

# MODULE 14

## “Role play” to advocate for the endorsement of the policy options identified through the case study

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Prerequisites:** All modules

### **Key questions:**

1. What are different methods to be used while presenting the recommendations to line ministries and national policy-makers?
2. How to effectively lobby for endorsement of the recommendations and further their implementation?

### **Objectives:**

This module aims to give participants practical experience in lobbying for one or several policy options and gaining support from policy-makers for the endorsement and implementation of these recommendations.

### **Overview:**

The module includes a role play and a wrap-up by the facilitator to share some real country experiences.

#### **What are different methods to be used while presenting the recommendations to line ministries and national policy-makers?**

Participants form the same groups as in previous exercises: health care, children, working age, elderly, maternity, and HIV.

Group No. 1	Case study No. 1: The challenge of improving health of the people in Coresia
Group No. 2	Case study No. 2: The challenge of providing adequate education, childcare, and nutrition in Coresia
Group No. 3	Case study No. 3: The challenge of providing income security to the working age population in Coresia
Group No. 4	Case study No. 4: The challenge of providing income security to the elderly people in Coresia
Group No. 5	Case study No. 5: The challenge of providing universal maternity care in Coresia
Group No. 6	Case study No. 6: The challenge of combating HIV and syphilis in Coresia

Each group performs a role play to advocate endorsement of the selected scenario by the government.

The members of a group are asked to pick a role, preferably one different from their actual position. For instance, a person who works for a ministry could play the role of an employer. In this way, each person from a group assumes a role.

The groups are given 30 minutes to discuss among themselves and come up with arguments for advocacy.

Each of the six groups comes to the front of the training room and puts forward their arguments in 15 minutes.

When one group is presenting, the other participants sit as audience in one of the following groups:

- ministry of finance and planning;
- ministry of health;
- ministry of labour;
- ministry of social affairs and women;
- employers;
- workers;
- civil society;
- international financial institutions.

The audience asks questions and provides counter-arguments to the proposed scenario from the point of view of the group in which they are sitting. For instance, when the working age group is advocating for the endorsement of a scenario on skills training, a ministry of finance representative sitting in the audience may express concerns over the effect of implementing the scenario on government budget and ask the group to justify their proposal.

Examples of possible arguments, questions, and answers for different scenarios:

#### *Example No. 1*

The working age group presented itself as a multi-stakeholder group comprising an academician, a specialist from the UN, an economist from the Ministry of Finance, a statistician, and employers' and workers' representatives. Their selected scenario consisted of providing vocational training for 90 days along with an allowance to poor and near poor informal economy workers. This would target about 2 million people and cost 0.58 per cent of GDP.

Different stakeholders expressed their support for the scenario and put forward arguments to convince the other stakeholders from their own perspectives. A representative of rural female workers said that she was very happy and would wait for the scenario to be adopted. The academician presented his case from a statistical point of view, indicating that an investment in training at a cost of 0.58 per cent of GDP will ultimately give a return of 7 per cent of GDP. They have conducted surveys to determine the demand for skills from employers and have a rough design in mind.

The group was then given 15 minutes to accept and reply to questions from the audience. A representative from the World Bank asked that the target group be clarified along with the training activities. She also asked the group to explain how the scheme would ensure that beneficiaries have income security after the training ends. The group replied that they were targeting 100 per

cent of the poor and near poor population for training activities. The training would be demand-led, comprised of both theory and practical training, and developed together with technical experts. They also clarified that the daily allowance during training would be provided keeping in mind the minimum wage of Coresian Dine 250.

A representative from the planning agency remarked that after listening to the presentation, the government would only be able to finance the training for four years. From the Ministry of Finance, a commenter observed that the government seemed to be subsidising firms for hiring and questioned why the firms do not look for workers themselves. A member of the employers' confederation raised his questions on how beneficiaries of informal training activities would finally be absorbed by the formal economy and which government agencies would be involved in the training.

### *Example No. 2*

The HIV group, comprising employers' and workers' representatives, civil society members, the Social Security Board, and ministries, presented their scenario next. The representative from civil society appealed to the emotional nature of humans and said that people need to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. The group used visual media, including graphic images, video testimonials of people living with HIV/AIDS, and statistics, to drive their point home and inspire the government to take immediate action. In the discussion following the presentation, a representative of the Ministry of Finance said that although they would support the idea of the proposed scheme, they did not have enough money.

A member of civil society spoke up in earnest to say that they have been hearing the same thing for 20 years. Her concern was that if she finds out she has HIV, she does not know what steps to take for herself and how to protect her children. She wanted to find out how the scheme would benefit people with HIV/AIDS and details of the government's plan. The group went on to explain their chosen scenario, which was to provide a package of benefits comprising free voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) twice a year, cluster of differentiation 4 (CD4) and viral load, anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs, free VCT and mother-to-child-transmission (MTCT) measures for pregnant women, and cost of transportation to hospitals. A representative of the Social Security Board highlighted that they have estimated the cost of bringing this scheme into operation. They now required money, technical support, and an advanced database. For this, cooperation of the government was of utmost importance. The group again highlighted the necessity of implementing easy access to HIV tests and treatments.

A person from the Ministry of Health asked why so much money was being allotted to treatment rather than prevention and the logic behind selecting that particular scenario among so many others. The group replied that this scenario, when implemented through a scheme, would guarantee the SPF and would need to be complemented with other programmes such as awareness creation and prevention. A member of the government reiterated that it is essential to think of children, especially those living in households affected by HIV. The group replied that while prevention was important, they also want to focus on people living with HIV who need help.

