



# **Third Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social Protection Floors in the Republic of Tajikistan**



December 1, 2017  
Dushanbe

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**adopted at the third Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND)  
on social protection floors in the Republic of Tajikistan**

### **1. Social protection floors: background**

In April 2009, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination adopted the Social Protection Floor Initiative as the sixth of the nine UN initiatives adopted to cope with the world economic crisis. The Board for Coordination recognized the importance and urgency of ensuring adequate social protection for the most vulnerable groups in different countries.

The Initiative was adopted under the framework of “One UN”. The UN agencies make efforts and determine general priorities and decisions to better support for activities in specific countries.

The aim of the Initiative is to ensure the observance and realization of basic social rights and the widest possible access to social assistance and services.

According to the calculations of UN agencies, basic social guarantees may be provided in countries at all levels of development. Social protection helps to increase productivity and improves social stability. Social protection floors (hereinafter referred to as SPFs) act as automatic economic stabilizers, mitigating the social effects of falling demand in times of crisis.

The UN-wide SPF Initiative addresses the following challenges:

- establish and strengthen a stable social security system reflecting national circumstances, financial, economic and fiscal capacities;

- build, extend, retarget and integrate social security systems with technical assistance proposed by different UN agencies.

National working groups should determine specific SPFs to be integrated in national strategies:

- poverty reduction and welfare growth,
- development of human potential and capital;
- development of labour market and productive employment;
- acceleration of industrial, investment and innovative socioeconomic growth.

## **1.2. Social Protection Floors Recommendation 2012 (No.202)**

Resolutions and conclusions concerning the discussions at three sessions of the International Labour Conferences (2001, 2011 and 2012) recognized the need to establish social protection floors and develop comprehensive social security systems. This approach was supported by G20 and UN.

Following ten years of scientific research, extensive analysis, tripartite consultations at global, regional and national levels, cooperation and consulting with partner UN agencies, the dialogue with international financial institutes and public organizations and detailed discussions, the International Labour Conference (ILC) at its 100th Session in June, 2011, adopted ILO Strategy “Social security for all: building social protection floors and comprehensive social security systems”.

The Strategy aims at social security extension, development and strengthening of national comprehensive social security systems. Acknowledging that the right to social security is one of the most important human rights and considering that reducing social inequality is critical for providing equitable economic growth, social cohesion and decent work, the International Labour Conference called for to apply two-dimensional approach for building comprehensive social security systems.

The ILO's two-dimensional strategy provides clear guidance on the future development of social security in countries at all levels of socioeconomic development. An efficient national strategy should focus on social security extension to all groups of population, first of all to the most vulnerable groups, in line with national circumstances and based on the implementation of the following basic social security guarantees:

- o minimum adequate income security and access to essential health care (horizontal dimension); and
- o ensure higher levels of social security not less than the social protection floors established by ILO Convention 102 (vertical dimension).

The two-dimensional strategy aims at building and maintaining comprehensive adequate social security systems in line with national priorities, resources and circumstances.

In June, 2012, the 101st International Labour Conference adopted ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors. Based on ILO Strategy “Social security for all” and complementing ILO Conventions on social security minimum standards, this Recommendation provides a flexible practical guidance for Member States on building comprehensive social security systems and extending social security by establishment of national social protection floors and ensuring that all in need and first of all vulnerable groups should have access to them.

National social protection floors comprise the following guarantees established in law at State level:

- a) access to essential health care, including in particular primary health care and prevention, maternity and child care;
- b) basic income security for children, providing access to healthy and balanced nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
- c) basic income security, at least at a defined minimum level, for persons in active age in cases of short-term incapacity to work, maternity, sickness, unemployment, and disability; and
- d) basic income security for older persons, providing, if required, social assistance and care.

## **2. Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND)**

ILO technical consultations, exchange of knowledge and experience facilitate knowledge sharing on social protection, including on good international practices of SPF implementation, and thus promote SPF at a national level.

