

# Introduction for all case studies

## Background

Coresia is a country located at the south-eastern tip of mainland Asia. It has a land area of 1,530,240 square kilometres and a population of 64,082,421 in 2011. Native Coresian and English are the official languages and the national currency is the Coresian Dine or COD (US\$1 = COD30.75). Coresia endeavours to extend social security coverage to all people living there. The Constitution defines social security as a right of the people and provides that it is the responsibility of the Government to accomplish basic social security for all. Article 24E, section 1 states, “every individual residing in the country has the right to social security and to live as a dignified human being”, and article 27B, section 2 states, “the State has a responsibility to develop a social security system that will benefit all and enable the vulnerable people to live with dignity.”

The Government believes that for equitable economic development of the country, social protection is a key that will lead to sustainable growth. It will result in creating a workforce that is skilled, productive, and healthy and does not fall into poverty in the event of an economic recession. After the financial crisis hit the region in 2008, the Government signed a Jobs Pact for sustainable economic development and creation of jobs, thereby showing its commitment to decent work.

At its 101<sup>st</sup> Session (2012), the International Labour Conference adopted the Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection (Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202)) which reaffirms the role of social security as a human right and a social and economic necessity, and provides guidance to member States in building social protection floors within progressively comprehensive social security systems.<sup>1</sup> The Recommendation was adopted almost unanimously (453 votes in favour and one abstention) after fruitful and constructive debate among constituents. Recognising the crucial role of social protection in social and economic development, and notably in combating poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion, and realizing decent work for all, the Conference also adopted the Resolution concerning efforts to make social protection floors a national reality worldwide, which invites governments, employers, and workers to jointly give full effect to Recommendation No. 202 as soon as national circumstances permit.<sup>2</sup>

## A vision for the country

In Coresia, the Government devised a National Five Year Plan (2012-2016) whose main objectives are mentioned below:

- provision of basic primary and secondary education (till the 9<sup>th</sup> grade) to all children;
- basic nutrition for all children through cash or in-kind transfers;

<sup>1</sup> ILO: “Text of the Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection”, in Provisional Record No. 14, International Labour Conference, 101<sup>st</sup> Session (Geneva, 2012). Available at: [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—ed\\_norm/—relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_183326.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—ed_norm/—relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_183326.pdf) [accessed 20 Nov. 2013].

<sup>2</sup> ILO: “Resolution concerning efforts to make social protection floors a national reality worldwide”, in Provisional Record No.14, International Labour Conference, 101<sup>st</sup> Session (Geneva, 2012).

- guaranteed health care for all people, including treatment for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS);
- provision of a sustainable income support for all people in the working age group;
- alleviation of abject poverty by developing skills and equipping people to participate in the labour market; and
- provision of minimum income support for people in need, such as the elderly and those unable to earn sufficient income due to disabilities, through cash or in-kind transfers.

The Government of Coresia aims at extending social protection through the following types of programmes and measures:

- programmes that involve cash transfers, in-kind transfers, and access to social services such as health and education. These are non-contributory in nature and designed to benefit the poor and needy sections of the population;
- social insurance schemes that provide social transfers to people (in cash, in kind, or access to services) who contribute a portion of their incomes on a regular basis;
- public works programmes that hire workers, mostly from poor households for building infrastructure in the residents' localities; and
- schemes that aim to provide microfinance and technical support for enterprise creation and development, promoting entrepreneurship and long-term income sustainability.

In Coresia, all people have a national identity (ID) card and a 14-digit identification number. For each ID card holder, information is regularly collected from the census and a database is updated with information on occupation, address, vulnerability level (poor, near poor, middle income, high income), and registration with social insurance schemes. On the basis of the card and information stored in the database, potential beneficiaries of anti-poverty programmes and targeted social protection schemes can be pre-identified.

