

Supporting the implementation of sustainable social protection floors in East and South-East Asia

Valerie Schmitt, ILO Bangkok

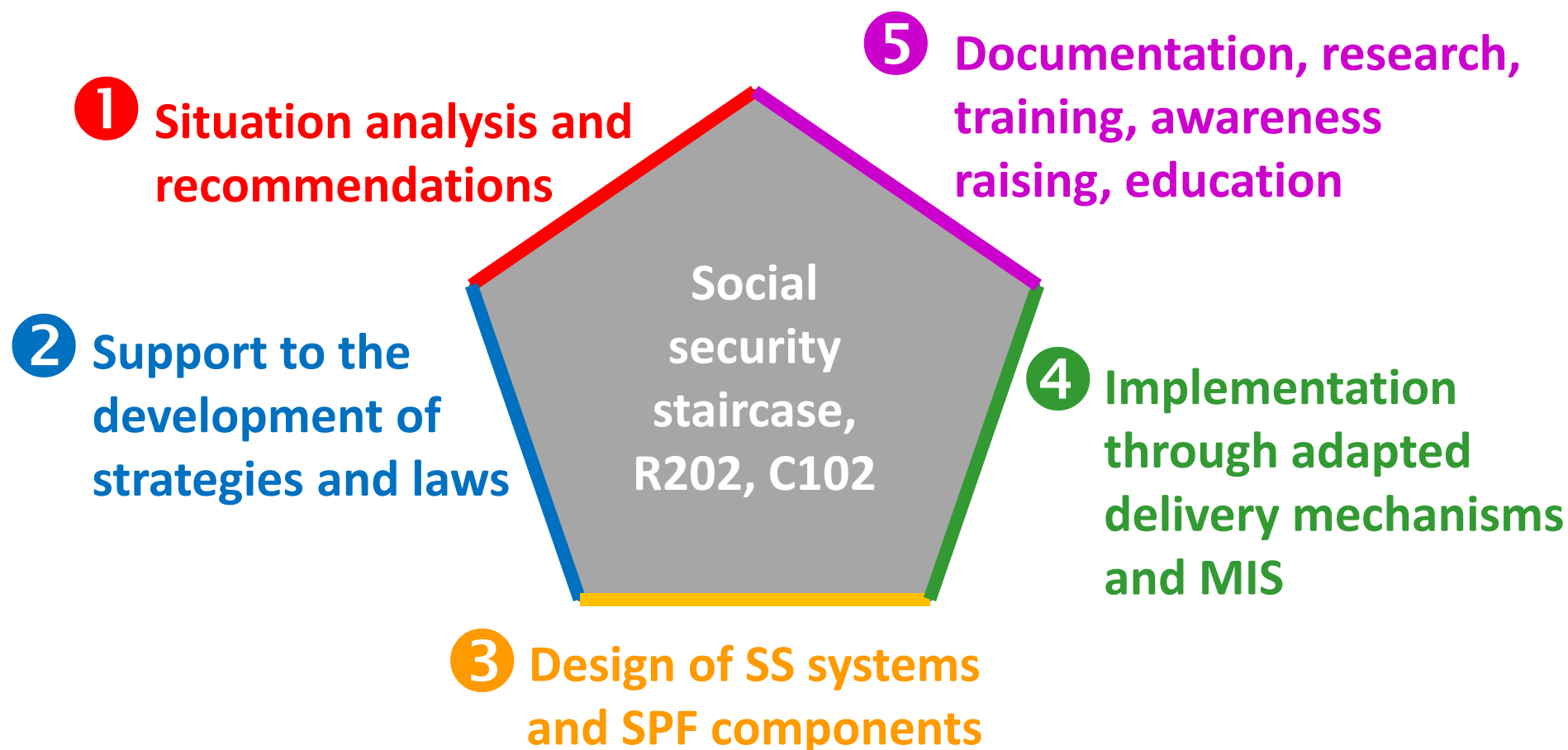
Workshop on Policy Options for Effective and
Sustainable Social Protection Floors

New York, 12/09/2013

Key points

- ILO's programme of work in Asia-Pacific & countries where ABND was conducted
- The ABND methodology and main results in four countries

