

▶ International Symposium on Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management

Tuesday 27 and Wednesday, 28 June 2023, 13:30 – 17:30 CEST
ILO Geneva (Room V) & Zoom

Background Information

Launched in October 2019, the EU-funded [Programme on Improving Synergies Between Social Protection and Public Finance Management](#) (SP&PFM Programme) has been supporting countries in their efforts towards achieving universal social protection. The Programme is jointly implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF), in collaboration with EU Delegations and stakeholders in each country.

The SP&PFM Programme, as an integral part of the ILO’s Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All, has been providing technical support to 24 partner countries to enhance the design and implementation of their social protection systems, ensuring they are gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and shock-responsive. The Programme has contributed to strengthening the sustainability of social protection financing through strong advocacy for increased fiscal space for social protection and improved public finance management. The Programme has also played a crucial role in supporting the social protection related COVID-19 responses in 17 partner countries and building more resilient and responsive social protection systems. Examples include the shock-responsive family package in Cambodia, the internally displaced persons programme in Ethiopia, and the unemployment protection sectoral responses in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The SP&PFM Programme reached several milestones in supporting partner countries to improve their social protection systems. The Programme assisted in the adoption of national social protection policies and laws (Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal and Togo), and the introduction and improvement of schemes and programmes for people with disabilities (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan and Senegal), adolescent girls (Uganda), workers in the informal economy, and the unemployed (Bangladesh, Ecuador, Peru and Sri Lanka). The Programme also contributed to improving the digitalization, delivery and monitoring of social protection systems by expanding national single registries (Nigeria, Senegal), improving management systems of social insurance institutions (Cabo Verde, Nepal and Togo), reinforcing identification and delivery mechanisms, and introducing digital innovations (Burkina Faso and Nepal). Working with employers’ and workers’ organizations, and the civil society, the Programme contributed to the extension of coverage of social insurance schemes, including to workers in the informal economy (Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal, Togo and Uganda).

Additionally, the Programme strengthened the link between social protection and public finance management by enhancing the economic case for investing in social protection, conducting gender-responsive social protection expenditure reviews, improving social budgeting and programme-based and performance-based budgets, analysing fiscal space and assessing financing options, conducting costing and actuarial valuations for extending coverage, and capacity building on public finance management for social protection, including for social partners and civil society. Lastly, the Programme acted as a catalyst for advancing the research agenda on social protection and public finance management, which supported advocacy efforts for increased and better investment in social protection.

Objectives

The international symposium proposes to exchange on the different experiences, practices and innovations of the Programme by:

- taking stock of the results achieved and impact of the SP&PFM Programme;
- showcasing and learning from the partner countries' experiences in extending social protection to all, and ensuring its sustainable financing and improved PFM for social protection; special attention will be given to innovative practices and digital transformations in strengthening gender-responsive and disability-inclusive social protection;
- reviewing strategies for building social protection systems that are more resilient to future shocks, climate change and economic and digital transformations;
- sharing the findings and innovations of the research, methodologies and tools developed through the Programme and its country interventions (e.g. multiplier effect study, Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tool on financing, methodology for assessing PFM of social protection, digital social protection);
- moving forward the agenda on universal social protection, its financing and PFM, including through the [Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All](#), the [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions](#), the [Global Gateway of the EU](#), and the [Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals \(USP2030\)](#).

Invited audience

Ministries of Finance, Ministries in charge of social protection, and public institutions, employers' and workers' organizations, members of the Global Coalition on Social Protection Floors (GCSPF), the European Commission and EU Delegations of the partner countries, as well as the experts of the Advisory Board of the SP&PFM Programme will be directly invited to this event. In addition, other UN Member States, International Organization of Employers (IOE), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), other civil society organizations, UN agencies, International Financial Institutions, other development partners, regional integration communities/organizations, and academia, who either financially or technically contribute to and advocate for universal social protection will also be invited to join the event on-line, as observers.

Agenda

Date and time Sessions

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

13.00 – 13.30 Registration and coffee

13.30 – 14.30 **Opening**

Chaired by Ms Shahra Razavi, Director of the Social Protection Department, ILO

- Ms Dörte Bosse, Deputy Head of Unit, Social Inclusion and Protection, Health and Demography, European Commission (EC-INTPA)
- Mr Ousmane Basse, Director of Strategies, Department of Social Protection and National Solidarity, Ministry of Community Development, Senegal
- Ms Patricia Zimpita, Director, Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Malawi
- Mr Repon Chowdhury, General Secretary, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress
- Mr Tomás Jaramillo, Lawyer and researcher, National Business Association of Colombia

14.30 – 15.45 **Panel 1: Extending social protection to all**

Moderated by Mr Uzziel Twagilimana, Deputy Director, Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF)

This first panel will showcase results and approaches adopted by partner countries in extending social protection coverage to all workers, including self-employed workers, migrant workers, women workers and workers in micro and small enterprises. This includes harnessing the potential of employers' and workers' representative organizations in enhancing compliance by raising awareness and informing their members on their rights and responsibilities, and in facilitating their access to social security and their transition to the formal economy. The presentations will also demonstrate how social protection can enhance gender equality and the inclusion of people living with disabilities. Finally, the different country experiences will also highlight different financing strategies for supporting the extension of social protection in a sustainable and equitable manner, through a combination of contributory and non-contributory benefits.

