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PRESS RELEASE

Indonesia to Examine its Progress on Social Protection Floor

JAKARTA (ILO News): In Indonesia, informal economy workers and contract-less employees are largely uncovered by the social security benefits. It is estimated that 54 per cent of total population does not have access to social health protection (most of the excluded are workers in the informal economy and their families) and 83 per cent of workers do not have access to other social security benefits (old age, death, work injury).

The extension of social insurance and health insurance to informal economy workers above the poverty line seems to be particularly challenging, particularly with the increased number of informal economy workers during the crisis—from 61.26 per cent of the workforce in August 2008 to 62.06 per cent in February 2009. However, the extension of social protection cannot be achieved without strong commitment and willingness from national and local governments. In the absence of adequate social protection floor in place, people who manage to go out of poverty face the risk of falling again into poverty.

To monitor and assess progress towards social protection floor in the country, the International Labour Organization (ILO) will conduct a Validation Workshop of the Social Protection Assessment on Thursday, 4 August, at Sari Pan Pacific Hotel, Jakarta. The workshop will be opened by Peter van Rooij, Country Director of the ILO in Indonesia.

The validation workshop is conducted as the immediate follow-up to the previous training on social protection floor rapid assessment, design and costing which was held in November 2010 in Bangkok. During the training, provincial governments of East Java, Nusa Tenggara Timur and Maluku, together with PT Jamsostek, had prepared a roadmap for the implementation of the social protection floor at national and provincial level, including a stocktaking and analysis of the situation and the conduct of a comprehensive national rapid assessment of the existing social protection floor.

The aim of the workshop is to review the final assessment report and matrix, which was developed to examine the current situation and to provide main recommendations, to share the costing methodology and the results of the costing. The workshop also provides a tripartite forum for dialogue to point the way forward in terms of future policy implications in defining the social protection floor for national constituents.

Peter van Rooij, Country Director of the ILO in Indonesia, said that a social protection floor is a set of basic social rights and services that each member of a society should enjoy. “The workshop is expected to play an important role in building proper social protection mechanism for Indonesia. Through dialogue and exchange of experiences, it is hoped that future cooperation among relevant partners will be improved,” said Peter.

The social protection floor promotes income security for all residents to have access to health care services, for all children to nutrition, education and care, for all those in active age groups who cannot (or should not, in case of pregnancy) to a minimum income security and to all residents in old age and with disabilities to pensions for old age and disability or transfers in kind. It can also be used to describe existing schemes in place for each of the four basic guarantees mentioned above and identify the policy gaps and implementation issues if any.

The workshop targets policy makers from Government ministries, particularly the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration and the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) and other technical ministries. The workshop also involves representatives from employers' and workers' organizations, national and international organizations, UN agencies working on social protection issues and member of the SP sub-working group as well as mass media.

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