

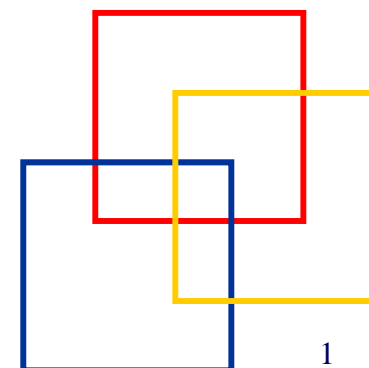


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South-South dialogue on the Social Protection Floor Initiative

A Social Protection Floor for all

Tuesday, 2 February 2010
Christian Jacquier

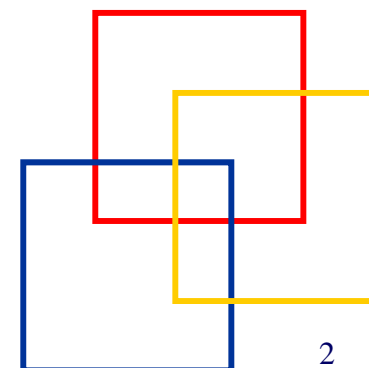




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Structure of the presentation

1. Roots and rationale of the Social Protection Floor concept
2. The CEB Social Protection Floor Initiative: A reminder
3. Affordability
4. Impact
5. Implementation of the Social Protection Floor

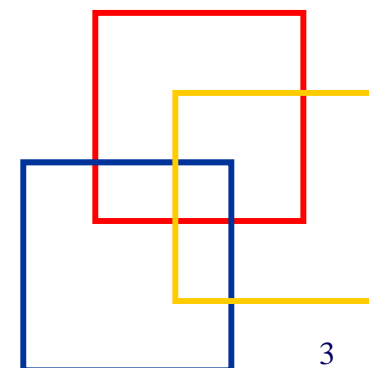




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1. Rationale: social and economic necessity of social protection systems ...

- We know from more than one century of history of the modern welfare state that social transfers and services are powerful policy instruments to combat poverty, insecurity and inequality and ...achieve the MDGs
- Social services and transfers are an economic necessity to unblock the full economic potential of a country, *only people that are healthy, well educated and well nourished can be productive*
- There is now widespread acceptance that social protection/security serve as social and economic stabilisers in times of crisis
- Countries with existing systems are in a better position to cope with the social and economic fall-out than those who have to introduce new ad-hoc measures
- And yet, still 75-80% percent of the global population do not enjoy a set of social guarantees that allows them to deal with life's risks...
- ...There is a need for a **social protection floor** below which nobody should fall ...





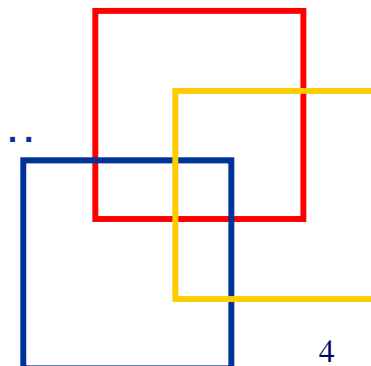
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1. The roots ...

- Article 22 of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** states:

*“Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to **social security**” further explained by article 25 and echoed by the **International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights** (1966,1976) as commented by the Committee on Economic , Social and cultural rights in 2008 stating*

- Article 25 including the right to health and well being including food , clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services ...special care and assistance in case of motherhood and childhood...
- Article 26 stipulated the universal right to education...
- Article 27 the right participate in the cultural life of the community...



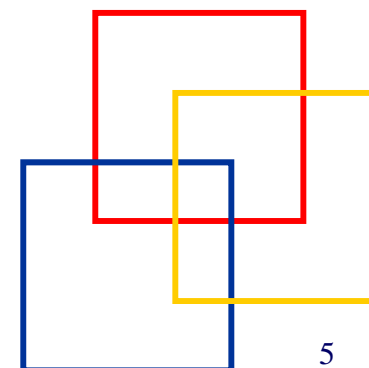


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1. The roots ...



“The Social Protection Floor Initiative tries to give core content to the basic rights even in times of crisis,...”





