



**Under the Patronage of the Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh
of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

**The ILO and the Social Security Corporation
In Collaboration with UNICEF and WHO**

Organize

The National Conference on the Establishment of a Social Protection Floor in Jordan

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Social Security Corporation, Amman, Jordan

Background, Scope and Objectives

1. Background

Investing in effective social protection is an investment in social justice and economic development. Social protection contributes to economic growth by raising labour productivity and enhancing social stability. In times of crisis, social protection acts as a stabilizing influence on the economy by alleviating decreased aggregate demand. Ensuring a Social Protection Floor (SPF) for the world's population is a considerable challenge, but calculations by various UN agencies show that a basic floor of social transfers is affordable at virtually any stage of economic development, even if the funding is not yet available.

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) adopted the "Social Protection Floor Initiative" as one of its nine key priorities to cope with the current global crisis and beyond. In the context of the "One UN", all United Nations' agencies join forces and adopt common priorities and solutions for a larger impact in support of effective national responses. The International Labor Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are the lead agencies in bringing this initiative to fruition, enabling and supporting countries to implement their own domestic Social Protection Floors.

The Social Protection Floor corresponds to a set of essential transfers, services and facilities that all citizens everywhere should have access in order to ensure the realization of rights embodied in human rights treaties. By working on both supply and demand side measures, the SPF adopts a holistic approach to social protection including:

- 1) Services: Ensuring the availability, continuity, and geographical and financial access to essential services, such as water and sanitation, food and adequate nutrition, health, education, housing, life and asset saving information and other social services.
- 2) Transfers: Realizing access by ensuring 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. It includes social transfers (but also information, entitlements and policies) to children, people in active age groups with insufficient income and older persons.

There are no panacea solutions or 'one-size-fits-all' formulas to set up the Social Protection Floor. Each country has different social needs, development objectives and fiscal capacity to achieve them, and will adopt a different set of policies to suite their particular social and economic context and challenges. Through a coordinated country response, the Social Protection Floor facilitates and accelerates the introduction or strengthening of social protection systems. The Initiative supports countries in their efforts to build, expand, and extend their social protection systems by offering high-quality/low-cost technical assistance to countries through a mechanism of increased interagency collaboration.

At the global level, the SPF-Initiative has been very successful in several low and middle-income countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, and Nepal. Rates of poverty have been reduced and the health and social welfare status of citizens remarkably improved as a result of countries adopting initiatives and programmes promoted under the SPF initiative.

For the past year, the ILO, UNICEF and WHO have been working and coordinating with Jordan's key stakeholders to gain widespread support for introducing a national Social Protection Floor in the Kingdom.

The non-conditional adoption of this global initiative may not require extra burdens on the Jordanian government budget; instead, the SPF-Initiative constitutes an instrument to help the Government align and bridge the gaps among the existing national strategies related to social protection and poverty reduction, as well as rearrange national priorities. The SPF-Initiative will assist the Jordanian government to implement long-term action plans tailored in accordance with the country's economic and social conditions. Additionally, the SPF-Initiative will help the government to reduce reliance on external subsidizes and grants, and better redistribute income equally and efficiently.

2. Objectives, scope and targeted outcome

The **broad objective** of the conference is to assist the Government of Jordan in the progressive extension of social protection measures through introducing the SPF-Initiative, which aims to assist UN member States in providing a minimum of income security and access to essential health care to all those in need, in particular to the unemployed and to workers in the informal economy. The extension of social protection measures should build on already existing initiatives and programmes of the national social security institutions and should promote dialogue between the social partners and other key stakeholders to this end.

The **specific objectives** are, accordingly:

- To introduce and discuss the concept of the Social Protection Floor,
- To share good practice experience of establishing a national Social Protection Floor,
- To explore the feasibility for the establishment of a national Social Protection Floor in Jordan,
- To assess the possibility of establishing a taskforce (tripartite stakeholders and relevant UN agencies), with the mandate to develop an action plan toward introducing a SPF.
- To identify how the different UN Agencies, and in particular ILO, UNICEF and WHO can assist stakeholders in establishing a national Social Protection Floor in Jordan.

3. Organization and Participation

In preparation for the discussions, participants are requested to reflect on directions for promoting social protection at the national level, with particular emphasis on the extension of coverage to all those in need; to consider a national Social Protection Floor as an instrument for the extension of coverage; to consider the role of tripartite constituents in extending social protection and to identify the support needed from the ILO, UNICEF and WHO and other organisations for progressively establishing a national Social Protection Floor in Jordan.

In view of the larger social security coverage gap of women in Jordan, gender aspects will form an integral part of the discussions throughout the meeting.

Discussions will be held in Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation into/from English and French.