

Current situation of ILO support to Constituents in Africa¹

Benin

The social protection floor comes within priority 3 “The consolidation and extension of social protection” of the DWCP 2010-2015 of Benin.

The social protection floor initiative in Benin was launched in March 2010 after the ILO carried out an action of sensitization and advocacy with the United Nations System (UNS) agencies as well as with social partners and ministerial departments. A social protection floor initiative Working Group was set up, with the ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNESCO initially. This group met periodically in 2010 to closely examine the concept of social protection and to analyze the methodology to support the government of Benin jointly. With time, the meetings of the working group gradually opened up to other Technical and Financial Agencies and Partners (TFP), namely the World Bank, the European Union, the French Cooperation and the Swiss Cooperation.

In December 2010, a “National Interministerial Committee on the Social Protection Floor” (*Comité National Interministériel sur le Socle de Protection Sociale*) was created by decree of the Minister in charge of the Development, Planning and Assessment of Public Action (*Ministre d’Etat chargé du Développement, de la Prospective et l’Evaluation de l’Action Publique*). The committee is made up of representatives from the ministries of Development, of Economy and Finance, of Health, of Family and National Solidarity, of Labour and Civil Service, of Nursery and Primary Education. The Director General for Development Policies (*Directeur Général des Politiques de Développement*) is the chair.

To make national dialogue on the process of a social protection floor possible in Benin, the ILO supported the carrying out of a diagnosis centred on the social protection floor components and a cost-assessment during the first quarter of 2011. These activities were undertaken jointly with the national actors and the outcomes were presented during a feedback workshop on March 17 and 18, 2011, that brought the National Interministerial Committee, the United Nations System Technical and Financial Agencies and Partners (SNU-PTF) working group and social partners together. This workshop enabled to: (i) build the capacities of the actors with regard to the social protection floor and the cost-assessment methodology; (ii) present and discuss the social protection floor-oriented programmes; (iii) consider scenarios on the social protection floor components and assess their impacts on long-term macro-economic aggregates.

The joint SNU-PTF working group and interministerial committee agenda for 2011 provides for the continuation of the national dialogue on the identification of national priorities and the development of a social protection floor.

This process includes the achievement of a certain number of studies that will be driven by the interministerial committee and notably an important national Forum on social protection that is planned for 2011.

¹ Based on ILO. 2010. *ILO support to constituents* (Addis Abeba).....

Botswana

The ILO will conduct in 2011, with the financial support of the UNDP and as part of the Joint UN Annual Work plan, a Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review (SPER).

This is a preliminary step to the formulation of recommendations for a more coherent national social security policy which seeks to integrate an existing proliferation of policies scattered in various government institutions.

The ILO has initiated assistance for setting up a social security pension scheme for private sector workers.

Burkina Faso

The social protection floor is one of the DWCP 2010-2015 priorities: Priority 2: “The strengthening and the extension of social protection”

The promotion of a social protection floor also features in Burkina’s Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (*Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et du Développement Durable*).

In 2009, Burkina Faso’s Prime Minister requested the support of the ILO and of the Joint United Nations SPF Initiative to assist the country in its process to establish the priority components of social protection. Following up on this request, the UNS agencies and several technical and financial partners (TFP) put in place a working group on social protection.

In February 2010, the government established an “interministerial committee for the monitoring of the social protection policy”. The aim of this committee, which also regroups social partners, civil society and other stakeholders involved in social protection in Burkina Faso, is to define the orientations of the elaboration of a national social protection policy that is based on a social protection floor.

The ILO, in the framework of a project financed by the European Commission, “Improving social protection and promoting employment”, established a social protection expenditure and performance review (SPER) All and a social budgeting exercise based on the national social protection priorities defined by the Interministerial Committee for the Monitoring of the Social Protection National Policy. Both of these were handed over to the government and the social partners in October 2011.

