

## Together, to change the lives of millions in Southeast Asia

### **Social protection: a key to reduce poverty and foster growth**

Southeast Asia has witnessed remarkable economic growth over the past decade. It has also achieved significant progress in reducing poverty. Even so, the number of people living on less than US\$1.25 a day was estimated to be 76 million in 2010.

Within this context there is a growing consensus in the region that the establishment of social protection floors is key to accelerate the reduction of poverty and inequality and to promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

Despite different paces and heterogeneous levels of coverage, most of the countries are now moving towards establishing sound policy and institutional frameworks to deliver efficient and effective social protection measures.

### **Southeast Asia is a beacon for good practices**

In recent years the region has been home to exciting developments and innovations in the area of social protection. Thailand is today a worldwide reference in the universalization of health coverage. Countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Mongolia and Myanmar were in the forefront of developing and implementing SPF Assessment Based National Dialogue methodologies. Indonesia and Cambodia innovated in the development of Single Window Services bringing together elements of social protection and employment services, and Viet Nam and Thailand are regional examples of unemployment insurance. But while the sub-region boasts many good practices and innovations, there remain significant social protection needs in several countries.

### **But social protection is still far from being a reality for all**

In countries like Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Timor Leste, the majority of people have no access to social protection benefits. The project strategy



is to provide technical support to constituents through assistance to on-going processes of national dialogue, in harmony with coordinated efforts by UN and bilateral development partners.

It will assist the four countries (Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Timor Leste) in implementing the building blocks of nationally defined, owned and funded social protection floors. Depending on the particular area of intervention, the support will build on the experience and expertise of various master countries in the region.

Grounded in a regional peer learning process, the project will comprise practical support to national dialogue processes, design studies, and advice on the governance and administrative aspects of implementing national social protection floors, reflecting the principles of ILO Recommendation R.202 (2012) on national floors of social protection. This will allow countries to build tools to plan, budget, implement and monitor the performance of national social protection programmes. The project will also ensure wider dissemination of findings to other Southeast Asian countries and beyond, promoting a South- South learning approach.



## ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, adopted by all member countries (2013)

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), hereby STRIVE to adhere to the following principle:

“ Everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, are entitled to have equitable access to social protection that is a basic human right [...]. ”



## From right to reality with your support

The ILO Recommendation on national floors of social protection, 2012 (No. 202) was referenced in the development of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013) that strives to “extend coverage, availability, quality, equitability and sustainability of social protection and gradually promote it, to ensure optimal benefits”.

The ILO is recognized by partners in the sub-region for its capacity and unique expertise in the areas of social protection financing and the establishment of a rights-based legal and institutional framework, inspired by international social security standards.

With your support, we can accelerate making social protection floors a reality for millions of people.

You can support us to:

- ❑ Formulate and improve comprehensive social protection policy frameworks, including advocacy and promotion campaigns, capacity building of national and regional stakeholders on policy formulation, technical assistance on programme design, costing and fiscal space analysis.

US\$750,000

- ❑ Support the national implementation of selected social protection benefits and programmes, develop the capacity of central and local administrations on integrated benefit delivery, IT systems development, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation.

\$1,000,000

- ❑ Share the country's experience through country/regional briefs, web pages, and videos.

\$150,000

- ❑ Build capacities through conducting regional trainings, workshops and study tours to countries with relevant experiences.

\$300,000

## Listening to your ambitions

As a donor, you receive regular reports detailing the progress made and have access to information about on-going project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your needs and the ways you can support Southeast Asia's stakeholders and improve the lives of millions of people, you can contact:



Nuno Cunha,  
Senior Social Protection Technical Advisor,  
ILO Office for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok)  
cunhan@ilo.org

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