

**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.

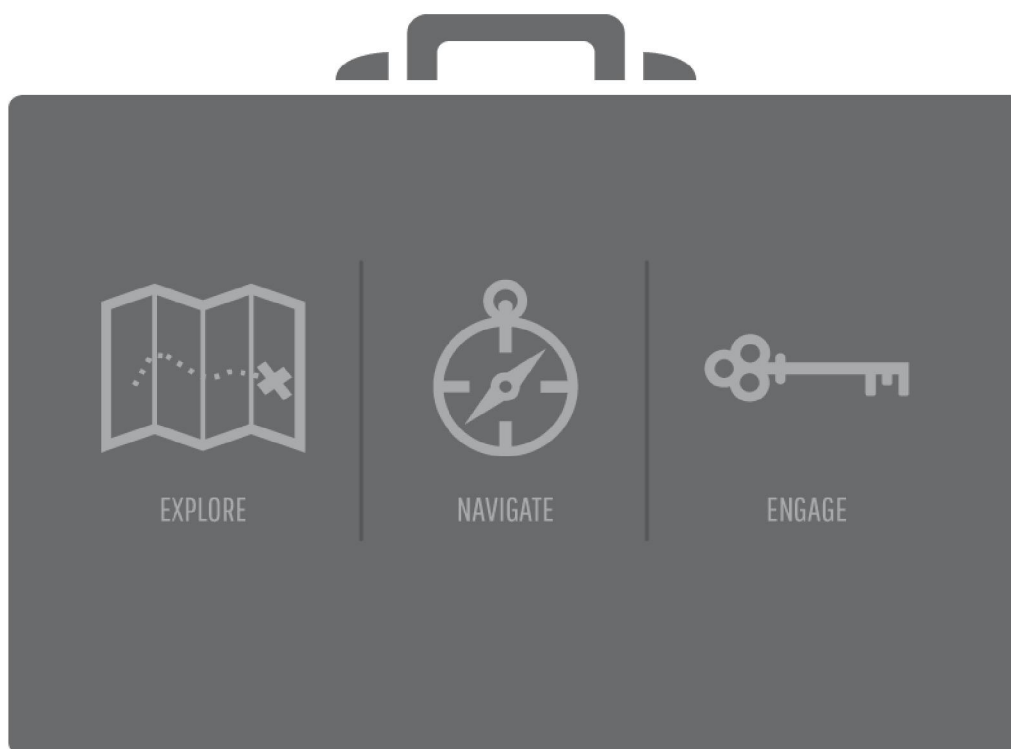
- v The Toolbox aims to generate political commitments and consensus on the importance of expanding and enhancing social protection as an integral part of sustainable and inclusive development.
- v The Toolbox focuses on the challenges and opportunities of expanding and enhancing social protection coverage in developing countries, including least developed, small-island and landlocked developing states.
- v 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.

- v 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.
- v 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.
- v 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.

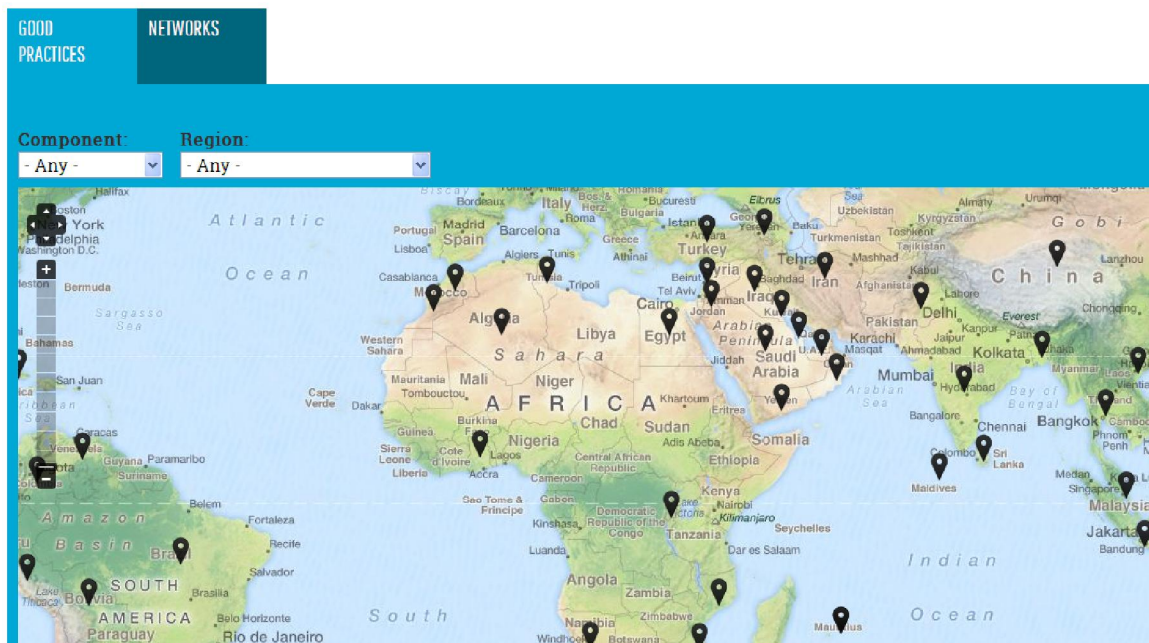
Figure 2
Presentation on social protection



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



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