Jointly with the UNS agencies and the TFP, ILO support relates to:

- The building of a synergy between the different (existing or to be created) programmes for social safety nets and broader poverty reduction policies, as stated in the SCADD;
- The implementation of a universal health insurance system;
- The agreement on poverty and vulnerability criteria to set up effective targeting mechanisms;
- The establishment of a statistical information system for social protection that relies on strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;

- The search for innovative mechanisms to increase financing in the field of social protection.

Burundi

The ILO supported the formulation of the National Social Protection Policy (April 2010) and the campaign for its adoption was launched in March 2011. Prior to that, the President of the Republic of Burundi, committed himself to pursue the free health care policy for children under five and for women who deliver within a public structure and the provision of a health insurance card to the most vulnerable.

The ILO is providing support for the gradual implementation of this policy. To this end, a cost and performance review of the social protection programmes that are operational in the country (SPER) is being realized to identify if there is an existing budget available to establish the priority programmes defined in the policy document or if one should be created gradually.

Cameroon

In June, 2011, the Minister of Labour and Social Security approved the launching of the activities that will lead to the gradual establishment of a social protection floor. The process will be supported by the ILO.

An actuarial evaluation of the *Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale* was undertaken and staff from the scheme were provided with training on collection and analysis of statistics.

Cape Verde

Since 2007, the ILO, through the STEP Portugal project, has been supporting the Government of Cape Verde at the national level in its effort to extend social protection to all those excluded from existing schemes, notably workers in the informal economy and rural areas, poor people and other vulnerable groups. ILO/STEP provides support to several components of the social protection system including the non-contributory pension and social insurance. The Project interventions are organized along the following lines:

- Strengthening the capacity of the National Social Welfare Institute (INPS) in the fields of quantitative management and the extension of coverage to the self-employed, domestic workers and workers in micro and small enterprises.
- Supporting the creation of the National Social Pensions Centre (CNPS) and strengthening its effectiveness and efficiency of non-contributory pension's delivery. Efficient delivery has been considered by the government, from the beginning, as a condition to invest the additional resources required for extending the coverage and increasing the value of benefits.
- Reinforcing the development of links and coherence between the various components of social protection (SPER 2011).

This institutional capacity building is achieved through a set of activities including technical assistance for policy design, implementation and monitoring; training for reinforcing skills and governance; facilitating access to international experience and South-South exchanges and cooperation.

For more detailed information on the activities in Mozambique on the SPF, see the *Social Protection Floor Initiative: SPF Country Brief Cape Verde* at <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=16212>

The Central African Republic

In response to the request for ILO technical assistance to support the operational and financial capacity building of the *Office Centrafricain de Sécurité Sociale* (OCSS) and the holding of a National Forum on Social Protection, two studies were made available in December 2010 on (i) the cleaning up of files and the analysis of automation of the OCSS operations; (2) OCSS financial and organisational analysis are available and given to the Authorities in November 2010.

To prepare the Forum for Decent Work planned for November 2011, two studies are being realized on (i) analysis of the potential of extending the social protection system and the feasibility of setting up the Social Protection Floor, and (ii) the legislative framework of the social protection system.

Elements of the social protection floor are incorporated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF+ (2012-2016).

Comoros

The ILO provided support in March 2011 to the national tripartite Constituents to define a concrete action plan to continue the process of formulating a national social protection policy that integrates the social protection floor. The activities carried out were also part of the process to support the modernization of the country's existing social security system. A joint United Nations System programming process is already engaged and this should lead to the drafting of joint projects to support national responses.

Congo

At the request of the Government, an ILO exploratory mission took place in November 2010 to examine the possibility to provide support for the actuarial study of the social security schemes managed by the *Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale* (CNSS) and by the *Caisse de Retraite des Fonctionnaires* (CRF). The Government has indicated its readiness to fund the assessment and to subsequently consider the possibility of extending protection to the most underprivileged strata.

