

## ABND in Philippines:

### Informal meeting of Departments, workers and employers, UN

28 May 2014

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#### Participants

- Social Security Commission (Alan Ortiz)
- Employees Compensation Commission (Stella Banawis)
- Department of Labor and Employment (Cha Satumba, Zydney Cresino)
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (Gemma Gabuya, Edwin Pajares)
- Federation of Free Workers (Antonio Asper)
- NEDA (Girlye Casimino)
- Institute of Labor Studies (Bernard Mangulabnan)
- National Anti Poverty Commission
- UNCO (Eden Lumilan)
- UNICEF (Augusto Rodriguez, Jeongmin Lee)
- ILO (Valerie Schmitt, Cocoy Sardana, Loveleen De, Ia Macapapan)

#### Relevance of ABND

1. For Philippines: DSWD has prepared a **draft Action Plan** for the Enhanced Social Protection Operational Strategy and Framework. This Plan will be made more evidenced-based and sequenced, and has to be finalized by the end of 2016. The Action Plan will be included in the 6-year national development plan for the next administration, which will assume office from 2017. It will include:
  - a. a description of the social protection system;
  - b. vulnerability assessments at the local level;
  - c. recommendations and affordable priority policy options;
  - d. a 5-year implementation plan.

The ABND, which is expected to be completed by mid-2015, can provide inputs to points (a), (c) and (d) of the Action Plan. The ABND starts with an inventory of social protection schemes which will provide inputs to point (a). It then provides recommendations to complete the social protection floor, and converts these recommendations into realistic and feasible scenarios, which can provide inputs to point (c). The cost of these scenarios is estimated, which not only indicates the affordability of the policy options but also supports the proper planning of their implementation or sequencing. This is useful to point (d).

2. For UN: ABND addresses points 2 and 3 of the joint UNDG/ILO letter, which highlights the importance of social protection provisions and assessments, especially in developing countries.

Point 2 – **supporting national dialogues**, including within Governments, on potential options for designing and implementing locally appropriate SPFs, consistent with relevant provisions in the ILO Recommendation, and related initiatives – such as the work of WHO on universal health coverage and existing national development priorities and strategies

Point 3 - assisting countries to undertake analysis of social protection needs and gaps, optional measures which would close these gaps, tools to monitor progress, and possible sources of financing, with the hope of increasing floors over time

3. The ABND matrix (which maps social protection schemes and measures, identifies gaps and provides recommendations) will follow the Philippine Operational Framework segregation of social protection into social insurance, social welfare, social safety nets and Labour Market Interventions (LMIs). This will be further subdivided into the Social Protection Floor (SPF) guarantees of healthcare, children, working age, elderly. In this way, the matrix will be coherent with the national concept of social protection and the ILO SPF concept.

### Points highlighted during the meeting

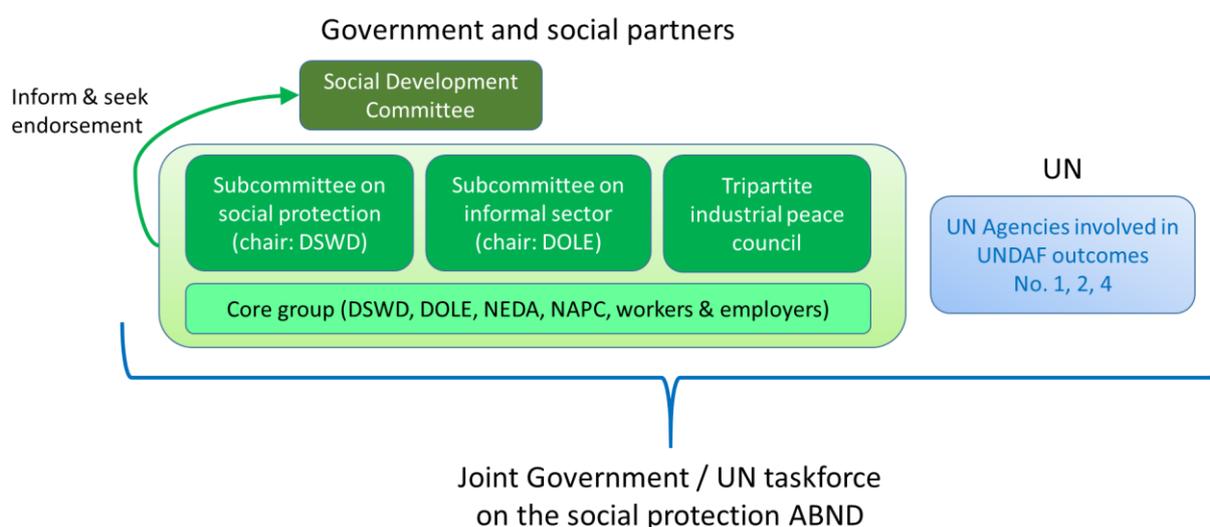
1. A Social Protection Handbook is being developed, to build human capacity and guide local players in planning, implementing and monitoring social protection interventions. It is hoped that they will be trained in using the handbook in 2014, and they will continue to use the handbook in future. It comprises four volumes: first volume orients LGUs on the concept, and the other volumes focus on implementing agencies like social workers, PESOs, etc.
2. A Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Manual is also being developed, which is a tool to analyse the risks and vulnerabilities at the local level.
3. Philippines wants to have a clear idea and definition of social protection and SPF, so that everyone is on the same plane. Currently, there is difficulty in harmonizing the definitions. However, it can be seen that there is coherence between the SPF definition and the Philippine definition, which is further highlighted in the presentation for 5.6.2014. Social protection involves social benefits and facilitates *access* to social services. SPF should be part of the overall national strategy.
4. At the technical level, there is an agreement on the ABND and how it fits into the Philippines context.
5. It is expected that the CODI assessment tables and inventory questionnaires can be used for the development of ABND matrix.

