

National Workshop to launch the  
Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social Protection  
In Mongolia  
5 September 2013

Social protection in Mongolia, a priority of the UNDAF

In the process of economic transition in the 1990s, the Government of Mongolia introduced a new social protection system comprising (i) social welfare services and social assistance benefits to protect minimum living standards for the poor and vulnerable; (ii) employment services (including counselling and job placement services, as well as organization of training courses for the unemployed); and (iii) social insurance to support employees and self-employed from the risk of falling into poverty. The prevailing system was based on universal social services and secured jobs. Such reform resulted in a sharp increase in poverty and income insecurity, a lowering of living standards and a change in the family and social structure of the country.

The United Nations (UN) and the Government of Mongolia have included access to “basic social services and social protection” as a strategic priority of the UN Development Agreement Framework (2012-2016). In early 2012, an UN Social Protection (SP) Working Group was set up to support the extension of social protection in the country, chaired by the International Labour Organization (ILO). As a first step, the UN SP Working Group and the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection are proposing to conduct an overview of the situation on social protection in the country by using the Assessment Based National Dialogue methodology.

The Social Protection Floor, a joint UN position

Considering that social protection can promote human rights, inclusive economic growth and social stability, and manage risks and vulnerabilities, it is not surprising that its promotion has been embraced widely among UN (United Nations) agencies and development partners, and is increasingly being employed by countries to achieve these objectives. The Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I), launched in April 2009 by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (UNCEB) in response to the global financial and economic crisis, is not only a testament to that common ground but also a useful framework for coordination of social protection work undertaken by the development partners and government.

At their 67th session in May 2011, member states of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific passed a resolution on “Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific”. The SPF is also a priority on the G20 agenda. Much as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework brought together countries and development partners at the end of the previous millennium to set common goals, the social protection agenda is now bringing UN agencies together to ensure that these goals are achieved and achieved with

equity<sup>1</sup>. At its 101st session (2012), the International Labour Conference adopted the Recommendation concerning National Floors of Social Protection, 2012 (No. 202) which reaffirms the role of social security as a human right and as a social and economic necessity.

The Social Protection Floor (SPF) is a basic set of social security guarantees that should be guaranteed to all the population. The SPF aims to achieve the following:

- all residents have access to affordable essential health care, including maternity care;
- all children receive basic income security providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
- all persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability, receive basic income security; and
- all residents in old age receive basic income security through pensions or transfers in kind.

The assessment based national dialogue, a tool to set collective and coordinated priorities to extend social protection

The social protection floor framework can be used to describe existing schemes in place for each of the four basic guarantees mentioned above and identify the policy and implementation gaps if any. The assessment based national dialogue (ABND) on social protection and employment support measures helps to draw recommendations for the further design and implementation of social protection provisions to reach at least the social protection floor for all the population. This assessment on social protection and employability measures is then completed by a rapid costing exercise to estimate the cost of introducing these additional social protection provisions.

Stakeholders involved in the Assessment based national dialogue (ABND) exercise include line ministries, social partners, civil society, academia, UN agencies, others development partners and relevant bilateral donors engaged in social protection.

Thailand's UN Social Protection Floor Joint Team, established in March 2010, and the UNPDF<sup>2</sup> Sub-Working Group on SPF in Indonesia, established in May 2011, the UN-Lao PDR Government task team on social protection, established in April 2013, are successful examples of working as one to promote the SPF agenda and principles, formulating coordinated recommendations for the government, and providing technical support and capacity building.

In Mongolia, mapping existing policies and programs as well as identifying policy gaps and implementation issues are key if we want to further design, implement and develop efficient and effective social protection programs, and ensure at least a social protection floor for all. The development of these recommendations will be based on a broad consultation process leading to a national consensus on social protection priority initiatives and its link with employment support measures. Finally, the assessment gives an opportunity to identify possible UN and other partners' assistance to the government of Mongolia in the area of social protection.