The Democratic Republic of Congo

A national workshop on the social protection floor and the feasibility of a national health insurance fund was organized in July 2011.

The ILO is providing support for the elaboration of a law on health insurance; capacity building of national staff on the organisation and the management of health insurance.

The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations has launched a study on the status of social protection in the country that could lead to a joint United Nations programme in that field.

East African Community

One of the key outcomes of the East African Community (EAC) Decent Work Country Programme (Outcome 2.1) is the development and adoption of a social protection floor implementation strategy and a joint/peer monitoring mechanism. Towards that end, a social protection profile of EAC Member States will be compiled and a directive for the implementation of the strategy developed.

Egypt

The new pension law, which was issued in June 2010, included in one of its articles the establishment of an investment board. In addition, the Ministry of Finance was interested in the establishment of a risk management department in the new organisational structure for the Social Insurance and Pensions. The Ministry of Finance solicited ILO's technical assistance to provide training for the employees who will be responsible for managing these departments in the new organisation for Social Insurance and Pensions. However, the activity was postponed due to the Egyptian revolution.

Ethiopia

The work following the Government's decision to revise the Development Social Welfare Policy (DSWP) drew recommendations from the ILO Social Protection Floor as well as the AU Social Policy Framework.

The draft revised document has now been submitted to the Government as well as draft National Social Protection Policy of Ethiopia.

Gabon

Outputs and the indicators relating to the social protection floor have been incorporated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012-2016) for Gabon. The Government has created a *Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie et de Garantie Sociale (CNAMGS)* and made it operational funded by the State budget and by taxes on mobile telephony. It is meant to gradually take care of the most economically weak Gabonese who are not covered. In this context, the ILO should receive a request for technical capacity building in the near future.

Ghana

The ILO is contributing to the government's Social Protection Program and to the Livelihoods Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) Program. The LEAP current interventions include :

1. social transfers, through support to children in need of special care and protection, Capitation Grants to basic schools, school feeding, supplementary feeding, health exemptions;
2. Labour market interventions: National Labour Standards, minimum wage legislation, regulations to protect the interests of workers;
3. Social insurance programmes: social security and pension schemes (for formal sector workers), National Health Insurance and;
4. Humanitarian relief: disaster management, emergency food aid.

The ILO is piloting a conditional cash benefit for pregnant women in the district of Dangme West in Ghana. The aim is to improve maternal and child health status of the low income groups. Conditionality of the cash payment includes pre- and post- natal care, skilled delivery, birth registration, immunization of the child, and health checkups for the child.

So far, education and payment have taken place in twenty five (25) pay-points within the beneficiary communities.

A total of six hundred and ninety (690) beneficiaries have received the conditional cash benefit. In addition:

- 652 women and 615 children have registered under National Health Insurance (NHIS).
- Other household members have commenced NHIS registration.
- 620 children had birth registration.
- Improved attendance at monthly or periodic health check-ups for children under the programme.
- Most beneficiaries have either engaged in income generating activities or have expanded their existing activities.

The Ghana experience is worth replicating and extending to other districts of Ghana and other countries and forms a good model for extension of social protection to vulnerable groups through the health sector.

This Initiative is implemented with the support of SEC/SOC and ACTRAV and through the Luxembourg Trade Union OGB-L.

Kenya

One of priorities of the constituents in Kenya in the current DWCP (2007 - 2011) is the expansion of social protection for workers, particularly those in the informal economy.

In 2010, at the request of the government ILO undertook a review of the social security system and submitted an advisory memorandum to the government for consideration. The Report has become the basis for the ongoing discussion on social protection policy in Kenya.

It is envisaged that follow up on the recommendations contained therein will be undertaken under DWCP II currently under consideration. A draft social security policy has already been developed. The ILO has been advising its constituents regarding the extension of social protection to the majority of workers in the informal economy; on developing innovative schemes that address the access to social services, e.g micro-health insurance schemes and social transfers. Technical support will also address minimum wage issues with the view to enhancing incomes. Social protection has already been given a major boost by the launching of the new constitution which recognizes social protection as a human right.

