

8th SPIAC-B Meeting - SUMMARY REPORT



The 8th meeting of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board took place on 22 September 2016 in New York. The meeting, co-chaired by ILO and World Bank, welcomed 47 participants from across 22 international organizations, bilateral institutions and international NGO's.

The Agenda included the following sessions: (1) Delivering on the SDGs: Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection, (2) Social Protection and Humanitarian-Development nexus, (3) ISPA tools and (4) Knowledge sharing.

1. Delivering on the SDGs: Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection

The current relevance and political momentum for social protection worldwide provides a unique opportunity to enhance policy coherence, cooperation and coordination of social protection actions at global, regional and national levels¹. SDG Target 1.3 calls for universal social protection (*“implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable”*). A clear mandate has been given to the international community on the extension of coverage of social protection systems, including social protection floors. Participants agreed that SPIAC-B, as the leading global issues-based coalition on social protection, should continue to take the lead in framing, monitoring and implementing the different aspects of the new agenda. At this 8th SPIAC-B meeting several topics of joint response have been discussed: the launch of the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection and the ONE-UN SPF country operations and UNDG coordination which both serve as a platform for joint response, the inter-agency social protection assessment tools, capacity building and knowledge sharing (including the social protection gateway).

Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection

The new “Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection” was launched on 21 September during the UN General Assembly, the day before the 8th SPIAC-B meeting (event website: <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/NewYork.action?id=3>). The new partnership supported by ILO and World Bank, brings together dedicated development partners such as the African Union, FAO, the European Commission, Helpage, IDB, OECD, Save the Children, UNDP-IPC, UNICEF, along with Belgian, Finnish, French and German technical cooperation. The launch showcased [evidence from 23 low- and middle-income countries](#) who have achieved universal social protection schemes. The objective of this partnership is to increase the number of countries that provide universal social protection and to support countries to design and implement universal and sustainable social protection systems. This will include joint support to countries on: (i) Social protection policies, programs

¹ The French Presidency of the G20 had put employment and social protection at the center stage of global policy discussions in 2012. Now in 2016, China's G20 Presidency has brought back social protection as a core item of the agenda of the Employment Working Group.

and administration systems, (ii) Costing the extension of schemes and expanding fiscal space for universal social protection, (iii) Addressing bottlenecks in the delivery of social protection benefits, and (iv) Integrating principles of universal social protection into their national development strategies.

Suggested action points:

- As requested during the launch, the Partnership will be formalized and an action plan prepared; drafts will be shared with members of the Partnership as soon as possible.
- SPIAC-B members are invited to send ideas on how to operationalize USP to Isabel and Michal (ortizi@ilo.org and mrutkowski@worldbank.org).
New members are welcome, membership requires contributing to the Partnership with funding (needed!) or in-kind contributions such as producing more country case studies documenting universal social protection in developing countries.

UN SPF-I and UNDG coordination on social protection

The Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) was conceived in 2009 by the UN Chief Executives Board as one of nine joint crisis initiatives to protect the world's population against the worst of the potential fallout of volatile global financial markets. In March 2014, [UNDG Chair Helen Clark and ILO Guy-Ryder issued a call](#) for increased cooperation in-countries and for joint activities to extend social protection floors in countries around the world where they work. The SPF-I is active at the country level (national SPF teams including UN organisations, other development partners, ministries, donors, etc. working together on joint activities, including assessments, coordination exercises, etc.), at the regional level (R-UNDG Working groups on social protection working on knowledge sharing, advocacy, peer-to-peer support and fundraising), and at the global level (Support from UN leadership working on knowledge take-up and introduction of SPF/SPF-I into regular course curricula for UN staff via the UN System Staff College). Donors urge UN agencies to cooperate more effectively, to work more as one which makes the SPF-I more relevant.

Suggested action points:

- All SPIAC-B members are invited to update the [One UN SPF Country team operations matrix](#) to keep track of agencies' SPF support activities at the country and regional levels, to ensure synergies and avoid duplication of work by multiple organizations. Updates need to be send to **James Canonge**, canonge@ilo.org and **Clara van Panhuys**, vanpanhuys@ilo.org.
- The idea was raised to support a UN resolution on social protection systems, including floors (at the forthcoming session of the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD 2017)). Workings of UN High-level Political Forum in 2017 (July) will focus on Goal 1 should also be monitored for entry points to advance USP/SPF agenda politically as part of SDG implementation. The next (2017) "Report on the World Social Situation (RWSS)" will be on social protection. This report is prepared on a biennial basis by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Over the years, the Report has served as a background document for discussion and policy analysis of socio-economic matters at the intergovernmental level.

Monitoring Frameworks

To follow-up, monitor and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda a framework of indicators has been developed. The indicator to follow-up on target 1.3 includes "Percentage of the population covered by social

protection floors/systems, disaggregated by sex, and distinguishing children, the unemployed, old-age persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women/newborns, work injury victims, the poor and the vulnerable”.

There are two global databases that allow monitoring target 1.3 (to measure (i) effective social protection coverage of all and by specific categories of the population, (ii) social protection coverage of the poor, and (iii) social protection coverage by different program types):

- [ILO Social Security Inquiry](#) (SSI): based mainly on the administrative records of the Ministries of Labour and/or Welfare, Ministries of Finance and Social Security Institutions, and complemented by the data from labour force surveys (more info [here](#)).
- [WB/ASPIRE database](#): based on household survey data on social and economic conditions.

