

# Interlinkages Between Systems of Social Protection, Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure

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# Background

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- In 2018, a mandate was given by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Social Security Organization (SOCSO) to initiate work towards the consolidation of social protection programs in the country
- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Social Security Organization (SOCSO) – 2 organizations providing social insurance in Malaysia, act as the main coordinators of this initiative
- Other relevant agencies such as Retirement Fund Incorporated (KWAP), Central Bank of Malaysia (BNM), Khazanah Research Institute and Social Wellbeing Research Centre are also invited as part of the working group to start the preparatory work
- A national consultation on the blueprint was held on 28 and 29 November 2018 involving relevant ministries and agencies. This was to introduce the initiative and gather their opinions on the direction of the blueprint

# Baseline scenarios of social protection in Malaysia

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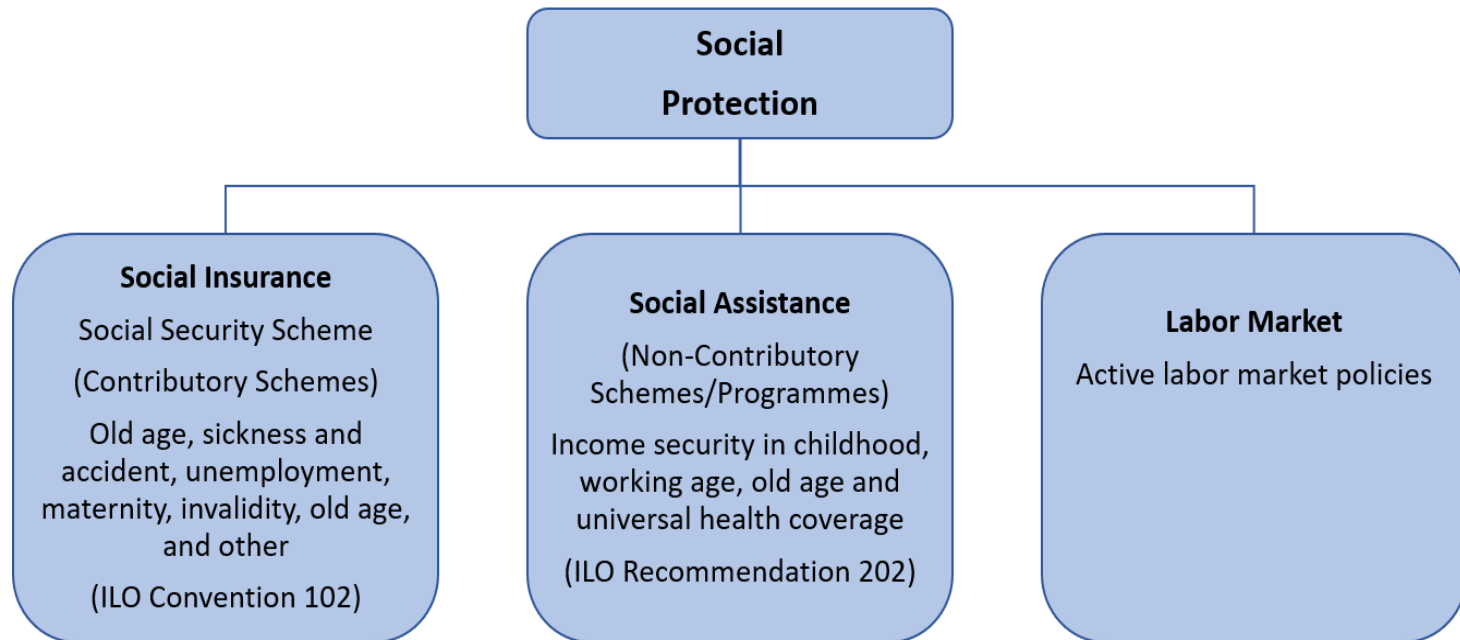
- Economic growth is at a steady pace but inequality has worsened since 1990
- Absence of a social protection parent policy
- Too fragmented social protection programs with more than 110 programs under more than 20 ministries and agencies
- Inadequacy of assistance and coverage by available programs
- Targeting complexity and high levels of exclusion

