

# BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN MYANMAR



International  
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## A POPULATION WITH LITTLE SOCIAL PROTECTION

It is estimated that 51.5 million people or 97 per cent of the population does not have access to adequate social protection, leaving them to rely on themselves and their communities to cope with life risks.

Myanmar is emerging from a history of conflict and moving towards a democratic system. Two-thirds of the population lives below or just above the poverty line, making them highly vulnerable. The economy is growing rapidly, however, without redistributive policies, inequalities also continue to grow.

## BUILDING A SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Since 2012, the Government of Myanmar has made social protection a development priority. With the support of the ILO, the Government further developed the Social Security Law, 2012 and adopted a National Social Protection Strategic Plan in December 2014. This Plan was formulated through a participatory approach, the Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND), and facilitated by the ILO and UN agencies as well as the World Bank.

The Plan aims to cover all people throughout their life-cycle through the: (i) improvement of existing social security schemes for the growing formal sector and (ii) creation of universal schemes to guarantee minimum protection to all, especially vulnerable people and the informal economy.

## REDUCING POVERTY AND FORMALIZING THE ECONOMY

Social protection is viewed as a central tool to reduce poverty and formalize the economy. The Government of Myanmar is committed to implement the Plan over the next two decades. It has taken concrete steps to extend social protection:



- Universal health coverage (UHC): With the assistance of the ILO and the World Bank, the Ministries of Health and Labour have developed a road map to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

- Social pensions: The Government is exploring a social pension scheme on the basis of the ABND recommendations.

- Institutional capacity building: The Social Security Board is progressively introducing the technological infrastructure and a system of social workers.

Next, the country has to focus its efforts to effectively implement the National Social Protection Strategic Plan, by introducing new social security schemes, mobilizing fiscal resources and implementing a coordinated delivery mechanism.



I earn around US\$110 a month and my husband earns around US\$70. When my son was sick, we could not afford the cost of his treatment and we were forced to borrow money from someone in our neighbourhood. Then we had to repay him the money with a lot of interest.

- Ei Ei Mon, a 34 years old garment factory worker, Yangon

The Government of Myanmar is making efforts to ensure essential health care for all. The ILO has supported the Government by formulating evidence and consensus based policy options on health care, and social protection benefits and services.

## FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Social protection is a key priority area of the United Nations Strategy Framework for Myanmar. The ILO has long experience in supporting countries to extend social protection to all.

With your help, we can support the Government in extending social protection to one million people by 2018 and build the foundations of a comprehensive social protection system.

You can support us to:

- Advance the road map towards UHC.
  - ✚ Facilitate a dialogue between the ministries of health, labour and finance on a financing plan.
  - ✚ Support the existing health-care scheme to expand its network of service providers.

US\$ 400,000 for 18 months

- Support the design of the Public Employment Programme for rural areas.

US\$ 200,000 for 1 year

- Design an inclusive and transparent governance mechanism for social protection.
  - ✚ Phase 1: Develop an inclusive consultation process on decentralized social protection delivery as part of trust-building between communities and the Government of Myanmar.
  - ✚ Phase 2: Conduct a feasibility and costing study for a single window mechanism including institutional arrangements and processes.
  - ✚ Phase 3: Implement the governance mechanism gradually, initially covering two geographic areas.

US\$ 1,800,000 for 3 years

- Strengthen the capacity of the Social Security Board to implement the Social Security Law which provides for invalidity, unemployment, and old-age schemes.

- ✚ Phase 1: Assess the feasibility and financial sustainability of the new social security schemes.
- ✚ Phase 2: Build internal capacity for managing the schemes, and develop the guidelines and procedures.
- ✚ Phase 3: Implement gradually, initially providing one benefit.

US\$ 1,000,000 for 3 years

## LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports on the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can support stakeholders in Myanmar and improve millions of lives, you can contact:



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