A member of the Association of People with HIV in Koh Chang province quoted that 30,000 households are affected in just their province, of which 2,000 are critical, meaning that parents have passed away and grandparents are taking care of children, in households where food and money are not sufficient. As a result, the children who grow up in these households will have little or no education.

### *Example No. 3*

The health group consisted of representatives from ministries, UN agencies, and social security schemes. The group summarized that they have been working for two years to discuss with different stakeholders and performed a health expenditure review. They proposed a scenario to expand coverage of the Public Health Care Plan (PHCP) to poor and near poor people. The Chairperson from the Ministry of Health talked about social protection and the relevance and importance of good health and health services. The group proposed providing the additional funding by increasing the taxes on alcohol, tobacco, and chemicals. The representative from PHCP stressed that the poor and near poor people need government help and that building financial and human capacity to ensure sustainability of the scheme is very important. A representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) mentioned that they support the proposal strongly and added that it was an investment in human capital.

### **How to effectively lobby for endorsement of the recommendations and further their implementation?**

Subsequent to formulating the social protection recommendations and their costing using the RAP model, proposals are shared with the government, workers' and employers' representatives, and civil society organizations with a view to technically validate the report and receive political endorsement.

The ABND exercise involves a number of stakeholders (representatives from various ministries, statistics office, workers' and employers' representatives, civil society organizations, academicians, UN agencies, and development partners). Relying on a proper national dialogue throughout the ABND process will definitely facilitate its final technical endorsement.

Technical validation includes the confirmation of the description of the social security situation (the assessment matrix), endorsement of the proposed scenarios, and validation of the parameters and assumptions used in the cost calculations. The technical validation process can be quite lengthy and time consuming given the number of actors involved, particularly the number of relevant ministries: health, education, labour, social affairs, planning, finance, and so on. In Thailand, a national coordination mechanism was helpful in speeding up the process. The National Commission on Social Welfare – which includes representatives of all relevant line ministries – coordinated and compiled all technical comments on the draft report.

While stakeholders involved in the technical validation process may have some influence, they may not be in a position to make final decisions on future or additional social protection provisions. As such, political endorsement is also necessary to ensure that ministerial level stakeholders will endorse major policy changes.

Furthermore, the recommendations included in the ABND reports relate to more than one guarantee of the social protection floor. Therefore, decisions on the most relevant or priority scenarios for the country cannot be made by one ministry alone and require the approval of several line ministries. Thus, in addition to specific line ministries (health, education, social affairs, labour), it is necessary to secure the support of the respective prime ministers' offices, ministries of finance, and ministries of planning.

The endorsement process may involve:

- organizing bilateral meetings with high-level policy-makers to explain the recommendations and seek their support;
- inviting high-level policy-makers to write an acknowledgement of the report;
- organizing a high-level launch event for the report with press coverage;
- developing a number of tools (videos, leaflets) to explain the main recommendations of the report; and
- involving civil society networks and workers' and employers' representatives to advocate for some of the recommendations.

In Thailand, for example, the ILO presented the report to the Minister of Labour, Minister of Social Development and Human Security, Secretary General of the NESDB, the Prime Minister's Office, and relevant permanent secretaries. The ILO secured their participation in the report launch and they agreed to write an acknowledgement for the report. The report was launched at Government House by the Minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, together with the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Social Development and Human Security. More than 300 participants representing the Royal Thai Government, Thai workers' and employers' organizations, civil society, academia, embassies and international organizations attended the event. This major event lent high visibility to ILO's work in Thailand and paved the way for future collaboration between the UN Country Team in Thailand and the Royal Thai Government in further supporting the recommendations of the ABND report.

In Indonesia, the ILO presented the final report to the Vice Minister of planning and development and gained support from Bappenas for a joint launch of the assessment report on 6 December 2012. The recommendations and cost projections contained in the report were recognized by the Government as useful tools to inform ongoing policy discussions in the framework of the implementation of the new social security law (Sistem Jaminan Sosial Nasional (SJSN)), as well as the further extension of anti-poverty programmes. Indonesia has consequently become the first ILO member State to pursue concrete follow-up action immediately after the adoption of Recommendation No. 202 at the 101<sup>st</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference. The ILO together with the relevant members of the United Nations Partnership for Development Framework sub-working group on social protection are now using the assessment report to advocate for the endorsement of some of the recommendations. Some progress has already been achieved with the inclusion of the ABND report's recommendations on HIV-sensitive social protection in the Health Ministry's strategy to combat HIV/AIDS. In addition, Bappenas requested the publication of 500 additional copies of the report for wide dissemination across line ministries and provincial governments.



## Takeaway message:

Once the ABND report has been finalized and endorsed at the technical level, the political endorsement of the report needs to be conducted. This implies presenting the report to key policy-makers in the country, gaining their support, organizing a visible event for the launch of the report, relying on civil society, workers' and employers' organizations, and other pressure groups to ensure that at least some of the recommendations can be translated into concrete policy options.



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## Resources:

	Module 14 – “Role play” to advocate for the endorsement of the policy options identified through the case study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Advocacy to the government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Instruction sheet for the role play to advocate for the endorsement of the policy options identified through the case study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

e-box available at: <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/pages/abnd/>