

## Defining realistic social protection strategies in coherence with other national development policies



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### **Abstract:**

*Social protection policies are one of the most important branches of social policies and are one of the means and networks of social safety in the country. Governments are therefore working to address the undesirable effects of economic and political volatility by rationalizing mechanisms and programmes to maintain social cohesion. The preparation of such a strategy also, forces the country to ensure the coherence of social protection development policies with other national policies, and notably with respect to fiscal space allocation.*

*These research papers aim to highlight, methods and mechanisms of social protection as practical concepts; so, this papers search for a critical analysis of social protection policies leads us to know how they are designed as well as their position in macro public policies. In this article, we are also working to analyze the realities of current policies and their impact on living realities.*

**Keywords:** Social protection; public policies; national development; social support mechanisms; effectiveness of protection.

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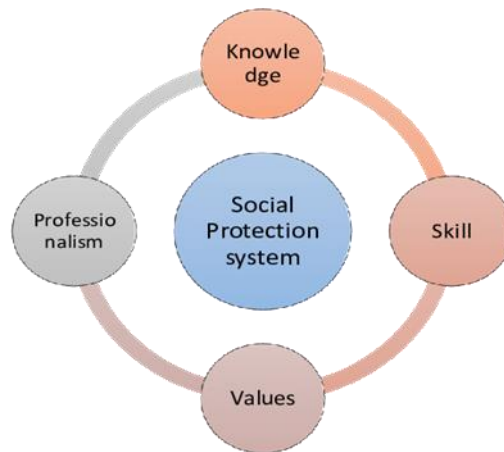
## Introduction:

The proliferation of more severe means of social protection in the world, and across many global organizations that offer a variety of social protection schemes in the twenty-first century, many governments have tried to create individual schemes in comprehensive and coherent systems. Such programmes must be in line with the sustainable development goals of "implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all". System-building usually begins with the formulation of a social protection policy that sets out a vision of integrating different schemes and achieving better comprehensive coverage of all segments of society.

While there is a disparity between Governments, social protection systems usually refer to those frameworks under which the three pillars of social protection - social assistance, social security and Labour market programmes - are integrated or coordinated in the so-called sectoral integration of social protection. Integration usually involves networking to integrate different programmes within each state and a pillar of social protection systems, for example, combining various food security transfers within the framework of social assistance; Integration can also occur across actors and influencers. For example, at the administrative level, various social protection systems can share data and monitoring systems, which are better linked to information records given the importance of individual and beneficiary information.

At the operational level, social protection systems operate, within a complex framework of actors and influencers, in policies and programmes where roles are distributed to achieve effectiveness and impact, as registration and delivery systems exist within the information monitoring process, while at the institutional level one institution can coordinate social protection activities across sectors and ministries, which have a mechanism to act and influence as well..

The design and implementation of social protection systems will require coordination among the various organizations involved in the provision of social protection services and associated remittances. It includes various line ministries, decentralized structures and civil society organizations. However, most social protection programmes tend to be designed and implemented separately from and within their linkages and complementarities, this also illustrates the following figure:



**-Image showing how social protection systems are designed and functioning-**

The central question presented in these papers is: **to what extent can effective mechanisms for social protection systems be identified within the determinants of good governance and sustainability?**

**1. Social protection policies from: For social justice: a theoretical and conceptual introduction:**

Social protection is the measure guaranteed by Governments and society to their members to protect them and ensure effective social development within the so-called "public defences", from all forms of general poverty and social exclusion, as well as from income shortfalls that may come from many causes, including: illness, disability, maternity, work injury, unemployment, old age or death of a family member, difficulty in accessing timely and affordable health care, and insufficient family support especially for children, older groups and poor families. Access to social protection is a general societal responsibility that is usually available through public institutions and is financed either by personal contributions, donations, taxes or both. However, social protection can and is often the prerogative of private entities. Moreover, there are many parties and institutions run by the private sector that are one of the key partners and actors currently important (of an insurance, subjective, societal or mutual nature) that can complement and largely replace the elements of public social protection schemes.

**A. What is social protection and social public policy?**

Social protection constitutes an effective tool for risk prevention; it is a group to build dominant societies, that Reducing poverty, basically Justice, equality, and peace. social protection is an essential element of the social contract by respecting its duties the state is legally bound by it and applied by meeting the

minimum acceptable level of needs, health care services, Housing, and education. (ESCWA,2019, p.09).