# Social protection definition

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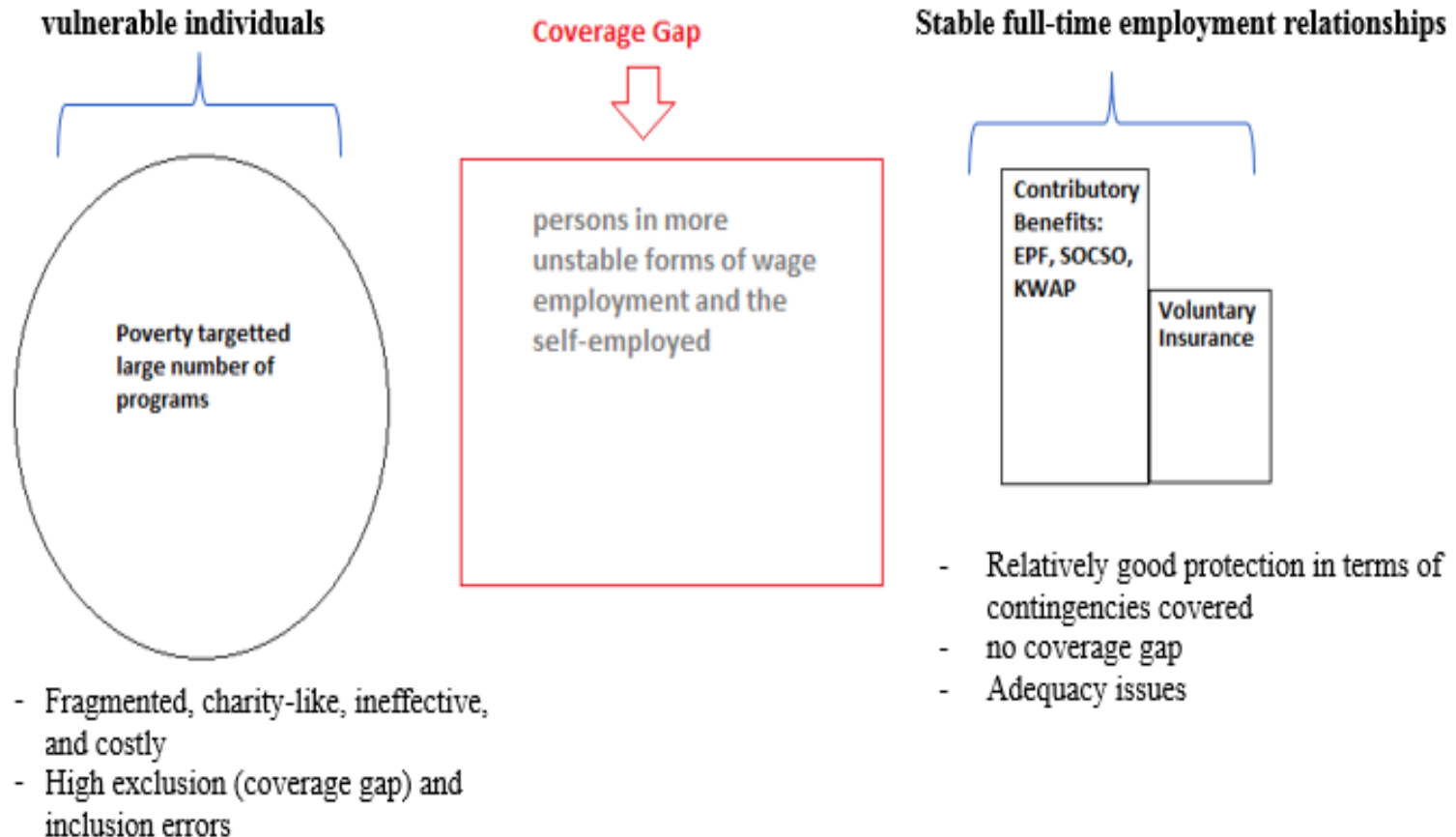
Social protection is generally understood as the combining of social insurance – i.e. contributory forms of social provisioning and social assistance - i.e. transfers covering much of the population, and generally funded by public sources