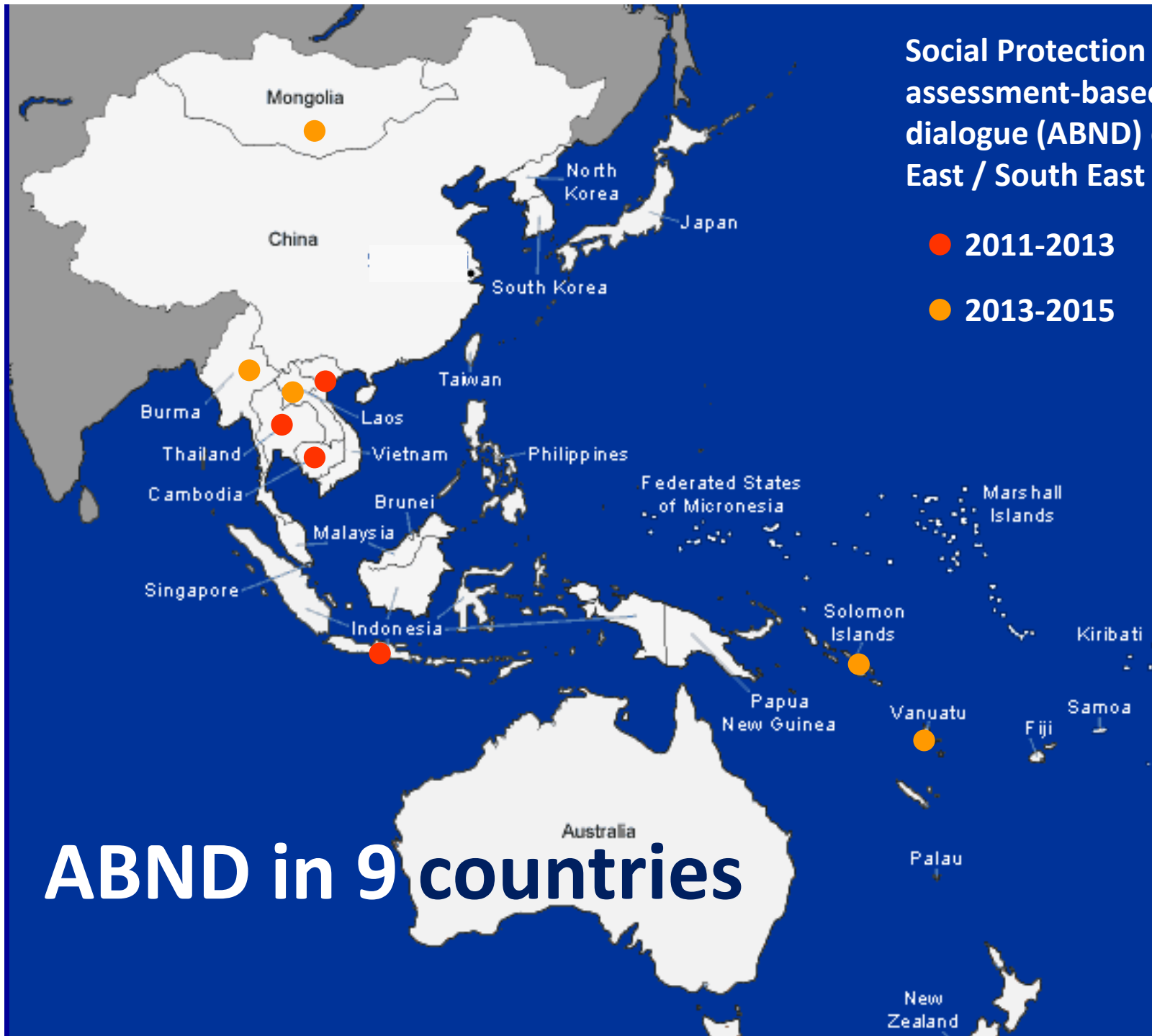
ILO's programme of work in Asia-Pacific



**Social Protection Floor (SPF)
assessment-based national
dialogue (ABND) exercises in
East / South East Asia / Pacific**

● 2011-2013

● 2013-2015



ABND in 9 countries

Objective of ABND

How do we achieve the Social Protection Floor and make it a reality for the whole population of a country?



ABND identifies the gaps existing in the system and builds recommendations for the government, that will help complete the Social Protection Floor

Making the SPF a reality



DO all residents have access to **essential health care**?