## Early days

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The Government prioritizes the provision of basic social security benefits to its population in accordance with the National Law for the Extension of Social Security (Law No. 293/1995 and subsequent amendments). The Law is significant as it mandates that the entire population must be covered by basic social protection benefits in the event of loss of income, sickness, disability, and death of the breadwinner(s). It also stipulates that all families, especially those with children, are entitled to a minimum income for basic amenities and nutrition, and all elderly people are entitled to receive a pension. Law No. 293 was enacted in 1995 and its implementation was expected to be completed in a progressive manner. Several feasibility and design studies were conducted and a roadmap was conceptualized. The implementation has been started in a number of provinces.

It is estimated that due to unemployment and rising commodity prices, about 20 per cent of the total population fell below the poverty line in the immediate aftermath of the Asian financial crisis in 1997. The Government realized the importance of having a basic social security programme to support the population in times like these. As a result of discussions, a basic social security programme was launched in 1999. The programme stipulated the provision of subsidized food and health care and free primary education for all vulnerable workers and their families.

The economy started to recover after the crisis and the national poverty rate has steadily decreased. In 2011, it stood at 7.6 per cent. However, even though economic growth lifted a substantial portion of the population out of poverty, the benefits of growth have not been equitably shared. The rich portion of the population experienced more income growth than the poor. Also, a sizeable portion of the population lives on the brink of poverty. At any time, the risk that several families will fall below the poverty line remains high. The poverty line was defined as COD1,742 per month in 2011. The Government stipulated a minimum wage rate of COD300 per day or COD6,000 per month that would be progressively implemented during 2012-2013 and then indexed on inflation.

## *Way forward*

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Recently, a meeting was organized on “Social Security and the Social Protection Floor in Coresia”. The meeting was held with representatives from the Government, line ministries, representatives of workers’ and employers’ organizations, the United Nations Country Team, and experts in the field of social protection. A discussion took place on the current social protection situation in the country and future plan of action. All the participants agreed to make it a priority to provide basic social security to all people and implement the social protection floor (SPF), which stipulates the provision of the following guarantees to all people:

- All residents have access to a nationally defined set of affordable essential health care services, including maternity care;
- All children enjoy basic income security at a nationally defined minimum level, providing access to nutrition, education, care, and any other necessary goods and services;
- All people in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income (in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity, and disability) should enjoy basic income security at a nationally defined minimum level; and
- All people in their old age should enjoy basic income security at a nationally defined minimum level.

For successful implementation of the SPF, a special team was created comprising representatives from the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, workers’ and employers’ organizations, academia, civil society, and members of the United Nations Country Team. This team, known as United Nations-Government of Coresia (UN-GOC) SPF team, is responsible for devising a plan for the implementation of a nationally defined social protection floor in Coresia.

# Abbreviations and acronyms

ACPP	Armed Forces and Civil Servants Pension Plan
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ARV	anti-retroviral
CCE	Childcare and Education (programme)
CD4	cluster of differentiation 4
CMN	Child and Mother Nutrition (programme)
COD	Coresian Dine
CSCEP	Civil Servants' Children Education Programme
EPF	Employee Provident Fund
FEP	Free Education Plan
GDP	gross domestic product
GOPF	Government Officials' Provident Fund
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	information and communication technologies
ID	identity
IT	information technology
MBP	Medical Beneficiary Programme for Civil Servants and Military Personnel
MED	Microfinance and Enterprise Development Programme
MIS	management information system
MTCT	mother-to-child-transmission
NBRD	National Bank for Rural Development
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
NHIP	National Health Insurance Programme
NPS	National Pension Scheme
NREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NSPP	National Social Protection Programme
OSH	occupational safety and health
PHCP	Public Health Care Plan
PSP	Public Servants' Social Protection Programme
PWP	public works programme
RAP	Rapid Assessment Protocol
SHI	Social Health Insurance for Self-Employed and Informal Sector Workers, and SME Employees
SIS	Social Insurance Scheme for Self-employed and Informal Sector Workers, and SME Employees
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SPF	Social Protection Floor
TC	technical cooperation
UN-GOC	United Nations-Government of Coresia
UPS	Universal Pension Scheme
US\$	United States Dollars

VCT	voluntary counselling and testing
VPP	Voluntary Pension Plan for Self-Employed and Informal Sector Workers, and SME Employees
WFP	World Food Programme
WIBS	Work Injury Benefits Scheme