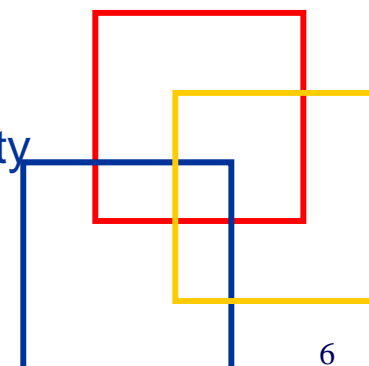
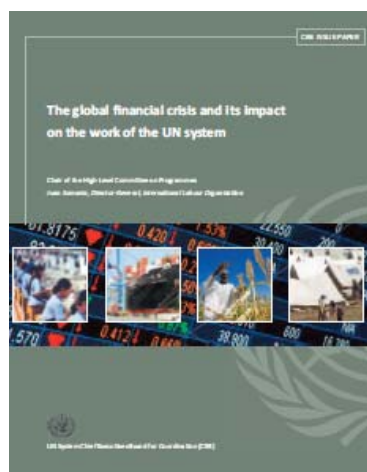
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2. What is the Social Protection Floor (SPF) Initiative?

One: A UN System - Emergency response to the crisis

On April 2009, the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) have agreed on **nine joint initiatives** to confront the crisis, accelerate recovery and pave the way for a fairer and more sustainable globalization:

1. Additional financing for the most vulnerable
2. Food Security
3. Trade
4. A Green Economy Initiative
5. A Global Jobs Pact
6. **A Social Protection Floor**
7. Humanitarian, Security and Social Stability
8. Technology and Innovation
9. Monitoring and Analysis



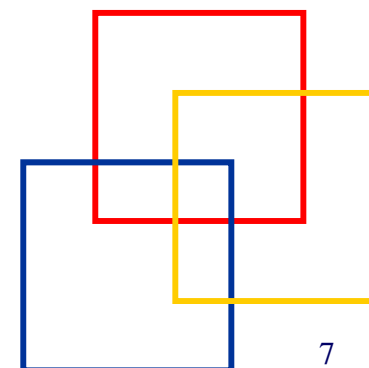


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2. What is the Social Protection Floor (SPF) Initiative?

Who participates in the Initiative?

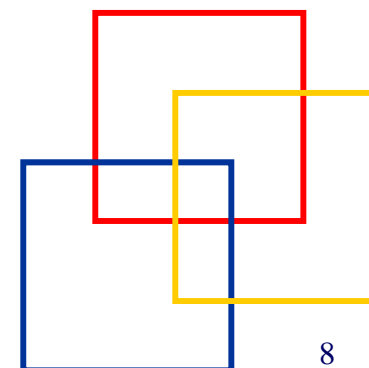
- The Initiative is owned by national stakeholders, including governments (ministries of labour, health, finance, agriculture ...), social partners and national NGOs, etc. with support of ...
- UN agencies (such as ILO, WHO, FAO, IMF, OHCHR, UN Regional Commissions, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDESA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNODC, UNRWA, WFP, WMO), other international organizations such as World Bank and Regional Development Banks, and bilateral donors, and international NGOs





2. What is the Social Protection Floor (SPF)– Initiative?

- A set of basic social rights, services and facilities that the global citizen should enjoy
- “Core obligation” – ensuring the realization of minimum essential levels of rights embodied in human rights treaties





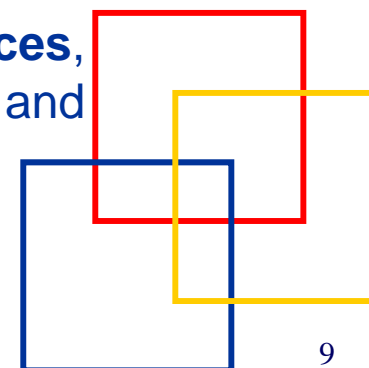
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2. What is the Social Protection Floor (SPF)– Initiative?

... As agreed in the concept note and the CEB issues paper:

Ensuring continuing access to essential services and social transfers for the poor and vulnerable:

- A basic set of **essential social transfers**, in cash and in kind, to provide a minimum income and livelihood security for poor and vulnerable populations and to facilitate access to essential services, such as education and health care
- Geographical and financial **access to essential services**, such as food and adequate nutrition, health, water and sanitation, education, housing, and other social services



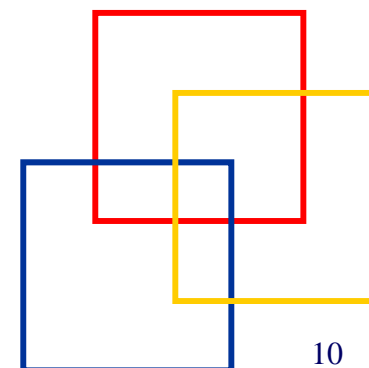


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2. What is the Social Protection Floor (SPF)– Initiative?

