



International Labour Organization

Social protection floor: An ASIAN perspective

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From “growing without equity” ...

- **Asia's growth record** in recent decades has been remarkable
- The **benefits of growth** have not been equitably shared:
 - Employment growth lower than GDP growth, high levels of poverty despite recent decline, high (and increasing) inequality

| | Average GDP growth (2001-08) | Average Employment growth (2001-08) | Gini coefficient (latest available year) |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| China | 10.2 | 0.9 | 41.53 (2005) |
| Indonesia | 5.2 | 1.7 | 39.41 (2005) |
| Vietnam | 7.6 | 2 | 37.77 (2006) |
| Thailand | 4.8 | 1.7 | 42.45 (2004) |
| Malaysia | 5.1 | 1.8 | 37.91 (2004) |
| Philippines | 4.8 | 2.8 | 44.04 (2006) |
| Mongolia | 7.2 | 3.2 | 33.03 (2005) |
| Sri Lanka | 5.1 | 1.7 | 41.06 (2005) |

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook Database, July 2009; ILO, LABORSTA; ILO, Key Indicators of the Labour Market, Sixth Edition; World Bank, World Development Indicators.

... to social protection for all & more balanced economy

- Recognition of the **role that social protection** can play in:
 - **Reducing the impact of the crisis** (short term) ... Most of the fiscal stimulus packages adopted by the governments included social protection components
 - Limiting in the long run the negative social & economic impacts of **any future crisis**
 - Promoting a **more balanced economy** with higher redistribution and the development of domestic consumption (lower savings rates and less reliance on exports)
- The **ASEAN community** recognizes the need for increased cooperation in the field of social protection:
 - **ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Plan of Action**, 2nd pillar:
"Managing the social impact of economic integration by building (...) adequate systems of social protection"
 - **ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Sustained Recovery and Development** (Ha Noi, 9 April 2010) *"Strengthening the Network of Social Security Systems"*
 - **ASEAN Labour ministers' work program** 2010-2015 (adopted on 24 May 2010, Ha Noi) includes cooperation on social security and social protection: information sharing, capacity building, documentation of country profiles, social insurance for self-employed

Many countries in Asia are implementing the SPF

India: RSBY, NREGA

Cambodia: CARD's SP strategy for the poor and the vulnerable with clear reference to the SPF ... including HEFs, CBHIs, Food distribution, Cash transfers, PWP...



China: minimum living standard guarantee program; new rural corporative medical care (NRCMC); health insurance for urban uninsured residents (HIUR); rural old-age pension