DO all **children** enjoy **income security** through transfers in cash or kind → access to nutrition, education and care?



DO all those in **active age groups** who cannot earn sufficient income enjoy **basic income security**?
(in case of sickness, unemployment, maternity, disability)



DO all **residents in old age** have **income security** through pensions or transfers in kind?

Three main steps of ABND

Step 1 – Building the assessment matrix including the identification of priority recommendations



Step 2 – Rapid Assessment Protocol to estimate the cost of implementing the social protection provisions



Step 3 – Finalisation of the assessment report for endorsement and further action by the higher levels of government

ABND FACTSHEET



Assessment Based National Dialogue on Social protection in Asia and the Pacific

A participatory approach

A process uniting many actors

The Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) on Social Protection aims at identifying priority areas for the Government's intervention in the field of social protection, and at estimating the cost of these interventions. It requires the involvement of a number of actors:

- UN agencies involved in the Social Protection Floor (SPF) initiative (ILO, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, WFP) and development partners.
- Line ministries (Labour, Health, Social Welfare, Finance, Planning, Rural Development, etc).
- The National Statistics Office and academia.
- Workers' and employers' representatives, civil society organizations.
- Local governments (in some cases).

Their contribution includes providing information on existing schemes and programmes (including statistics relating to coverage and budgets), identifying policy gaps and implementation issues, and formulating recommendations in line with Government strategies, advocating for these recommendations and ensuring that they can be translated into concrete actions.

A unique opportunity for national dialogue

Many stakeholders work in isolation and only deal with a part of the social protection agenda. The ABND provides a unique opportunity to gather all stakeholders together and come up with a common diagnosis of the social security situation, formulate shared priority policy options, and progressively define a vision for the development of social protection. This consensus is achieved progressively, through consultations, workshops, and technical sessions where the proposed policy options are revised to take budgets and costs into account.

An opportunity for UN collaboration

In Thailand and Indonesia the assessments were conducted by the UN SPF team/working group under the ILO's leadership. In Viet Nam the ILO led the assessment in close collaboration with other UN agencies.

The ABND three step approach

STEP 1 – Development of the assessment matrix

The four guarantees of the Social Protection Floor (SPF) are used as benchmarks to describe existing social security, social protection and poverty alleviation programmes, identify policy gaps and implementation issues, and produce recommendations for the design and implementation of further social protection provisions with the aim of guaranteeing at a minimum the SPF to all the population.

Figure 1: Assessment Matrix

	SPF objectives	Existing SP provision	Planned SP provisions (strategy)	Design gaps	Implementation issues	Resource rationale
Health	The Social Protection Situation			Design gaps and implementation issues (to complete the SPF)		
Children						
Working age	Social Protection Floor template: guarantees and objectives					Priority policy options to be decided through national dialogue
Elderly						

The assessment matrix is compiled in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, using face-to-face consultations and workshops at both national and provincial levels.



Participatory workshops in Bangkok and Jakarta



Stakeholders

Line ministries (Labour, Health, Social Welfare, Planning, Education, Finance, Rural Development)

Worker and employer organisations

Local governments

National Statistics Office, academia

UN agencies involved in SPF (ILO, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, UNDP, WFP), World Bank, ADB, other development partners

Civil society

Step 1: Building the assessment matrix

- A diagnostic of the social protection situation
- A set of recommendations
- A baseline for future monitoring

	SPF objectives	Existing SP provisions	Planned SP provisions (strategy)	Policy gaps	Implementation issues	Recommendations
Health	Four SPF guarantees	Identifying existing situation in the country		Identifying policy gaps and implementation issues, addressing which would complete the SPF		Priority policy options, to be decided through national dialogue
Children						
Working age						
Elderly						

Step 1 : Recommendations



**Only Thailand has achieved Universal Health Coverage
→ extension of HC in Cambodia, Indonesia, Viet Nam**



Despite free education policy in all countries, need to increase income security through child allowances