Lesotho

The ILO is assisting in the development of a comprehensive national social security scheme (including short term – maternity, employment injury and sickness benefits and

long term – pensions, survivors and invalidity benefits) through policy, legal advice and actuarial assessment of the proposed scheme.

The ILO is also working jointly with UNICEF and other UN agencies towards a comprehensive social protection policy in Lesotho.

Madagascar

The ILO organized a focus group workshop in May 2011 in which Malagasy ministries, several UN agencies (World Bank, UNICEF, World Health Organization, World Food Programme, the German Cooperation, etc.) and international NGOs participated. The aim was to: (i) reach a common understanding on social protection and on the social protection floor, (ii) undertake an inventory of ongoing actions that have been undertaken by different organizations working in the field of social protection, (iii) identify the actions that need to be carried out to support existing initiatives. More notably, this workshop allowed to draw up a roadmap to guide immediate, short- and mid-term, actions that should be implemented in order to put in place social protection programmes, including the social protection floor, that target vulnerable populations and the victims of crises. The ILO presently co-chairs the Technical and Financial Partners' Focus Group on Employment and Social Protection with the World Bank in Madagascar. The ILO has also been working directly with the Ministry for Population and Social Affairs (Directorate for Social Protection) to help better define the common vision for the social protection floor with the prospect of setting up a national action plan in this field.

Malawi

Social protection initiatives in Malawi are at present mainly spearheaded by UNICEF in the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The work has concentrated mainly on social cash transfers.

ILO is planning a mission to Malawi in the second half of 2011 to assess the situation in Malawi and make recommendations on the implementation of the Social Protection Floor.

The Malawi DWCP has a priority on Social Protection, and follow-up to the Yaoundé Tripartite Declaration is thus envisaged to be carried out under the DWCP.

Mauritius and the Seychelles

ILO support for issues relating to the social protection floor was examined and carried out in a "One UN" context under the leadership the United Nations System Resident Coordinator's Office. ILO inputs mainly consisted in advice given in a United Nations integrated framework to support the development strategies of these two countries.

Morocco

ILO has been requested to provide technical assistance to Morocco in its process of reforming its social security system, starting with the reforms of its pension system. ILO commented on the background studies which were commissioned by Morocco to a private consultancy firm in preparation for the review of the pension programmes. ILO findings have been discussed with the Authorities as well as the social partners. A reinforcement of capacity of social partners has been organized in collaboration with the ILO's training centre in Turin. ILO is now drafting a final report to be sent to Morocco.

Mozambique

ILO in Mozambique provides continued support in the area of social protection through the STEP/Portugal project and UN joint program on Safety Nets. This support includes providing political advice.

- ILO led the partners' (UN and bilateral donors) contribution to the elaboration of the National Basic Social Security Strategy (ENSSB) in 2010.

- Currently ILO is working with other UN Agencies, IMF and WB in a series of analysis to support the government in defining a social protection expansion plan associated with the implementation of the ENSSB. This includes:

- I. A review of the Basic Social Security programs and the Social Protection Expenditure in the country. This exercise will contribute to improve social protection decision making by informing about: specific risks and vulnerabilities of the population by age group and gender; gaps and overlaps within the social safety net relative to such risks and vulnerabilities; benefit incidence of selected programs; and inputs for the prioritization of government action regarding basic social security. WB leads this review.

- II. An estimate of the cost of income security social protection provisions which would complete the income security component of the social protection floor in Mozambique. This exercise is informing the decisions that the Government will take regarding the upscale of the current programmes and the implementation of new Programs.

- III. A preliminary assessment as to how the ENBSS programmatic options could be financed will also be developed. This assessment will be associated with IMF missions to Mozambique.

