



SOCIAL PROTECTION ASSESSMENT-BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Joint United Nations response to implement social protection floors and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

A national dialogue uniting social protection stakeholders

The Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) on social protection is a process that identifies priority areas for government intervention in the field of social protection and estimates the cost of these interventions. It involves several stakeholders:

- Ministries (Labour, Social Welfare, Health, Education, Rural Development, Finance, Planning, and others)
- Local governments
- Social security institutions
- Workers' and employers' representatives
- Civil society organizations
- National statistical institutes, academia
- Development partners

The ABND process brings together the different stakeholders to identify the existing social protection situation in the country, policy gaps, implementation issues and challenges. It then formulates recommendations to address these problems and establish a Social Protection Floor (SPF) in the country. The recommendations take into account government priorities and are ultimately endorsed by policy makers.

Often, social protection stakeholders work in isolation and only deal with a part of the social protection agenda. The ABND provides a unique opportunity to gather all stakeholders and come up with a common diagnosis of the social protection situation, formulate priority policy recommendations and plan a progressive implementation of the SPF. This consensus is achieved through bilateral and multipartite consultations, workshops and training sessions.

Till date

Till date, ABND exercises have been/are being conducted in Cambodia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, the Philippines, Thailand, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Zambia. More information on these exercises is available in dedicated workspaces at www.social-protection.org.

The ABND process is conducted by a technical working group consisting of representatives from the different stakeholder organizations. The group can be led by two agencies from the government and/or development partners. The designation of lead agencies usually helps in the endorsement of the ABND recommendations and advocacy and follow-up activities.

A three-step approach

STEP 1 – Development of the assessment matrix

The four guarantees of the Social Protection Floor (SPF) are used as benchmarks to describe existing social protection, employment promotion and poverty alleviation schemes in a country, identify policy gaps and implementation issues, and draft recommendations to guarantee at least a floor of social protection benefits to all people.

ABND matrix

	Govt. strategy	Existing and planned schemes	Policy gaps	Implementation issues	Recommendations
Health	Identifying existing situation in the country Four SPF guarantees		Identifying policy gaps and implementation issues, addressing which would complete the SPF		Agreeing on priority policy options through national dialogue
Children					
Working age					
Elderly					

The preparation of the assessment matrix involved close collaboration between all relevant stakeholders, through bilateral consultations and technical multipartite workshops at the national and provincial levels.



Participatory ABND workshop in the Philippines



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STEP 2 – Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP)

The cost of the proposed recommendations or the national SPF is estimated over the next few years using the costing tool known as the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP). This costing exercise can serve as a basis for discussions on prioritization of different social protection policy recommendations as well as the available and required fiscal resources.

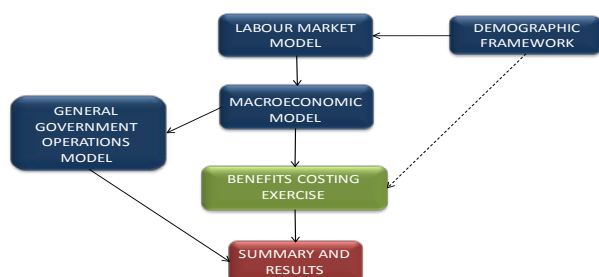
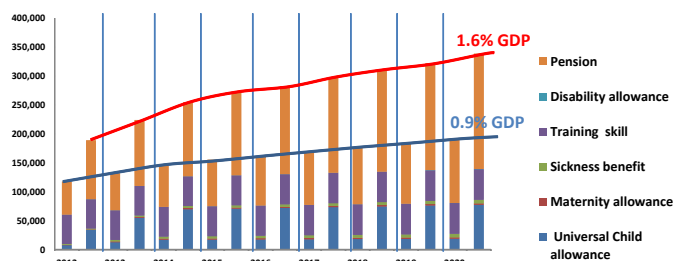


Illustration: Projections for the low and high SPF packages, Thailand, until 2020



STEP 3 – Finalization

The assessment report is finalized, presented to and discussed with high-level government officials for their endorsement and decisions on next steps. As a result of the ABND process, countries have started working on the drafting of national social protection strategies, and the design or reform of social protection schemes. For example, Thailand has embarked on the design of a long-term care scheme, while Indonesia is working on extending health care and HIV benefits.

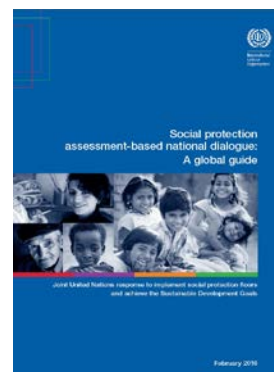
Coordinating the design and planning of national SPFs

The ABND process can be applied to draft a national social protection strategy or develop a plan for implementing an existing a national social protection strategy, among other objectives. It can contribute to build Social Protection Floors tailored to national contexts by helping to:

- initiate national dialogue with all stakeholders on social protection, SPF and challenges
- provide an overview of the social protection system in a country
- identify priority recommendations
- provide evidence on the affordability and financial sustainability of the SPF recommendations
- monitor the progressive establishment of the SPF every few years
- Raise awareness among ministries, workers, employers, civil society and development partners on social protection

ABND Global Guide

The ABND methodology can be explored in further detail in a global guide. The guide can be used to conduct ABND exercises in countries, conduct training courses and for learning more about social protection, national dialogue and experiences from other countries.



Download the Guide (textbook)!

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