

## Update on WG 8 Social Protection from EU, 12 August 2011

Results: MLSP has not shown any real interest in the coordination mechanism through DCC Development Forum Action Plan platform. The Action Plan was developed mainly by the donors. This has not changed since May 2011.

Nevertheless, cooperation is quite effectively exercised among donors at more focused, subsector level. Here, the main areas of cooperation are:

- Development of the Targeted Social Assistance, where EU, WB and ADB have designed and piloted new social benefits scheme. First payments already reached beneficiaries - money already transferred to six thousand families.
- Development of Social Services, where EU, GIZ and UNICEF introduce a new approach to provision of social services for vulnerable categories. MLSP is supported in developing and introduction methodological guidelines and quality standards for social service delivery; a system for procurement of social service provision by non-governmental providers; and sustainable, effective and transparent management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation system for the social service delivery system.
- New Labor Market Strategy was developed with the support of EU Technical Assistance project and **approved** by the Government of Tajikistan in June 2011

Progress on selected Action Plan's activities is presented in an annexed table.

### **Risks:**

Accelerating inflation has had a direct impact on real incomes and poverty indicators. **The gap between minimum pension (and average pension as well) and minimum consumption basket is increasing!**

Pension Fund (State Agency on Social Insurance and Pensions) **is accumulating arrears on pension payments (this is a violation of General Conditions of recently signed HDSP!)**

These negative developments take place when substantial amounts of budget resources are spent on activities dedicated to the celebration of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence of Tajikistan.

Moreover, Tajikistan is a small economy fragile to external or internal shocks. The authorities tend to switch to tough administrative measures and manual control that often goes against rule of law and market-economy principles. Also, in case of crisis, budget cuts/reallocations can undermine reform programme in social sector.

### **Opportunities:**

Human capacity at MLSP is at such a low level that changes in few key positions and attracting new skilled staff (supported by extra bonus scheme envisaged under "Social Pensions Action Plan") should significantly improve management of Social Protection sector and ownership of sector's reforms.

Annex 1. Development Forum Action Plan in 2011-2012 (**recent changes in bold**)

Objective	Period of implementation	Progress indicator	Responsible structure
<b>1.Strengthen the institutional framework for effective policy development and implementation of pension policy, as well as the implementation of the new law "On the State and Insurance Pensions "</b>			
Improve of pension legislation, assistance in drafting of legal acts resulting from the strategy for reforming the pension system approved by Government	Till July 2012	Legislation framework for the functioning of the new Pension law is fully developed and approved before 2013	MLSP
Structure of MLSP divisions adapted for new functions	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2012.	MLSP decree that establishes a new structure and functional responsibilities, regulations (guidelines) for the institutional processes on national and regional levels, including forms, procedures and division of responsibility developed and approved	MLSP
Conduct the Pension system financial analysis aiming to achieve the financial sustainability of pension systems for the mid and long term periods	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012	MLSP published report on the analysis. Proposals developed and submitted for Government consideration	MLSP,SASIP
Establish staff and equip a department in SASIP/MLSP that will be responsible for data collection, statistical analysis and actuarial forecasting of pensions and social insurance in general and social pensions in particular.	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter. 2012	New staff tables developed and approved; sources of funding for the new structures identified.  Assessment of establishment and use of databases in pilot areas conducted, Report on the monitoring results presented	MLSP, MoF
Develop a strategy on social pensions transfer from the social insurance system and integrating them as a component of social assistance for population	<b>4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2011</b>	In the framework of the pilot on social benefit targeting the ministry developed the following documents: rules for the identification of vulnerable families, rules for checking the presented proofs , rules for the payment of targeted social benefits - 17,800 requests were processed and 6,500 families were entitled to social benefits; benefits already transferred. <b>The comprehensive strategy has not been formulated. However,</b>	MLSP,SASIP,MoF

