

Concept Note - "Implementing and Financing Social Protection: Finding the Political Will"

Wednesday, March 20, 2019-3:00 pm-4:15pm, Conference Room A, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background:

With the adoption of the Agenda 2030 in 2015, Member States committed to “end poverty in all its forms and everywhere” (Goal 1) and to “reduce inequality within and among countries” (Goal 10). Social protection systems are listed as targets to meet to realize both of these goals. 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development also includes a strong commitment to “deliver social protection and essential public services for all” and to “provide fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors” (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, paragraph 12). Social protection for all migrants, refugees and asylum seekers is a human right and central to the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. Of particular importance to implementation of effective good policies and programs is a gender and child sensitive lens.

Establishing effective social protection systems including floors that will address labor constraints, boost household livelihood investments, generate productive opportunities for women and future generation are crucial to achieving the SDGs, especially considering the direct linkage that 11 of the SDGs and 27 targets have to social protection. Women’s human rights to income security through adequate and rights-based social protection need to be ensured, notably by ensuring that the necessary fiscal space be put in place to this end. While lack of adequate finances at the national level is frequently cited as an impediment to implementing social protection systems, the lack of political will to put in place the necessary checks and balances to recoup funds being lost through tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows is not given the highest priority.

Objective of the Event:

The objective of this side-event is to address the challenges to implementing social protection systems including floors, and to increase understanding of how women- and child-sensitive social protection - including in a migration context - will empower women, promote gender equality, and contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

¹ The Joint Advocacy Group on Social Protection is a civil society led advocacy group comprised of the NGO Committee on Social Development, the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and the NGO Committee on Migration

The panel information:

- **MOHIBUL HASSAN CHOWDHURY, M.P - Honorable Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Bangladesh** - will share their experiences where political will at the highest level has led to action taken at the national level to effectively address implementation challenges.
- **GRIET CATTART, Programme Officer, ILO Office for the United Nations** - will share measures being taken to address the coverage gaps and financial challenges
- **VIRGINIE CHARVON, Volunteer Corps Member, ATD Fourth World** – will offer a narrative account of her experience accompanying a woman living in extreme poverty in Burkina Faso and the lessons learned about the conditions needed for livelihood programs to be impactful.
- **KELSEY DALRYMPLE, Education in emergencies Specialist, iACTIVISM** – will share experiences from working with refugee populations in Chad, Tanzania and Cameroon, the importance of a refugee-led approach to social protective programming for refugee and migrant women and children, and recommendations for ways forward.
- **GEMMA ADABA, Council of Global Unions/Solidarity Center - Representative to the United Nations** - will focus on the importance of social protection provisioning for working women including migrant women, the constraints they face in accessing social protection, and the need to factor these considerations into financing, policy-making, and service delivery of social protection.

Moderator: ANITA THOMAS, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development; Representative to the United Nations, VGIF