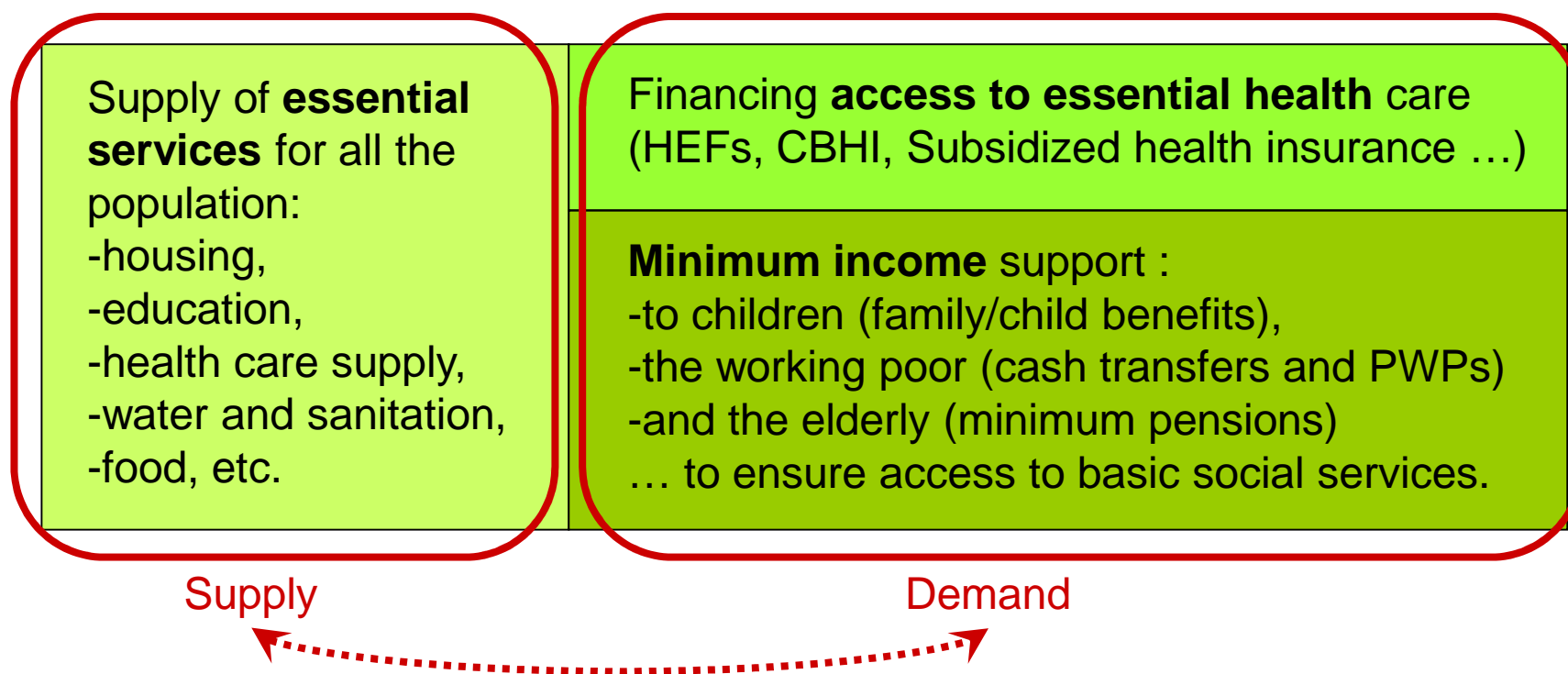
Lao: extension of SHP for all

Thailand: UC scheme, minimum pension scheme (500 THB)

Vietnam: 10 years Social protection strategy

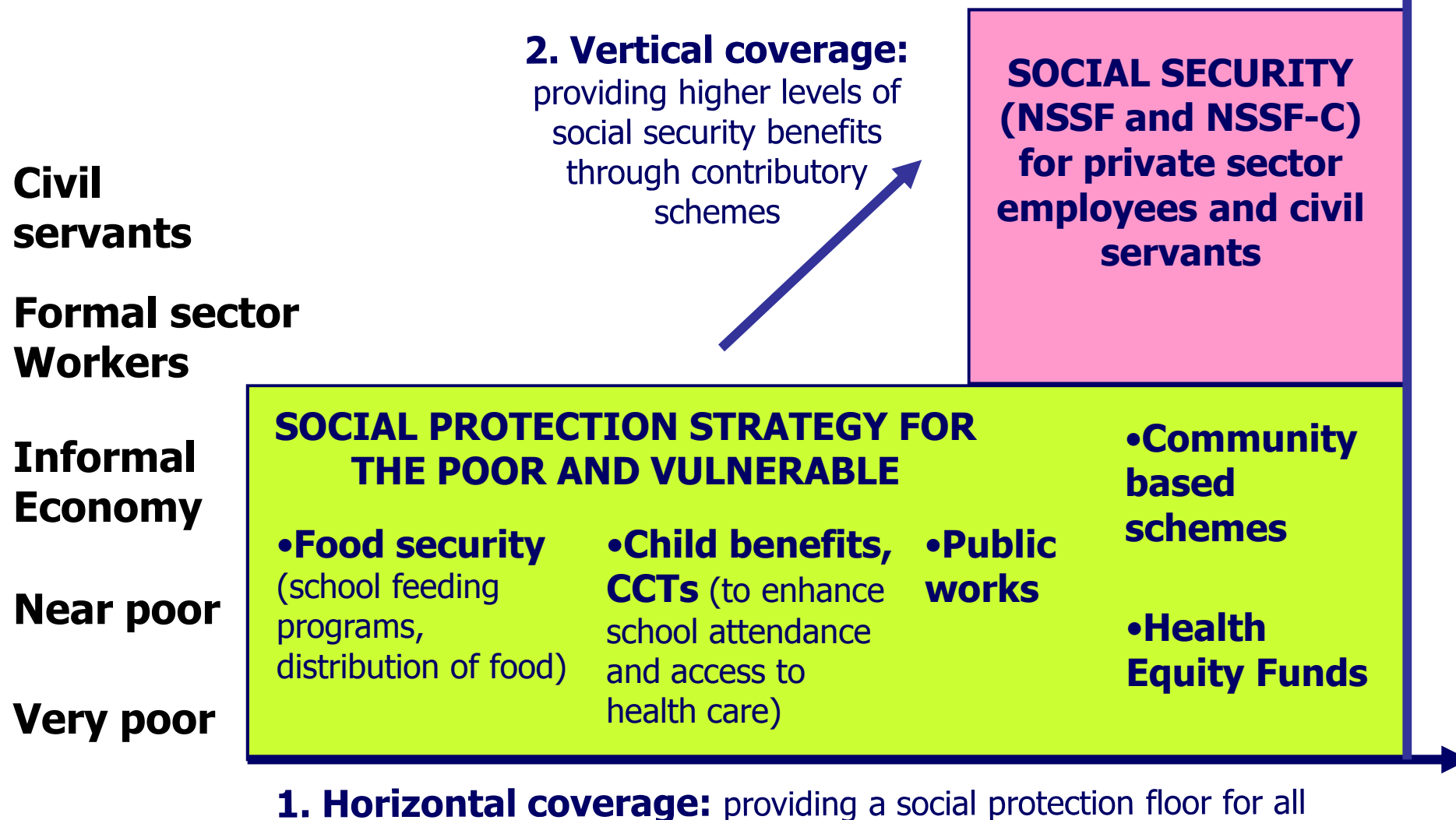
Although there is a generic definition of the SPF ...