- IV. Once National household survey microdata is available, a micro-simulation analysis to assess the potential impact of policy options in the poverty gap and headcount will take place

- Further, ILO is working on the design of new programmes, including the development a new scheme targeting the working age population.

- Participating in the national policy dialogue

- ILO is currently the partners Chair on the PRSP WG, participating in regular revisions of government Plans, Budget and Execution Reports and represents the group in the design of the new PRSP.

- Policy dialogue and technical assistance on the creation of fiscal space to raise public expenditure on social protection (including - Range of support for improved efficiency in the delivery of social protection benefits.

- Regarding the vertical dimension of the social protection floor, ILO is supporting the National Institute of Social Security in the development of a Strategic Plan, and assistance to carry out an actuarial study was also requested.

- ILO is also working with constituents in capacity building, including discussions around the concept of social protection floor. Part of this support is done in collaboration with ITC-ILO. This includes also a seminar with Trade Unions to launch the development of a Policy Position Paper by Workers' Organizations on a "Social Protection Floor for Mozambique".

For more detailed information on the activities in Mozambique on the SPF, see the *Social Protection Floor Initiative: SPF Country Brief Mozambique* at <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=16014>

Niger

The current situation regarding social protection has been analyzed (Situational Analysis of Social Protection in Niger, ODI, May 2010 - *Analyse Situationnelle de la Protection Sociale au Niger, ODI, mai 2010*) with the support of UNICEF. This study comes within the framework of the development of a national social protection policy. This process is managed by:

- A steering committee composed of representatives from several ministries, the National Social Security Fund (*Caisse nationale de sécurité sociale*), NGOs, UN agencies and the World Bank. This committee is chaired by the Minister for Population, Women's Promotion, & Protection of Children (MPPFPE).
- An executive committee is in charge of the secretariat of the Steering Committee.

This process will provide for the elaboration of a national social protection policy and of its action plan .

In parallel, the Ministry for Civil Service and labour (MFPT) is developing a National Labour Policy (*Politique Nationale du Travail*) that will also include the issue of social protection.

These are not two competing processes, since the national policy managed by the MPPFPE should relate more to social transfers whereas the MFPT strategy should relate to the extension of social insurance to the informal economy. Nevertheless, these complementary approaches to social protection still need to be consolidated.

Four main outcomes have been selected in the DWCP 2012-2014 framework. The social protection outcome, which specifies the need for “A social protection policy based on a social protection floor and the promotion of Health Security in the workplace and in the environment”, rests on the following main lines which were identified with the Constituents:

- Carrying out an analysis of the needs regarding social protection within the informal economy (artisans);
- Identifying an architecture that combines the mechanisms of micro-insurance to extend social insurance and the coverage against the health, age and professional risks within the informal economy;
- Implementing the health insurance for public sector employees;
- Consolidating sectoral social protection policies within the national policy in order to build a national protection floor;
- Building the capacities of the national actors (technical ministerial managers, social partners, etc.) regarding social protection.

Nigeria

The Vision 2020 document is the country's overarching development strategy. It recognizes the vulnerability of Nigerians to shocks, particularly health and job loss related shocks. In August 2009, a National Social Security Policy for Inclusiveness, Solidarity and Sustainable Peace and Prosperity was drafted. The policy highlights the need to critically examine the gaps that exist in social assistance for children less than five years of age, orphans and vulnerable children, physically and mentally challenged, elderly with no employment history/pension and those who are unable to join a contributory social security scheme.

However, this draft policy is yet to be approved. Nigeria has just signed a Bill for the extension of health services to all Nigerians to enhance the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy: "Every Woman, Every Child" global health campaign that was launched in September 2010 during the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) summit in New York.

Nigeria has been discussing with the Social partners how to enhance the national Social Protection Floor Coalition that could bring about a national Social (security) floor aiming at creating global political consensus.

In support of the implementation of the of the national social protection floor development plans as priority, the government of Nigeria has developed a national Social Protection Policy which was achieved through the support of national consensus building dialogue processes.