### Who should be involved in the ABND?

1. In the Philippines, joint government/UN teams already exist. The UNDAF Special Outcome#2 Group includes the members of the Subcommittee on Social Protection (SC-SP) and relevant UN agencies, and is chaired by DSWD and UNICEF. UNDAF

outcome#1 is on MDGs (including CTS, main agency is DSWD), outcome#2 is on labour and employment (main agency is DOLE), outcome#4 is on environment (in line with disaster risk response, main agency is DENR). These three UNDAF outcomes are relevant to the development of the ABND exercise in the Philippines and members of these groups should be involved in the process.

2. The list of government agencies and social partners involved in social protection assessments should also reflect the organizations that signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Informal Sector Workers in 2013. The MOA contains about 23 government agencies, and also includes the National Commission on Women, Subcommittees on formal and informal sectors, federation for senior citizens, associations at barangay level, etc.
3. The Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) should be invited, as they include several workers and employers. The idea of national dialogue should be presented to them.
4. The Subcommittees on Social Protection and Informal Sector (SC-SP and SC-IS) are both under the National Economic and Development Authority-Social Development Committee (NEDA-SDC) technical boards. For the purpose of national dialogues, the NEDA-SDC-SP and NEDA-SDC-IS structures should be used, along with representatives from UN agencies. SC-SP comprises government departments, and three NGO representatives which are changed every few years, but no workers and employers. SC-IS comprises workers and employers. The published ABND report will feature both the Government and UN logos on the cover, and they will all be involved in the process.
5. The subcommittees are quite large and it is proposed to have a **core group** involved in the detailed steps of the ABND (mainly through bilateral consultations), while the SC-SP and SC-IS participate in the national dialogues. As the core group contains government representatives, it is proposed to expand it by including social partners and active NGOs.
6. Based on this discussion, it was agreed that the national dialogue in the Philippines could be organized along the following lines:



## Next steps

1. **Officially launch** the ABND exercise with the DSWD, DOLE and NEDA secretaries. At the Human Development and Poverty Reduction cluster (HDPR, chaired by DSWD and co-chaired by NEDA) meeting on 5.6.2014 which will be attended by the 3 Secretaries, DOLE will present the ABND exercise. This will help to have their commitment to the ABND and validate the organization of the national dialogue. This presentation was prepared by ILO and validated by DOLE on 28.5.2014, and presented to the Under-Secretary of DOLE by the ILO.
2. **Added value** of ABND to Philippines:
  - a. it will help to coordinate and harmonize dialogue mechanisms in the country;
  - b. it will contribute to harmonizing national social protection and SPF structures;
  - c. it will provide a cost-projection and sequenced-implementation-plan of programmes.
3. ILO will start the data collection for the ABND matrix through bilateral consultations, and with focus on disaster and conflict areas (regions 4B, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12).
4. Proposed timeline of the ABND in the Philippines:

