



ASSESSMENT-BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THAILAND

Social Protection: a strategic priority of the United Nations Partnership Framework with Thailand for 2012 - 2016

The United Nations in Thailand is in the process of preparing its next United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) with the Royal Thai Government for the period 2012-2016. This partnership will define strategic, upstream policy and capacity building contributions of the UN system in Thailand to support government's policy, notably in **the expansion of social protection to reach a just society** (a key component of the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP)).

The Assessment-Based National Dialogue (ABND): a participative process to identify priority areas for Government interventions in Social Protection

The ABND is a dialogue process between the national Government, social partners, civil society organizations, the academia, and the UN country team, whose overall objective is to **identify priority areas for government intervention in the field of social protection**.

The ABND is based on the concept of **Social Protection Floor (SPF)**, which is considered as the basic entitlement that all the population in a country should enjoy. It promotes income security through a basic set of guarantees including:

- (i) All residents have access to a nationally defined set of affordable essential health care services;
- (ii) All children enjoy income security through transfers in kind or in cash, at the level of the nationally defined poverty line level, ensuring access to nutrition, education and care;
- (iii) All those in active age groups who cannot (or should not, in case of pregnancy) earn a sufficient income, enjoy a minimum income security through social transfers in cash or in kind or employment guaranteed schemes;
- (iv) All residents in old age and with disabilities have income security at least at the level of the nationally defined poverty line through pensions for old age and disability or transfers in kind.

The ABND consists therefore of using the SPF framework as a benchmark or reference, and trying to compare the social protection situation to this benchmark in order to identify possible policy gaps and implementation issues. It is conducted as follows:

- A stocktaking exercise leading to an assessment matrix is conducted: an inventory of social protection schemes and related laws and regulations is made for each of the four guarantees of the social protection floor. In this exercise, gaps and implementation issues are identified.
- Recommendations to fill the gaps and overcome implementation issues are formulated and the cost entailed by the implementation of the priority policy options is calculated, using an ILO & UNICEF costing tool, the RAP protocol.
- A dialogue is facilitated in order to identify priority areas for government interventions and possible assistance from the UN.

It's happening now!

Bilateral consultations **will be held from July, 26 to August 5, 2011. They will be followed by a technical workshop on 10 August 2011.** Both aim at involving in-line ministries, social security institutions, social partners, civil society organizations, and the academia, in the stocktaking exercise.



The Social Protection Floor

- 1** All residents have access to a nationally defined set of affordable essential health care services;
- 2** All children enjoy income security through transfers in kind or in cash, at the level of the nationally defined poverty line level, ensuring access to nutrition, education and care;
- 3** All those in active age groups who cannot (or should not, in case of pregnancy) earn a sufficient income, enjoy a minimum income security through social transfers in cash or in kind or employment guaranteed schemes;
- 4** All residents in old age and with disabilities have income security at least at the level of the nationally defined poverty line through pensions for old age and disability or transfers in kind.



- What are the existing and planned provisions? What is their legal framework?
Example: The Universal Non-contributory 500 baths scheme
- What are the design gaps?
NGO1: 500 baths is not enough to make it through the month!
- Any implementation gap?
Representative of local level: there is a lack of capacity to implement effectively the scheme at local level.



Pre-assessment matrix prepared by the UN



Bilateral Consultations
(with in line ministries, local representatives, civil society representatives, UN agencies)
Example: What are the schemes in place to provide income support to the elderly that we forgot?



Technical workshop with all stakeholders
Nothing forgotten?
Based on the gaps identified, what are the recommendations?



Finalized Assessment Matrix



Costing analysis



Policy Recommendations identified
(and possible role by the UN for the UNPAF)