

# **ILO SOCIAL SECURITY INQUIRY**

## **Recommendations from the Sri Lanka Pilot Implementation**

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The background features a repeating pattern of green circles in various shades. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent circles. In the upper right, a portion of a globe showing continents and oceans is visible. The text 'ILO Recommendations' is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# **ILO Recommendations**

# Reduce Questionnaire Length!

- Too many components, too many tables
  - Many redundant and cannot be easily filled
  - Many are not critical to understanding general situation
  - . . . Possible cause of workplace injury !

## Recommendation

- Drastically cut questionnaire
  - Remove parts which are likely to be unfilled in most countries, or which require extensive estimation
  - Remove parts dealing with non-core sectors
  - Review priority of all items - “Are they really needed?”

# Narrow Scope of Inquiry

- Sectoral coverage
  - Questionnaire currently covers all areas of social protection - pensions, health, education, nutrition, housing ...
  - Extends beyond traditional focus of ILO expertise to services funded by non-insurance means, e.g., health services, primary schools

## Recommendation

- Focus on obtaining better quality data with more complete coverage of countries by restricting to areas such as social security, pensions, etc.

# Formalise Country Process

- Current process relied on goodwill for co-operation from government agencies
- Difficult to motivate counterparts to assist since may be seen as outside official duties
- Legitimacy of process can be questioned and weak national ownership

## Recommendation

- Identify counterpart ministry as official contact point
- If contracting, contract in agreement with ministry
- Conduct annually to support routinisation



# Avoid duplication with other international data collections

- Overlap with existing annual data collections
  - UN, World Bank, WHO, ADB, etc
- Creates additional burdens of reporting
  - Transaction costs of reporting to multiple parties
  - Increased effort for complying with varying definitions/forms
  - Potential for multiple agencies to report the same indicators differently
  - Inconsistencies in internationally published data
- Fails to exploit efficiencies from collaboration

## Recommendation

- Collaborate with other agencies to avoid duplication

# Collaborate with international health data collections

- Overlap with existing health data collections
  - WHO World Health Report Statistical Annexes
  - OECD Health Accounts & Health Data Collection
- Moves to harmonisation using joint questionnaire
  - Seoul December 2005 Meeting of WHO, WB, OECD, APNHAN
  - WHO-OECD-APNHAN Health Accounts Data Collection (2006 - )
- Health expenditure data request not based on OECD SHA standards
  - Provides framework for standardised reporting
  - 15+ countries in Asia-Pacific already reporting using SHA - Facilitates ILO needs

## Recommendation

- Join WHO-OECD-Eurostat-APNHAN Health Collection

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# **National Recommendations**



# Specific Issues

- Pension schemes present significant future costs, but can be exaggerated
  - Important for all schemes to improve collection and reporting of beneficiary data
  - Supports management and development of new schemes
- Growing policy importance
  - Greater transparency and disclosure needed
    - Will encourage more informed debate & encourage capacity
    - Reduce risks of badly thought out policy changes
      - E.g. Abolition of Civil Servants Pension Scheme, 2003
        - Future costs overstated
        - Employee losses understated

# General Issues

- Data and statistics only as useful as their interpretation and use
- Need to strengthen national capacity and information systems for social security analysis
  - Ministries
  - Central Bank
  - Social Security & Pension Boards
  - Research institutes
- Need to improve ability to compare performance with other countries to critically appreciate lessons