“Is the social protection floor a reality?”

1. What is the Social Security Situation?
2. How far are we from the achievement of the SPF? - gaps, issues
3. What should be done to complete the floor?
4. How much would it cost today and in the future?
5. Can the Government afford it? Do we need to increase the fiscal space?
6. How to ensure that the recommendations are endorsed and listen to?
7. How to advocate for the SPF as a whole or specific recommendations? [ROI...]

Additional reading
Social protection assessment based national dialogue: Towards a nationally defined social protection floor in Thailand

From June 2011 to March 2013 the UN-Royal Thai Government Joint Team on Social Protection engaged line ministries, UN agencies, social partners, civil society organizations, academicians, and other relevant stakeholders to assess the social protection situation in Thailand, identify policy gaps and implementation issues, and make suitable policy recommendations for the achievement of a comprehensive social protection floor in Thailand. The final report was launched in May 2013 at the Government House.

Complete report available at:

Social protection assessment based national dialogue: Towards a nationally defined social protection floor in Indonesia

The report was the result of the ABND process which was conducted in Indonesia by the ILO in close collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning and the UN sub-working group on the SPF during 2011-12. The ABND exercise aimed to find out what had to be done in order to make the SPF a reality for the population of Indonesia. Despite the relatively advanced state of social protection in the country, which includes contributory and non-contributory schemes for workers and their families in the formal and informal sectors, many policy and implementation gaps were identified and specific policy recommendations were made to establish a comprehensive social security system in Indonesia.

Complete report available at:
http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=37678
Analysis of the Viet Nam National Social Protection Strategy (2011–2020) in the context of SPF objectives

The Viet Nam study was launched to support the implementation of the draft Social Protection Strategy (2011–2020) in Viet Nam. The ILO, on behalf of the UN SPF Initiative, assessed the existing social protection system of Viet Nam and used the Rapid Assessment Protocol to estimate the cost of closing the SPF gaps. For each benefit, the impact on poverty was estimated using a microsimulation at the household level. Taking into account some fiscal space considerations, the study estimates that the SPF gap could be closed progressively, over the next 10–15 years, without a major increase of overall revenues compared to pre-crisis levels.

Complete report available at:
http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=30497

Assessment based national dialogue exercises and Social Protection Floors in East and South-East Asia: Methodology and findings

The paper describes the methodology for conducting ABND exercises. The methodology was developed by the ILO in the Asia and the Pacific region and tested in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam. It is now being applied systematically throughout the region with a second round of assessments underway or planned in Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The paper also provides an overview of the four completed ABND exercises and the resulting recommendations for achieving basic health care and income security for children, the working age population, and the elderly. The results of preliminary calculations of the cost of implementing proposed policy options are also outlined.

Paper available at:
http://centres.smu.edu.sg/lien/social-space-20132014/
or http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressource.ressourceId=41897
The Social Protection Floor Initiative

This factsheet describes the social protection floor initiative, which promotes universal access to essential social transfers and services and is driven by a coalition of UN agencies and development partners. The factsheet is designed as a promotional tool to popularize the social protection floor to a broad public and is available in several languages.

Factsheet available at:
http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=30430

National Social Protection Floors in Asia and the Pacific

The factsheet describes the social protection floor and its four guarantees, and its inclusion in national social strategies and regional policy agendas. It also talks about the Recommendation concerning National Floors of Social Protection, which was adopted by the International Labour Conference on 14 June 2012.

Factsheet available at:
http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=30293
Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social protection in Asia and the Pacific

The factsheet describes the assessment based national dialogue exercise and the three steps of the process. It explains how ABND can be used as a first step to building nationally defined social protection floors.

Factsheet available at:
http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=30171

C102 Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952

The Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), is the flagship of all ILO social security Conventions, as it establishes minimum standards for all nine branches of social security, namely medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit, and survivors’ benefit, which have been agreed worldwide.

Convention No. 102 available at:
The 101st Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted, on 14 June 2012, the Recommendation concerning National Floors of Social Protection by an impressive tripartite consensus vote: 452 votes in favour, zero against, one abstention. Social protection floors are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion. This new international labour standard aims at extending essential health care and basic income security to millions of people.


