

# Development Partners Group (DPG) thematic group on Social Protection: Minutes of the meeting

6 December 2015

World Bank office, Cairo

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## Summary

The fourth meeting of the DPG thematic group on Social Protection was held on 6 December 2015 at the World Bank office in Cairo. It was chaired by Ignacio Artaza (Country Director, UNDP) and Gustavo Demarco (Program Leader, World Bank) with the UNRC's Office as the DPG focal point. The meeting was attended by 19 participants from AFD, Ford Foundation, ILO, Swiss Embassy, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP and World Bank. Meeting highlights are presented below.

## Participants

- **AFD:** Sophie Biacabe (Project Manager), Nadine Poupart (Project Manager), Sandra Kassab (Investment Officer), Zachary Burk (Investment Officer)
- **Ford Foundation:** Ghada Abdel Tawab (Economic and Social Rights Expert)
- **ILO:** Theo van der Loop (Consultant), Sara Abdulrehim (Senior Technical Assistant), Thorsten Behrendt (Health Expert), Loveleen De (Social Protection Policy Officer)
- **Swiss Embassy's Office for International Cooperation:** Laetitia Weibel Roberts (Program Manager)
- **UNDP:** Ignacio Artaza (Country Director), Nahla Zeitoun (Poverty Team Leader)
- **UNICEF:** Leonardo Menchini (Chief of Social Policy M&E), Lina (Researcher), Bilal Kiswani (Social Policy Specialist)
- **UNRC's Office:** Lucia Desigis (Aid Effectiveness Specialist)
- **WHO:** Matthew Jowett (Senior Health Financing Specialist), Riku Elovainio (Technical Officer)
- **World Bank:** Gustavo Demarco (Program Leader), Tatiana Lionele Weber (Operations Officer)

## Meeting highlights

### *Assessment-based National Dialogue on Social Protection Floors, ILO*

- The ILO delivered a presentation on the objectives, scope and timeframe of the Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) process in Egypt, of which the first step is underway. A preliminary draft of the assessment matrix, which tracks existing programmes and measures against the four Social Protection Floor (SPF) guarantees, was presented.
- The draft assessment matrix would be shared with the DPG on Social Protection for inputs and comments.

- The discussion was an opportunity to suggest that the Parliament should be included in the consultation process after presentation and approval by Ministers.
- It was highlighted that the support offered by charities should be captured in the matrix as privately-provided social protection often includes support not otherwise provided by the government.
- ILO mentioned that in addition to the government, 3 independent unions and 1 government union were consulted and further, employer and civil society organizations would be consulted. A formal launch of the ABND would take place in early 2016 and the process is likely to be coordinated by MOSS, MOF and MOP.
- It was further inquired how the figure of 73% of the world's population lacking access to social protection was arrived at, how gaps in the matrix are identified and how to actually reach and incentivize the informal sector to join the social security system who may not benefit much from legal improvements.

### **Further discussions**

- The meeting also discussed about the **upcoming Social Protection workshop organized by AFD** on 9 December 2015 as a continuation of the WHO/MOH workshop on SHI implementation. The workshop would be an opportunity to build future engagement with the government in the social protection field.
- The next session was an update by the World Bank on the **South-South Learning Forum (SSLF) on Social Safety Nets** held in Beijing, China during 9-13 November 2015. The forum hosted 246 participants representing 75 countries, including high-level officials (read the [press release](#)).
- A **tour-de-table** was conducted to gain an understanding from participants on recent and upcoming activities of their respective organizations, including among others, support provided by UNICEF to the *Takaful* programme and measurement of multidimensional child poverty, finalization of an actuarial assessment of Egypt's pension system by ILO in discussion with the government, research activities of the Ford Foundation involving civil society and academic institutions, UNDP support on capacity building and to public works, WHO assistance to MOH on SHI implementation, World Bank's work on the cash transfers, *Takaful* and *Karama*, in addition to a unified national registry and other projects.