Therefore, UN and MPDSP perceive the social protection floor framework and the ABND exercise as useful tools to come up with a general assessment of social protection in the country. The ABND will enable to assess gaps in

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<sup>1</sup> Building social protection floors in Asia:  
<http://www.socialprotection.org/gimi/gess/ShowProjectPage.do?pid=1325>

<sup>2</sup> UNPDF= UN Partnership Development Framework. UN working group for the implementation of UNDAF in Indonesia.

coverage and vulnerabilities of the population, and explore alternative design options for a social protection floor in Mongolia, supported by a financial assessment of such policy options.

#### *National workshop to launch the ABND in Mongolia*

##### Objectives

Within this framework, the UN SP Working Group and MPDSP are organizing a workshop aimed at introducing the social protection framework and the exercise of the Assessment Based National Dialogue on social protection and employment support.

The workshop's specific objectives are fourfold:

- To introduce participants to the concept of Social Protection and international labour standards on social security;
- To learn from on-going initiatives to extend social protection in Mongolia;
- To present the Social Protection Floor initiative launched by the UN and assessing its relevance in supporting Mongolia's efforts to extend social protection;
- To understand the objective of conducting the Assessment Based National Dialogue exercise, the process and its limitations;
- To complete, validate and correct the preliminary findings of the ABND matrix for Mongolia;
- To agree on the next step for the conduct of the ABND in Mongolia.

##### Participants

The national workshop will invite representatives of government (e.g. Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture, among others key government agencies), MONEF and CMTU, civil society, academia, all UN agencies, World Bank, ADB, and bilateral donors engaged in social protection in Mongolia.

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Thursday 5 September, Tuushin Hotel, 4th floor "SULD" Conference hall					
9.00-9.20	The Workshop will be conducted by Ms.Otganjargal, State Secretary of the Ministry of Population Development & Social Protection				
	Opening remarks				
	- Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, <i>UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative</i> ,				
	- Mr. Erdene Sodnomzundui, <i>Minister Population Development and Social Security</i>				
9.20-10.45	- <i>The Social Protection Floor, an UN initiative</i> , by Valerie Schmitt, Social Security Specialist, and Celine Peyron Bista, Chief Technical Advisor on unemployment protection, ILO Bangkok				
	- <i>UNDAF Strategic Priority on social protection</i> , by Saurabh Singha, Senior economist UNDP				
	- <i>Presentation of the social protection situation in Mongolia</i> : existing framework and foreseen policies, by Ms.L.Munkhzul, Director, Social Protection Department of the MHDSP				
	Questions and answers				
10.45-11.00	Coffee break and Group picture				
11.00-11.45	- <i>Presentation of the assessment based national dialogue on social protection and employment support</i> : process and methodology, by Valerie Schmitt and Celine Peyron Bista, ILO Bangkok				
	Open discussions on opportunities and challenges to conduct the ABND in Mongolia				
11.45-12.00	- <i>Presentation of the afternoon's group discussions: objective, methodology and groups (World Café)</i> , by Valerie Schmitt and Celine Peyron Bista, ILO Bangkok				
12.00-13.30	Lunch break				
13.30-15.00	Group discussions on-going initiatives and policies to extend social protection- Review of the preliminary findings of the assessment matrix				
	<i>All residents have access to affordable essential health care, including maternity care</i>	<i>All children receive basic income security providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services</i>	<i>All persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability, receive basic income security (Focus on social insurance and non-contributory schemes)</i>	<i>All persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability, receive basic income security (focus on links with employment support policies)</i>	<i>All residents in old age receive basic income security through pensions or transfers in kind</i>
	Group co-chaired by the Ministry of Health and WHO Rapporteur: Ministry of Health	Group co-chaired by MPDSP and UNICEF Rapporteur: MPDSP	Group co-chaired by MPDSP and UNDP Rapporteur: MPDSP	Group co-chaired by Ministry of Labour and ILO Rapporteur: Ministry of Labour	Group co-chaired by MPDSP and ILO Rapporteur: MPDSP
15.00-15.15	Coffee break				
15.15-	Restitutions of the group discussions by the Rapporteurs				

16.15	
16.15- 16.30	<i>Open discussion on the next steps to conduct the ABND exercise in Mongolia</i>
16.30- 17.00	<i>Closing remarks : Ms B.Otgonjargal , State Secretary of MPDSP</i>