



Second Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social Protection Floors in the Kyrgyz Republic



19 February 2016

Recommendations adopted at the Second Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social Protection Floors in the Kyrgyz Republic

I. Introduction

1. Social Protection Floors: origins

With the onset of the 2008 global financial and economic crisis, people around the world faced lower income, fewer employment and livelihood opportunities, and reduced access to social services, benefits, remittances and credit. In response to this, the High Level Committee on Programmes of the Chief Executive Board (UNCEB) committed to decisive and urgent multilateral actions and agreed on nine joint initiatives in April, 2009. The sixth initiative was the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I), which advocates for the provision of social transfers and access to essential services for all individuals.

2. Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202)

As a result of intensive discussions during three sessions of the International Labour Conference (2001, 2011 and 2012) confirming the necessity of building social protection floors and comprehensive social security systems, which was also endorsed by G20 and the United Nations, the Governments, workers' and employers' organization of the ILO's member states adopted the Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202) at the International Labour Conference in June, 2012.

The Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) provides guidance to member States in building comprehensive social security systems and extending social security coverage by prioritizing the establishment of national social protection floors accessible to all in need. The Recommendation aims at ensuring that all members of society enjoy at least a basic level of social security throughout their lives.

The national SPF shall consist of the following four social security guarantees throughout the life cycle, as defined at the national level:

- access to essential health care, including maternity care;
- basic income security for children, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
- basic income security for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability;
- basic income security for older persons.

3. Assessment based national dialogue on social protection (ABND)

The ABND as implementation tool for improving national social protection floors was included in Social Protection Development Programme for 2015-2017, which was adopted by the Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, No.85 (February 27, 2015).

In recognition of the need to take stock of existing social protection realities in order to understand what elements of national SPFs are in place and where “gaps” in the SPFs exist, the ILO collaborated with governments, social partners, civil society, academicians, and UN agencies in the Kyrgyz Republic to conduct social protection assessment based national dialogue exercises.

The ABND exercise assesses how the SPF is placed and further extended in the country. Policy gaps and obstacles for implementing social protection schemes are identified and a set of recommendations is developed for further design and implementation of social protection provisions that would guarantee an SPF for all residents.

II. Assessment based national dialogue in the Kyrgyz Republic

1. The launch of the ABND in the Kyrgyz Republic

The launch of the ABND in the Kyrgyz Republic was organised on 4 December, 2014 where the Government and the UN country team reaffirmed the necessity of conducting ABND and came up with a schedule for the organisation of the ABND in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The ABND in the Kyrgyz Republic follows three agreed steps: preparation of a legal matrix and costing scenarios, development of recommendations into optimal policy options for national actions, finalisation of the report and submission to the Government. The ABND is based on a national dialogue intensive consultative process composed of representatives from the government, workers and employer' organisations, the civil society, UN agencies, international financial institutions and development partners.

Main conclusions and recommendations from the ABND launch in the Kyrgyz Republic were as follows:

1. The ABND of social protection is relevant and timely;

2. It is important to assess the whole social protection system which requires inter-ministerial coordination;
3. The matrix should reflect the priorities of the country, with a special emphasis on disabilities, wages etc.;
4. The national dialogue will require broad consultations with policymakers, and the work of a technical unit composed of experts from participating ministries and institutions.

Based on the Action plan of Social Protection Development Programme 2015-2017, article no.59 a working group on ABND SPF was established on the 10 of March, 2015 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (ex. Ministry of Social Development) of the Kyrgyz Republic (Resolution No.9).

2. The First Assessment Based National Dialogue: 17-19 June 2015

The first ABND in the Kyrgyz Republic was organized to discuss the National Social Protection Floors on 17-19 June, 2015 in Koi-Tash and Bishkek upon the initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

At the 1st ABND, the draft ABND legal matrix prepared by the ILO was discussed by the members of Technical Working Group.

The main findings based on the assessment matrix with policy gaps, obstacles for implementing social protection schemes and recommendations for SPF in the Kyrgyz Republic were shared at the high-level roundtable organized at the end of the 1st ABND. The matrix covered four SPF guarantees, including access to health care; social protection for children, working-age population and elderly persons.

