

K. Strengthening social protection in Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP, jointly with the ECLAC, the ECA, and the ESCWA(\$749,400)

Background

57. Social protection has been increasingly recognized not only as an effective tool to provide security against various economic and social risks and vulnerabilities but also as a functional component of development strategies, including achieving gender equality, sustainable economic growth and reaching the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, social protection has been recognized as a fundamental instrument to face persistent problems with respect to poverty, income inequality and massive social exclusion. Social protection — besides the provision of health care and social security coverage — also refers to initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor, enhance their human capital, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized. This expansion in the concept of social protection has been accompanied by the use of a large variety of approaches and tools — including conditional cash and in kind transfer programmes — to meet differences in local conditions, target group, area of intervention, and delivery mechanism. At the same time, the persistence of regional and intra-national disparities in spite of sustained economic growth and the emergence of new risks and vulnerabilities call for new approaches to social protection.
58. The increasing economic volatility that affects most developing countries implies new economic and social risks that bring further challenges to social protection schemes. These challenges add up to the ones arising from urban poverty and formation and development of informal settlements. The structural changes in the risk and socio-demographic structure of societies call for new approaches based on the expansion of the realm and instruments traditionally covered by social protection. In this context, a new social framework must be formed with social rights as the normative horizon and existing inequalities and budgetary restrictions as the limiting factors.
59. There is, therefore, a need to review social protection schemes in order to extract lessons and knowledge to tackle these new challenges. Key issues relate to the need for increasing population coverage and quality of social protection schemes on health and social security in an ageing population context. Also, new and emerging issues must be addressed in the new social protection schemes, including the adverse consequences of climate change, the increase in food and energy prices, segregation in relation to technological progress, the growing role of the private sector in the provision of social services and its linkages with the public sector, political and administrative decentralization, as well as the outsourcing of services.
60. The project will focus on policies, approaches, strategies, processes and impact assessment of social protection initiatives in different regions. It will also develop regional knowledge management systems to provide support to national level initiatives, exchange of experiences, formulate capacity-building activities and document innovative practices.
61. ESCAP will take the lead in the identification of common interregional issues related to the new social challenges and to the formulation and implementation of social protection initiatives. It will also take the lead in the development of an online

database of policy options, strategies and good practices in social protection as well as training material. This work will be carried out in consultation with other regional commissions to ensure that key issues of all regions are reflected. National-level consultations will be conducted in selected countries in each region on innovative approaches to analysis, formulation and implementation of social protection initiatives. ESCAP will coordinate the work with ECA, ECLAC and ESCWA to conduct regional and national studies and to document innovative initiatives in their respective areas/regions. In addition, specialized agencies working on social protection, such as the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, will be invited to collaborate. Partnerships with civil society groups at the regional, subregional and national levels are also expected.

<p>Objective of the Organization: To strengthen social protection policies and programmes through the adoption of innovative tools and approaches to tackle emerging social challenges.</p>	<p>Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>General temporary assistance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consultants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">98.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">62.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractual services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">246.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expert groups</td> <td style="text-align: right;">87.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">45.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>200.0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">749.4</td> </tr> </table>	General temporary assistance	10.0	Consultants	98.0	Travel	62.0	Contractual services	246.4	Expert groups	87.5	Operating expenses	45.5	Workshops	<u>200.0</u>	Total	749.4
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<p>Relationship to the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 and the Millennium Development Goals: ESCAP subprogramme 6 (Social development); ECLAC subprogramme 4 (Social development and equity); ECA subprogramme 10 (Social development); and Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11.</p>																	

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Policymakers, practitioners and experts have improved knowledge and skills to design and manage effective and responsive social protection initiatives	(a) Increased percentage of participating policymakers, practitioners and experts indicating that they have improved knowledge and skills to design and manage effective and responsive social protection initiatives
(b) Enhanced awareness of policymakers of new social challenges, policy options, strategies and good practices in social protection	(b) Increased number of policymakers, practitioners and experts having access to information on new social challenges, policy options, strategies and good practices in social protection

Main activities

62. The main activities of the project will include:
- (a) Conducting regional and intraregional review and analysis of innovative practices in social protection (formal and informal, private and public); preparing a toolbox of approaches and instruments for social protection (including data collection, monitoring and evaluation tools) and developing training material for online and offline capacity-building on social protection;
 - (b) Convening an interregional meeting to identify common issues, such as development of linkages between social protection interventions, establishment of comprehensive coordinating mechanisms, and addressing financial challenges;

- (c) Conducting national-level consultations/workshops in eight countries, to be selected from the participating regions, on innovative approaches to analysis, formulation, and implementation of social protection initiatives;
- (d) Producing guidelines to social protection covering: scope of social protection, policy options including coordination between various social protection schemes, resource allocation and financing and monitoring approaches;
- (e) Conducting online interregional reviews on the promotion of social protection tools and approaches to catalyse systemic interventions on social protection;
- (f) Establishing an online resource facility on social protection with innovative practices, results of national consultations, training materials and other promotion materials.

L. Capacity building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia		
Implementing entities: ESCWA, in collaboration with ECA, ESCAP and DESA		Duration: 2011– 2014
Objective To build capacity of policymakers, civil society and the private sector in the field of renewable energy technologies to enhance energy security and improve access to energy services in the poor rural areas.		
Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)	Detailed budget (US dollars)	
GTA 80.0	General Temporary Assistance Temporary assistance (in support of activities (a) to (e)) (40 work months x \$2,000 per month)	80 000
Consultants 62.0	Consultants	
Travel 48.0	<u>International consultants</u>	
Contractual Services 19.2	International consultants (in support of activities (a), (b) and (c)) (6 work months x \$6,000 per month) and (\$15,000 for consultant(s) travel)	51 000
Operating expenses 15.0	External evaluator to evaluate the project after its completion: estimated at 2% of total cost of the project	11 000
Workshops <u>323.0</u>		
Total 547.2		
	Travel	
	<u>DESA Staff</u>	
	Participants in the inception meeting, one evaluation visit (in support of activities (a), (b), and (c)) (\$6,000 per person x 4 persons)	24 000
	<u>Regional Commissions' staff/ other UN staff</u>	
	UNESCWA, UNECA, UNESCO, UNIDO staff participating as resource persons in the inception meeting, one evaluation visit, and one regional workshop (in support of activities (a) to (d)) (\$4,000 per person x 6 persons)	24 000
	Contractual Services	
	Contractual Services in support of all activities (\$19,200)	19 200
	Operating expenses	
	(Communications (\$7,500) and printing reports (\$7,500) (in support of activities (b), (c), (d) and (e))	15 000
	Seminars and Workshops	
	1 regional workshop (in support of activity (d)) (1 workshop x \$2,000 per participant x 20 participants)	40 000
	1 national training workshop for LGA of 15 rural municipalities (in support of activity (e)) (\$800 per participant x 30 participants)	24 000
	Regional training on the Design and installation of pilot models of the different Renewable Energy Technologies (depending on funds raised through other venues, this could include fuel cell with an	259 000

	electrolyser; different 10-25 kW wind turbine design rig, small hydro power (SHP) development demonstration, thermal solar collector test bench and PV cells with pumps combo demo, a solar chillers rig, among others) (in support of activities (b) and (c))	
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