Discussions are under way both at the government level and UN System level in Nigeria to ensure that basic social protection is extended to all groups of the population in Nigeria given that its positive effects in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

To this end the Nigeria Decent Work programme has prioritized Social protection as a key priority 2011-2014.

Rwanda

Rwanda adopted a Social Protection Policy in January 2011. The policy has two key actions, one of which is the development of a social protection floor. As a result, the draft Rwanda DWCP 2011- 2015 has included an outcome (Outcome 2.2.) that stipulates that a 'National social protection floor is progressively built'. ILO is supporting the government and social partners in this endeavour.

Senegal

A Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) is being developed.

Since 2008, several social protection programmes for the poorest and the most vulnerable have been established by the technical and financial partners in the framework of the National Social Protection Strategy (*Stratégie Nationale de Protection Sociale*) that was adopted in 2005.

In 2009, the State launched a National Initiative for Social Protection that should allow the implementation of cash transfers to the poorest sections of the population. However, it is not yet operational.

In 2010, the United Nations System agencies put together a Social Protection working group in the context of the Joint Initiative for a Social Protection Floor. This group also includes the European Union and France. Following an important advocacy campaign led by this group with the government, notably with the Prime Minister, an “Interministerial Steering Committee on Social Protection” (*Comité interministériel de pilotage de la protection sociale*) was established in May 2011, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Economy and Finance. Based on the work plan developed with the technical and financial partners, notably the ILO. The purpose of this committee is to organize the coordination of the social protection programmes.

In 2011, the ILO and UNICEF were finalizing a review exercise of the social expenditure and budgeting. Several World Bank, World Food Programme, etc. studies on the components of social protection (food security, remittances) are also being undertaken. A national workshop is planned in late 2011, for feedback, a discussion on all the studies and to launch the national process for the building of a social protection policy based on the social protection floor. This workshop will be accompanied by an ILO, UNICEF and UNDP training initiative to build the capacities of the ministries and of national stakeholders on social protection issues.

Sierra Leone

The Decent Work Country Programme of Sierra Leone identifies social protection as one of its priorities namely specifying “Increased socio-economic stability and higher productivity through basic social protection schemes (social transfers, social assistance, social health protection) and safer workplaces.”

The ILO social security department worked with social partners to produce a paper on the extension of Social Protection to vulnerable groups. However due to the lack of agreement on the implementation modalities, work has stalled. The World Bank has picked up the report and is in consultation with the ILO on its implementation.

ILO support to Sierra Leone in its endeavours to concretely implement a national social protection floor needs to be intensified.

Somalia

The final refinement of the DWCP for both Somaliland and South-Central Somalia have taken into account the Yaoundé Tripartite Declaration. Both draft documents prioritise designing a Social Protection Floor by building on existing practices and are in the process of being finalized.

South Africa

As an input to the “Consolidated paper on comprehensive social security reform” which is being drafted by the National task force on social security, and at the request of the Ministry of Labour, the ILO wrote a Technical note on Strengthening the South African social security system and its links with labour markets. This included recommendations to strengthen unemployment protection for the active population and improving its linkages with active labour market policies and their sustainable financing.

As a result of this study, the Ministry of Labour requested ILO to assist in the Design of a Social continuation benefit for longer term unemployed under the Unemployment

Insurance Fund. The ILO is also currently assessing the linkages between Social Protection and Employment intensive work programs with Naledi, a trade union think tank.

The ILO is assisting the Ministry of Social Development in the implementation of Social Budgeting in South Africa.

In connection with the Social Budgeting exercise and an ongoing project on National Social Information system, the ILO and UNICEF will jointly advise the Ministry of Social Development, on setting up a master plan for knowledge management in the field of social security statistics including contributory and non-contributory social security, drawing on best international standards and practices.

