Dear Resident Coordinators,

According to the ILO World Social Protection Report 2014/15: Building economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice, only 27 percent of the global population enjoys comprehensive social security. Urgent action is required to ensure that the remaining 73 percent receives access to adequate social protection.

In the letter addressed to you by UNDG Chair Helen Clark and ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, signed 24 March 2014, UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) were urged to follow a number of specific steps to advance the implementation of social protection floors (SPFs), guaranteeing basic income security and access to essential health care and social services to families and children along the life cycle.

To follow up on this letter, below are some suggested steps to facilitate the implementation of SPFs:

**Step 1:** Given its multi-sectoral perspective, supporting nationally defined SPFs requires a joint effort and coordination among UNCTs. To foster this and support the achievement of the UNDAF’s strategic priorities on social protection, many UNCTs have established UN National Social Protection Floor Teams. You will find successful examples of the creation of these teams in the recent UNDG Asia-Pacific Social Protection Issues Brief, which is attached to this letter.

**Steps 2 and 3:** Conducting the Social Protection Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) proves to be a suitable approach for the development of nationally defined SPFs and national social protection strategies. With this simple methodology UNCTs and national stakeholders can describe the current social protection situation, identify social protection needs and gaps, and design policy options that are adequate and feasible. The process of conducting an ABND requires each agency to contribute in its area of expertise and therefore shows that ‘working as one’ is indeed an accurate mantra for the UN and responds to the demand of States for UN agencies to speak with one voice. The attached good practices guide offers a step-by-step guidance to conduct the ABND. Additionally the Social Protection Interagency Coordination Board (SPIAC-B) is preparing a series of social protection assessment tools that will soon be available and shared with UNCTs.
**Step 4:** Several UNCTs have promoted social protection floors as part of the joint UN-Government Development Agreement Frameworks (UNDAFs), while acknowledging the role of social protection in advancing inclusive and sustainable development. This can be found in many UNDAFs documents (e.g. Thailand). To consolidate knowledge and share experiences, UNDP and ILO are preparing specific training modules that will be included in the regular training curriculum on UNDAFs preparation at the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) and International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin.

**Step 5:** The Module of questions to include in existing regular household surveys could help strengthen the ability of national statistical offices to collect and analyse social protection related data. This should be complemented with specific training on the administrative data that is already collected by social security institutions and can be used to produce indicators of coverage. In addition UNCTs are encouraged to collect statistical information on social protection schemes by using the Excel questionnaire Minimum set of information to collect for a diagnosis of existing social protection schemes. This will contribute to the development and update of a global statistical database on social protection.

We are sending you the complete package of tools that you can share with your UNCT, including:


We hope you will find all these information useful. We would appreciate your feedback on steps that you have already taken and the challenges that you may face in the implementation of SPFp. Please also let us know how we can further assist you on this endeavour. We will be available to provide any information, technical advice and even organize training sessions and workshops on the steps as appropriate and pending on funding.
For feedback, questions, information and guidance, please contact:
1. Valerie Schmitt (schmittv@ilo.org)
2. Almudena Fernandez (almudena.fernandez@undp.org)
3. Andrea Cuzyova (andrea.cuzyova@one.un.org)

Let’s come together to make universal social protection happen!

Kind regards,

Haoliang Xu  
Chair Regional UNDG for Asia-Pacific  
UN Assistant Secretary-General  
UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific

Yoshiteru Uramoto  
ILO Assistant Director-General  
ILO regional Director for Asia and the Pacific