

Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) on social protection in the Philippines: Towards building a nationally defined Social Protection Floor

Island-Wide Consultations: Visayas Cluster

Amigo Terrace Hotel, Corner Iznart and Delgado Streets, Iloilo City
March 18-19, 2015

Background

Social protection is central to any effort to reduce poverty, towards sustainable inclusive growth. Along with employment, it is a policy solution to uneven participation in the economy and social exclusion. In a world filled with risks and potential, building effective social protection systems can be transformative for individuals and families; they can directly improve people's resilience in managing risks in the face of shocks; enhance equity by protecting people from poverty; and promote opportunities by building human capital, assets and access to jobs and by freeing families to make more productive investments.

Essential to building an effective social protection system is the establishment of a floor that provides a set of universal guarantees as minimum protection for individuals and families. During the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference, the ILO tripartite constituents adopted the ILO Recommendation on National Floors of Social Protection, 2012 (No. 202) that sets out nationally-defined sets of basic social security guarantees that aim to prevent or alleviate poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. The guarantees comprise access to essential health care and provision of basic income security, in the form of various social transfers (in cash or in kind), such as pensions for the elderly and persons with disabilities, child benefits, income support benefits and/or employment guarantees and services for the unemployed and working poor.

Growing international support to pursue national social protection floors is evident. Under the Hanoi Declaration, Labor and Employment Ministers of Asia – Europe Meeting (ASEM) members including the Philippines have reaffirmed their commitment to design and implement nationally defined social protection floors in consultation with social partners.

In the Philippines, the critical role of social protection in achieving inclusive growth is clearly established in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016. Under the PDP, inclusive growth can only be realized by equalizing access to development opportunities across geographical areas and across different income and social spectrum; and formulating and implementing effective and responsive social safety net to support and capacitate the vulnerable sectors of the society in addressing not only poverty but also increasing vulnerabilities against risks particularly in times of crisis. Under the newly-adopted Enhanced Social Protection Operational Framework and Strategy of the Philippines, interventions are

divided across four components — 1) social insurance; 2) social welfare; 3) social safety nets; and 4) labor market interventions — geared toward better and improved quality of life to address social protection deficits.

Faced with the challenge of limited social protection coverage brought about by labor market realities such as high incidence of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and working poverty - the Department of Labor and Employment and the social partners responded by establishing strategies under the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan 2011–2016 to achieve increased social protection coverage, expanded benefits, increased access to social protection mechanisms, and safe work for all. At the core of these strategic priorities is the development of enhanced social protection programs for vulnerable workers particularly in times of crisis. The concept of establishing a national Social Protection Floor (SPF) is being considered as a key element towards achieving this outcome.

As initial effort, advocacy activities to raise awareness on the SPF were organized. Briefings on the SPF were conducted among national government agencies, worker groups, employer groups, and other members of the civil society. The sectors recommended to pursue a more extensive and comprehensive process of assessing the state of policy and practice of social protection in the Philippines as input in defining the SPF.

It is in this context that the Department of Labor and Employment through the Employees Compensation Commission is proposing the conduct of the Assessment-Based National Dialogue on Social Protection in the Philippines.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

	ACTIVITY	RESOURCE PERSONS
18 March 2015		
8:00 AM	Registration	
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremony	DOLE Regional Director
9:15 AM	Message	DOLE Undersecretary
9:30 AM	Overview of Social Protection in the Philippines	Ms Girlie Casimiro, NEDA
10:15 AM	Social Protection Floor and ABND	Ms Loveleen De, ILO
10:30 AM	Q & A	
11:00 AM	ABND process in the Philippines, Assessment Matrix and Workshop mechanics	Director Ahmma Charisma Satumba and Director Stella Banawis, DOLE
19 March 2015		
1:00 PM	Parallel Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPF1 (Health) - PhilHealth • SPF2 (Children) - DSWD • SPF3 (Economically Active) - DOLE • SPF4 (Pension) - SSC 	Facilitators: ABND Core Group members
8:00AM	Recap Presentation of Outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPF1 (Health) • SPF2 (Children) • SPF3 (Economically Active) • SPF4 (Pension) 	
12:00NN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q and A Forum after each output • Closing Remarks 	DOLE/NEDA