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ASIA-PACIFIC
SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023
Social Protection in a Changing World

26–28 September • ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines

Connecting evidence and policy: the role of monitoring and evaluation in social protection – Pacific Context

Panel Session 5B

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The logo for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consisting of the letters 'ADB' in white serif font on a dark blue square background.

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Outline

- **Issues in Monitoring, Impact Assessment and Policy for Social Protection in the Pacific**
- **Data Sources for Monitoring SP in PDMCs**
- **Future Actions for Improved M&E for SP Policy in PDMCs**

Issues in Connecting Evidence & Policy for Social Protection - Pacific Context

- Social Protection (SP) systems undeveloped in most PDMCs, especially social assistance & active labour market programmes
- Lack of comprehensive and coordinated Social Protection policies, strategies and programmes;
- Few staff qualified in SP disciplines and analysis;
- Few published social protection indicators or benchmarks;
- Variable levels of SP in PDMCs as illustrated in the 2022 Pacific SPI Report; (see link on final slide);
- Information on SP programme expenditure and/or beneficiaries is not easy to find or collect.

Issues in Monitoring Social Protection Impacts 1

- **Social insurance (SI) - primarily National Provident Funds (NPF)**
 - **principal component in SP for most PDMCs;**
 - Focused on formal employment sectors of the economies; many informal sector workers are excluded;
 - Its impact and effectiveness in contributing to SP objectives is difficult to measure because of:
 - Lack of detail in NPF published accounts;
 - Many options for early withdrawals; consequently,
 - Many retirees have little left in their accounts at retirement;
 - Few beneficiaries take pensions or annuities; and
 - Lump-sum payments can distort depth & breadth of SP and the SPI, benefits accrue to HH not just individual recipients
 - Lack of information on the informal sectors.



Issues in Monitoring Social Protection Impacts 2

- **Social assistance (SA)** programmes often small, uncoordinated and responsibility for delivery to beneficiaries is spread across many agencies;
 - Few PDMCs have national SP Strategies or clear policies/guidelines for each SA programme; therefore
 - Few PDMCs have M&E frameworks, indicators, benchmarks or targets for SA;
 - Few PDMCs have a central information source on SA programmes, either for expenditure or beneficiaries;
 - Links to policy are therefore weak, a cross-sectoral SP Advisory Committee could be valuable in bridging this gap.
- **Active labour market (ALM)** programmes are few in number and not well documented; thus
 - detailed information can be hard to find.

Issues in Monitoring Social Protection Impacts 3

- **Weak Connection Between Monitoring and Policy**
 - Little or no coordination, consistency or clear rationale between SP measures and/or levels of benefits;
 - Poor record keeping and poor disclosure/sharing of information by individual administering agencies;
 - Lack of overall reporting on disaggregated data by gender, age or other key characteristics for measuring impacts;
 - Cross-sectoral SP Advisory/Coordinating Committees would be valuable in improving coordination.
- **Collecting data for the SPI requires “local knowledge”** regarding SP programmes and possible data sources;
- **SP is cross-cutting** and demand for – and costs of - SP measures is increasing & raising awareness of;
 - Unemployment & poor job prospects, especially amongst youth,
 - hardship and poverty, appear to be increasing,
 - domestic and gender-based violence reportedly increased during lockdowns,
 - ageing populations, demographic trends are clear,
 - disability, especially in later life consequent on NCD complications increasing,
 - migration, both internal and to overseas changes traditional roles; and
 - social stress being caused by all these factors;
- all contribute to the need for comprehensive and coordinated SP programmes to meet national situations

Data Sources for Monitoring SP in PDMCs 1

Social Protection Category	Primary Source of Data on Expenditure and Beneficiaries	Quality and Comprehensiveness of SP Data
Social Insurance National Provident Funds	Annual Audited Reports – mostly online	Generally good, but often lack details of expenditure and beneficiaries by gender and sub-programme
Social Security Agencies	Annual Audited Reports – mostly online	

