

Report of ILO Training Workshop: “Social Protection: Assessment, Costing and Beyond”

The ILO has organized, in close collaboration with the Faculty of Economics of Chulalongkorn University, a five day training course on “Social Protection: Assessment, Costing and Beyond” from Monday 15 to Friday 19 October 2012.

The workshop aimed at sharing ILO’s Social Protection Assessment Based National Dialogue methodology and tools

The training activity enabled participants to:

- Better understand the concepts of Social Security and the Social Protection Floor
- Share experiences and views on country situations, national social protection strategies & initiatives to extend social protection
- Learn the main steps to conduct an Assessment Based National Dialogue exercise
- Gain technical expertise on designing and costing social protection policies

The training gathered 66 participants and resource persons from the 10 ASEAN countries

This course gathered technical staff from relevant government and non-government institutions, workers and employers’ organizations, the Academia, UN agencies and other development partners involved in the design, costing and implementation of social protection and social security programmes.

The structure of the course followed the ABND process

The five day course covered the following topics:

Module 1: Introduction

Module 1 introduced participants to Social Security and the concept of the Social Protection Floor. It acquainted participants with regional development in Asia and the Pacific, and provided a brief overview of risk assessment and insurance and the Assessment Based National Dialogue exercise.

Module 2: Assessment and Recommendations

In Module 2, participants learnt how to identify the social protection situation existing in a country and complete the Assessment matrix.

Module 3: Scenarios and Costing

Module 3 explained the methodology of converting recommendations into scenarios, calculating the cost of expanding coverage or introducing new benefits using the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP) tool and assessing the affordability of a scheme.

Module 4: Building national consensus

Module 4 aimed at enabling participants to effectively advocate adoption of recommendations to the government. It also explained a few selected methods on creating awareness of social security schemes among people.

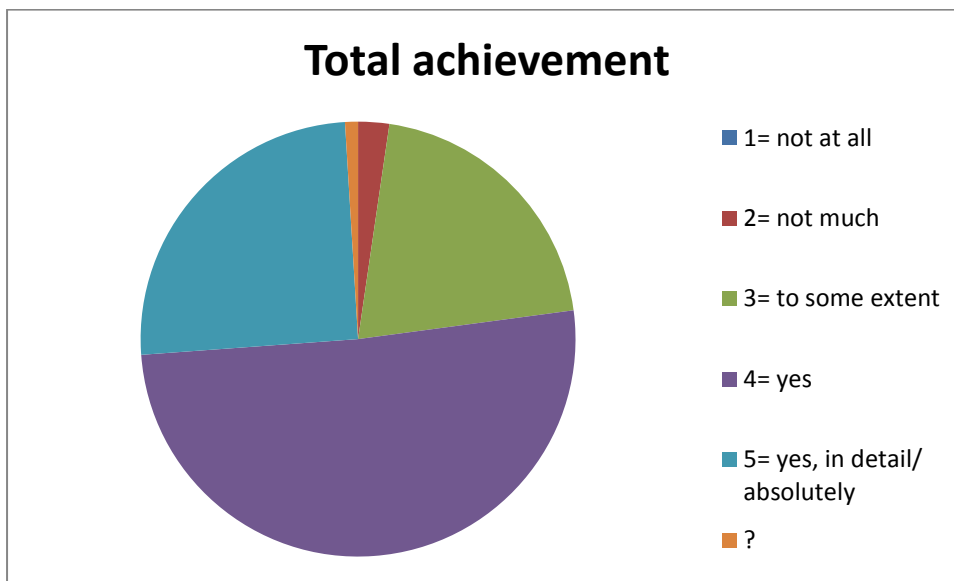
Module 5: Conclusion

In addition, the workshop encouraged participation through various group assignments and brainstorming sessions, case studies, role play and games such as World Café or “Who wants to be a protectionaire?”.

All participants were required to fill in and share a matrix on the Social Security situation in their country and a questionnaire on further training needs prior to the workshop.

The workshop was a real success!

76 per cent of the participants were either satisfied or absolutely satisfied.



- 70 per cent of the participants considered that the objectives of the workshop had been achieved
- 77.5 per cent felt better equipped to start the ABND
- 87.5 per cent considered that the learning methods and the material were generally appropriate
- According to more than 70 per cent of the participants, the conduct of an ABND exercise should start with awareness raising sessions at country level on the Social Protection Floor, the assessment based national dialogue methodology and the establishment of a multi-stakeholders working group on the Social Protection Floor.
- The participants also suggested replicating the training workshop at country level using the training manual developed by the ILO.

Participants provided a number of suggestions for improvement such as to:

- Provide more exercises on the most technical parts (such as the costing)
- Allocate more time to resolve the case studies and simplify the case studies
- Include more opportunities to share knowledge across countries
- Distribute the training material (and the presentations) in advance (or at least just after the session for the presentations)
- Find a more spacious room and ensure that the room is available to finalize group works even after the end of the day

A number of countries envisaged concrete follow up actions to the workshop

- Cambodia and Indonesia: organize, with the support of the ILO, costing workshops for national counterparts on 13 & 14 November and 20 & 21 November respectively.
- Lao PDR: launch the assessment based national dialogue exercise in 2013.
- Myanmar: review the draft rules of the newly enacted law based on the feedback received during the workshop; invite the ILO to deliver a presentation on 9 November on the social protection floor and the assessment based national dialogue exercise.
- Viet Nam: participate more actively in the design and implementation of several social protection programmes based on the recommendations from the assessment which was conducted in 2011-2012.
- Philippines: launch a series of consultations to introduce the concept of the social protection floor and start the assessment based national dialogue exercise.
- Brunei: organize an ASEAN workshop on 13 & 14 November on the conduct of assessment based national dialogue exercises in all ASEAN member states; this would support the development of a political and technical platform to facilitate “ASEAN integration with a human face”.
- ILO DWT Bangkok: finalize the Hands-on training tool which would be published at the beginning of 2013.
- ILO International Training Centre in Turin: use some of the sessions and case studies for a similar workshop on “Assessing the feasibility, cost and impact of national social protection floors” from 29 October - 2 November 2012.