Suggested action points:

- Donors should be encouraged to provide budget support to improve compilation of reliable and consistent statistics for both databases at country level.
- Important to keep data monitoring on the SPIAC-B agenda (a SPIAC-B working group on indicators has already met twice but no other meetings have been planned).
- Linkages and synergies with the EU and OECD databases are being pursued.

2. Social Protection and Humanitarian-Development nexus

Following the request of last SPIAC-B meeting, a joint statement had been prepared by a drafting team (DFID, UNICEF, FAO and WBG) for the World Humanitarian Summit “How linking social protection and humanitarian action can bridge the development-humanitarian divide”. To strengthen the development-humanitarian linkages, the statement focused on the further expansion and strengthening of social protection systems to continue to address chronic vulnerabilities and to scale up the utilization of social protection as a means of responding to shocks and protracted crises. The statement was well received and several SPIAC-B members represented at the WHS referred to the SPIAC-B statement in their agency statements.

DFAT presented an evaluation of the emergency cash intervention in Fiji following the impact of Cyclone Winston. The Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), a global partnership of 150 organisations in the humanitarian sector engaged in policy, practice and research within cash transfer programming (CTP), was invited to present their activities. Cash transfer programmes affects actors in both the humanitarian and the social protection community. All participants agreed that there is an increasing potential and demand to actively bridge both worlds, to work closer together in developing and implementing mechanisms. A World Bank Study “[The other side of the coin: the comparative evidence of cash and in-kind transfers in humanitarian situations](#)” examined what works and how it works with evidence from countries responding well to shocks.

Suggested action points:

- Proposal by UNICEF to organize an international conference to discuss in depth the role of Social Protection in humanitarian contexts. UNICEF highlighted the relevance to share evidence and good practices on what works in different contexts. Suggestions and inputs can be sent to Alex Yuster (ayuster@unicef.org).
- Proposal to develop pilot project (3-4 years; two countries) to design cash programming that addresses impacts of shocks (Contact: f.battistin@savethechildren.org.uk; concept note and consultant TORs circulated prior to meeting)

3. ISPA tools

The World Bank and ILO gave an update of the [Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment tools](#) (ISPA tools²) and the meeting of ISPA Executive Group that took place on September 21st. In 2 years there has been made substantive progress both in development of the tools and in country applications.³ ISPA has a growing demand from countries for these tools, as they are based on a collaboration across agencies to help craft a common vision for social protection systems. Despite this success, there is a funding gap! ISPA will need extra funding of at least \$894.000 to meet all requirements of the work plan agreed by the Executive Group (tools development and enhancement, knowledge sharing and learning, quality assurance, communication and dissemination, and reporting and accounting).

Suggested action points:

- To sustain its success ISPA will need extra funding (otherwise it should scale back).
- World Bank and ILO will prepare an information mail to be send to all country offices with the objective to disseminate and use the tools more at the country level. Internal trainings of country teams on the existing tools should be organized by all agencies.
- SPIAC-B members are invited to disseminate the tools internally and encourage their staff to use them in their SP activities. For support when applying ISPA tools, **contact info@ispatools.org**
- The development of new tools were suggested (Disabilities, MIS, Complains & Appeals, Cash transfers, Financing, SP Statistics for the implementation of the SDGs)

² A set of practical tools that help countries improve their social protection system by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and offering options for further action. The Executive Group includes WB, ILO, UNICEF, EC, Finland, France and GIZ who have all committed financial resources to ISPA and they all attend the semi-annual meetings.

³ Approved tools: **CODI** (Core Diagnostic Instrument - applied in Vietnam, Philippines, Belize ; partially applied in Oman, Kurdistan, Myanmar ; planned applications in Cameroon, Tanzania, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia) ; **PWP** (Public Works Programs - applied in Liberia, El Salvador, Tanzania, Senegal; partially applied in Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya, Cambodia, India); **Payments** (Indonesia, Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, Ukraine); **ID** (applied in Morocco and Peru). Tools under development: **FSN** (Food Security and Nutrition - planned to be piloted in Cambodia and Paraguay); **SPPOT-ABND** (Social Protection Policy Options Tools – Assessment Based National Dialogue - planned to be piloted in Togo and Namibia)

4. Knowledge sharing

- Finland and Helpage reported on the need for greater social accountability within social protection, including more efficiency in work plans, more relevant and coordinated interventions, inclusiveness, participation and transparency-
- UNICEF and FAO presented the book "[From Evidence to Action](#): The Story of Cash Transfers and Impact Evaluation in sub-Saharan Africa". The evidence of this research work (based on 8 African countries out of 10 countries in Transfer project) can be used for advocacy, to design or scale up programmes or can contribute to strategic policy decisions.
- Belgium informed the group about [AROPOLIS](#) (Academic Research Group for Policy Support), who published several studies related to [financing social protection systems](#).
- UNDP presented findings from their latest Social Protection Primer which contextualize social protection in the 2030 Agenda. Next steps in SDG monitoring, reporting and country work were discussed.
- IPC-UNDP gave an update of the knowledge-sharing platform www.socialprotection.org (currently financed by Australia and Germany) which was launched in September 2015 and has already 1447 members. Especially the webinars are very successful. As the platform is collectively owned by all SPIAC-B member organizations, we should all support it by sending updates and promoting the use of the platform within the agencies.
- ISPA is organizing a series of webinars in collaboration with socialprotection.org on different tools, their country applications and how to use them. SPIAC-B members are invited to disseminate the announcements and participate.
- Last, a non-SPAICB member, CGAP, was invited to present the graduation approach combining livelihoods, access to finance and safety nets for the poorest.

Next SPIAC-B meeting will be organized in the first Quarter of 2017 in Addis Ababa, hosted by the African Union.