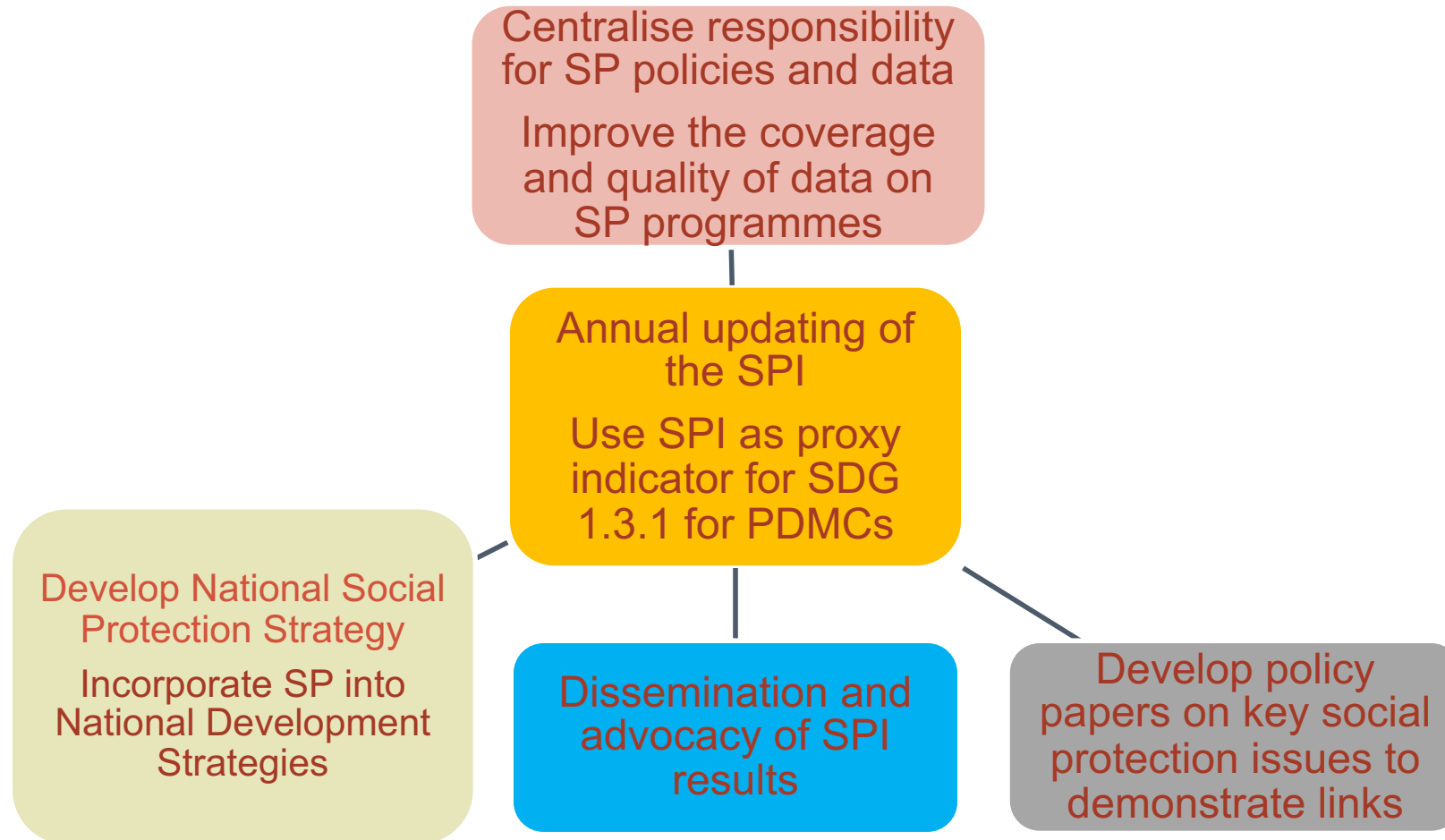
Data Sources for Monitoring SP in PDMCs 2

Social Protection Category	Primary Source of Data on Expenditure and Beneficiaries	Quality and Comprehensiveness of SP Data
Social Assistance Elderly persons universal benefits	National provident funds Finance ministries Home Affairs/Interior ministries/Social Welfare agencies	Generally good, but often lack details of expenditure and especially of beneficiaries by gender
Child benefits	Social welfare agencies Ministries of Education	Generally good but often lacks details by age and gender
Disability benefits	Social welfare agencies Household Survey	Difficult to find and often lacks details by age or gender
Other Social assistance	Home affairs/interior ministries/social welfare agencies/Civil Registrars	Variable and lacking in detail of expenditure or beneficiaries

Data Sources for Monitoring SP in PDMCs 3

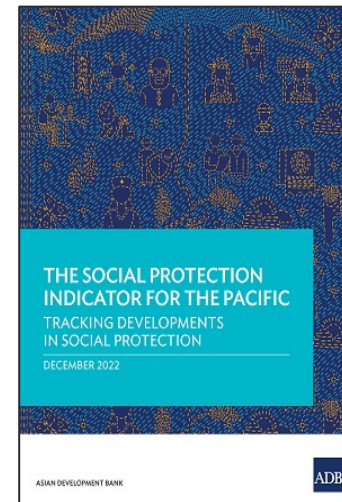
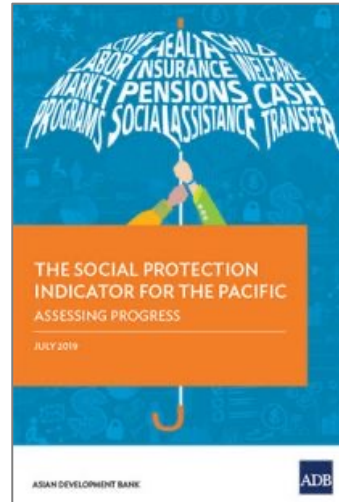
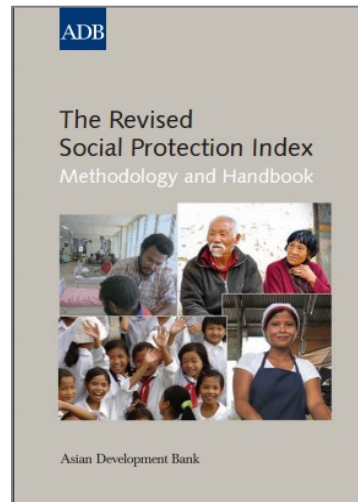
Social Protection Category	Primary Source of Data on Expenditure and Beneficiaries	Quality and Comprehensiveness of SP Data
<p>Labour Market Programmes</p> <p>Copra production cash-for-work</p> <p>Employment assistance</p>	<p>Finance ministries</p> <p>Labour ministries</p>	<p>Aggregate expenditure amount good, details of beneficiaries poor</p> <p>Aggregate expenditure amount good, details of beneficiaries poor</p>

Future Actions for Improved M&E for SP in PDMCs



THANK YOU

- More Reading and Information



Contact Information

[The Social Protection Indicator for the Pacific: Tracking Developments in Social Protection | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](https://www.adb.org/publications/social-protection-indicator-for-the-pacific)

SPI website: <https://spi.adb.org>