

Concept note

Governance of social protection systems: a learning journey

Webinar “Experts’ meeting” Monday, 25th June 2021

10:00 - 11:40 CAT / 16:00 - 17:40 CST

In the context of the project “Achieving SDGs and ending poverty through Universal Social Protection”, implemented from January 2019 until June 2021 under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sub-fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF).

"Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere"

A consensus has emerged in the early 21st century that universal social protection is a fundamental development priority. Social protection is a key element of national strategies to promote human development, political stability and inclusive growth. The COVID-19 crisis has dramatically highlighted both the importance and the limitations of social protection systems, exacerbating large pre-existing gaps in coverage, comprehensiveness and adequacy of protection, as well as large inequalities in access between regions, within countries or between workers in different forms of employment. *"Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere"* (ILO Declaration of Philadelphia, 1944): this adage, expressing one of the fundamental principles on which the ILO is based, has unfortunately proven itself once again, making the call to accelerate progress towards universal social protection more urgent than ever.

Progress has been made in many countries that are committed to providing better social protection provisions along the life cycle. However, making the goal of universal social protection a reality is still a long way to go, as at the global level, there is still 71 per cent of the world population who do not have adequate social protection, and 55 per cent that has no social protection at all.

In many countries, these coverage gaps are a result of weaknesses in the political and legal frameworks and underinvestment in social protection systems but often, coverage levels are low even if the law provides for adequate protection. Shortfalls of required institutional capacity and expertise as well as the lack of coordination between different social protection programmes and across different administrative layers are widely considered the major causes of weak performance of social protection systems. Implementing an effective delivery structure aligned to international standards and principles, especially in the development context remains a challenge. There is a need to develop and share practical guidance to increase national capacities for the sound governance of social protection systems.

By the end of the project, 500,000 more people are covered in Cambodia and Pakistan through the strengthening of the governance of social security schemes.

With this aim, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sub-fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF), has launched the project “Achieving SDGs and ending poverty through Universal Social Protection”, which started in January 2019 and will end the 30th of June 2021. The project is jointly implemented by the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and the Social Protection Department (SOCPRO) of the

Achieving SDGs and ending poverty through Universal Social Protection

International Labour Office (ILO), in the framework of ILO's Global Flagship Programme for Social Protection Floors and as part of the overall campaign for Universal Social Protection (USP 2030) launched in 2016. The project pursues a two-fold strategy. In two focus countries, Pakistan and Cambodia, technical support is provided through the ILO offices to strengthen capacities of institutions and practitioners on different aspects identified as critical in social security governance, including better coordination, improved data management, and better enforcement of social security laws. On the same topics, at global level, the project has developed a knowledge base of good practices as well as training modules.

Finally, it should be noted that the social security model developed by the Chinese government, the Fund's main contributor, is a constant reference for the project. Indeed, its experience in extending social security to all, including central-provincial coordination, improved management information systems, and the use of inspection systems to increase compliance, is highly relevant to Cambodia and Pakistan, as well as to the broader South-South knowledge sharing.

Experts' meeting "Governance of social protection systems: a learning journey"

In order to better support policy makers in their capacity to take strategic decisions in the field of social protection, the project has tried to identify and clarify, in a pragmatic and concrete way, the key drivers of different operational components inherent to all systems, starting with three core topics:

- Information and Communication Technologies & Data management
- Compliance & Accountability
- Coordination

These three topics are also the focus of the project on strengthening social protection systems in Pakistan and Cambodia.

In order to deepen this learning journey rooted in reality but driven by the ideal of social protection for all, the project has proceeded in two phases by developing successively:

- A global research, including analysis and case studies, notably in Argentina, Kenya, Mauritius and Fiji, and a specific paper on the Chinese model,
- Three learning modules bringing together this information in a synthetic form, with a view to the further development of a training programme, notably with the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin (ITC/ILO).

In order to present the main aspects of this work and to discuss it with specialists, practitioners and decision-makers in the South, the project is organising a 100 minutes "experts' meeting" webinar.

Format:

Zoom "experts' meeting" to present and discuss three core topics:
ICT & Data – Compliance & Accountability – Coordination

Date:

Friday June 25th

Time:

10:00 - 11:40 CAT / 16:00 - 17:40 CST

Webinar Friday June 25th “Governance of social protection systems: a learning journey” Zoom “experts’ meeting” to present and discuss three core topics : ICT & Data – Compliance & Accountability – Coordination 10:00 - 11:40 CAT / 16:00 - 17:40 CST UNDESA - ILO – ISSA - Development Pathways In the context of the project “Achieving SDGs and ending poverty through Universal Social Protection”, implemented under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sub-fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF)			
Total 100 min	Topic		Speaker
20 min	Introduction : <i>“Improving the governance of national social protection systems at the service of universal social protection”</i>		Moderator Jean-Louis Lambeau (SOCPRO/ILO) Zoom operator Sandrine Baronetti, SOCPRO/ILO
5 min	The overall perspective		Valérie Schmitt, Deputy Director SOCPRO/ILO
5 min	The learning journey		Costanza De Toma, International Training Center of the ILO (ITC/ILO Turin)
5 min	Introduction to the rooms’ sessions		Jean-Louis Lambeau, SOCPRO/ILO
40 min	Room #1: ITC and Data	Room #2: Compliance	Room #3: Coordination
10min	Presentation of the topic Rodrigo Ortiz D'avila Assumpcao, Social Protection Management Info Systems Expert,	Presentation of the topic Markov Kroum, ILO Social Protection Policy Specialist	Presentation of the topic Shea McClanahan, Senior Social Policy Specialist, Development Pathways
5 min	Panelist #1 Valentina Barca, Social Protection independent expert	Panelist #1 Ms. Dianne Dunkerley Executive Manager, Grants Administration, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA)	Panelist #1 Veronika Wodsak, ILO, Social Protection Policy Specialist
5 min	Panelist #2 Jie Yu Koh (ILO social protection programme manager, Cambodia)	Panelist #2 Mr Nazar Ali, General Secretary, Employers’ Federation of Pakistan	Panelist #2 Kagisanyo Kelobang (Social Protection Technical Advisor, CO-Lusaka)
5 min	Panelist #3 Raul Ruggia-Frick, Director, Social Security Development Branch, ISSA	Panelist #3 Patience Matandiko (ILO Social Protection Project Coordinator, CO-Lusaka)	Panelist #3 Ms Alia Shahid, Joint Secretary (HRD), Ministry of OP&HRD Pakistan
15min	Q&A – open discussion	Q&A – open discussion	Q&A – open discussion

Achieving SDGs and ending poverty through Universal Social Protection

40min	Sharing session	Moderation Jean-Louis
7 min	Debriefing on the room session on ITC and Data	Rodrigo Ortiz D'avila Assumpcao
7 min	Debriefing on the room session on Compliance	Markov Kroum
7 min	Debriefing on the room session on Coordination	Shea McClanahan
19min	Q&A - Open discussion	