		<b>as a result of partial interventions a comprehensive model is emerging. It includes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- insurance pensions;</li> <li>- social pensions for several categories of people who did not participate in pension insurance scheme;</li> <li>- targeted social benefits, for those who are not embraced by insurance and social pensions and require assistance;</li> <li>- social services as additional assistance.</li> </ul>	
Develop financial and legal scenarios (methodologies) to increase the minimum and medium pension for the period up to 2013 (medium-term expenditure), directed at reducing the gap between the level of minimum pension and the subsistence minimum levels.	In accordance with the budget calendar	<b>Financial scenarios were developed for the 2012-2014 MTEF. However, these do not aim at reducing the gap between the level of minimum pension and the minimum subsistence levels. In fact, the gap is increasing!</b>	SASIP, MLSP, MoF
Increase the minimum pension in proportion to the inflation rate	Annually	Government Decree to increase the pensions	SASIP, MLSP, MoF
<b>2. Development of Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) and review of benefits and allowances legislation</b>			
Pilot approbation of the new mechanism for TSA in two pilot areas (Yavan, Istravshan)	2011-2012	<b>New mechanism developed and tested in pilot areas. 17,800 requests were processed and 6,500 families were entitled to social benefits; benefits already transferred.</b>	MLSP, MoF, SASIP
Monitoring of the effectiveness of the new TSA mechanism during the pilot project and	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2011 quarterly since 2012	Reports with recommendations on monitoring results presented	MLSP, MoF, SASIP
Analyses of results after the completion of the pilot project and preparation of proposals and recommendations, including the financial evaluation for the national level	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2012	Joint action plan to solve the problems developed and approved <b>IDA grant of 3.2 M USD for TSA further development approved in June 2011.</b>	MLSP, MoF, SASIP

Develop strategy / activities / national action plan and the draft of RT Government Decree for TSA implementation at national level	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012	Action plan and the draft of RT Government Decree for the MSA implementation on the national level developed	MLSP, MoF
Prepare a report on the situation of existing benefits and allowances, including recommendations to change the system of benefits; and discuss the report in MLSP	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2011	Report submitted and discussed	MLSP
Develop a draft of the normative and legal acts on changing current system of benefits and allowances	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2011	Draft of RT Government Decree, reflecting the improvement of the existing system of benefits and allowances developed	
<b>3.Further development and strengthening of social services</b>			
Develop and adopt the social services provision standards. Implement control (monitoring and inspection) mechanism in compliance with standards	1st quarter 2012	Social services provision standards approved by the relevant legal documents. <b>Ongoing</b>	SASIP,MLSP
Develop the National qualifying frameworks for experts in the field of social work (social worker, social assistant)	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2012	National qualifying frameworks for experts in the field of social work developed and approved by relevant legal documents. <b>Ongoing</b>	MLSP, MoF
Develop a state social order system, creating competitive conditions for the social services procurement from an external supplier independently of the forms of property.	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2011	Minutes of the tender commission meetings. Contracts with external service providers on the implementation of state social contracts are signed and implemented. <b>Ongoing</b>	SASIP,MLSP
Introduce a new categories of services, forms and methods of social work to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations (including families with children, children, disabled and elderly citizens) in the social sector	3-4 quarter 2012	Decree of MLSP on the implementation of a new system of social services provision. <b>Ongoing</b>	MoF, MoH, SASPEM

Put into operation day-care center in the NRC "Chorbog"	2011	The act of state acceptance of putting into operation <b>Ongoing</b>	MoF, MED, MLSP, CЗН и М
Put into operation psycho-neurological boarding school for adults in the area Bokhtar	2012	The act of state acceptance of putting into operation	MoF, MED, MLSP, SASPEM
Develop the state sector Programme of social protection in the medium term (2013-2017)	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012	State sector program of social protection in the medium term (2013-2017) approved by the Government of Tajikistan	MLSP, ME, MoF, MED, MIA, MH, The Committee on Women and Family Affairs
Develop a research on “Assessment of the need for social services and provision of social services in Tajikistan”	2011	Report on assessment of the needs: (1) social services receivers: disabled, social vulnerable families and children, elderly, social risk groups (domestic violence, drug and alcohol abused, ex prisoners, homeless, etc.); (2) social services providers: state agencies/organizations, NGO, private sector; (3) legal framework; (4) professional capacity building. <b>Ongoing</b>	MLSP
Assist MLSP in developing the system for social protection and integration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)	2011	Functional and structural review of the Pedagogical – medical – psychological commission (PMPC) and State Agency of the medical – social expertise (SAMSE); Elaboration of recommendations on creation of electronic database on PWDs (design of the software) aimed to improvement of the data collection, analysis and recording of statistical data; Training for PMPS and SAMSE on the usage of the modern methods of disability determination and individual rehabilitation plans. <b>Ongoing</b>	MLSP, MH
Development of the “single window” model, as administrative cost-efficient tool, coordination of social protection and provision of social services to population	2011	Assess preconditions for existing administrative capacities and facilities in the selected 2 regions Prepare methodology of implementation of “single window” model in the selected 2 regions Train administrative/social workers on implementation of the “single window” model	MLSP
<b>4.Implement the State Labor Market development Strategy</b>			

