

# National Dialogue Processes



## Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on Universal Social Protection through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

6-8 September 2016 - Beijing

### A national dialogue uniting social protection stakeholders

The Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) on social protection is a process that identifies priority areas for government intervention in the field of social protection and estimates the cost of these interventions. It involves several stakeholders:

- national ministries (i.e. labour, social welfare, health, education, rural development, finance, planning and others);
- local governments;
- social security institutions;
- workers' and employers' representatives;
- civil society organizations;
- academia; and
- development partners.

The ABND process brings together different stakeholders to identify the existing social protection situation in the country, policy gaps and implementation issues. It then formulates recommendations to address these problems, establish a social protection floor (SPF) in the country and design a national social protection strategy. The recommendations take into account government priorities and can also

inspire new policy development. Ultimately, the recommendations need to be endorsed by policy-makers.

Social protection stakeholders often work in isolation and only deal with a part of the social protection agenda. The ABND provides a unique opportunity to gather all stakeholders and identify a common diagnosis of the social protection situation, formulate priority policy recommendations and plan a progressive implementation of the SPF. This consensus is achieved through bilateral and multipartite consultations, workshops and training sessions.

### Progress to date

To date, the ABND methodology has been applied in Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Niger, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Zambia and other countries. More



“The Philippines is committed to complete its Assessment-based National Dialogue, to define its national SPF, to implement its Social Protection Framework and Strategy.”

Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Labour and Employment Secretary of the Philippines

information on these exercises is available in dedicated workspaces at [www.social-protection.org](http://www.social-protection.org).

The ABND process is conducted by a technical working group consisting of representatives from the different stakeholder organizations. The group can be led by two agencies from the government and/or development partners. The group reports to policy-makers on a regular basis to facilitate the ultimate endorsement of the ABND recommendations and advocate for follow-up activities.

### A three-step approach

#### STEP 1 – Assessment matrix

Social protection floors are the minimum set of social protection guarantees that should be provided to all members of society. The four guarantees of the social protection floor are used as benchmarks to describe existing social protection, employment promotion and poverty alleviation schemes in a country, identify policy gaps and implementation issues, and draft recommendations to guarantee at least a floor of social protection benefits to all people.

**ABND matrix**

	Govt. strategy	Existing and planned schemes	Policy gaps	Implementation issues	Recommendations
Health	Identifying existing situation in the country Four SPF guarantees		Identifying policy gaps and implementation issues, addressing which would complete the SPF		Agreeing on priority policy options through national dialogue
Children					
Working age					
Elderly					

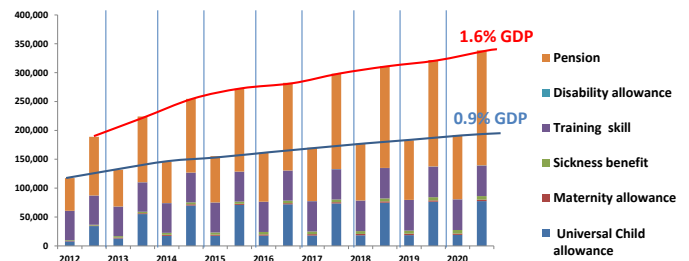
The preparation of the assessment matrix involves close collaboration between all relevant stakeholders through bilateral consultations and technical multipartite workshops at the national and provincial levels.

#### STEP 2 – Costing of recommendations

The cost of the proposed recommendations for the national SPF is estimated over several years using a costing tool known as the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP). This costing exercise can serve as a basis for discussions on

the prioritization of different social protection policy recommendations as well as the available and required fiscal resources.

*Illustration: Projections for the low and high SPF packages, Thailand (2012-20)*



#### STEP 3 – Endorsement

Once the assessment report is finalized, it is presented to and discussed with high-level government officials for their endorsement and decisions on next steps. As a result of the ABND process, countries have started working on the drafting of national social protection strategies and the design or reform of social protection schemes. For example, Thailand has embarked on the design of a long-term care scheme, while Indonesia is working on extending health care for all and benefits for persons living with HIV.

#### Coordinating the design and planning of national SPFs

The ABND process can be applied to draft a national social protection strategy or develop a plan for implementing an existing national social protection strategy, among other objectives.

#### An ABND good practices guide



To help countries carry out ABNDs, the ILO has published a good practices guide which draws upon practical ABND experiences in 14 countries.

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