3. The Second Assessment Based National Dialogue: 17-19 February 2016

The ABND SPF Working Group has been called upon to participate in the discussion to examine the present social protection system in the Kyrgyz Republic. The main purposes of the 2nd ABND are to formulate the recommendations by selecting the priorities of national actions in the field of social protection and promote the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the Working Group at its second Assessment Based National Dialogue.

The ABND Working Group in the Kyrgyz Republic consists of the following representatives:

- Government ministries, agencies and funds;
- Civil society and social partners and
- United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and donor community.

The ABND Working Group is the multilateral social protection machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific social protection issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations and prioritizations.

As a result of the technical discussions during the 2nd ABND from 17-18 February, 2016, each sub-group mentioned above selected the following recommendations as the priorities for national actions in the field of social protection:

Health

The government ministries, agencies and funds

- Improving quality of healthcare services;
- Staffing in the regions (in remote areas);

Civil society and social partners

- Extending the coverage of informal workers by compulsory health insurance;
- Improving the access of vulnerable groups to inexpensive and good quality medicines.

United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and donor community

- Defining minimum quality of health services;
- Ensuring the access of vulnerable groups to health services.

Children

The government ministries, agencies and funds

- Increasing the level of monthly benefit to low income families with children;
- Indexing survivor pension;

Civil society and social partners

- Increasing the level of monthly benefit to low income families with children up to food subsistence minimum level;
- Extending the access of social services of alternative boarding;

United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and donor community

- Increasing the level of monthly benefit to low income families with children up to food subsistence minimum level;
- Improving social service system;

Working age

The government ministries, agencies and funds

- Developing the mechanism of formalising labour relations;
- Increasing maternity benefit;

Civil society and social partners

- Increasing maternity benefit level not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of income;
- Extending maternity coverage to informal workers;

United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and donor community

- Increasing the unemployment benefit level;
- Extending the maternity protection to informal sector;

Elderly

The government ministries, agencies and funds

- Increasing the pension level;
- Developing the alternative services (rehabilitation and day care centres, hospices) at the local level;

Civil society and social partners

- Strengthening the basic component of old-age pension by increasing it up to subsistence minimum level of the pensioner;
- Increasing the monthly social old-age benefit up to subsistence minimum level of the pensioner;

United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and donor community

- Strengthening the basic component of pension;
- Improving social service system.

Following the list of priorities presented by each sub-group mentioned above, the final participatory consultations were organized and the ABND Working Group selected and agreed the following recommendations on social protection as the priorities for further actions:

The main priorities:

- **Increasing the pension level**
- **Increasing the monthly benefit to low income families with children**

Additional priorities:

- **Improving social service system**
- **Increasing the level of maternity benefit**

On the last day of the second ABND, a set of recommendations with the above-mentioned four priorities on social protection were presented and adopted at the high-level ABND national roundtable where the Vice Prime Minister and high-level representatives (ministers, chairmen) of the line ministries, funds and agencies participated.

- III.** The results of the 2nd ABND will be reflected in the final report on “Social Protection Floor: Assessment Based National Dialogue in the Kyrgyz Republic”. The report is expected to be submitted to Government of the Kyrgyz Republic at the 3rd ABND, currently planned in late 2016.

Institutions and organizations of the Second Assessment Based National Dialogue on SPF

Ministries and agencies

1. Ministry of Labour and Social Development
2. Republican Centre of Medical and Social Expertise
3. Ministry of Finance
4. Ministry of Economy
5. Ministry of Health
6. Public Security Headquarters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
7. State Agency on self-government issues and inter-ethnic relations
8. Compulsory Health Insurance Fund
9. Social Fund
10. Ministry of Education and Science
11. National Statistical Committee
12. State Inspection on Environmental and Technical Safety

Employers' organizations

1. National Confederation of Employers

Trade Unions

1. Federation of Trade Unions

International organizations

1. United Nations Development Programme
2. International Labour Organization
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
4. World Food Programme
5. United Nations Fund Population
6. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
7. UN Women
8. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
9. HelpAge
10. World Bank

Non-governmental organizations

1. The League of Defenders' for Child Rights
2. Children' Protection Centre
3. Family to every child
4. Association of Women with Disabilities
5. Institute for childhood

Researches and independent experts also took part in the ABND.