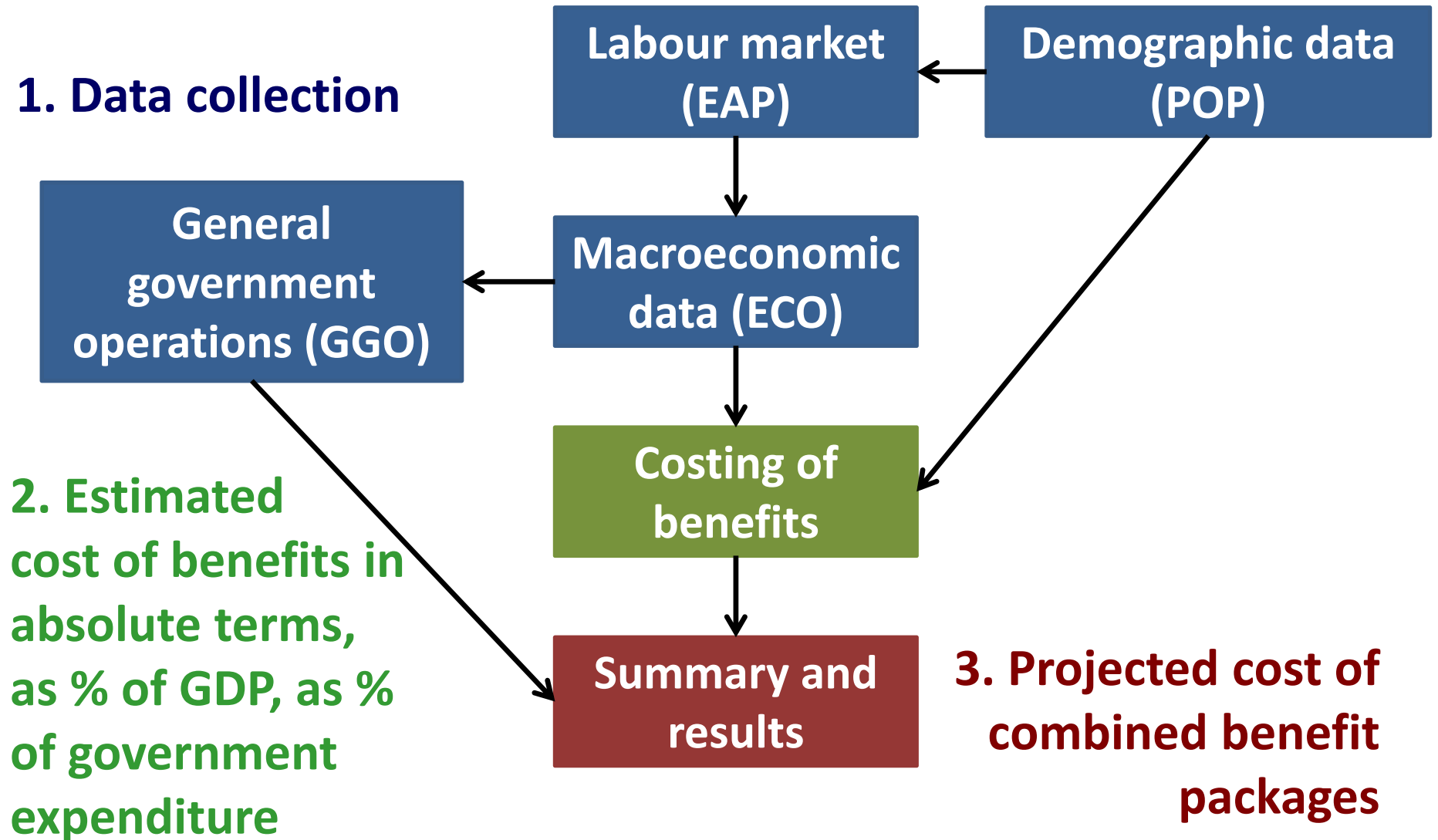


Limited access to social security benefits for informal economy workers; need for income support measures combined with measures to increase employability; introduction/extension of disability pensions; maternity benefits in Cambodia and Thailand