## Main components of social protection



# Gaps in social protection coverage

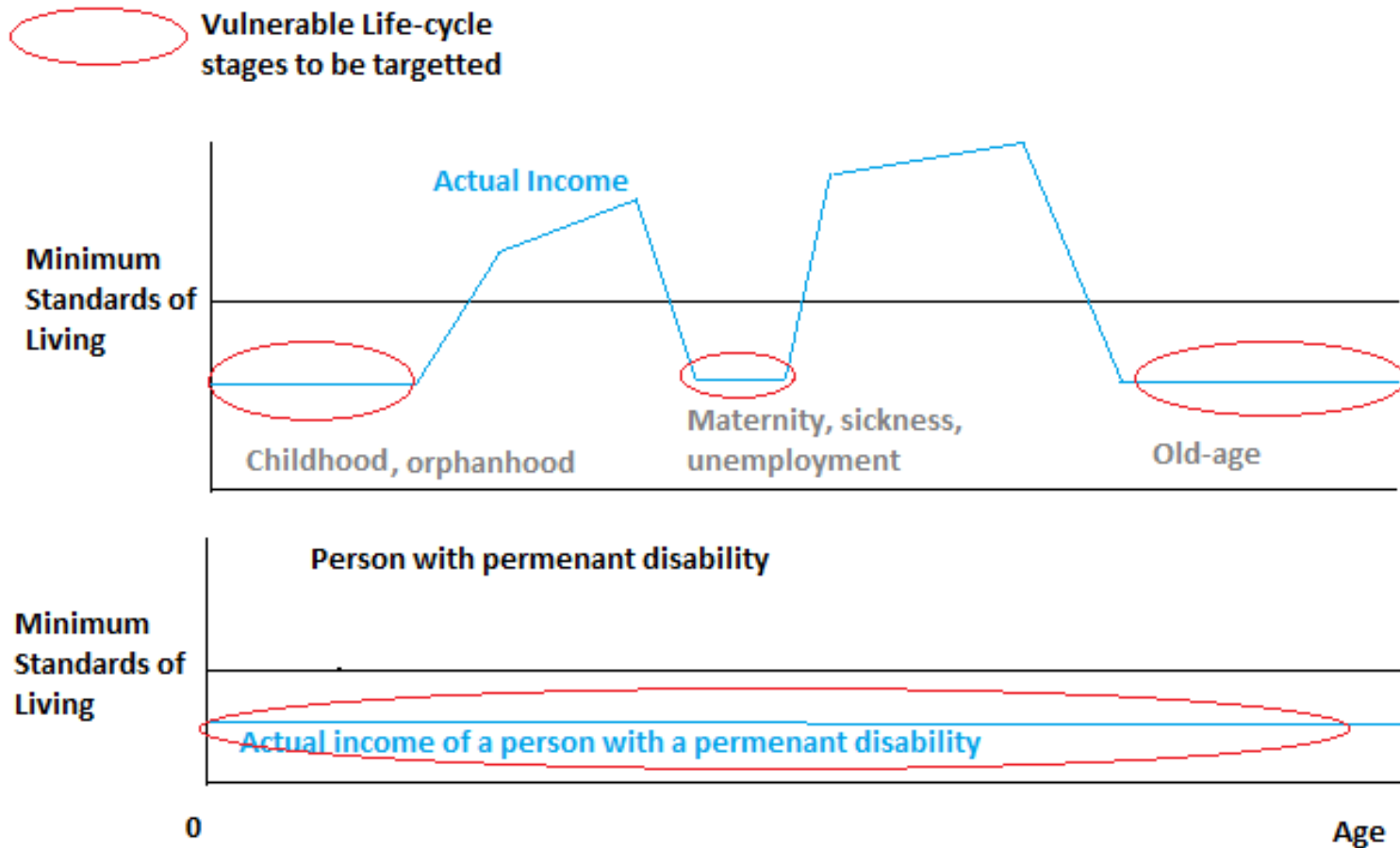
## Social protection coverage in Malaysia at two poles



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*Social protection should not be  
at the expense of providing  
basic public services, physical  
infrastructure, healthcare  
services and education*

# Different stages of vulnerability



# Integrated social protection system

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## Recommendations:

- Shift from poverty targeting social assistance approach to a developmental model
  - Consolidate all fragmented programs into a life-cycle social protection floor
  - Target life-cycle associated risks such as childhood, maternity and old age coupled with risks of disability and orphanhood with social assistance – **this will lead to the empowerment of women and children**
  - Ensures that vulnerability is not transmitted from one stage to the next



# Integrated social protection system

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## Recommendations (cont):

- Administrative simplicity and efficiency
  - To ensure easy access to programs, the blueprint working group has engaged with the National Registration Department to establish a unified database system by optimizing the usage of the unique MyKad national identification
  - The report is mindful of the physical limitation of Malaysians in accessing the benefits – hence, intends to propose an innovative “beneficiary-centred” service

# Challenges

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- Bureaucratic ills
  - Fragmentation due to programs administered by different ministries requires bringing them together to work as the concept of whole government
- Political will
  - Getting the buy in from the government and government agencies, and breaking away from the mindset of welfare and charity to solidarity
- Legislation
  - The absence of a social protection act indicates there is no guarantee of protection

**THANK YOU**