Southern African Countries

The ILO commissioned a study on the portability and coordination of social security benefits in Southern Africa with the support of the Project ILO MIGSEC in Addis Ababa. The study looks at the social protection of migrant workers from neighbouring countries of South Africa, including Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, in particular in mining and agriculture and the preservation of their rights when they return to their home countries.

The findings of the report were disseminated during a Stakeholders workshop on the “Portability of Social security benefits in Southern Africa” held in Pretoria in April 2011 with the support of project MIGSEC and the Southern Africa Trust Fund.

The ILO and the Southern Africa Trade Union Co-ordination Council (SATUCC) organized a workshop in Johannesburg in May 2011 with the support of the Friedrich Herbert Stiftung, on ‘Advancing Social security standards and the Social protection floor’. It was attended by 30 delegates from trade unions from Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius and SATUCC.

The ILO developed a Certificate on managing social security and pensions with the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, which will build the capacity of policy officers from the region of Southern Africa to implement ongoing comprehensive social security and pension reforms.

The ILO and the Southern African Development Community agreed to collaborate in setting up a course at the African Regional Labour Administration Centre in Harare on social security standards in the forthcoming academic year.

Swaziland

The ILO is currently assisting in the conversion of the National Provident Fund into a social security Pension scheme.

The ILO has also been requested to support the Ministry of Labour in setting up and designing a social security department, and in developing a social security policy.

Togo

The Decent Work Country Programme for 2010-2013 for Togo focuses on the strengthening and the extension of social protection for all (priority no 2).

To fight poverty and promote the extension of social protection, the government of Togo and the social partners agreed, during a national conference for social dialogue in 2006 on the need for Togo to have a national social protection policy for all.

The vision of the Togolese authorities is to make it possible, by 2012, for all working men and women, earning wages or independent, urban or rural, industrial or agricultural and specific vulnerable categories (the jobless, etc.) to enjoy a minimum of social protection.

In 2010, a United Nations System inter-agency working group was set up to provide support to the government in constructing a national social protection policy based on a social protection floor.

Health insurance represents one of the priorities identified by the Togolese government and the social partners. In 2010, with the support of the ILO, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, & Social Security initiated the establishment of a health insurance with universal scope meant to cover essential health care for all in the long run. This project of Togo relies on a pragmatic approach of gradual implementation. Health insurance has been provided this year to public sector employees. It will be next extended to those in the private sector, and will then be extended to the informal sector. The national Health insurance Institute has been created and it started the operations in September 2011

A workshop on social protection organized jointly by the Government and Technical and Financial Partners (WB, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO) was held in Lomé. The workshop participants recommended the setting up of a joint Government and Technical and Financial Partners (WB, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, WFP, IMF) committee to steer the elaboration of a global strategy on social protection in Togo. The WB committed to the disbursement of resources to support this committee. The Technical and Financial Partners recognizing the strong public commitment in Togo for social protection have decided to support the elaboration and the implementation of social protection measures in the country.

Uganda

With ILO assistance, Uganda is currently focussing on social security reforms such as developing the Social Security Bill and the Liberalisation of retirement Benefits and a Pensions Sector Bill, 2011.

ILO supported Uganda to organise two workshops with Members of Parliament and social partners to exchange views on the two bills.

United Republic of Tanzania

The Social Protection cluster of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) adopted the Social Protection Floor framework in Key Outputs and strategies (UNDAP Key Action 1.2.1). This process was lead by the ILO.

Also the draft Tanzania DWCP 2011- 2015 has included a Priority (Priority 1) to 'Enhance/Extend Social Protection for All' to guide the country's efforts in extending social security to the country.

The ILO stepped up capacity building of national officials from government institutions and social partners.

For Tanzania Mainland and for Zanzibar, the ILO undertook a Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review (SPER) and Social Budget which provided a

detailed overview of the current situation of existing social transfers within the social protection system.

