Building and strengthening social protection floors in Europe and Central Asia

A proposal for working as One UN
‘Fit for purpose’

- SDGs will require renewed collaboration
  - UN CEB Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) created in 2009
  - Calls for increased collaboration on social protection from UNDG, UN DOCO (2014 & 2015)

- For impact, UN must operate at sufficient scale
  - Combining strengths, competencies
  - Engaging with BWIs, non-UN, EU
  - Closing resource gaps

“This new, universal, sustainable development agenda requires an international community that is ‘fit for purpose’…”
Europe and Central Asia

• The need for UN collaboration on social protection
  – Most UNDAFs include social protection in ECA
  – Need to align country work with SPF global framework & the SDGs
  – Need to better coordinate (especially when it comes to the implementation of reforms)
  – Being a formidable/credible partner for governments, WB/EU

• We have to do it; the question is how?
Kyrgyzstan

• A ‘Delivering as One’ country with multiple requests
  – ILO for ratification of international social security standards
  – UNICEF for support for national social protection strategy

• Inter-agency activity launched for coherent UN response
  – Creation of a roadmap for strategy implementation, national assessment
  – Inclusion in UNDAF mid-term review

The UNRC, a.i. in Kyrgyzstan with representatives from UN Women, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, and ILO at the inter-agency launch.
Proposed way forward

In the countries

1. Strengthen the collaboration in Kyrgyzstan
   - 12 months social protection expert in Bishkek
   - Joint proposal for Delivering Results Together Fund

2. Create new national collaboration initiatives
   - Among ‘Delivering as One’ & UNDAF roll-out countries
   - On issues where UN coordination makes sense (e.g. assessment based national dialogue, coordinated government delivery of social protection floors)
Proposed way forward

At the regional level: a thematic working group on social protection

1. Experience (TWG on SP in Asia, TWG Roma)
2. Membership criteria (expertise, resources, country work)
3. Objectives
   - Support coordinated country work (vision, technical support, learning)
   - Contribute to UN reform and SDG implementation
4. Proposed actions
   - Develop a joint position and advocacy
   - Document and share examples of social protection reforms
   - Provide technical support to country initiatives
Thank you.