Develop and implement short-term forecasting of labor market	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2011 – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2012	Developed and adopted internal regulations. Labor market analysis based on survey results of employers prepared	MLSP, SASPEM
Improve a legislation on social insurance and actuarial training in order to separate contributions of social insurance	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2011	Drafts of normative documents prepared	MLSP, SASIP, SASPEM
Develop a concept of a new national system of health and safety	4th quarter 2012	Concept developed	MLSP, SSSLESP
Develop a document of policy planning and improvement of legislation to reduce the volume of unregistered employment and increased capacity of SSSLESP	4th quarter 2012  2th quarter 2012	Policy planning document , and amendment to Labor Code approved  Proposal to increase the number of employees in SSSLESP developed	MLSP, SSSLESP
Improve legislation of minimum wages as a tool of labor market regulation	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012	Amendments to legislation prepared	MLSP
Develop a National Action plan to eliminate the worst forms of Child Labor in Tajikistan	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012	National Action plan prepared	MLSP with the stakeholders involvement
Improve legislation to protect the domestic labor market	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012	Amendments to legislation made	MLSP, MSGRT
Review principles of organization of work of SEC and improving its effectiveness	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2012	1% of the social insurance budget for active measures to promote employment is allocated	MLSP, SASIP, SASPEM
<b>5. Strengthen and develop a professional capacity of the social protection system specialists</b>			
Develop and adopt unified program of advanced training for social-service specialists without giving up work	2011	Training program approved by the appropriate document. <b>Ongoing</b>	MLSP,ME

Establish a mechanism of continuous increase professional level specialist of social sphere	2012	The necessary funds for education are reflected in the budget for 2012 <b>Ongoing</b>	MLSP, MF
Professional development of specialists in SASIP and SASPEM	2012	The necessary funds for education are reflected in the budget for 2012	SASIP, SASPEM
<b>6. Strengthen the legal and policy framework of the Social Protection System</b>			
Improve gender responsiveness of the legal and policy framework	2012	Carry out a gender analysis of the legal and policy framework in the field of social protection and agree on recommendations for improvement	MLSP, UN Women
Prepare comprehensive overall Social Protection Strategy, incorporating social benefits, social insurance, labour, social services, and pensions into single coherent framework	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carry out a benefit incidence analysis on key social assistance schemes</li> <li>- Carry out a poverty and social impact analysis of the proposed new targeting mechanism</li> <li>- Hold consultations on proposed changes in social protection schemes</li> <li>- Draft a comprehensive social protection strategy based on national and international evidence and consultations</li> </ul> <p><b>The comprehensive strategy has not been formulated. However, as a result of partial interventions a comprehensive model is emerging. It includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>insurance pensions;</b></li> <li>- <b>social pensions for several categories of people who did not participate in pension insurance scheme;</b></li> <li>- <b>targeted social benefits, for those who are not embraced by insurance and social pensions and require assistance;</b></li> <li>- <b>social services as additional assistance.</b></li> </ul>	MLSP, MEDT
Improve the quality, coordination and coverage of social services and social assistance to vulnerable groups	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen inter-agency collaboration for coordinated social work with families and individuals in need</li> <li>- Functional review of structure and functions of the MoLSP's subordinated entities</li> <li>- Develop, adopt and implement a 4 month in-service re-qualification programme for all staff carrying social work functions in x districts</li> </ul>	MLSP with the stakeholders involvement

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand day-care services for vulnerable groups, based on minimum standards of care for service providers</li> <li>- Establish a unified, functional database on people with disabilities and their needs for social services and social assistance</li> </ul> <b>Ongoing</b>	
Strengthen integration of prevalence of violence against women and children into the legal and policy framework	2012	Carry out an assessment of prevalence of violence against women and children at the national level and develop recommendations to address these problems	Women and Family Committee, MEDT

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