A Feasibility study on extending maternity protection leave with cash and medical benefits in Tanzania was completed and validated

Actions planned to be undertaken:

- Sensitization activities in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar on the Social Protection Floor and its relationship to international labour standards and the national regulatory authority.
- Stepping up of technical assistance to constituents in Zanzibar to review the existing legislative and regulatory framework in view of formulating a Social Protection Policy.
- Building the capacity of constituents in Zanzibar to develop and implement an action plan for the development of the Social Protection Policy.
- Supporting constituents in mainland Tanzania to review the Social Security Act in view of identifying gaps and developing an action plan for its revision.
- Building the capacity of the staff of constituents in mainland Tanzania to develop and implement an action plan for the integration of the recommended revisions in the Social Security Administration.
- Pursuing dialogue with local governments on initiating community based cash transfer schemes for extending maternity protection.
- Conducting a regional actuarial study. The objective of the study will be to analyze the financial and economic implications of coordination of social security benefits, taking into account the current systems, policies and laws in each of the East African Community Member States.

Zambia

ILO is providing:

- Continued support to the Ministry of Labour & Social Security on designing a concept for a social pension scheme, in particular including economic assessment of the design options;
- Support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) on clarifying fundamental design aspects of a planned social health insurance scheme; the MoH has stated that a formal request to ILO/UN for technical assistance is forthcoming;
- Support to the Government on formulating a commitment to the establishment of a National Social Protection Policy over the course of the current National Development Plan. The ILO is currently waiting for the Government to inform the UN on the design process and timeline for this work;
- Support to the insurance industry on designing insurance products for the informal sector and to the insurance regulation authority on creating an enabling environment for insurance for the low-income population. Three insurance companies are piloting the initiative and the Pensions and Insurance Authority is the national lead agency for the exercise.

In the framework of ILO-IMF cooperation in Zambia, the following is planned:

- An issues paper on how a Social Protection Floor could be achieved in Zambia. This includes updating the ILO 2008 Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review (SPER) study for Zambia. The study analyses the fiscal space required to provide a minimum Social Protection Floor in Zambia. (Lead-ILO).
- Preparation of a joint project on social protection in Zambia, building on the on-going IMF/ILO/WB/ UNICEF collaboration on social protection in Mozambique. (Lead-ILO).
- Document experiences of using mining tax revenues to finance social protection and economic diversification (ref. UNRISD, Chile). Reference to be made to the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Zambia - a World Bank program (Lead-ILO).

Zimbabwe

The ILO provided support for the actuarial evaluation of the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) and the Occupational Pension Schemes (OPSs) systems:

- The actuarial report is expected to assess the design and the financing of the NSSA and the OPSs by taking into account both national and international perspectives (e.g. the ILO, World Bank), experiences and examples of old-age pensions from developed countries and developing countries including Sub-Saharan Africa. It will also provide actuarial projections of the status-quo scheme in light of the dollarization of the economy.
- The evaluation will inform the restructuring of the national social security system including the reintroduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and the provision of maternity protection in line with C.183.

Exploratory mission was conducted by the ILO/DWT Pretoria Social Security Specialist to meet with stakeholders including government, workers and employers organizations. The key actions underway are:

- Audit of the work that has been conducted in the field of social security in Zimbabwe including establishment of an entry point for the ILO in the ongoing National Social Protection initiatives.
- Sensitization of the tripartite stakeholders and local UN agencies on the Social Protection Floor (SPF) and the Yaoundé Tripartite Declaration and exploring opportunities for cooperation. Discussions held with UNICEF and WHO.
- A concept note is underway outlining an action plan for the implementation of the SPF Initiative in Zimbabwe including initiatives under the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2012-2015 making the case for the need to strengthen social protection in old age. The Z/UNDAF 2012-2015, recently adopted by the country, contains a provision to formulate and implement a comprehensive national social protection policy, including the dimension of a Social Protection Floor as reflected by the Yaoundé Tripartite Declaration.