



Towards Social Protection Floors in Tajikistan:



Assessment-based National Dialogue

What are Social Protection Floors (SPFs)?

Social protection guarantees that people are protected from risks and vulnerabilities that they face during their lives. It takes the form of cash transfers, in-kind transfers and access to essential services.

SPFs guarantee minimum levels of social protection to people. They are nationally-defined i.e. they should fit the social, economic, cultural and political context in the country.

SPFs provide four main guarantees.



HEALTH CARE

access to **essential health care for all**, including maternity care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality



CHILDREN

basic income security for children enabling access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services



ACTIVE AGE

basic income security for people of active age who are unable to earn sufficient income in case of sickness, maternity, unemployment and disability



OLD AGE

basic income security for older persons, including pensions and access to care

Countries can implement a comprehensive social protection system first by ensuring SPFs for all people. Then, they can provide higher levels of social protection to more and more people.

Assessment-based National Dialogue

What is Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND)?

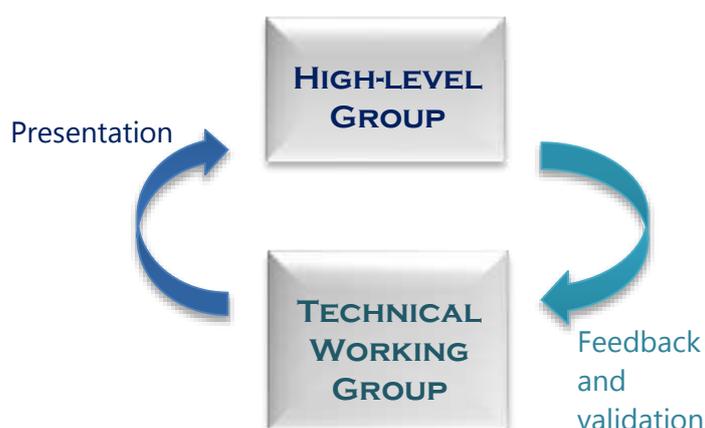
ABND is an exercise to assess the social protection system and recommend what needs to be done to provide SPFs to all people in Tajikistan. It consists of three stages:

1. **Assessment matrix and costing model:** mapping the social protection system, developing recommendations, converting them into scenarios and estimating the costs of scenarios
2. **Priorities:** agreeing on priorities among all the recommendations
3. **Report:** finalizing the findings and submitting the report to policy makers



The ABND exercise in Tajikistan is conducted through a process of national dialogue with participation of the government, employers, workers, civil society, international organizations and academia. It is led by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MHSPP).

The stakeholders participate through a **High-level Group** and a **Technical Working Group**.



At the political level, the dialogue process and two-level working group structure carry weight for conducting social protection reforms and for promoting and safeguarding minimum levels of social protection.

At the technical level, the qualitative assessment and cost-estimation model provide an evidence base to agree on the most important and relevant policy options for the country.

¹ Information as of January 2018

Social protection in Tajikistan

What does the social protection system in Tajikistan look like?

HEALTH CARE

Access to affordable and good quality health care is a basic right of all people. Tajikistan has a compulsory health insurance law, which provides basic health care to workers and special categories. The law is yet to be implemented. Alongside this, health infrastructure (medical facilities, equipment, ambulances, buildings, etc.) needs to be enhanced and improved while more medical workers need to be better trained.



CHILDREN

About 42% of the Tajik population are children below the age of 18 years. As they are the future of the country, investing in their education and development and ensuring family support for children are crucial. The Targeted Social Assistance provides an essential, though small, cash benefit of TJS 400 per year to poor households with children. Free education is guaranteed by the State, but the quality of education and accessibility of schools in rural areas have to be improved.

ACTIVE AGE

The workforce of Tajikistan is young and largely comprised of labour migrants, informal sector workers and seasonal workers. While formal sector workers and registered self-employed persons can contribute to a scheme for sickness, disability, unemployment, funeral, maternity and child birth, informal and seasonal workers are difficult to cover. Labour migrants and their families usually do not have access to social protection either in Tajikistan or in their host countries.



OLD AGE

All people in old age and people with disabilities are entitled to a pension; either a contributory pension or a social pension. Over 90% of older people receive the pension, though the amount is low. Older people are also entitled to home-based care, inpatient facilities and shelter. However, social work and caregiving are not seen as favourable professions in Tajikistan and do not attract sufficient and skilled workers.

National priorities

What were the priorities voted for during the dialogue?

The Working Group selected four national priorities among the recommendations. These priorities represent a starting point towards implementing SPFs in Tajikistan.



✓ **Guarantee good-quality and affordable healthcare services to all**

✓ **Increase the amounts of social child benefits and extend coverage to all children up to 18 years of age**



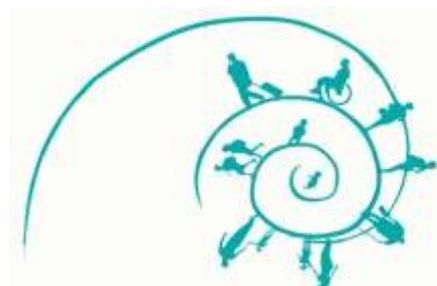
✓ **Extend maternity and child protection coverage to all women and children**

✓ **Increase the amount of the social old-age pension to 80% of the minimum pension**



Visit the ABND Tajikistan workspace

www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowProject.action?id=3053



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