

# Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social protection in Asia and the Pacific

## A participatory approach

### A process uniting many actors

The Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) on Social Protection aims at identifying priority areas for the Government’s intervention in the field of social protection, and at estimating the cost of these interventions. It requires the involvement of a number of actors:

- UN agencies involved in the Social Protection Floor (SPF) initiative (ILO, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, WFP) and development partners.
- Line ministries (Labour, Health, Social Welfare, Finance, Planning, Rural Development, etc).
- The National Statistics Office and academia.
- Workers’ and employers’ representatives, civil society organizations.
- Local governments (in some cases).

Their contribution includes providing information on existing schemes and programmes (including statistics relating to coverage and budgets), identifying policy gaps and implementation issues, and formulating recommendations in line with Government strategies, advocating for these recommendations and ensuring that they can be translated into concrete actions.

### A unique opportunity for national dialogue

Many 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 together and come up with a common diagnosis of the social security situation, formulate shared priority policy options, and progressively define a vision for the development of social protection. This consensus is achieved progressively, through consultations, workshops, and technical sessions where the proposed policy options are revised to take budgets and costs into account.

### An opportunity for UN collaboration

In Thailand and Indonesia the assessments were conducted by the UN SPF team/working group under the ILO’s leadership. In Viet Nam the ILO led the assessment in close collaboration with other UN agencies.

### The ABND three step approach

#### STEP 1 – Development of the assessment matrix

The four guarantees of the Social Protection Floor (SPF) are used as benchmarks to describe existing social security, social protection and poverty alleviation programmes, identify policy gaps and implementation issues, and produce recommendations for the design and implementation of further social protection provisions with the aim of guaranteeing at a minimum the SPF to all the population.

Figure 1: Assessment Matrix

	SPF objectives	Existing SP provision	Planned SP provisions (strategy)	Gaps		Recommendations
				Design gaps	Implementation issues	
Health	The Social Protection Situation			Design gaps and implementation issues (to complete the SPF)		
Children						
Working age	Social Protection Floor template: guarantees and objectives			Priority policy options to be decided through national dialogue		
Elderly						

The assessment matrix is compiled in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, using face-to-face consultations and workshops at both national and provincial levels.



Participatory workshops in Bangkok and Jakarta

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## STEP 2 – Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP)

The cost of the proposed social protection provisions is then estimated and projected over a 10 years period using the ILO Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP). This costing exercise can serve as a basis for discussions on available fiscal space, Government budget reallocations, and the prioritization of different social protection policy options.

Figure 2: RAP structure

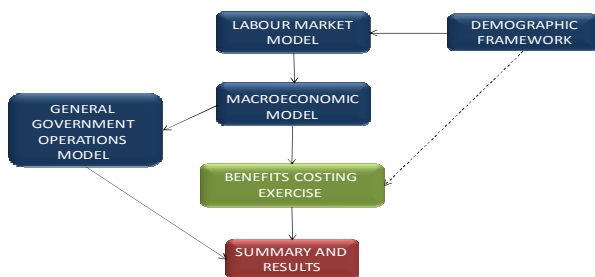
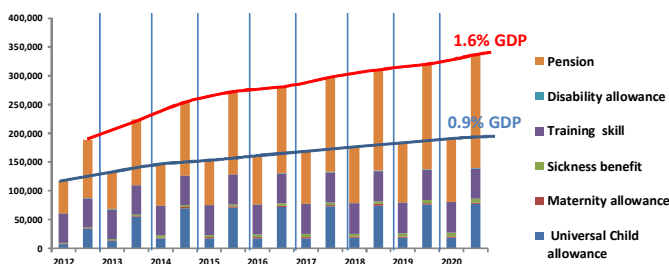


Figure 3: Example of projections for the low and high recommendations in Thailand



Using the RAP protocol the parameters of the different scenarios are fine-tuned at participatory training workshops on costing social protection policies.

## STEP 3 – Finalization

The finalized assessment report is handed over to the Government for endorsement and decisions on next steps. For example, as a result of this exercise Viet Nam is planning a pilot public works programme and is considering options for expanding social protection coverage to the elderly.

## Using ABND to coordinate design and planning of nationally defined SPFs

The commitment to building “effective social protection floors, in line with national circumstances” was reaffirmed by the ILO’s members at their 15<sup>th</sup> Asian and the Pacific Regional Meeting in December 2011. ABND can assist with this by contributing to:

- Developing a plan for completing nationally defined social protection floors.
- Adapting the RAP protocol to national circumstances, to be used for future costing and analysis.
- Raising awareness among line ministries, workers and employers representatives, CSOs and UNCTS on the SPF and the importance of a coordinated, holistic approach to social protection development.
- Increasing the analytical capacity of a body of social protection experts, particularly on the use of costing tools and fiscal space analysis.
- Creating a UN SPF working group or team and fostering collaboration among UN agencies on social protection.

## Knowledge sharing – Get involved!

Contribute to ILO’s knowledge sharing platform on the extension of social security, the GESS platform and the workspaces developed for the assessment exercises in Indonesia and Thailand!

[www.social-protection.org](http://www.social-protection.org)



## ILO’s contribution to the ABND exercises in Asia receives support from:

- The ILO/Korea Partnership Programme,
- The EU/ILO project *Improving social protection and promoting employment in Cambodia*,
- The ILO-Finland project.

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