

## National dialogue processes

**A national dialogue uniting social protection stakeholders**

The Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) on social protection is a process that identifies priority areas for government intervention in the field of social protection and estimates the cost of these interventions. It involves several stakeholders:

- national ministries (i.e. labour, social welfare, health, education, rural development, finance, planning and others);
- local governments;
- social security institutions;
- workers’ and employers’ representatives;
- civil society organizations;
- academia; and
- development partners.

The ABND process brings together different stakeholders to identify the existing social protection situation in the country, policy gaps and implementation issues. It then formulates recommendations to address these problems, establish a social protection floor (SPF) in the country and design a national social protection strategy. The recommendations take into account government priorities and can also inspire new policy development. Ultimately, the recommendations need to be endorsed by policymakers.

Often, social protection stakeholders work in isolation and only deal with a part of the social protection agenda. The ABND provides a unique opportunity to gather all stakeholders and identify a common diagnosis of the social protection situation, formulate priority policy recommendations and plan a progressive implementation of the SPF. This consensus is achieved through bilateral and multipartite consultations, workshops and training sessions.

The ABND process is conducted by a working group consisting of representatives from stakeholder organizations and led by national ministries and/or development partners.

To date, the ABND methodology has been applied in Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Niger, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Zambia and other countries. More information on these exercises is available in dedicated workspaces at www.social-protection.org.

## A three-step approach

The ABND process can be applied to design a national social protection strategy or a plan for implementing an existing strategy. It follows three steps:

### STEP 1 – Assessment matrix

The SPF guarantees are used as a framework to describe existing social protection schemes in a country, identify policy gaps and implementation issues, and draft recommendations to guarantee basic social protection to all people. The preparation of the matrix involves close collaboration between all stakeholders through bilateral consultations and multipartite workshops at national and local levels.

### STEP 2 – Costing of recommendations

The cost of the proposed SPF recommendations is estimated over several years using a costing tool known as the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP). This costing exercise can serve as a basis for prioritizing policy recommendations.

### STEP 3 – Endorsement

Once the assessment report is finalized, it is presented to and discussed with high-level government officials for their endorsement and decisions on next steps. As a result of the ABND process, countries have started working on drafting national social protection strategies and the design or reform of social protection schemes. For example, Thailand has embarked on the design of a long-term care scheme, while Indonesia is working on extending health care and HIV benefits.

## Learn how to carry out an ABND

To help countries carry out ABNDs the ILO has published a good practices guide which draws upon practical ABND experiences in 14 countries.

Country briefs describe how the ABND methodology was applied in a number of countries.

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**Learn more at:**

www.social-protection.org

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**THE PHILIPPINES**

**MYANMAR**