...a holistic approach of supply and demand

Means to ensure availability of:	Health services	Water and sanitation Housing	Education	Food	Other social services as defined by national priorities (including life and asset saving information...
Rights and transfers to guarantee access for:					
Children					
People in active age groups with insufficient income from work					
Older persons and people with disabilities (e.g. pensions)					

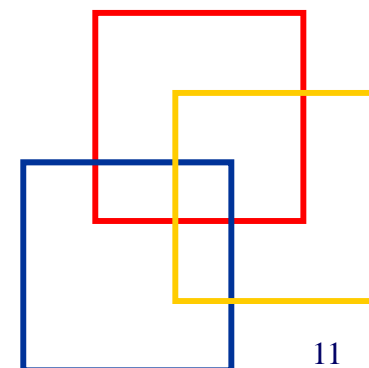




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2. What is the Social Protection Floor (SPF) Initiative?

- **Promotes** a holistic and coherent vision of national social protection systems as a key component of national development strategies and seeks to
- **Support countries** in identifying and closing crucial protection gaps through coherent and efficient measures that maximize the effects of scarce resources on the reduction of poverty and insecurity, through
- **“Guarantee access”**: The SPF doesn’t talk about how it has to be financed or organized, but about ensuring continuing access to essential services and social transfers

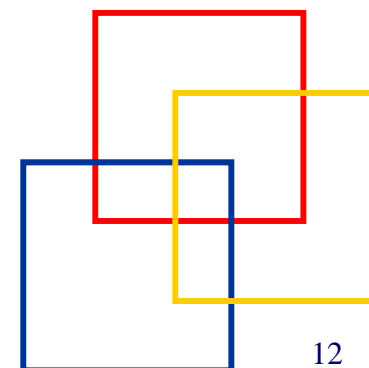




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3. Affordability?

- Calculations by various UN agencies : A basic floor of social transfers is **globally affordable**, even if the funding is not yet available everywhere.
- Social transfers can be a cost-effective way of having a direct **impact on hunger and poverty**, and they have positive externalities on human capital development and growth.

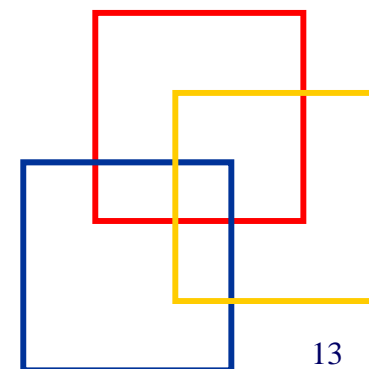




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4. Impact...?

- A basic package of universal pensions and child benefits can reduce the poverty head count by 40 per cent in poor developing countries at a cost of 3-4 per cent of GDP.
- In Latin America the cost of a basic package of conditional child cash transfers, universal pensions and basic health care can be kept under 5% of GDP; the poverty headcount effects can reach a reduction of more than 50%

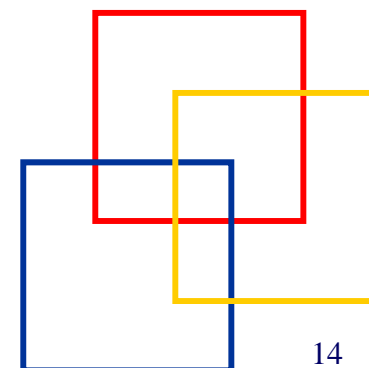




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4. Feasibility demonstrated by international experience: Cash Transfers

Type of cash transfers	Countries	Number
Unconditional		
Household income support	Chile, China Indonesia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Zambia	6
social pensions	Argentina, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, India, Lesotho, Namibia Nepal, South Africa, Uruguay	12
Child/family benefits	Mozambique, South Africa	2
Conditional		
Cash for work	Argentina, Ethiopia, India, Korea, Malawi, South Africa	6
Cash for Human Development	Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua	8