- **The SPF = guarantee of access to essential services and social transfers for the poor and vulnerable. It focuses on 2 critical components:**



... the SPF is adaptable to country contexts

- Horizontal/vertical extension in Cambodia**



Joint UN activities on the SPF in Asia:

Country level & regional level:

1. Joint working groups and teams

- Cambodia: Working Group lead by World Food Programme
- Thailand: Joint UN Team

2. Documentation of existing SPF “good practices”

- UCS and 500 THB scheme in Thailand

3. Support to the **design** of national social protection strategies and schemes

- NSPS in Cambodia, Vietnam

4. Resource mobilization

- in Lao PDR, in Cambodia (ILO-EU funded project)

5. Technical support to the implementation of concrete SP schemes through specific projects

- Cambodia: social budgeting exercise in order to cost the NSPS strategy and estimate the fiscal space
- Lao PDR: design and implementation of social health protection for all in the rural areas (under development)
- Several countries: rapid assessment of the SPF ..

Joint UN activities on the SPF in Asia:

Country level & regional level

6. Communication and awareness raising tools ..

- A comics to be developed in Thailand and then replicated in other countries

7. Applied research on specific issues

- Employment safety nets in ASEAN (ILO Japan)

8. Capacity building & Exchange of practices

- Course on the SPF in Asia (with ITC ILO Turin)
- GTZ conference in India (Nov 2010)
- Training on social budgeting

9. Statistics & Monitoring

- ILO-ADB: development of a statistical database and indicators to measure the progress of the SPF and extension of SP in the region

Which role for Civil society?

1. Advocacy & awareness raising

- **Launch a public debate on the SPF** (arguments on balanced and equitable growth, preparation for any future crisis, etc.)
- **Employers associations** should promote the SPF & SP as part of CSR vis-à-vis staff and subcontractors, differentiation & marketing strategy (fairness / equity / redistribution), strategy to increase productivity ...
- **Consumers associations** should stress the importance of SP (value chain)
- **Members of grass roots organizations**
- **Examples:** Find “ambassadors” among employers, document and disseminate good practices, produce brochures for specific target groups, media campaigns ...

Which role for Civil society?

2. Active participation in the design of SP strategies and SPF schemes

- NGOs, associations working with the poor and the vulnerable understand the specific needs of the SPF's target groups**
 - In Cambodia CARD (the coordinating institution of the National Social Protection Strategy for the poor and vulnerable) involved associations dealing with vulnerable groups
 - In the Indian rural employment guarantee scheme, NREGA, local communities are involved in the choice of public infrastructures to be built under the scheme (schools, roads, irrigation...)
- Piloting schemes and providing evidence for the design of national policies**
 - International NGOs (Helpage ...)

Which role for Civil society?

3. Specific role in the implementation of SPF schemes

- Associations, NGOs, grass roots organizations are the missing link between central level and populations ...**
 - Targeting (ex: community targeting)
 - Counseling / orientation / follow up of recipient families
 - Channeling cash transfers (ex: local microfinance institutions)
 - Administration: registration, collection of fees/premiums, relationships with HC providers (ex: mutual health organizations, MFIs and cooperatives within nation-wide social health insurance schemes: Colombia, Burkina Faso, Philippines)
- Synergies and increased impact**
 - RSBY in India provides inpatient insurance; micro-insurance schemes can focus on prevention, education and out-patient care



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Thank you!