

Promoting and Building Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services in ASEAN



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

ASEAN Secretariat, Ministries of Labour, Social Security Offices, Workers' and Employers' Organizations, academics, civil society in ASEAN member States

→ Donors

The Government of Japan

→ Duration

2010-2013

→ Target beneficiaries

Policy makers, managers and technical staff in ASEAN member States involved in the design and operation of unemployment insurance (UI) schemes, income-security measures and labour market policies. Un- and underemployed people in ASEAN countries

→ Geographical focus

ASEAN countries



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In the ASEAN member States there is a concern that a lack of adequate social security and employment support measures for un- and underemployed workers increases vulnerability and poverty.

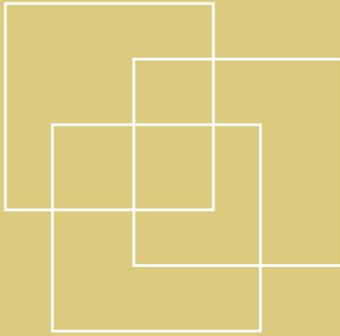
Most countries in the ASEAN region do not have fully functional public employment service agencies or unemployment benefit systems. Among the ten ASEAN member States, Thailand established the first unemployment insurance (UI) scheme in 2004, followed by Viet Nam in 2009. Several countries such as Indonesia and Cambodia have developed public employment programmes but these services have often been ad hoc, scattered, and insufficiently linked with measures to increase the employability of the working poor.

Thus, there is a need to transfer expertise and experience on income security and employability measures for unemployed and vulnerable workers, and improve the capacity of employment service agencies.

The project seeks to support ASEAN governments in setting up immediate measures to guarantee income replacement and access to decent re-employment opportunities for the unemployed and working poor. It also aims to raise awareness among the social partners (workers' and employers' organizations) of the importance of unemployment benefits and other income security programmes.

The project adopts the approach of the Social Protection Floor which constitutes a set of nationally-defined basic social security guarantees, including employment support schemes.





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MAIN ACTIVITIES

In close collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat the project will:

- Identify and document existing UI and other income-security programmes and employment services for both formal and informal economy workers.
- Raise awareness of the importance of UI, other income-security measures and employment services, among policy makers, social security scheme managers and the social partners.
- Support the review of implementation-related issues and the application of recommendations to improve the accessibility and effective functioning of the UI scheme in Viet Nam, strengthen inter-agency mechanisms for linking UI benefits to employment services more effectively, enhance the IT administration of the system, train UI administrative and managerial staff.
- Improve the capacity of stakeholders involved in unemployment benefit and employment services through fellowship training, knowledge-sharing seminars and expert meetings.
- Create and facilitate a regional network of experts on UI and employment services.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Awareness raising activities contribute to extending both income security measures for the unemployed and employment services in ASEAN.
- Research findings on UI, other income security measures, and active labour market programmes, (for both formal and informal economy workers,) serve as a basis for the design of adapted and effective interventions in ASEAN countries.
- Viet Nam's UI scheme functions effectively, with improved management and financial sustainability, and an increase in the population covered.
- A network of expertise on unemployment insurance schemes and employment services is created among ASEAN member states.

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