies) and are therefore more acceptable to governments.

Link to ABND guide:

[www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=53462](http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=53462)

### Core Diagnostic Tool (CODI)

The Core Diagnostic Tool (CODI) is one of the Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools developed by over 20 UN agencies and development partners following a rigorous quality assurance protocol. CODI is designed to: (i) map the key elements of a social protection system in a country including national objectives, strategies, policies, programmes and schemes, (ii) analyse system performance against national objectives and track progress against a standardized set of performance criteria over time, (iii) serve as an evidence base for national dialogue on how to strengthen the social protection system and identify entry-level policy reform options, and (iv) promote exchange and coordination between national and international partners.

The strength of the CODI lies in its comprehensive and systematic assessment of 18 key areas of national social protection systems against ten performance criteria.

10 criteria to assess performance	Policy	Programme design	Programme implementation
1. Inclusiveness and accessibility	1. Legal & policy framework	8. Eligibility criteria	12. Identification
2. Adequacy	2. Alignment of policies with needs, risks & vulnerabilities	9. Benefit design	13. Eligibility verification
3. Appropriateness	3. Policymaking process	10. Expenditures & financing	14. Enrolment
4. Respect for rights & dignity	4. Policy implementation & capacity	11. Incentives	15. Benefit delivery
5. Governance, institutional setup & capacity	5. Public expenditure & financing		16. Monitoring & evaluation
6. Financial & fiscal sustainability	6. Information dissemination & raising awareness		17. Complaint & appeals mechanism
7. Coherence & integration	7. Monitoring & evaluation		18. Information dissemination & raising awareness
8. Responsiveness			
9. Cost-effectiveness			
10. Incentive compatibility			

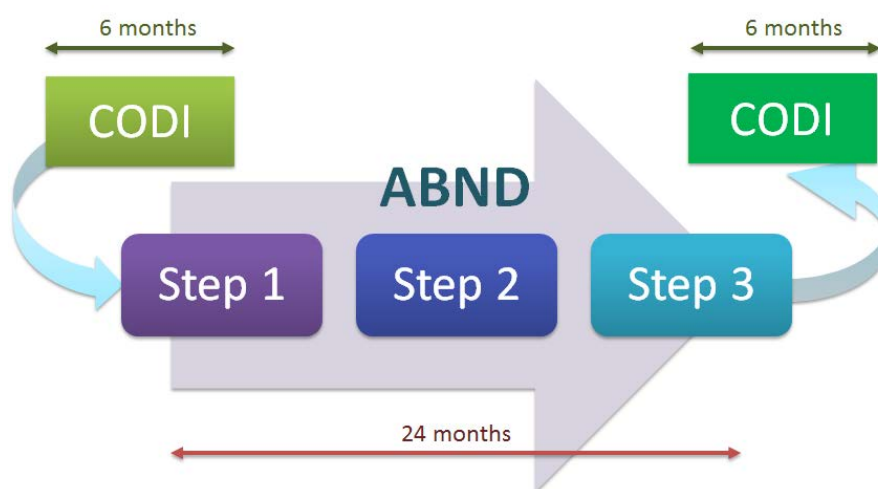
Link to CODI tool: <http://ispatools.org/core-diagnostic-instrument/>

## Using ABND and CODI together in a country

The ABND and CODI tools are complementary to each other. While the CODI performs a detailed assessment of the social protection system, the ABND develops consensual policy recommendations to improve or build a comprehensive national social protection system. As a result, the tools can be used together in two ways:

1. **CODI followed by ABND:** CODI could be applied to comprehensively assess the social protection system, based on which policy recommendations are drafted. These could be used as inputs into an ABND process to discuss, refine and build consensus on the policy recommendations, supported by their estimated cost.
2. **ABND followed by CODI:** Based on evidence from a rapid assessment, the ABND could be applied to develop joint recommendations to establish an SPF in a country. In follow up to the ABND, the country may decide to prioritize certain recommendations, e.g. to reform a scheme. Such recommendations would require the conduct of feasibility studies and more in-depth assessments, where the CODI tool could be applied.

In both cases, the CODI performance criteria could be used to identify policy and implementation gaps for the ABND matrix.



## CODI pilot and ABND process in the Philippines

In the Philippines, the CODI tool was pilot-tested in 2014. At the same time, the ABND process was started in May 2014 and is expected to continue until 2016. The tools were applied simultaneously in the first way. The results of the CODI questionnaires were used to prepare the initial draft of the ABND matrix. This matrix was then discussed, refined and finalized at bilateral consultations and national dialogue workshops. Further, the CODI performance criteria were used to identify policy and implementation gaps for all the major social protection schemes in the ABND matrix.



ABND workshop in the Philippines, June 2015