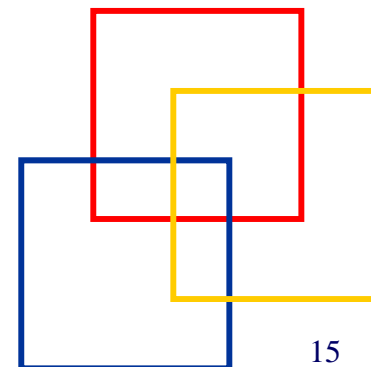




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4. Feasibility demonstrated by international experience: Basic Health Care

- Mexico (Seguro Popular)
- Colombia (Regimen subsidiado)
- India (RSBY)
- China (Rural Universal Health Insurance)

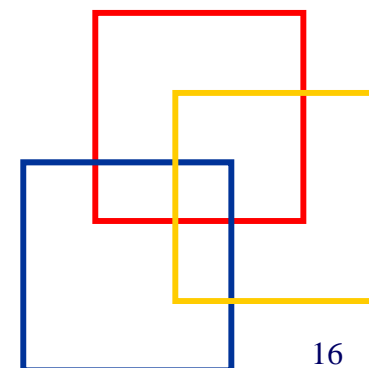




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4. Feasibility demonstrated by international experience: emerging comprehensive SPF

- Uruguay (El plan de Equidad)
- Chili (La red de proteccion social)
- Brazil
- China





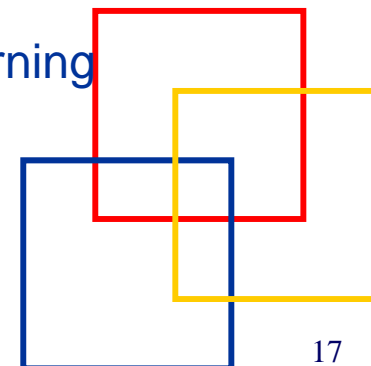
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5. Implementation of the Social Protection Floor (SPF) Initiative

- No best solutions or 'one-size-fits-all' formulas
- Each country has different social needs, development objectives and fiscal capacity to achieve them, and will choose a different set of policies
- We can learn from countries of the South who have already successfully taken measures to introduce elements of national social protection floors



Opportunities for the exchange of experiences and mutual learning



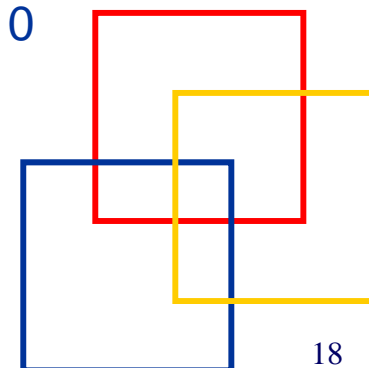


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6. What is planned in 2010?

South-South Events related to the SPF-I:

- 3 regional networks
 - Brazil
 - South-Africa
 - China
- Capacity-building on South-South exchange
 - 3 sessions (French: Turin - April 2010
Spanish: Buenos Aires – October 2010
English: Turin – November 2010)
- South-South project ILO-Brazil on the SPF-I

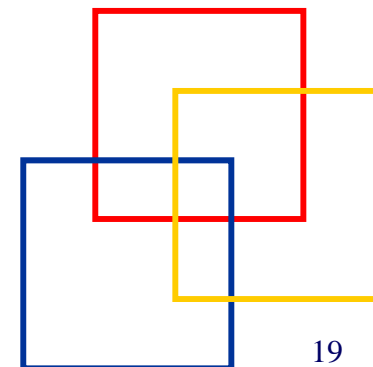




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6. Implementation: Support to South-South cooperation, but...

- What does the global South **expect** of South-South cooperation on social protection?
- What are the national **needs** of member states relating to South-South cooperation on the SPFI?
- What is the **content** of knowledge-sharing: exchanging technical support, training and how to organize this technical assistance? (Technical assistance can be described as technical cooperation in the design or improvement of a program through the development of social policies and programmes, training, analyzing existing systems, distance learning by disseminating programme activities).
- What is the **role of the UN** in support of member states requesting assistance in initiating or expanding their social protection floors?
- What are the **experiences of existing networks** on South-South cooperation and how can partnerships between participating countries be best leveraged to promote the SPFI?





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And finally

The time to make a difference is now

...

To have an education, to be healthy and have enough income to take part in cultural life, to express oneself freely and share knowledge and ideas – these are all human rights that should be enjoyed by everyone all the time.

This creates stronger, fairer and more cohesive societies, which in turn are the foundations for longer term peace and prosperity.