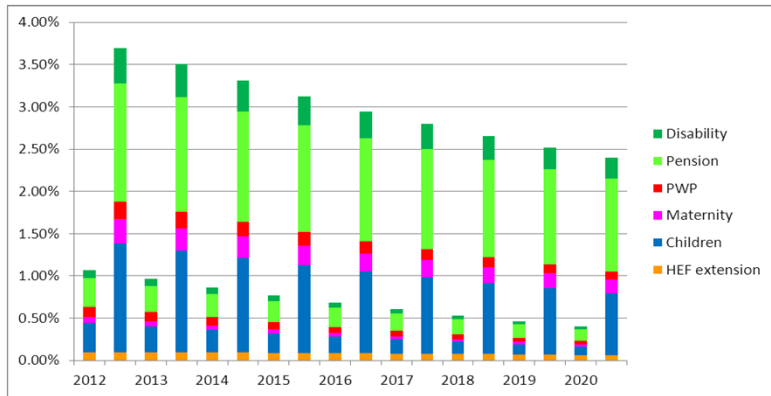


Increase levels of benefits and access to old age social pensions

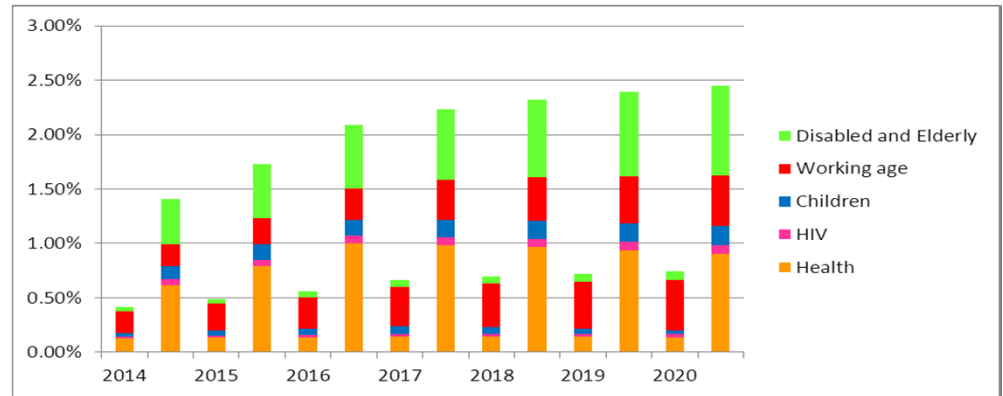
Step 2: Rapid Assessment Protocol



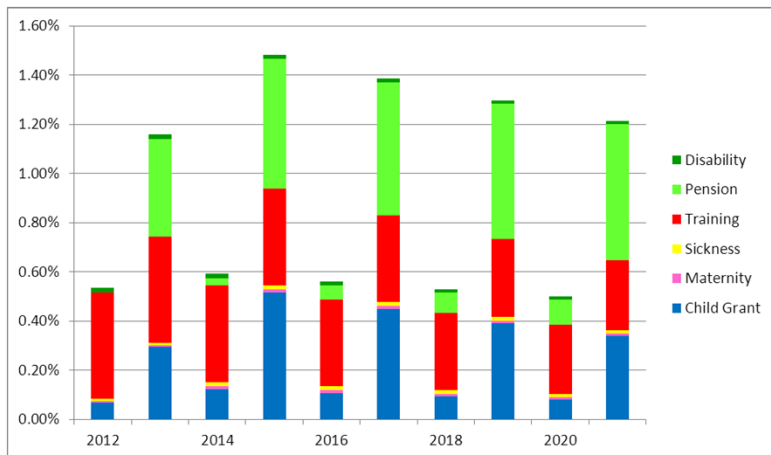
Step 2: Costing results, affordability (% GDP) & fiscal space