Social protection is subject to many different definitions of different institutions and actors within the State, so we find it concentrated in a variety of angles. For example, ILO defines social protection as "those values that affect cultures, values, traditions and institutional and political structures", focusing on how social protection is defined and how protection is chosen." (Bonilla García and Gruat, 2003, p.2). The SPSR therefore uses the country definitions of social protection to guide the scope of the analysis.

The concept of social protection is a concept related to social and human security through satisfying the basic human needs of citizens; that is, social protection is based on the activation of mechanisms that enable individuals to cope with the financial consequences of social risks, as it depends on two mechanisms, social insurance and social assistance to ensure living with dignity.

#### **1- Definition of social protection and social Public Policy**

Social protection is defined as social safety networks, against life risks. So, it is defined as a set of interrelated mechanisms and activities, aimed at achieving economic and social stability, getting rid of need and deprivation, reducing losses and protecting people from internal and external threats, such as financial economic crises, wars, economic blockade and natural threats. Social protection policies play a crucial role; In ensuring full and effective human rights, in terms of universal access to social security for all, in particular ways of reducing poverty and inequality, social exclusion and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth - by promoting, upgrading and developing human capital and supporting the individual's productive methods, supporting domestic demand, and facilitating structural transformation and adaptation to changes in national economies to avoid their impacts on society..\*

Social protection is also defined as: "a set of mechanisms and institutions based on the principle of solidarity, and solidarity; which guarantees individuals protection, from social dangers, represented by diseases, unemployment, risks that may arise during work, poverty and taking care of pensioners and people with special needs". (Fahmy, 1998, p. 31)

It is possible to distinguish more between the concept of social protection, and social safety nets, where social protection is considered a tool to achieve social justice, because it is linked to the right to human growth, and prosperity for all without distinction, while social safety nets, are directed only to the poor and vulnerable groups in society.

And there are those who say "a system that has an obligatory element in insurance with the government bearing part of the insurance costs and acting as the insurer (Insurance Authority)" (Abd Rabbo, 1988, p. 487)

Social protection systems address financial needs, and social problems and mitigate the impact of disasters, so social protection must take into account an environmentally conservative and climate-adapted economy, and investing in a national system of social protection leaves positive economic effects, and enables communities to move towards the development of their productive capacities.(Dakar, 2021, P. 3)

As stated in the United Nations Research Institute for social development that social protection is" the development of developmental policies aimed at achieving social welfare and poverty reduction for vulnerable groups, and the ability to manage socio-economic risks (such as unemployment, old age, etc.)...(United Nations, 2019, P.41).

Robert Holtzman\*\* also says that "development actors should move beyond the concept that social protection is given only with money, as it can help people overcome the symptoms of poverty for a while without doing what is worth mentioning in order to eliminate its causes"(touaiti, Lar Mujahid, 2017, P.66).

Social protection is a human right, guaranteeing everyone access to health care and income security. It provides you, as well as your family, with the necessary aid. Most importantly, they provide you with peace of mind and give you hope for a better future. For more information, see Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of human rights.\*\*\* (International Labour Organization)

Basic social protection is aimed at providing cash subsidies to vulnerable groups, as in Social Security, but the scope of support should be expanded to the extent that these groups cross over to the stage that allows them to participate in the development process in society, and then pull themselves out of the vulnerable state.(Decimal, P. 2)

Regional conventions are devoted to the right to social protection, such as the African Charter on human and Peoples ' Rights, which obliges states parties to assist the family in fulfilling its mission as protection of traditional ethics and values recognized by society.

The Arab Charter on human rights obliges Arab states to guarantee the right of every citizen to social security, including social insurance, for more details see Article 36 of the Arab Charter on human rights.

## 2- Definition of social Public Policy:

Social policy refers to government and legislative efforts to implement changes for the benefit of society or a certain segment of society, that is, social intervention. (Alwan, 2022, P. 186).