ABND in the Republic of Tajikistan consists of three coordinated steps:

- build the assessment matrix of the social protection system in Tajikistan in line with Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No.202), estimate the costs of scenarios for each recommendation, in particular of introducing social cash transfers, based on ILO Rapid Assessment Protocol;
- select key recommendations, determine and include national priorities in the road maps of national long-term and mid-term development programmes and other strategic documents. The recommendations should be in compliance with existing or planned strategic documents;
- prepare and submit a report to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for consideration.

ABND is a consulting process where the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, employers’ and workers’ organizations, civil society, UN agencies, international financial organizations and development partners participate.

The main conclusions and recommendations initiated by ABND in the Republic of Tajikistan:

- ABND is a relevant and timely measure;
- Comprehensive assessment of the current social protection system in the country is very important and requires inter-agency coordination and joint efforts;
- Assessment matrix should include national priorities;
- National dialogue requires wide consultations with government bodies and the active work of Technical Group which combines the representatives of ministries, agencies, trade unions, employers' organizations and other stakeholders.

## **2.1. Assessment Based National Dialogue in the Republic of Tajikistan**

Recognizing the need for assessment of the current social protection situation in the country with the aim to establish SPFs and identify policy gaps, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan with involvement of the government organizations, social partners, civil society institutions, UN agencies in the Republic of Tajikistan, education and academic community have decided to conduct National Dialogue.

Within framework of the ABND, stakeholders assess nationally determined SPFs and propose the ways to expand and increase SPFs. The assessment helps to identify policy gaps and obstacles, mainly legal and financial issues, which hinder the active implementation of current social protection schemes and to develop the relevant recommendations on improvement.

The ABND is conducted in accordance with the Decent Work Country Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2015-2017, between the tripartite partners of the Republic of Tajikistan and the ILO (hereinafter referred to as the Decent Work Country Programme) approved by Governmental Decree of the Republic of Tajikistan No.103 of February 28, 2015.

In accordance with the Decent Work Country Programme, the following important steps should be taken as part of National Dialogue in the Republic of Tajikistan:

- further to assessment of SPFs situation, build the assessment matrix of social protection with respect to basic guarantees of Recommendation 2012 (No.202);
- develop Recommendations on possible scenarios of extending the coverage and ensuring higher levels of social protection for various groups in accordance with data compiled in the Assessment matrix;

- submit Recommendations and defined Priorities to the ABND Steering Committee for discussion and approval;
- submit the approved Recommendations and Priorities and propose to include them in the national development framework, including forthcoming and current documents such as the Strategy of the Development of Social Protection and other strategies of the improvement of population living standards for mid-term and long-term periods.

## **2.2. The first and second Assessment Based National Dialogues**

On April 25-27 and May 24-25, 2017, Dushanbe hosted the first and second rounds of Assessment Based National Dialogue on social protection floors in the Republic of Tajikistan (hereinafter referred to as the Dialogue).

In line with Recommendation 2012 (No. 202), the following comprehensive assessment matrix of social protection programmes and schemes of the Republic of Tajikistan were built and discussed as part of ABND in particular with respect to four guarantees:

1. Health care for all;
2. Social protection for children;
3. Social protection for working age persons;
4. Social protection for older persons.

The Dialogues were held to identify policy gaps, social policy implementation issues and to develop recommendations on overcoming the current difficulties and barriers.

## **2.3. The third Assessment Based National Dialogue**

On November 28 to December 1, 2017, the ABND working group met to develop recommendations on national priorities in social protection policies.

ABND working group of the Republic of Tajikistan includes the experts of:

- Ministries, government institutions and agencies;
- Civil society and social partners;
- International organizations;

ABND working group did the following:

- held multilateral consultations on social protection issues including discussions of key challenges of social protection;
- calculated with ILO Rapid Assessment Protocol the future costs for social cash transfers at various scenarios of extension and increase in social cash transfers;
- provided specific recommendations and priorities.

## **3. Key recommended measures**

As a result of discussions and consultations at the third ABND, the following social protection measures and national priorities are recommended:

### **Health care for all**

*Ministries, government institutions and agencies*

- Introduce compulsory health insurance;
- Enhance access to guaranteed healthcare services.

