Issue-based Coalition on Social Protection in Europe and Central Asia:

Terms of Reference (February 2021)

1. Background and justification

Recalling the March 2014 joint UNDG-ILO letter calling upon UNCTs and UNRCs to step up UN-wide efforts to implement social protection floors, and in response to repeated appeals, including the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) established in 2009 by the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB), for improved coordination among implementing UN agencies, an Issue Based Coalition on Social Protection in Europe and Central Asia has been created.

Social protection is a priority in the Europe and Central Asia region because of persistent gaps in coverage and quality, and growing inequalities and disparities, despite longstanding social protection systems inherited from the Soviet and Yugoslav systems.[1] To date, reforms to social protection systems in the region have been very fragmented, often concentrating on one element of social protection (e.g. pension systems) in isolation from others, and often not based on sound evidence of minimum living standards. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has reinforced the critical role of national social protection systems as an automatic stabilizer and key component of crisis preparedness as well as the importance of the resilience of social protection systems in response to shocks. It has also illuminated continuing gaps in coverage, policy, coordination, financing, and operational systems.

Our work should always be guided by international standards. In the area of social protection, the foremost framework that was endorsed by the UN CEB in 2009 and UN Member States is that of the social protection floor. This led to the adoption of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), by all ILO members States in 2012, and the inclusion of social protection and floors as part of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 1.3. It is, therefore, increasingly important that UN social protection activities at the country level be aligned with the social protection floor framework.

Coordination and collaboration is needed when supporting governments in the development and implementation of national social protection strategies and policies. Such approach will allow UN Teams to offer integrated solutions, enabling social protection systems to effectively protect and empower vulnerable sections of population and support structural transformation of the systems towards an equalizing, greener and more sustainable way of living .

In Europe and Central Asia, non-UN organizations play a large role in influencing social protection reforms. For the UN to ensure that a rights-based approach to social protection is well reflected in reforms in the region, agencies need to unite around a common vision and approach in their advisory

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[1] The same can be said for Albania, which had made important progress in developing comprehensive social protection systems prior to 1990. Turkey, by contrast, fits the more standard developing country narrative, characterized by relatively large income inequalities, traditional social cleavages, large informal sectors, and significant issues concerning access to the labour market and key social services. On the other hand, Turkey's rapid socio-economic development in the last 10-15 years has made possible significant progress in social protection, particularly in terms health care.

and assistance services provided. A coherent UN position allows the organisation to operate as a formidable partner and interlocutor with governments and other development actors.

2. Main Goal and Objectives

This IBC aims to (1) support coordinated country work (e.g., through the development of a results-oriented joint vision[2] at the regional level, technical support, and knowledge sharing); and (2) contribute to UN reform.

3. Activities

To achieve these objectives the IBC will undertake the following activities:

- **Support for in-country activities** - The IBC will provide integrated technical support through the development of practical tools and direct assistance, including through technical missions, to results groups and UNCTs in country in their efforts to support social protection reforms while focusing on collaborative approaches. Specific support activities include:
    - Provision of expertise to guide diagnostics and dialogues as a basis for consensus (among UN agencies, and with government partners) on priority policy areas and actions. This may include UNSDCF preparations, development of COVID-19 Socio-economic impact assessments and response plans, joint SDG programmes, systems assessments (e.g. ISPA diagnostic tools), VNRs and national SDG dialogues amongst others.
    - Fostering south-south exchange, sharing of experience, etc.
    - Guiding positions on big emerging issues with potential impact on social protection systems (e.g. migration, demographics and aging).

