



UN Policy Dialogue on Social Protection beyond COVID-19

The United Nations (UN) in China in collaboration with Chinese government organised a policy dialogue titled **“Social Protection at the time of COVID-19 and beyond: Building an inclusive and sustainable social protection system”** on 10 November 2020. The dialogue aimed to share and learn from the efforts in China and globally to strengthen social protection for the groups hardest hit by the pandemic, and to initiate a policy discussion about innovative approaches to create a more inclusive social protection system and its sustainable financing.

Under the technical leadership of the ILO and the UNICEF, the online dialogue organized 8 sessions and gathered about 100 national and provincial government officials, representatives from social partners, civil society and UN agencies in China, both in the region and internationally. The EU CHINA Project contributed to the event with technical support and supporting financially the translation to Chinese of [the background document](#).
[Learn more on UN website](#)
[ILO website](#)



Research assessing social protection coverage

Research on **“Assessing China's social security coverage of workers in non-standard employment, with a focus on platform workers, migrants and women and measures to close gaps and improve portability of social security benefits”** is in progress. Under research, an international literature review and an international review of good practices in regulating and administering social security of non-standard workers with a focus on platform workers are completed.

Field studies were carried out in Zhejiang (Hangzhou), Sichuan (Chengdu) and Guangdong (Guangzhou, Dongguan and Shenzhen) involving round tables with local government officials and interviews with management staff from human resource and

employment agencies, platform and non-platform companies, and platform workers. [A seminar on social security for workers in flexible employment](#) was organized on 16 December 2020 in Beijing to further discuss the research questions with national and provincial government officials.

A survey will be implemented with a sample of 3,000 respondents, targeting non-standard workers to understand their social security status, needs and the affordability of a package of benefits including employment injury and unemployment insurance.



E-coaching on actuarial principles and techniques

As a follow-up to the pilot training on actuarial services in June 2020, the project organized a series of online actuarial e-coaching sessions oriented to the learning needs of Social Insurance Administration (SIA) of MOHRSS. It aims to improve the understanding of actuarial models used for the valuation of social security pension systems, improve data management and assumption setting processes, actuarial reporting and application of actuarial techniques, through introducing international good practices and case studies. Two sessions were organized in October and December 2020 and another three sessions are planned for 2021. Each session provides technical coaching for 10 participants from SIA and its provincial branches. A [workspace](#) was established to share resources and interact.

[Learn more](#)



Training of trainers on actuarial studies

After a call of expressions of interest, a research team of Zhejiang University under the leadership of Professor He Wenjiong (Director of Research Institute of Risk Management and Labour and Social Security, Vice President of the Chinese Association of Social Security and President of its Pension Branch) will collaborate with ILO to develop a curriculum and resource book for training of trainers on principles and techniques of actuarial services for social security pensions.



Social security and informal economy: Frequently Asked Questions

The project elaborated a Fact Sheet with a FAQ drawing on ILO publications to answer some reoccurring questions in China regarding the relevance of the concept of informal economy. What is the informal economy according to the ILO? What is the difference with the concept of informal sector? Does employment in the informal economy refer to the absence of regulations or also their weak implementation? How does the concept of informal work compare to the notion of flexible employment included in official English translation of the Chinese Social Insurance Law of 2011? Why is it important to measure the employment in the informal economy in addition to the scope

and extent of flexible forms of employment? Read the [publication](#) here.



Social security policy/research briefs and podcasts

A series of policy and research briefs and podcasts are published online:

Research briefs

- Beyond the goal of eradicating absolute poverty in China: relative poverty indicators and social security policies [brief/podcast](#)
- Institutional constraints for the extension of social insurance coverage to informal economy workers in China [brief/podcast](#)

Policy briefs

- Review of international experience in social insurance sickness benefits for gig workers [brief/podcasts](#)
- Review of international experience in social insurance with employment injury benefits (forthcoming)

Technical notes

- [National pension funds](#): a review of governance structures, management and international practice
- [International review of financial protection in maternal health care](#)
- Monitoring social protection for platform workers (forthcoming)



Social Security Policy Monitor China

The project issues every two months a monitor of the social security policy updates in China and relevant international measures.

[August, Issue 3](#)

[November, Issue 4](#)



The newsletter was produced by the project [“Improving China’s institutional capacity towards universal social protection”](#).



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