#### *Civil society and social partners*

- Guarantee the provision of good-quality and affordable (in terms of geographical access and financial affordability) healthcare services;
- Ensure free emergency medical services of good quality.

#### *International organizations*

- Increase the number of healthcare workers, including family doctors, and raise the wages of healthcare workers;
- Extend the package and coverage of guaranteed healthcare services to all regions of Tajikistan.

### **Social protection for children**

#### *Ministries, government institutions and agencies*

- Provide good-quality targeted social assistance to children;
- Provide good-quality and affordable legal protection for children.

#### *Civil society and social partners*

- Provide access to good-quality preschool, school and vocational education and to good and healthy nutrition;
- Increase the amount of all social benefits and pay social benefits to beneficiaries with disabilities under 18 years (children who suffer HIV, diabetes, tuberculosis, etc.).

#### *International organizations*

- Increase the amount of targeted social assistance benefits and extend the coverage to children under 18 with provision of the required social services;
- Improve quality and access to education.

### **Social protection for economically active age persons**

#### *Ministries, government institutions and agencies*

- Increase the amount of childcare benefit to two basic rates;
- Make unemployment benefit equal to the minimum wage.

#### *Civil society and social partners*

- Ensure social protection guarantees for migrant workers (healthcare and social insurance);
- Extend the social protection coverage in all cases of maternity and childhood - pay maternity benefits to all women (unemployed women, women employed in informal and agricultural sectors).

#### *International organizations*

- Establish a pension security system for migrant workers;
- Extend the group of beneficiaries of social benefits (informal workers, persons who have left a residential care facility).

#### **Social protection for older persons**

##### *Ministries, government institutions and agencies*

- Clarify the calculation method of contributory pension;
- Increase the amount of social security old-age pension to 80 % of the minimum pension.

##### *Civil society and social partners*

- Increase the amount of old-age social pension;
- Ensure decent long lives for older people through equal access to healthcare services, pension security, social care services and work.

#### *International organizations*

- Extend the coverage of and provide social care services to older persons who suffer from mental disorders;
- Provide more and better trained care workers (social workers, psychologists, lawyers) to render care services for older persons.

Taking into account these recommended measures, the participants in the National Dialogue have agreed on national priorities in social protection in the Republic of Tajikistan, which are:

- **Guarantee good-quality and affordable healthcare services to all;**
- **Increase the amounts of social child benefits and extend coverage to all children up to 18 years of age;**
- **Extend maternity and child protection coverage to all women and children;**
- **Increase the amount of the social old-age pension to 80% of the minimum pension.**

The results of the third ABND will be reflected in technical report “Social Protection Floors in the Republic of Tajikistan: Assessment Based National Dialogue”.

## **Institutions and organizations participated in the third National Dialogue**

### **Ministries, government institutions and agencies**

1. Agency of Social Insurance and Pensions
2. Agency of Statistics
3. Agency of Labour and Employment of Population
4. Committee for Women's and Family Affairs
5. Ministry of Internal Affairs
6. Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population
7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
8. Ministry of Education and Science
9. Ministry of Defence
10. Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population
11. Ministry of Finance
12. Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
13. Ministry of Justice
14. Service of State Supervision in the Sphere of Labour, Migration and Employment
15. Service of State Supervision of Medical Activities
16. Centre for Social Innovation

### **Employers' and workers' organizations**

1. Association of small and medium business
2. Union of Employers
3. Federation of Independent Trade Unions

### **International organizations**

1. World Food Programme
2. Delegation of the European Union
3. UN Children's Fund
4. International Organization for Migration
5. International Labour Organization
6. Mercy Corps
7. UN-Women
8. UN Development Programme
9. Japan International Cooperation Agency

### **Non-governmental organizations and non-profit sector**

1. "Refugees, Children and Vulnerable Persons"
2. Central Asian Gerontological Centre
3. Z-Analytics Group
4. Tajik National University
5. Adult Education Association of Tajikistan

*Also, researchers and independent experts were involved in the dialogue.*