- **Knowledge development and sharing** - The IBC will document ongoing UN collaboration efforts and good practices to expand and improve social protection in the region. These knowledge products will be disseminated via a variety of channels (websites, social networks and blogs) also including seminars and trainings organized by the UN system.
- **Common regional positions and advocacy** – The IBC develops regional definitions and common positions on social protection, relevant to the context and needs of the ECA region. https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action;jsessionid=iU5sWep4hPdrkreNd0H1BAjOq6S0jdcyqKi20rumf3D9b2i-nAbz!1205498938?id=55259

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[2] The development of a joint vision at the regional level seeks to harmonize social protection definitions and operational language used by implementing agencies, to give the same orientation to all UN work on social protection and to delineate the scope of in-country collaboration on social protection in the region.

Note: The IBC does not engage in operational activities, resource mobilization for programmes or projects, nor in the implementation thereof. All types of support services provided by the IBC to UNCTs are request based.

4. Typology of activities / *Menu of Services*

Issue	IBC Resource People, Tools and Knowledge Products
By Theme	
COVID-19	COVID-19 and social protection in Europe and Central Asia. IBC Discussion Paper, 2020. https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action?id=56790 Supporting families and children beyond COVID-19: Social protection in Southern and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. (UNICEF 2020) https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/1139-supporting-families-and-children-beyond-covid-19-in-eca-countries.html COVID-19 and the countries of South Caucasus, Western CIS and Ukraine Implications for Business Support, Employment and Social Protection Policies and Programming for Sustainability (UNDP, 2021) (Shortly to be available online; now available on request from Vesna Djuteska Bisheva, vesna.bisheva@undp.org) COVID-19 and Central Asia: Socio-economic impacts and key policy considerations for recovery https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/sustainable-development/covid19-and-central-asia.html
Disability-sensitive social protection	UNDP toolkit on disability inclusive development: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/human_rights/disability-inclusive-development-in-undp.html UNDP Regional Human Development Report 2011. Beyond Transition: Towards Inclusive Societies UNICEF. Inclusive Social Protection Systems for Children with Disabilities (2019) https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/inclusive-social-protection-systems-children-disabilities
Family friendly policies	Family friendly policies: Redesigning the workplace of the future (UNICEF 2019), with accompanying evidence briefs, global survey of business policy, and global guide on breastfeeding support in the workplace. https://www.unicef.org/early-childhood-development/family-friendly-policies Are the world's richest countries family friendly? Policy in the OECD and the EU. (UNICEF 2019) https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/1032-family-friendly-policy-research-report-2019.html

Gender-sensitive social protection	UNICEF – Gender-Responsive and Age-Sensitive Social Protection Programme (Global). https://www.unicef-irc.org/research/gender-responsive-and-age-sensitive-social-protection/
Health and Social Protection	WHO The European Health Equity Status Report (forthcoming 2019):
Informality/Social protection in the informal sector	Extending social security to the informal economy – Evidence from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Moldova. ILO 2016. https://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS_532422/lang--en/index.htm
Migration and Displacement	Social protection for children and families in the context of migration and displacement during COVID-19. (UNICEF 2020). https://www.unicef.org/media/83531/file/Social-Protection-for-Children-and-Families-in-the-Context-of-Migration-and-Displacement-during-COVID-19.pdf
Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection	Nutrition and Social Protection. FAO 2015 http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4819e.pdf

Strengthening Sector Policies for Better Food Security Results. How can social protection policies and programmes contribute to improving food security and nutrition outcomes? Policy Guidance Note. FAO and EU DEVCO 2017: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7216e.pdf

WFP school feeding programmes: https://www.wfp.org/school-meals |
| Pension reform, including pensions for older people | The ILO Pension Primer https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowWiki.action?id=63
The ILO multi-pillar pension model: Building equitable and sustainable pension systems. ILO 2018. https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action?id=55234
Challenges in long term care of the elderly in Central and Eastern Europe. ILO 2016. https://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS_532427/lang--en/index.htm
Reversing pension privatization in Kazakhstan. ILO 2018 https://www.ilo.org/secsoc/information-resources/publications-and-tools/Workingpapers/WCMS_648633/lang--en/index.htm
Reversing pension privatizations: rebuilding public pension systems in Eastern Europe and Latin American Countries (2000-18). ILO 2018 https://www.ilo.org/secsoc/information-resources/publications-and-tools/books-and-reports/WCMS_648574/lang--en/index.htm
Financial Sustainability of State Pension Funds: The Case of Azerbaijan (2017); available on request from ben.slay@undp.org.
ILO reactions to recent WB proposals for new approaches to state insurance schemes www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_646884/lang--en/index.htm