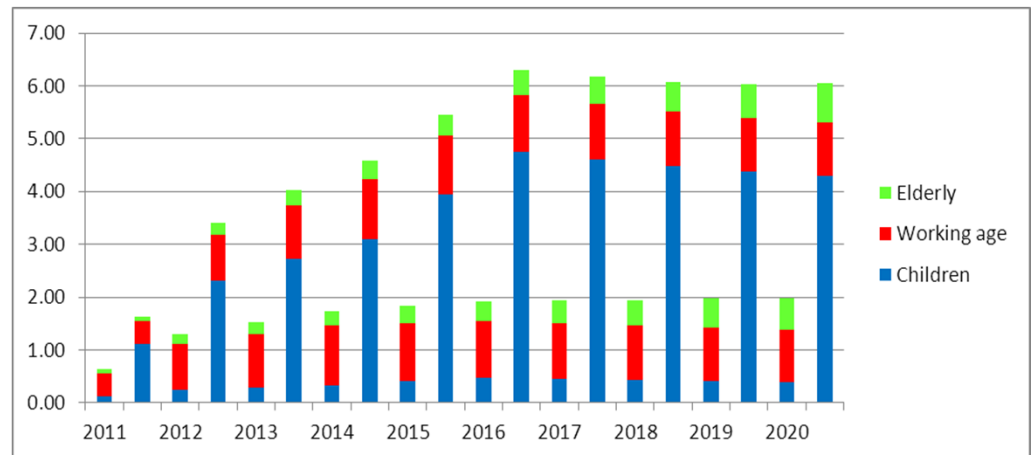
Cambodia; 0.4 – 2.4% GDP by 2020



Indonesia; 0.7 to 2.4% GDP by 2020



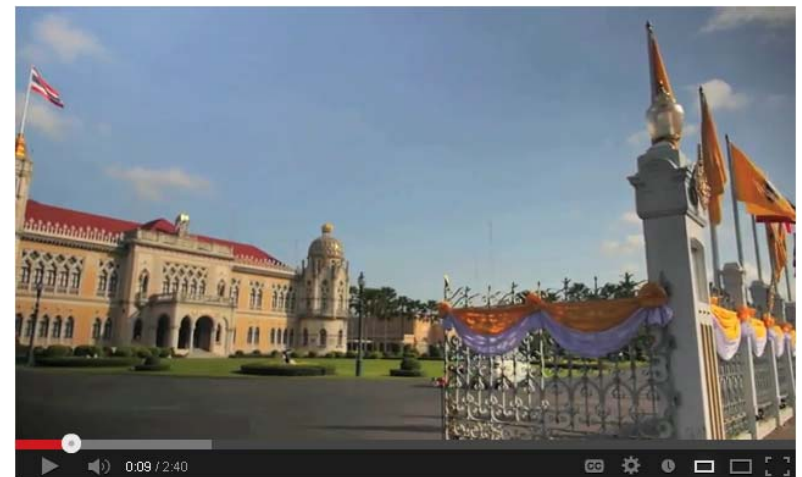
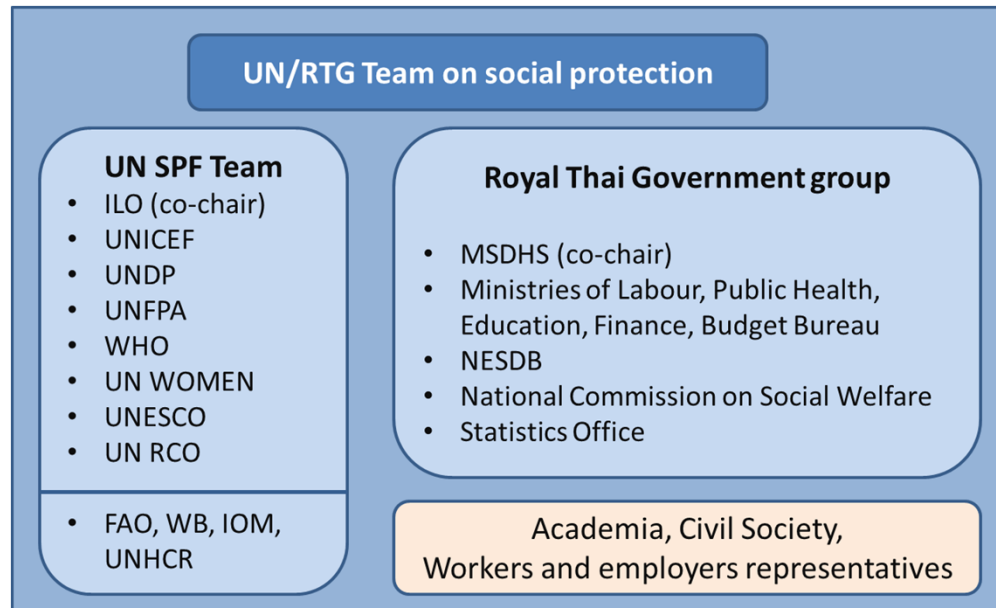
Thailand; 0.5 – 1.2% GDP by 2020



