



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEMINAR ON THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL PROTECTION TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS

**22-24 NOVEMBER 2016
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

The seminar on the potential of social protection to build resilience to disasters was held on 22-24 November 2016, Manila, the Philippines. The representatives of the Senior Officials Meeting on Labour (SLOM), Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), the ASEAN Committee on Disasters Management (ACDM), and employers' and workers' organizations of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, together with representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE), ASEAN Trade Unions Council (ATUC), United Nations agencies, namely the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Funds for Children (UNICEF), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) participated in the Seminar.

Recalling the collective commitment of the ASEAN Member States to implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Blueprints, the Regional Framework and Action Plan on implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013) and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (2005), and the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and its Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change (2015), and the Declaration of "One ASEAN, One Response" (2016),

Recalling the commitment of the ASEAN Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and to implement the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015),

Guided by the principles of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), and the ILO Recommendation on Social Protection Floors, 2012 (No.202),

We, participants, agree on the following recommendations to continue promoting linkages between social protection and disasters:

Improve understanding of social protection opportunities for managing disaster risks.

1. Improve knowledge, and conduct vulnerability and needs assessments, with a special attention to vulnerable groups - including, but not limited to, people living in hazard areas, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, women, children, older persons, workers in informal economy, small and medium enterprises, and family corporate – in order to define social protection measures that can contribute to build resilience of the population and business to disasters.

2. Assess, at national level, gaps and opportunities to expand existing social protection systems for improved disaster risk management, in particular in terms of coverage, mechanisms for rapid scale-up, and financial and institutional capacity; and compile these national assessments into an ASEAN review.
3. Build knowledge, document and share good practices, organize exchange of know-how, and strengthen stakeholders' capacity for improving linkages between social protection and disaster risk management.

Strengthen institutional capacities and governance for better managing disaster risks through social protection.

At country level:

4. Recognizing that governments have the leading role in disaster management and social protection, ensure engagement and build partnerships with workers and employers' organizations in these areas.
5. Establish a special unit and appoint a focal point organization within workers and employers' representatives to coordinate with the government on disaster risk reduction and management.
6. Mainstream social protection in the national and sub-national disaster risk management plans, including preparedness plans.
7. Establish national guidelines, including setting up standards operating procedures, for scaling up social protection systems for an effective and timely disasters response.
8. Learn from countries that are using integrated or unified social protection registries, and implement information systems that will integrate vulnerabilities and disaster risks mapping.

At ASEAN level:

9. Encourage the engagement of multi-stakeholders, including workers and employers' representatives, in ASEAN initiatives on social protection and disaster risk management.
10. Develop ASEAN guidelines for integrating social protection and disaster risks management.

Invest in social protection to build resilience.

At country level:

11. Strengthen social protection systems by extending coverage to all, improving level of benefits, and ensuring financial sustainability, as a mean to improve resilience of the population and business to disaster risks.

12. Explore financing mechanisms for extending social protection for all, including government's subsidies to support informal workers' contributions to social insurance schemes, to prevail resilience against disaster shocks.
13. Ensure that vulnerable groups have access to existing social protection schemes, including employability programmes, to build their resilience to disasters.
14. Develop and enhance mechanisms, including legal provisions and funding methods, to swiftly scale up existing social protection schemes in time of disasters.

At ASEAN level:

15. Assess the feasibility of establishing a regional risk pooling system across the ASEAN Member States for disaster response, including through scaling up social protection schemes.

Seize opportunities to “build-back-better-safer- smarter” through the enhancement of social protection systems.

At country level:

16. As part of the emergency response and recovery planning, capitalize on opportunities and create institutional linkages to build and strengthen longer term social protection systems as well as to provide immediate support.
17. Encourage the government and donors' community, and explore innovative financing, to better use emergency and recovery funds for building sustainable social protection systems, where appropriate, and thus support the longer term recovery and improve resilience.

Manila, 24 November 2016