WHO: Evidence, Policy Options and Indicators to Reduce inequities in health in later life (2019) |

	https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/403708/20190527-h1025-life-course-later-life-en.pdf?ua=1
Shock Responsive/Adaptive Social Protection	UNICEF. Programme Guidance: Strengthening Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems (2019) https://www.unicef.org/documents/programme-guidance-strengthening-shock-responsive-social-protection-systems UNICEF Supporting National Social Protection Systems to Respond in Times of Crisis. Case Study of Kyrgyzstan (2019). https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/supporting-national-social-protection-systems-respond-times-crisis UNICEF Approaches to Providing Cash Based Assistance in Protracted Crises. Lessons from Turkey (2019). https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/supporting-national-social-protection-systems-respond-times-crisis Resilience, humanitarian assistance and social protection for children in Europe and Central Asia - Social Protection Regional Issue Brief: 2 (2017). https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/resilience-humanitarian-assistance-and-social-protection-children-europe-and-central-asia Preparing Social Protection Systems for Shock Response: A Case Study of UNICEF's Experiences in Tajikistan. (2021). https://www.unicef.org/eca/media/14831/file FAO. Supporting Livelihoods in protracted crisis and in fragile and humanitarian contexts. 2017 : http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7606e.pdf FAO. Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook. Module on Social protection http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/enabling-frameworks/module-c7-social-protection/c7-overview/en/ Resilience, humanitarian assistance and social protection for children in Europe and Central Asia. Social Protection Issue Brief 2. (2017) https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/resilience-humanitarian-assistance-and-social-protection-children-europe-and-central-asia ILO web page for links between social protection and climate change Greening with Jobs. World Employment Social Outlook. (2018). See chapter 4 on Protecting Workers and the Environment. https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_628654/lang--en/index.htm WFP Climate Risks and Food Security in Tajikistan (2017) https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000015482/download/?_ga=2.39871082.992628817.1543334479-386439141.1542269448
Social Support and Care Services	UNICEF. Supporting Families and Providing Early Childhood Education and Care in Europe and Central Asia.

	https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/supporting-families-and-providing-early-childhood-education-and-care-europe-and-central
Universal basic incomes, including universal child grants	ILO and UNICEF joint report. Towards universal social protection for children: achieving SDG1.3 (2019) https://www.ilo.org/secsoc/information-resources/publications-and-tools/books-and-reports/WCMS_669336/lang--en/index.htm Child Benefits in Central and Eastern Europe - A comparative review. ILO 2016. https://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS_532424/lang--en/index.htm UNICEF. Universal Child Benefits in Europe and Central Asia (2020) https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/universal-child-benefits-europe-and-central-asia UNICEF. Universal Child Benefits: Policy issues and Benefits (2020) https://www.unicef.org/reports/universal-child-benefits-2020 Temporary Basic Income (TBI) – Protecting Poor and Vulnerable People in Developing Countries https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/transitions-series/temporary-basic-income--tbi--for-developing-countries.html WHO: Universal basic income policies and their potential for addressing health inequities: Transformative approaches to a healthy, prosperous life for all (2019) https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/social-determinants/publications/2019/universal-basic-income-policies-and-their-potential-for-addressing-health-inequities-transformative-approaches-to-a-healthy,-prosperous-life-for-all-2019 WHO: - Evidence, Policy Options and Indicators to Reduce inequities in health in early years, childhood and adolescence (2020) https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/social-determinants/publications/2020/reducing-inequities-in-health-across-the-life-course.-early-years,-childhood-and-adolescence-2020
Violence, support to victims of and prevention and response to violence against women and children	Inter-Agency Global Package of Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. Modules on Health, Justice and Policing, Social Services, Coordination and Governance of Coordination. Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. 2015. https://www.unfpa.org/featured-publication/gbvie-standards EECA RO Standard Operating Procedures developed by UNFPA and the East European Institute for Reproductive Health. SOPS for Health Care Services Provision, Police Services Provision, Psycho-social services provision. WHO: WHO Guidelines for the health sector response to child maltreatment https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-guidelines-for-the-health-sector-response-to-child-maltreatment