The public policy of social protection, is a specific result of public policies that improve the lives of citizens; social protection is the most prominent issue concerned with public policies, which takes the largest space when talking about the development of societies, and public policy is what governments decide to do in partnership with civil society, in order to address a public issue and put forward scientific solutions, mechanisms for their application and the resources required for that. (United Nations, 2019, P. 18).

This definition emphasizes that it is the responsibility of governments to create and implement public policies for social protection, and their failure to design, implement or evaluate leads to a significant negative impact on society, as countries need public policies aimed at creating laws that improve the lives of citizens, and securing social protection.

## 3- social protection policies:

The methods used to provide social protection in terms of targeting which are: (Abbas, Mohammadi, 2022, pp. 548,549)

**-The issue of generalized social protection:** based on global commitments such as Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of human rights, and other international commitments such as the International Labor Organization standards and the third goal of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030, the Global Partnership for generalized social protection, has been launched at the United Nations since 2016, to present the experiences of countries that have achieved, a system of generalized social protection coverage.

**-Minimum social protection:** it is a policy of a specific group, at the level of each country for basic social insurance guarantees, that should guarantee a minimum for obtaining social protection.

**-Guaranteed minimum income:** it is a social assistance program, based on measuring financial capacity, and is aimed at the poor class.

The generalized basic income is an unconditional cash transfer for the entire population of a country (a kind of social assistance); Social protection is part of the social policy of any country, as it is an effective tool to address vulnerabilities, marginalization and chronic needs. (United Nations, 2019, P.21).

Therefore, most Arab governments, with the support of UN organizations, are seeking, to replace the traditional aid-based approach to social protection with an integrated social protection strategy based on the concept of development.

**B. Areas of social protection policies, community priorities and methods of identifying beneficiaries of social protection programmes:**

Social protection policies include many areas, and angles that affect the societal reality, in terms of beneficiaries, and some samples of issues that can be addressed can be listed: (UN, 2019, pp. 21-23)

**1- areas:**

\*Social insurance programs; where it mitigates the risks associated with unemployment, Health, old-age disability.

\*Assistance and social welfare programs; provides services to the most vulnerable groups.

\*Addressing marginalization; to ensure the rights of groups that do not have sufficient capabilities to protect themselves, such as the elderly, people with disabilities.

\*Protection of children and women; to ensure healthy and productive development.

\*Labor market policies and programs; aimed at facilitating the existence of job opportunities, and promoting the effective operation of labor markets.(UN, 2019, P. 21)

**2- methods of identifying beneficiaries of Social Protection Programs:**

These are steps that identify target groups in need of support based on statistical and scientific studies, and we can summarize the methods in the following:

\*A survey of the poorest groups and families, who are unable to access basic services.

\*Focus on analyzing the reality of the poorest groups, the quality of services they need and the size of threats.

\*Focus on the type of needs during a specific period of time and ensure their continuity.

\*Existing intangible assets and their analysis, and community mechanisms that can be used. (United Nations, 2019, P. 23)

**3- The pillars adopted by social protection:**

They serve as the foundations on which they can be mentioned in the following:

**1- Heavenly laws:** all heavenly laws agree on honoring and protecting man and encouraging cooperation and social solidarity. This legislation includes public

interests at all times and places, despite the multiplicity of social protection models, which stipulated social solidarity as a moral value to address poverty, deprivation and need in societies, as it has an impact on social protection policies in various countries, especially Muslim ones.

**2- National Labor charters and international charters:** national charters are an important pillar, in social protection, as they include the government's work on choosing the mode of work, which includes the economic choice of the state and the size of the public sector; As well as the provisions of international instruments within international institutions concerned with public defences, for example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides in article 22 that "Every individual as a member of society has the right to social guarantees and protection necessary for a decent life"...."The UN document on the rights of the elderly, and the International Institute for economic, social and Cultural Rights, which stipulates in Article 09"the right of every human being to social security, including social insurance". (International Labour Organization,2014, P.5).

**3- Legislations and laws:** these are the constitutions that took care of the social protection policy, which was established to determine the social and political system of the modern state, and there are regulations and laws that regulate the rules for the establishment of social protection bodies, and regulate their operation.(Hamza, 2015, P. 72).

It can be said that the determinants that contribute to the formulation of social protection policy are linked to the history and orientations of society, that is, the internal social and economic factors of society play an important role in the development of the social protection system; and some external environment also contributes from the influence of, for example, human rights, developments, globalization...All of them are variables that contribute to the formation of a country's social protection policies).

