

**Interregional Expert Group Meeting on the Social Protection Toolbox: Good Practices
for Enhancing and Expanding Coverage
17-18 October 2013
Bangkok**

**Social Protection Toolbox
Concept Note**

This document is intended to facilitate the deliberations during agenda item 2. Participants are encouraged to discuss and provide feedback on the concept and functions of the Social Protection Toolbox.

Background

The Social Protection Toolbox is the main output of an interregional UN project on “Strengthening social protection.” The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is leading the project in cooperation with three other Regional Commissions of the United Nations, namely: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

The Toolbox is an on-line platform that aims to support policymakers and stakeholders in their endeavors to build broader and more robust social protection systems. By providing access to both good practices that can be used as a basis for improving upon existing schemes and a network of experts to promote dialogue, the Toolbox seeks to facilitate the building of consensus in “moving forward” toward broader coverage.

The following characteristics more specifically situate the scope and purpose of the Toolbox.

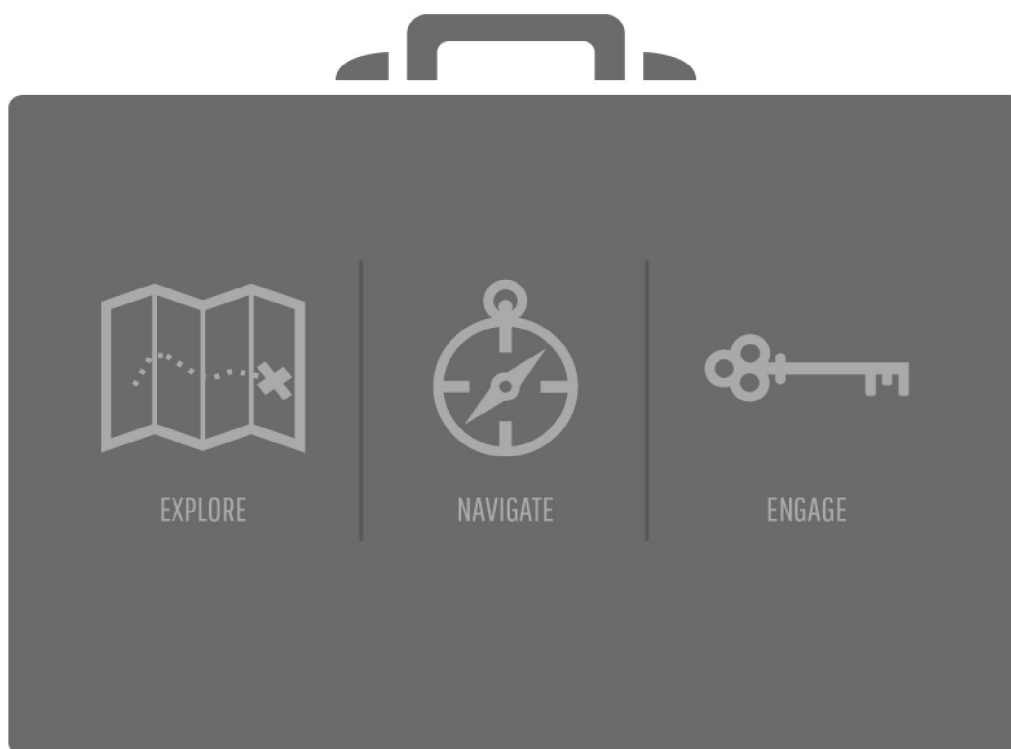
- ✓ The Toolbox aims to generate political commitments and consensus on the importance of expanding and enhancing social protection as an integral part of sustainable and inclusive development.
- ✓ The Toolbox focuses on the challenges and opportunities of expanding and enhancing social protection coverage in developing countries, including least developed, small-island and landlocked developing states.
- ✓ Working within the Social Protection Floor (SPF) framework, the Toolbox gives pride of place to universal provision of essential health care and income security

for all persons along the life-course (children, working-age and older persons). The SPF framework promotes the implementation of a guaranteed basic social protection package for all. Broader coverage is thus understood as moving away from multiple and fragmented approaches that see social protection as short term social safety nets for certain groups and toward more comprehensive and proactive approaches.

- ✓ The Toolbox is currently oriented by the principle of South-South cooperation. It facilitates the sharing of experiences between regions and countries of similar socio-economic conditions.
- ✓ Using multimedia and data visualization techniques, the Toolbox aims to present the argument for strengthening and broadening social protection in streamlined, user-friendly, and interactive fashion. It thus provides users with a point of departure for navigating the complex – and at times fragmented – nature of social protection policy.
- ✓ The target audience are policymakers from government ministries in developing countries involved in the formulation of social protection policies, as well as relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, research and academic institutions, international organizations and donors.

The Toolbox is structured around three modules, as depicted below in Figure 1.

Figure 1
Structure of the Toolbox



Explore

This module is centered on an interactive multimedia presentation which encourages users to “explore” three aspects of social protection: The case is made for social protection through a survey of social and economic challenges faced by the different regions – Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia. The key concepts of social protection are then elucidated and a timeline is provided depicting how social protection has come to emerge as a prominent development paradigm. Lastly, the perspectives of policymakers, civil society and researchers on enhancing and expanding social protection are presented.