Viet Nam; 2% to 6% GDP by 2020

Step 3: Finalisation and endorsement

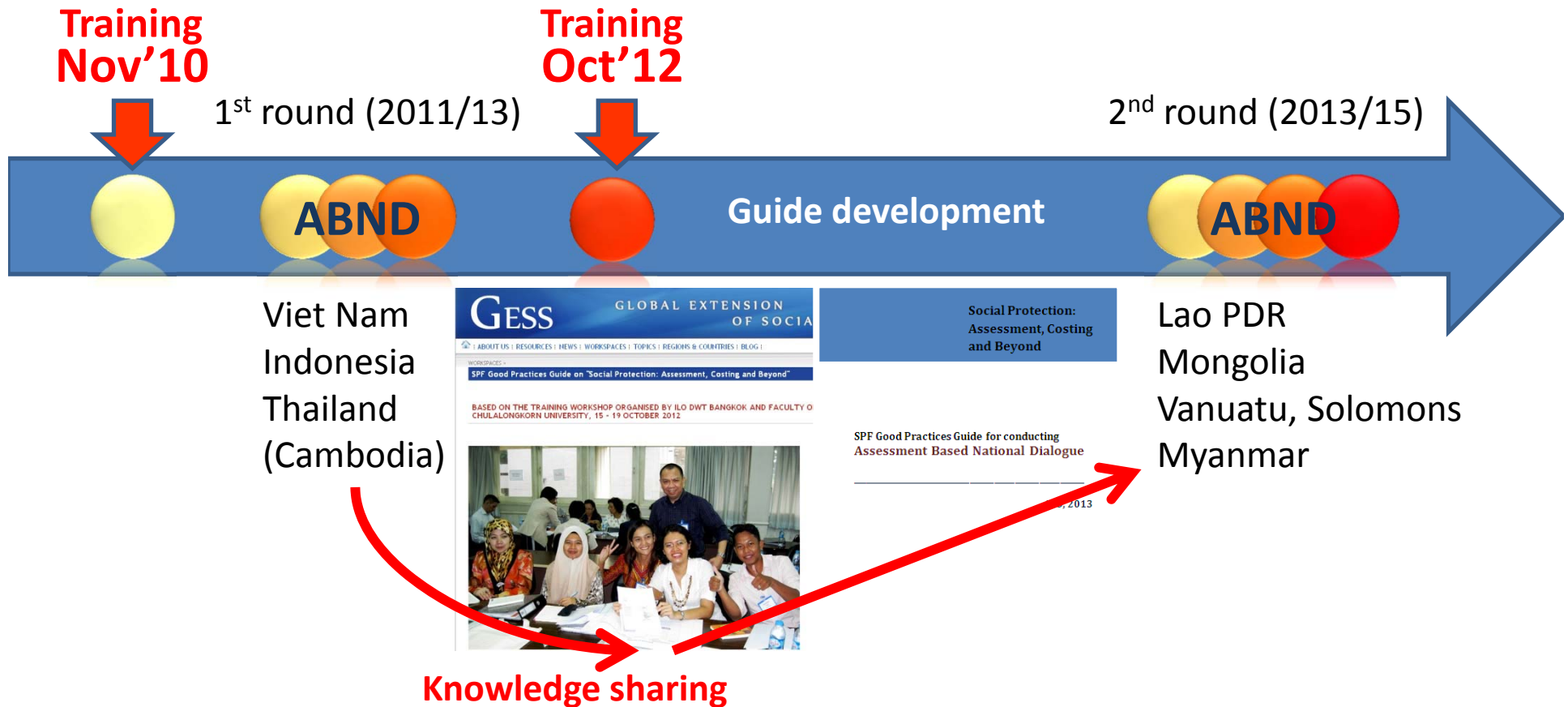
- Technical endorsement
- Political endorsement
- Launching event



Launch of the report 'Social protection assessment - based national...



Knowledge development and sharing



Follow-up activities with ILO support

- Thailand: long term care system's design
- Viet Nam: PWPs, pension reform
- Indonesia: Single Window Service
- Cambodia: Social Service Delivery Mechanism and implementation of the national social protection strategy

ABND's strengths

- **Baseline surveys** of the social protection situation
- **Shared vision** (situation, national SPF, recommendations) based on social dialogue
- **Affordable scenarios** (low/high) & flexibility for schemes to be progressively scaled up as greater fiscal space becomes available
- **ABND methodology and tools suitable** for a range of country contexts