#### **C- Mechanisms for the development and designing Governments' social protection programmes and policies:**

The importance of finding a comprehensive approach to any social protection policy to promote vibrant, cohesive and stable societies. Being the most prominent issues that public policies deal with for the development of societies By creating the main norms of social protection as a human right, linking social protection to the management of social risks, which may threaten the survival and continuity of public welfare and the social protection element here is a key element of pro-poor economic growth; all these rules overlap, Because it is the duty of Governments and the State in general to provide social protection to citizens and all poor groups.

Social protection consists of a set of policies and programs aimed at reducing and addressing the problems of poverty and vulnerability that hinder a

person in his life and ensure that he receives family compensation, maternity protection, unemployment compensation, Health Protection...(Central agency for public mobilization of Statistics, 2023, P.7).

### **1- principles of developing a social protection policy:**

The path of developing a social protection policy is of great importance, which should be taken into account:

- Responsive to the needs, realities and living conditions, and by addressing all the citizens it targets without discrimination, and at a reasonable cost that the government can cover through its general budget in the short and long term.

- Financially and politically sustainable and reflects an adequate level of popular participation and popular acceptance of social protection.

- Generalized within government institutions and civil society institutions for clarity in implementation and Application Control, flexible able to respond to change and quickly keep up with new challenges.

- Participatory and fair, by relying on the participation of citizens in the determination and implementation of Social Protection Policy, and does not differentiate between one category and another race, religion, social type. (United Nations, 2019, P.28).

### **2- Governments' Modification and development of social protection policies:**

the development of social protection policies is a difficult and complex process, as it is directly related to human problems, where the development of the path of social protection policy proceeds according to stages, namely:

- \* The first stage is to identify the problem through analyzing the reality and the implications of the problem, in response to societal needs, in order to improve a reality, and put forward a social protection policy according to the availability of available resources, and requires analytical skills with scientific techniques at this stage.(United Nations, 2019, P.29).

- \* The second stage is the design of the target, and the expected outputs; it serves as a transitional stage, by putting forward appropriate solutions and the impact that can be achieved from social protection with the development of a specific schedule that adheres to the application according to its jurisprudence, and criteria to achieve the goal and determine the results.

- \* The third stage; the formulation of alternatives, and the choice of a solution; through a set of proposed choices and alternatives and their ability, to achieve the consequences of this, which requires the involvement of a number of

parties and consensus in a solution that satisfies all parties, where it is possible to benefit from diverse experiences leading to an effective and efficient alternative.

\*The fourth stage; the design of social protection policies, which includes the actual practical translation of the solution proposed in the previous stages, by developing a coherent plan that includes a budget for the implementation of social policy commensurate with priorities. .(United Nations, 2019, P.30).

\*The fifth stage; the implementation of the social protection policy, as this stage requires the following elements: organization, mobilization of support, application, and is considered a sensitive and essential stage and to ensure its success, all concerned parties and citizens must be involved.

\*The sixth stage; continuous evaluation, correction and amendment, and this stage requires continuity, as mechanisms for review must be designed continuously and at various levels (at the level of the content of the social protection policy, or the course of its development and effectiveness) in a way that allows adjustment and correction when needed (UN, 2019, P. 31).

**D- the objectives of social protection policies and their reality in the world: a model for studying and analyzing the reality of social protection policies**

Social protection policies and programmes are a mechanism for the development and preservation of human resources and the consecration of integrated values of solidarity, between different groups and generations, improving the standard, of living of individuals and supporting the bonds of social cohesion. Countries in many parts of the world have made remarkable progress in expanding the scope of social protection coverage, where significant improvements have been made with regard to the areas of social protection.

**1- Understanding the political, economic and social environment:**

The economic effects of social protection (the ILO) has taken practical measures to improve the impact of social protection on economic performance. (Committee on employment and social policy, 2005, p.10).

Social protection is a sector dedicated to addressing economic and social vulnerabilities that is part of an integrated approach, to social services for children and families living in poverty and the risks involved in life. social protection is designed to address and provide support for economic and social vulnerabilities, and therefore social protection as a stand-alone goal within the Sustainable Development Goal. For more details, (UNICEF's programme, 2019, pp. 2-5.)