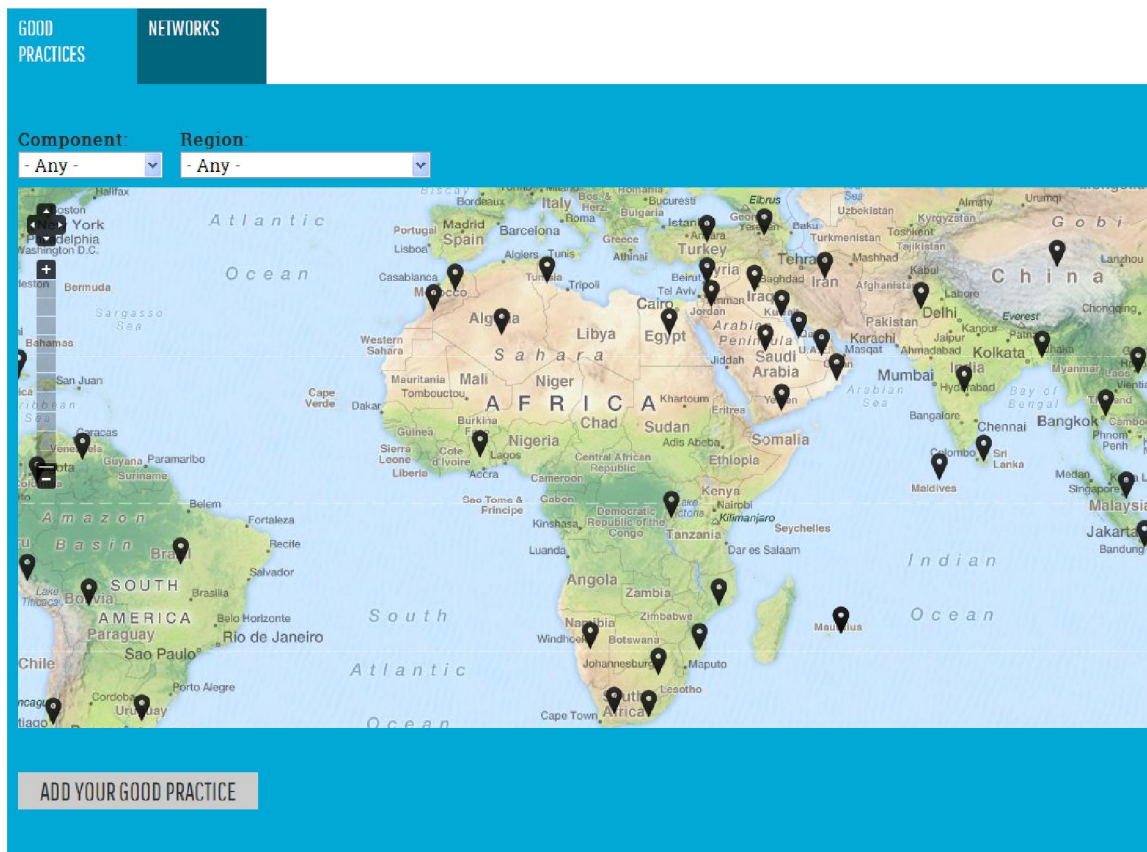
Figure 2
Presentation on social protection



Navigate

This module of the toolbox provides users with access to two separate databases, both accessible through an easy-to-navigate and interactive mapping utility: The first map allows users to navigate a world of good practices and learn from what others in the region and around the world are doing to strengthen their social protection systems. This map is currently populated with over 60 good practices in social protection, drawing from more than 50 countries around the world. The second map provides access to a geographical representation of institutions and specialists working in the area of social protection within national governments, civil society organizations, research institutions and international organizations.

Figure 3
Mapping of good practices



Engage

This module enables users to identify social protection coverage gaps within a national context and receive tailored good practices as a basis for moving toward broader and more robust coverage. Users will begin by defining the level of social protection coverage in a national situation within the SPF framework. Specifically they will determine the present coverage level across four components: social services in the area of “Health”; and income security for “Children,” “Working age,” and “Older persons.” A series of control questions concerning vulnerable groups will verify coverage levels for each of the components.

A pie chart visualizing gaps in coverage and a summary of the assessment will be generated. Lastly, a good practice tailored for the specific level and region for each of the four components will be provided. Analogous good practices for the other regions will also be made available.

Figure 4
Assessment interface

How broad is social protection coverage in your country?



The image displays the assessment interface. On the left is a circular progress indicator with four segments labeled 'HEALTH', 'CHILDREN', 'WORKING AGE', and 'OLDER PERSONS'. The 'HEALTH' segment is highlighted in green, while the others are in shades of blue. On the right is a selection screen with a header bar containing four tabs: 'HEALTH' (selected), 'CHILDREN', 'WORKING AGE', and 'OLDER PERSONS'. Below the tabs, the text reads 'Select the scenario that best describes access to health care in your country:'. There are four radio button options: 'All residents have access to essential health care services supported by the State.', 'Not all residents have access to effective health coverage schemes.', 'Constitutional provisions or legislation entitles residents to health coverage, but schemes not currently implemented.', and 'Only private health care is available.' The first option is selected.

HEALTH CHILDREN WORKING AGE OLDER PERSONS

Select the scenario that best describes access to health care in your country:

- ☐ All residents have access to essential health care services supported by the State.
- ☐ Not all residents have access to effective health coverage schemes.
- ☐ Constitutional provisions or legislation entitles residents to health coverage, but schemes not currently implemented.
- ☒ Only private health care is available.

NEXT