

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



International  
Labour  
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## PROVISION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AND REDUCTION OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

The benefits of economic growth in the last decade have not been shared equally among all people in the Philippines. Many existing social protection programmes reach only a small portion of the population, often excluding the most poor and vulnerable sections of society. Social spending only accounts for 1.6 per cent of GDP, despite 25.2 per cent of its population of 97 million falling below the poverty line in 2012. These disadvantaged segments of society also face the greatest risks from natural disasters (typhoons, earthquakes) that the country is prone to experiencing every year. Several instruments are in place that form what is theoretically a comprehensive social protection system in the Philippines. However, the challenge lies in the disaggregated nature of the programmes, and the need to increase both the breadth and depth of coverage.

The Philippine Development Plan 2011–2016 highlights the emphasis the national government has placed on social protection in recent times, with focus on universal health care, improved mechanisms to identify beneficiaries and facilitate access, and increased coverage for the poor and vulnerable. Moreover, the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan 2011–2016 underlines the need to improve access to social protection mechanisms, which includes adequate wages, better working conditions and extensive employment opportunities for all. A plan for implementing the enhanced Social Protection Operational Framework and Strategy (adopted in 2012), composed of programmes on social insurance, welfare and safety nets as well as labour market interventions, is to be formulated by 2016.

The government, led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), has initiated an Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) process to better inform this venture and help develop Philippines' first 5-year National Social Protection Plan.

Initiated in May 2014 and guided by the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), the ABND exercise aims to establish a nationally-defined Social



Protection Floor (SPF) in the Philippines. It is an ongoing exercise that will assess the social protection system in the country, develop recommendations to implement an SPF and estimate the cost of the SPF, through a continuous process of social dialogue. The SPF is expected to better address the social protection needs and vulnerabilities of Filipino people, and will be endorsed by the Cabinet.

## OPERATIONALIZING THE NATIONAL SPF

The ABND exercise is expected to lead to a national definition of a "Social Protection Floor for all". To operationalize the national SPF, further feasibility studies and pilot tests will have to be conducted on the design of new social protection benefits and the upgrade of existing schemes and services. Additionally, capacity building and training of stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels will be required. The Government is developing a Social Protection Handbook for implementing bodies at the local level, and plans to train them on use of the Handbook.

“ Social protection and workplace safety are at the core of strategies against risks that may be posed by the ASEAN economic integration in December 2015.

Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Secretary of Labor and Employment, Philippines

“ The Philippines is committed to complete its ABND exercise, to determine its nationally-defined SPF, to implement its Enhanced Social Protection Framework and Strategy.

Reydeluz D. Conferido, Undersecretary of Labor and Employment, Philippines

### FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Building an “SPF for all” in the Philippines through the ABND process is one of the seven Strategic Focus Areas in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012–2018. The ILO and UN partners have a long standing experience of working together to support the Government. With your assistance, we can help more people access social protection in the Philippines.

You can support us to conduct:

- Design studies of new schemes including policy options, costing and financing, institutional set up and legal studies.

US\$ 300,000

- Feasibility and design study of a mechanism to harmonize the implementation of social protection schemes across agencies and between the national and local levels.

\$ 200,000 (one year)

- Awareness building and training workshops for implementing bodies at the local level.

\$ 200,000

- Develop a media campaign to raise awareness on social protection.

\$ 100,000

- Support the development of the processes, tools, and MIS required for the implementation of the coordinated delivery mechanism.

\$ 250,000 (18 months)

- Support the development and management of the pilot implementation of the coordinated delivery mechanism.

\$ 400,000 (2 years)

- Share experiences from the country through briefs, web pages and videos.

\$ 25,000

### LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

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

To further discuss your objectives and ways in which you can contribute to increasing the outreach and effectiveness of social protection for poor and vulnerable people, you can contact:



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