

Social Protection Floors and their financing: an international imperative

Civil Society Policy Forum
IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings
April 13, 2016
Barry Herman
Social Justice in Global Development
and The New School



UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)

We, the United Nations System Chief Executives, are determined to take decisive and urgent action. In view of the multiple facets of the crisis and our collective mandates and responsibilities, we have agreed on nine joint initiatives.

...

6. A Social Protection Floor: ensuring access to basic social services, shelter, and empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable.

Paris, April 5, 2009

ILO Social Protection Floors

Recommendation No. 202 (June 2012)

Minimum coverage should comprise [at least at a nationally defined minimum level]:

- a) Access to... essential health care, including maternity care that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality;
- b) Basic income security for children...providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
- c) Basic income security...for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; and
- d) Basic income security...for older persons.

ILO-IMF Summit

Oslo, 13 September 2010

- First, they agreed to explore the concept of a social protection floor for people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, within the context of a medium- to long-term framework of sustainable macroeconomic policies and strategies for development.
- Second, the two institutions will focus on policies to promote employment-creating growth.

From IMF Press release



“This evaluation will examine the IMF’s work on social protection in its main lines of business—surveillance, lending, and capacity development....

“In the wake of the crisis, the IMF has been criticized for excessive fiscal austerity without paying adequate attention to the social costs and without ensuring the presence of needed safety nets for vulnerable segments of the population.”

February 2016



International Labour Organization



WORLD BANK GROUP

A joint programme of action to increase the number of countries adopting Universal Social Protection

Our shared objective is to increase the number of countries that provide universal social protection, supporting countries to design and implement universal and sustainable social protection systems. There are many paths towards universal social protection. It belongs to each country to choose its own, and to opt for the means and methods that best suit its circumstances.

Many countries have embarked on expanding social protection coverage and are reporting significant progress. Yet, the vast majority of the world's population is still far from enjoying adequate protection. It is time to take determined and innovative steps to trigger change on a larger scale.

June 30, 2015

Delivering social protection and essential social services to all

(Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2016, para 12)



“In this effort, we will provide fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, with a focus on those furthest below the poverty line and the vulnerable, persons with disabilities, indigenous persons, children, youth and older persons.”



“We also encourage countries to consider setting nationally appropriate spending targets for quality investments in essential public services for all, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation, consistent with national sustainable development strategies.”

“We will make every effort to meet the needs of all communities through delivering high-quality services that make effective use of resources.”



“We commit to strong international support for these efforts, and will explore coherent funding modalities to mobilize additional resources, building on country-led experiences.”



The central idea of this proposal is to create a Global Fund for Social Protection (GFSP) as a solidarity based financing mechanism that help countries design, implement and - to a limited extent – finance national floors of social protection. Social Protection Floors (SPFs) are direct and fast-acting poverty relief mechanism that can save millions of lives and alleviate misery in further millions of cases

SPIAC-B

Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board

- To provide concrete suggestions on the operationalization of the Addis commitments; ensure adequate inclusion of SP in the proposed “new social compact”.
- To explore ways to scale up SP investment to respond to the SDGs implementation.
- To explore the possibility to establish a SP Multi Donor Trust Fund to support start-up funds to expand social protection systems (no funding of benefits).

November 2015

- Strengthening and diversifying a nation's tax base, while paying attention to achieving its desired overall progressivity;
- Strengthening contributory systems in the formal economy (e.g., broader coverage of employer-financed unemployment insurance);
- Designing non-contributory schemes that extend coverage to the informal economy, providing basic income security and essential social services to vulnerable populations
- Deepening international cooperation on tax matters;
- Designing greater income and environmental resiliency as well as inclusiveness into infrastructure investment programs;
- Expanding international risk sharing through market (e.g., catastrophe bonds, reinsurance of social insurance schemes) and public programs (e.g., through additional programs of multilateral development banks);
- Assessing experiences under the recently expanded loan “windows” of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and possibly increasing the range of situations under which drawings could be made from them;¹⁷ reviving the IMF's Compensatory Financing Facility (CFF) as originally conceived, in order to better handle economic, humanitarian and environmental shocks that increase the vulnerability of populations.¹⁸

For further information,
watch our website
www.socdevjustice.org

And to get involved
(especially if you are a potential donor)
Contact the coordinator of the project,

Ms. Gemma Adaba at
adaba@socdevjustice.org