- Mr Ram Kumar Phuyal, Hon. Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal
- Ms Dam Thi Van Thoa, Director General of the Policy and Legal Department, Union of Women's Association, Viet Nam
- Mr Enrique Gómez Ipuchima, President, Central Unitary Workers' Union, Colombia

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee break

Date and time Sessions

- 16.00 – 17.15 **Panel 2: Advocating for investing more and better in social protection**
Moderated by Mr Guillermo Montt, Social Protection Specialist, ILO DWT/CO-Santiago
- Social protection is a human right and in certain circles it is considered an expenditure, a cost. Evidence is mounting for it to be referred to as an investment, given its economic and social returns. The session will present new evidence on the positive returns of investing in social protection and will highlight experiences which successfully mobilize resources and create fiscal space to fund this investment even in the post-COVID-19 context characterized by multiple food, energy and economic crisis, growing debt burdens and calls for austerity.
- Ms Nazgul Cholumova, Head of Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration, Kyrgyzstan
 - Mr Sophoan Tep, General Manager, Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations, Cambodia
 - Mr Mahmoud Niang, Deputy General Secretary, National Confederation of Senegalese Workers, Senegal

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

- 13.30 – 14.45 **Panel 3: Improving public finance management for social protection**
Moderated by Ms Louise Moreira Daniels, Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF Angola
- The panel will focus on how to improve rules and practices in the management of social protection resources. Programme budgeting will be highlighted as a key tool, but countries will also reflect about the importance of collecting and tracking consistent social protection spending data, as well as other indicators. Some pilot initiatives funded by the SP&PFM programme, especially a tool to assess the performance of the social protection system from the perspective of public finance management, will be presented. Finally, workers' and employers' organisations will discuss how to push for more transparency and accountability in social protection, and what role they could play.
- Ms Teodora Recalde, General Director of the Budget General Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Paraguay
 - Mr Edilásio Simão Serafim Caleia, National Director of the State Budget, Ministry of Finance, Angola
 - Ms Smritee Lama, International Secretary, General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions, Nepal
 - Ms Roxana Cerna, Pension Research Coordinator, Pension Fund Administrators Association, Peru

Date and time	Sessions
14.45 – 15.45	<p>Panel 4: Strengthening social protection systems to prepare for future crisis and just transitions <i>Moderated by Mr Tomoo Okubo, Social Protection Specialist, UNICEF</i></p> <p>Crises like the COVID-19 crisis often highlight the gaps in social protection systems but at the same time they are an opportunity to build back better. This panel will provide a platform for representatives of governments, employers and workers to share examples of how their countries responded to a crisis by strengthening their social protection systems. The panel will reflect on the importance of digitalization for reaching universal coverage and enhancing the responsiveness of social protection systems. It will also highlight the role of unemployment protection in preparing countries for future crises and labour market transformations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ratana Sann, Director, Department of Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia • Mr Nestor Lengane, Director of Legal Affairs and Litigation, National Health Insurance Fund, Burkina Faso • Mr Rolando Torres Prieto, Secretary-General, Autonomous Workers' Confederation of Peru • Ms Samantha Gonagala, Senior Industrial Relations Advisor, Employers' Federation of Ceylon, Sri Lanka
15.45 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.00	<p>Panel 5: Joining forces for universal and sustainable social protection <i>Moderated by Ms Valérie Schmitt, Deputy Director, Social Protection Department, ILO</i></p> <p>This panel will allow partner countries and development partners to commit to continue joining forces for achieving universal social protection as a key instrument for reducing inequalities and facilitating just transitions, including through the Global Gateway of the EU, the Digital Convergence Initiative, and other EU programmes, and the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Isabel Emerson, Deputy Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Angola • Ms Dörte Bosse, Deputy Head of Unit, Social Inclusion and Protection, Health and Demography, European Commission (EC-INTPA) • Mr Ram Kumar Phuyal, Hon. Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Pierre Vincensini, Senior Advisor, International Organisation of Employers (IOE) • Ms Beatrice di Padua, Officer for Economic Justice, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

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17.00 – 17.30

Closing remarks

Moderated by Ms Céline Peyron-Bista, Chief Technical Advisor SP&PFM Programme, ILO

- Ms Erica Gerretsen, Director of Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, European Commission (EC-INTPA)
- Ms Natalia Winder Rossi, Director, Social Policy and Social Protection, UNICEF
- Ms Shahra Razavi, Director, Social Protection Department, ILO

17.30 – 19.30

Get-together

Notes

It will also be possible to attend online via Zoom. The link will be sent to participants once they accept the invitation.

French, English, and Spanish interpretation will be available.