	WHO: Responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241550147 WHO: Toolkit on mapping legal, health and social services responses to child maltreatment https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/toolkit-on-mapping-legal-health-and-social-services-responses-to-child-maltreatment WHO: INSPIRE: Seven strategies for Ending Violence Against Children https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/inspire-seven-strategies-for-ending-violence-against-children WHO: INSPIRE Handbook: action for implementing the seven strategies for ending violence against children https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/inspire-handbook-action-for-implementing-the-seven-strategies-for-ending-violence-against-children WHO: Caring for women subjected to violence: a WHO curriculum for training health-care providers https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241517102 WHO: RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-RHR-18.19 WHO: Strengthening health systems to respond to women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241513005 WHO: Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241548595
Working-age populations	Innovative approaches for ensuring universal social protection for the future of work. ILO Future of Work Research Paper Series, ILO 2018 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---cabinet/documents/publication/wcms_629864.pdf
Access to social protection as a determinant of health status and health inequities	WHO: Report on Health Prosperous Lives for All in the WHO European Region - the European Health Equity Status Report (2019) http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/health-equity-status-report-2019 Health Equity Policy Tool (section 2.: Income security and social protection) https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/social-determinants/publications/2019/health-equity-policy-tool-2019
Housing and Fuel Security Bonn	WHO Regional Office for Europe (2019). Second Assessment report on environmental health inequalities in Europe. (https://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/environmental-health-inequalities-in-europe.-second-assessment-report-2019) WHO Regional Office for Europe (2019). Environmental health inequalities resource package. (https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/health-impact-assessment/publications/2019/environmental-health-inequalities-resource-package)

	WHO Regional Office for Europe / UNECE (2019). The human rights to water and sanitation in practice: Findings and lessons learned from the work on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health in the pan-European region (https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/human-rights-water-and-sanitation-practice-findings-and-lessons) WHO Regional Office for Europe / UNECE (2016). Guidance note on the development of action plans to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation (https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/guidance-note-development-action-plans-ensure-equitable-access) WHO Regional Office for Europe / UNECE (2014). The equitable access score-card: A tool to achieve the human right to water and sanitation (https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/third-session-meeting-parties-protocol-water-and-health/equitable-access-score-card-supporting-policy-process-achieve-human-right-water-and-sanitation) WHO Regional Office for Europe / UNECE (2012). No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region (https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/third-session-meeting-parties-protocol-water-and-health/no-one-left-behind)
By Operational Area	

Administrative systems	Integrated Social Protection Systems. UNICEF Social Protection Strategic Framework. https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-social-protection-programme-framework-2019
	Common Ground: UNICEF and World Bank Approaches to Building Social Protection Systems (2013) https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_67993.html
	
	Technical Reports from UNDP/ILO project on Promoting Inclusive Labour Markets in the Western Balkans:
	  • Comparative Report on Integrated Case Management for Employment and Social Welfare Users in the Western Balkans (2018)
	  • Integrated Case Management of Employment and Social Welfare Users in the Western Balkans – Guidelines and Good Practices (2018)
	(Both shortly to be available online; these and ppt now available on request from Vesna Djuteska Bisheva, vesna.bisheva@undp.org.)
	