UNDG Asia-Pacific Social Protection Issues Brief

Commissioned by the UNDG A-P to support UNCTs in their work on social protection, this Issues Brief on Social Protection:

- establishes a joint UN position on social protection in Asia and the Pacific;
- highlights potential entry points for UNCTs in supporting the development of national social protection strategies and the progressive and coordinated implementation of social protection; and
- contains concrete examples of ongoing work on social protection in the region.

UN SPF Joint Team in Thailand: A replicable experience

This brochure describes how the Social Protection Floor Joint Team in Thailand was established and what it has done to support the Royal Thai Government in developing social protection schemes which will lead to a just society. The brochure also talks about how this is a replicable experience for other countries.


A video on the UN SPF Joint Team in Thailand can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfeS46KJ250

Cambodia. Social protection expenditure and performance review

The Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review (SPER) provides detailed information on the main social protection and employment related schemes in Cambodia, their benefit levels, target populations, social expenditures, effectiveness, coverage and adequacy of benefits, and other relevant data. The SPER also talks about the challenges of building a comprehensive social protection system in a country where people have been excluded from social protection. This report is part of a series of technical cooperation reports produced by the ILO within the framework of the ILO/European Union (EU) project on “Improving Social Protection and Promoting Employment” in the countries of Burkina Faso, Cambodia, and Honduras.

Cambodia. Financial assessment of the National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable

This report provides a preliminary financial assessment of policy options in Cambodia’s National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable, and illustrates the implications of policy design on resource requirements. The NSPS-PV outlines a long-term vision and strategic framework for the development and extension of social protection by considering the different dimensions of social protection and risk profiles of the poor and vulnerable in Cambodia. This report is part of a series of technical cooperation reports produced by the ILO within the framework of the ILO/EU project on “Improving Social Protection and Promoting Employment” in the countries of Burkina Faso, Cambodia, and Honduras.


Introduction to social security

This is an introductory guide to social security and the role of the ILO in technical cooperation. It describes health service, health insurance, maternity benefits, employment accident benefits, old age benefits, survivors’ benefits, disability benefits, unemployment benefits, and family benefits. Further it explains the institutional framework, methods of financing, and the economic implications of income redistribution. The guide also discusses special arrangements for migrant workers and summarizes ILO Convention No. 102 on social security.

Standards for the XXIst Century: Social Security

This book describes the characteristics of the ILO's social security standards, highlighting their universality, flexibility, and common principles. Further, it examines the protection afforded in each of the nine branches of social security and also considers the treatment of migrant workers.

Book available at:

Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization

This report, prepared under the guidance of Ms Michelle Bachelet and members of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, shows that the extension of social protection through SPFs can play a pivotal role in relieving people of poverty and deprivation. In addition, it can help people adapt their skills to overcome the constraints that block their full participation in a changing economic and social environment, thereby contributing to improved human capital development and stimulating greater productive activity. The report also shows how social protection has helped to stabilize aggregate demand in times of crisis and to increase resilience against economic shocks, contributing to accelerate recovery towards more inclusive and sustainable development paths.

Complete report available at:
Social Security: A new consensus

At its 89th Session in June 2001, the International Labour Conference held a general discussion on social security. This book contains the conclusions of the Committee on social security from the ILC 2001, large extracts from the report of the Committee’s discussions, and the whole report “Social Security: Issues, Challenges and Prospects”, which was prepared as a basis for the Committee’s discussions. With regard to extending social protection, it says that there is need for research, experimentation and innovation.

Volume available at:
http://www.ilo.org/gimi/gess/ShowRessource.action?ressourceId=104

The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific

Over the past two decades, the Asia and the Pacific region has witnessed a number of economic crises that have threatened the progress towards reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. These crises reflect the increased risks associated with globalization, especially for the poor and those without voice. In addition, several countries in Asia and the Pacific have been profoundly affected by high-impact natural disasters which have exposed vulnerabilities and amplified the insecurities of many people’s livelihoods. This has especially been the case for poor households located in rural areas. It is also known that poverty and exclusion magnify the effects of crises. Thus, in order to be truly effective and transformative, social protection must be linked to efforts to reduce poverty and exclusion and, in so doing, eliminate the structures that place people in situations of vulnerability in the first place. This report provides a compelling argument for advancing the social protection agenda in Asia and the Pacific along this direction.

Complete report available at: