

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS THROUGH ILO-CHINA SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION TOGETHER, TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS IN CAMBODIA, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES



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NEED FOR SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT ESTABLISHED STRATEGIES¹

Social protection coverage in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is lower than the global average with about 12.4 per cent and 27 per cent coverage in each country, respectively.

To address its social protection deficit, Cambodia developed the National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable and the National Strategic Development Plan 2014–2018. This is in line with the ILO Recommendation on Social Protection Floors, 2012 (No. 202).

In Lao PDR, social protection is one of the key priority areas of the next United Nations Development Agreement Framework 2017–2021 and the 8th Lao National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016–2020. Consequently, the Government is planning to formulate a social protection strategy and develop a strategic framework towards the progressive implementation of a social protection floor (SPF) for its people.

Despite clear political will, progress in implementing SPF extension strategies and policies is slow. To a large extent this is because required knowledge, expertise, and capacity are currently inadequate in both countries. Learning from other countries' experiences in expanding social protection coverage and building institutional capacity to plan, operate, and monitor social protection policies and schemes are in high demand.

RELEVANCE OF CHINA'S EXPERIENCE

China can be an excellent partner for Cambodia and Lao PDR. First, China has successfully extended social protection coverage and therefore has significant experience to share. Second, many of its policy measures are relevant to these two countries, such as:



- ▶ development and integration of information technology (IT) systems;
- ▶ launch of a campaign on universal social security registration;
- ▶ close cooperation with labour inspection to increase the level of compliance with social insurance law; and
- ▶ promotion of community-based social protection services delivered at the doorsteps of households.

The transfer of this accumulated knowledge and expertise will effectively help Cambodia and Lao PDR to gradually and progressively put their SPF strategies in place and make the right to social security a reality.

This transfer of knowledge and expertise could be materialized through a South-South cooperation project on building social protection floors.

¹ For detailed information on ongoing and planned projects in these countries, please see related project information from the ILO Global Flagship Programme on Building SPFs for All.



“ The experiences and successes that many countries of the global South have achieved in their efforts at establishing a social protection floor can provide valuable momentum, information and means for other countries in the South to address similar concerns and challenges.

Francisco Simplicio,
UN Office for South-South Cooperation

FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH CHINA'S SUPPORT

The ILO has long-term experience in supporting countries to provide and extend social protection to all. To implement SPFs worldwide, the ILO is looking for more support from partners through its Global Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All. With its increasing global role and influence, China is one of the most important strategic partners of the ILO.

The new ILO-China South-South Cooperation project on building social protection floors could support:

- The national implementation of selected social protection policies and programmes by building up institutional capacity, establishing integrated benefit delivery mechanisms, and developing a comprehensive IT system in Cambodia.

US\$800,000 (three years)

- The National Advisory Committee on Social Protection in the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive national social protection strategy in Lao PDR.

\$ 800,000 (three years)

- Capacity building and knowledge sharing events in ASEAN countries, including study tours to China, to support the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection.

\$ 300,000 (three years)

As a consequence, this project will directly contribute to the achievement of Target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim at implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all.

LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

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

To further discuss your needs and the ways you can improve the lives of millions, you can contact:



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