

SOCIAL PROTECTION ASSESSMENT-BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE: PHILIPPINES

Establishing a social protection floor for all through a process of national dialogue

What is the ABND?

Philippines aims to empower and protect its poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged people, within the inclusive development goals and poverty reduction strategy of the country. The assessment-based national dialogue (ABND) exercise is an effort of the Philippine government to establish a nationally-defined social protection floor (SPF) for all people in the country, especially the poor and vulnerable.

The ABND exercise assesses the social protection, employment promotion and disaster management schemes in the country, identifies gaps in design and coverage according to the vulnerabilities of the people, explores recommendations to establish an SPF in the Philippines, and estimates the cost of the SPF. The SPF is validated at the technical level by the national and local governments, employers and workers, civil society and development partners, and endorsed at the cabinet level by policy makers.

A participatory approach uniting many actors

The ABND exercise is conducted by a Core Group (CG) co-chaired by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Members of the CG include several stakeholders:

- government departments such as DOLE, NEDA, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and others;
- employer and worker organizations; and
- UN, while ILO provides technical assistance.

Other departments such as the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and others, and civil society organizations participate in the meetings and workshops.

Endorsement and impact

The ABND recommendations comprise the nationally-defined SPF. The SPF is endorsed by the Human Development and Poverty Reduction (HDPR) cabinet cluster and the NEDA Social Development Committee (SDC). It is expected to provide inputs to the implementation of the Social Protection Operational Framework and Strategy (SPOFS) and the design of the first 5-year National Social Protection Plan in the Philippines.



The ABND exercise comprises three steps.

Step 1: Defining the SPF (developing the assessment matrix)

The assessment matrix is an inventory of the existing social protection, poverty alleviation, employment promotion and disaster management schemes in the country. It identifies policy gaps and implementation issues, and recommendations to address the gaps. The matrix is developed in joint consultation with the national and local governments, employers, workers, civil society groups and development partners, and endorsed at the cabinet level. These recommendations comprise a nationally-defined SPF, sensitive to existing socio-economic circumstances and challenges.

The assessment matrix is segregated into the four SPF guarantees, namely health care, income security for children, working age people and the elderly. It is further segregated into the SPOFS components of contributory social insurance, social welfare schemes for the poor, social safety nets for disaster victims and labour market interventions.

	Existing schemes	Policy gaps	Recos	Implement- ation issues	Recos
Health					
Children					
Working age					
Elderly					

} Social insurance
} Social welfare
} Social safety nets
} Labor market interventions

Step 2: Estimating the cost of the SPF

The cost of the SPF or the recommendations is estimated until 2020 using a tool known as Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP). Financial parameters for the recommendations, such as benefit levels, target groups, etc. are decided by the Core Group through national dialogue. The results of the RAP are used as a basis for discussions on prioritizing different recommendations and available fiscal space in the country.

Cost as % of GDP	2013	2014	2015
Low scenario			
Health	0.00%	0.02%	0.03%
Children	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%
Working age	0.00%	0.13%	0.25%
Elderly	0.00%	0.06%	0.14%
Maternity	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
HIV	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
Total	0.00%	0.22%	0.45%

Step 3: Finalizing the ABND report and national launch

The ABND report, including the recommendations for a nationally-defined 'SPF for all', is finalized, endorsed and launched by the government and other relevant stakeholders. Further, future steps of action are prepared, such as providing inputs to the SPOFS Action Plan and Philippines' first 5-year National Social Protection Plan.



The ABND process receives technical assistance from the ILO and financial support from the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme.

Meet the team at ILO!

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According to DOLE Administrative Order 112-15, consultations were held in the three island groups of the Philippines, namely Visayas, Luzon and Mindanao, for validation of the matrix at the local level. A CG workshop was conducted to finalize the RAP model. Following this, the nationally-defined SPF supported by an estimate of its cost, was presented to and endorsed at national workshops and meetings involving the HDPR cluster, NEDA SDC, Sub-Committees on Social Protection and Informal Sector.



Find out more about the ABND! www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowProject.action?id=2507

View Philippines' social protection profile! www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowCountryProfile.action?id=453



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