	WHO: Social Participation Toolkit (2016 https://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/toolkit-on-social-participation.-methods-and-techniques-for-ensuring-the-social-participation-of-roma-populations-and-other-social-groups-in-the-design,-implementation,-monitoring-and-evaluation-of-policies-and-programmes-to-improve-their-health-2016

Diagnostics, Data, and Monitoring	ISPA Core Diagnostics Instrument (CODI)) http://ispatools.org/ Social Protection Assessment-Based National Dialogues: A global guide. ILO 2015 https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action?ressource.ressourceId=53462 UNICEF Social Monitor Regional Report. (2015) https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org.eca/files/2017-10/Social_Monitor_Regional_Report.pdf WHO: (2019) WHO Europe Health Equity Interactive Online Platform – health inequity status trends and coverage and investment in policies to reduce inequities including income, housing, health and employment inequities https://whoeurope.shinyapps.io/health_equity_dataset/
Financing	ILO online tool for calculating the cost of social protection floors, as a share of GDP, https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/SPFCalculReport.action; ILO Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review, https://www.ilo.org/secsoc/areas-of-work/statistical-knowledge-base/WCMS_206081/lang--en/index.htm Fiscal Space for Social Protection and the SDGs: Options to Expand Social Investments in 187 Countries. ILO 2017 https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action?id=51537
SDGs	ILO online UN System Staff College course on Social Protection for Sustainable Development, a (fee-based) 5 week tutored course covering: • Week 1: Basics of social protection; • Week 2: Social protection and the 2030 Agenda; • Week 3: Global trends and good practices in extending social protection; • Week 4: Designing and implementing social protection systems; • Week 5: Tools at our fingertips. UNDP: Leaving No-One Behind: A Social Protection Primer for Practitioners (2016) http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/-leaving-no-one-behind--a-social-protection-primer-for-practitio.html ILO Baseline data for SDG 1.3.1 https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/Wspr.action, and details on the Social Security Inquiry methodology at: https://www.ilo.org/gimi/gess/RessourcePDF.do?id=6622 World Social Protection Report 2017-2019. ILO 2017 (available in Russian) https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowWiki.action?id=594

All types of support services provided by the IBC to UNCTs are request based.

5. Composition

Membership of the steering committee is comprised of a core group of regional representatives from participating agencies. For agencies to participate in the steering committee, they must meet all of the following criteria:

1- Institutional mandate including social protection activities, with accompanying knowledge and expertise in the area of social protection;

2- Human and financial resources dedicated to the extension of social protection in Europe and Central Asia;

3- Ongoing and relevant activities in social protection in several ECA countries that lend themselves to UN wide collaboration.

The full IBC will be composed of regional, sub-regional and country experts. Participation from all of these levels is required to achieve the objectives of the IBC. The regional and sub-regional experts are nominated by the regional directors of their respective agencies, while the country experts are identified by UNRCs in consultation with UNCTs in their respective countries (i.e. those experts identified as most active on social protection in the countries).

As needed, and recognizing the cross-sectoral nature of social protection, *ad hoc* participation by other agencies and individuals is also envisaged, as particular expertise or competencies are sought to support the work of the IBC.

6. Functioning

The IBC operates under and reports to the ECA Regional Coordination Platform (RCP). The IBC meets at a minimum two times a year (physically or virtually) to plan and carry out its activities with further meetings as required. Communications are facilitated, meeting minutes are distributed, and draft products are shared through the following collaborative workspace: https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/eca-ibc-socialprotection. Coordination of the steering committee will be shared by the members of that group, on a rotational basis if needed.

7. Sunset Clause

The IBC will be terminated if the number of members falls below 10, or the IBC has no meaningful input to the end of year reporting for the Regional Annual Results report, or its activities are absorbed by another mechanism. In addition, the IBC will be invited to terminate a task team that is inactive for a period of 12 months. The regional director of an IBC member that is inactive within the IBC for a period of 12 months will be asked to explicitly confirm its continued membership.