Understanding the political, economic and social policy environment through institutions and legislation as the implementing tools of political will, while the decision to support a social group is a political decision.

The understanding of the political environment is based on, the role of the state in the subject of social policy by adopting one of two approaches: (United Nations, 2019, P. 42/43)

-The human rights approach, which considers social protection as a right, is based on the Universal Declaration of human rights. \*\*\*\*

-A needs-based approach that adopts the concept of a free market, where the basic needs of citizens are met through market tools, such as the role of the private sector in providing services.

## **2- Understanding and analyzing the institutional framework and existing social protection projects:**

To understand the specific institutional framework, of the social policy that will be put forward, it must be implemented through interaction with other official, and unofficial partners, such as civil society organizations, and active international organizations, where the institutional framework is not limited to state institutions only, but also to other local and global actors.

Existing projects for social protection: the integration of interventions in the field of social protection and their interconnection, which poses a challenge to the difficulty of coordination, between different parties and programs based on this, for example, some marginalized groups receive a large amount of assistance while others are marginalized.(United Nations, 2019, P.48).

Strengthening national social protection systems, is Important and necessary to ensure that individuals benefiting from the inclusiveness and effectiveness of comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems have access in the context of a changing world of work; Strengthening social protection systems and adapting them to new requirements requires the development of effective national social protection policies and strategies. (International Labor Organization, 2021, P.50). \*\*\*\*\*

Finally, the building of national social protection systems, requires consistency with social, economic, sectoral, skills and employment policies, as stated in the world leading Report on social protection and the ILO database:

### **Conclusion:**

Social protection is a purposeful policy, to preserve the human resource and improve the values of solidarity, among all groups by insuring, them from social risks; it also contributes to the redistribution of national income through a balance between the working class and the deduction of its income in exchange for the distribution of retirees.

The basic principle of social protection, is the empowerment of various groups of society, especially in the period of fragility and during their exposure, to

various exceptional circumstances, and the inclusion of social protection systems, on different programs made them respond to social reality at various levels.

Basic social protection is aimed, at providing cash subsidies to vulnerable groups, as in Social Security, but the scope of support should be expanded to the extent that these groups cross over to the stage that allows them, to participate in the development process, in society, and then pull themselves, out of the vulnerable state.

The public policy of social protection is a specific result, of public policies that improve the lives of citizens; social protection is the most prominent issue concerned with public policies, which takes the largest space when talking about the development of societies, and public policy is what governments decide to do in partnership with civil society, in order to address a public issue and put forward scientific solutions, mechanisms for their application and the resources required for that.

It can be said that the determinants that contribute to the formulation of social protection policy are linked to the history and orientations of society, that is, the internal socio-economic factors of society play an important role in the development of the social protection system.

Social protection is also considered a mechanism for the development and preservation of human resources and the consecration of integrated values of solidarity between different groups and generations, improving the standard of living of individuals and supporting the bonds of social cohesion.

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#### Margins and referrals:

\* There are many definitions of the terms "social protection" and "social security". In various areas defined, as in this report, researchers use terminology interchangeably. ILO usually uses the term "social security", with reference to human rights in access to social security services contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 (art. 22), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (art. 9) and others in United Nations reports on rights and freedoms. This term includes broad differences such as content and policy instruments, including social insurance, social assistance, universal benefits and other forms of cash transfers, as well as measures to ensure effective access to health care and other benefits in kind aimed at securing social protection. For further details, see Glossary of Terms at the end of this report (annex I), as well as ILO, 2010 (a), pp. 13-17.

\*\* Robert Holtzman is the World Bank's Director for Social Protection and senior author of the new report.

\*\*\* The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25/1, states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate to ensure the health and well-being of himself and his family, especially food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services. He has the right to security for help in cases of unemployment, illness or disability." Or widowhood, old age, or other circumstances beyond his control that deprive him of his means of livelihood."

\*\*\*\* To learn more about the United Nations, capacity building manual for the development of participatory social protection policies, economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 2019.

\*\*\*\*\* For an in-depth look at the ILO conference, building the future of social protection for a human-centered world of work, session 109, 2021, pp. 50-51