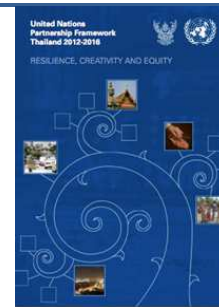


## Building a social protection floor (SPF) in Thailand, Valerie Schmitt, 26 October 2012

In Thailand, social protection was chosen as one of the six key areas of partnership between the Royal Thai Government and the United Nations (UN) system within the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF). The ILO is the lead UN agency of the UNPAF on social protection which, for the period 2012-2016, focuses on enhancing Thailand's capacity to provide universal basic social protection and higher levels of benefits, with the overall objective of ensuring the financial and institutional sustainability of the system.



The aim of this brochure is to share with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in the Asia-Pacific region the United Nations Social Protection Floor (UNSPF) Joint Team's experience in Thailand and its contribution to the national social protection agenda.

This awareness raising and information tool was produced by the UNSPF Joint Team in Thailand, led by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

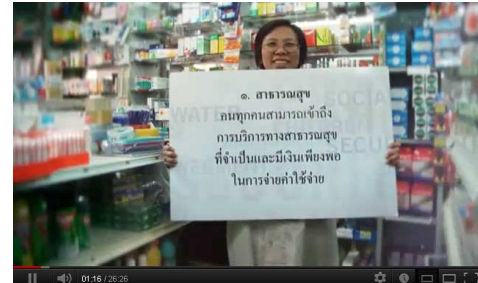


In Thailand, the ILO is leading the UN-Social Protection Floor (UNSPF) Joint Team which was created in March 2010. The seven members of this team (ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO) agree to combine their efforts based on three principles: (1) contribute to building a rights-based, systematic, and adequate protection for all residents of Thailand; (2) provide concrete support through policy advice and dialogue, and technical assistance to the Government and implementing agencies; (3) coordinate action and generate synergies across the technical areas of expertise of participating agencies.

Download the UNSPF team's brochure: [www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowProjectResource.do?resourceId=30388&pid=1325](http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowProjectResource.do?resourceId=30388&pid=1325)

Since its formation, the UNSPF Joint Team has documented Thailand's social protection experience through a number of publications, webpages as well as a video on *Building a Social Protection Floor in Thailand*.

Watch the video: [www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ResShowResource.do?resourceId=27521](http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ResShowResource.do?resourceId=27521)

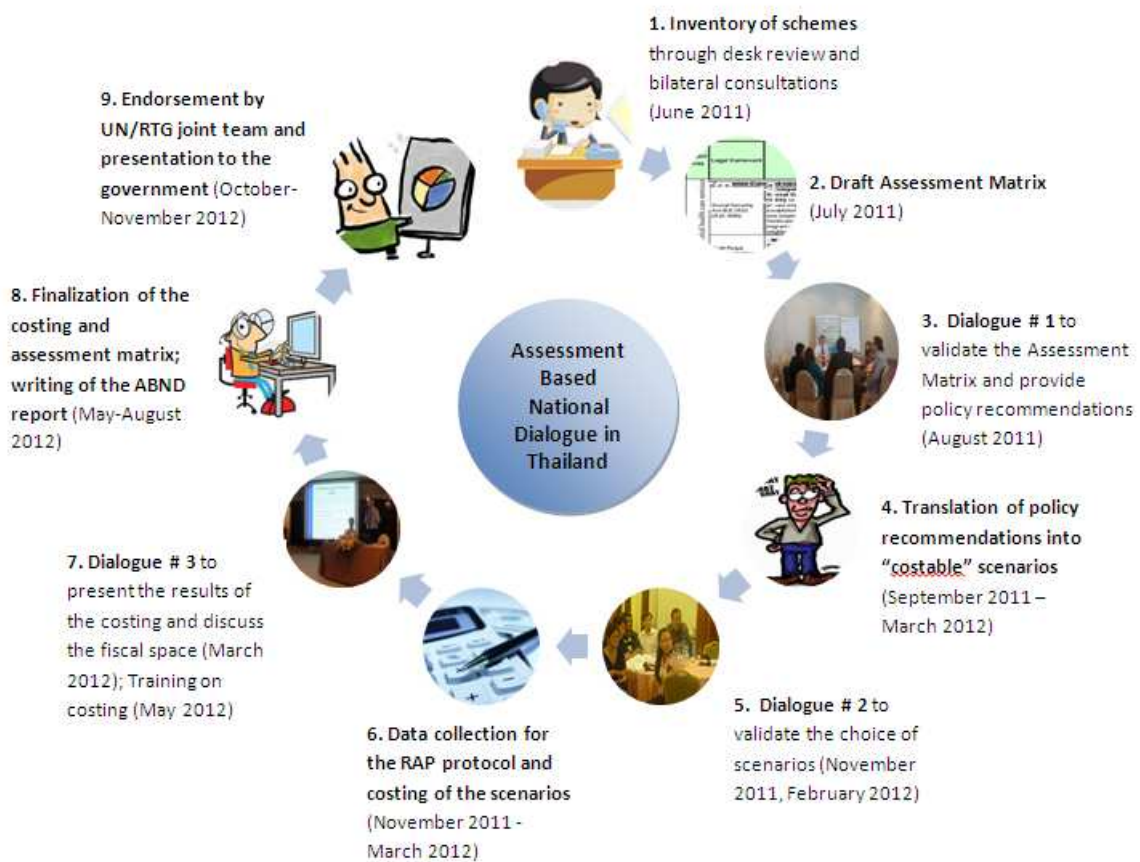


Through the organization of conferences and training workshops, the UNSPF Joint Team has also contributed to raise awareness among line ministries, workers and employers representatives, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and UN agencies on the social protection floor concept, its relevance for Thailand, and the importance of a coordinated and holistic approach to social protection development.



From June 2011 to October 2012, the UNSPF Joint Team engaged line ministries, social partners, civil society organizations, the academia and other relevant stakeholders in the conduct of an **Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) Exercise** of the social protection situation. This 18 months process entailed bilateral consultations, tripartite workshops, and technical seminars to progressively come up with a shared vision of

the social security situation, the identification of policy gaps and implementation issues, and to draw appropriate policy recommendations for the achievement of a comprehensive social protection floor in Thailand. The additional cost of the recommended social protection provisions was calculated and projected over the years and a preliminary fiscal space analysis conducted. The assessment report will be launched at the end of 2012, and will provide useful guidance in the development of a national plan for completing the social protection floor in Thailand.



Based on this experience the ILO is now developing a Training manual which is expected to be published by the end of 2012, and will serve as a guide for the conduct of future ABND exercises in other ASEAN countries.

*ILO's work on social protection in Thailand was mainly funded by the RBSA, bilateral donors (France, Finland) and contributions from the UNSPF Team members.*