



Validation workshop

“Extending Social protection to workers in the informal Economy in Ethiopia”



This project is funded by
the European Union



International
Labour
Organization



Acronyms and Abbreviations

BoWSAs	Bureaus of Women and Social Affairs
CEEF	Confederation of Ethiopian Employers' Federations
CETU	Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions
EHIA	Ethiopian Health Insurance Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
MLSD	Ministry of Labour and Skills
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
MSEs	Micro and Small Enterprises
POESSA	Private Organizations' Employees Social Security Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food programme

1. Date and Venue of the Event:

- April 05, 2022, Radisson Hotel, Addis Ababa

2. Organizer:

- European Commission (EC)-funded International Labour Organization (ILO)/ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joint Project on "Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management"

3. Objectives

- To present to social protection stakeholders the findings and recommendations of the study on extending social protection to the informal economy in Ethiopia.
- Initiate discussions and secure additional inputs to inform concrete recommendations on the operationalization of roadmap post the study.

4. Agenda:

The workshop focused on the following activities:

- Presentation on "Conceptual framework on social protection extension to the informal economy"
- Presentation on the findings and recommendations of the study on "Social Protection Extension to Workers in the Informal Economy in Ethiopia"
- Workshop discussions on strengths and gaps of the study findings.
- Agreement on the way forward and establishment of a task force to guide development of a roadmap to inform implementation of the study recommendations

5. Outcomes of the workshop

The meeting agreed on the following:

i. Policy revisions to enable social protection extension and formalization of informal economy workers

- ✓ This is necessary to accommodate the informal economy in the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA's) upcoming social protection/policy revision
- ✓ This will enable incorporation of the informal economy in future employment policy revisions

ii. Legal Framework

- ✓ There is need to incorporate provisions related to informal economy and specifically coverage extension in the labour proclamations
- ✓ Inclusion of and addressing social protection issues of workers in the informal economy in the Trade proclamation

iii. **POESSA's institutional preparedness**

- ✓ It was noted that POESSA's legal framework has provisions that cover Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and workers in the informal economy
- ✓ POESSA has extended structures from Federal to Regional levels that can be leveraged to anchor coverage extension to the informal economy.
- ✓ Stakeholders that could work with POESSA on the extension of coverage drive were suggested to be MoWSA/BoWSAs, MLSD, CETU, CEEF, Ministry of Revenue, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.
- ✓ POESSA would require additional technical support regarding understanding and estimating contributory capacities of various workers so as to inform any pilot exercise on coverage extension ; types of benefit packages to attract workers in the informal economy would require further definition; social security contributions from workers in the informal economy are by law voluntary; a system to collect contributions is not yet in place.

iv. **Suggested target groups within the informal economy for piloting social protection coverage extension**

- ✓ Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)
- ✓ Service sector workers
- ✓ workers manufacturing sector
- ✓ workers in the trade sector
- ✓ Agricultural workers

- The following key recommendations were suggested as a way forward by the workshop participants. This included the establishment of a Working Group comprising of representatives from 11 institutions that were present.

Way Forward

- i. Develop a concise policy brief on extension of coverage for government officials and policy makers
- ii. Establish a platform that works on a step-by-step action plan developed by the Working Group
- iii. Create alliances with key stakeholders including social partners and pursuing social dialogue
- iv. Schedule stakeholders' engagement with view of raising awareness and advocacy on social protection extension to workers in the informal economy
- v. Strengthen the National Social Protection Platform chaired by MoWSA to enhance incorporation of social protection coverage issue
- vi. Conduct more follow-up research and compile evidence to inform policy discussions and decision making

▪ Working Group

The following institutions and focal persons were selected to constitute a Working Group on extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy in Ethiopia. The ILO, through its "Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management" (SP&PFM) Project, will facilitate future engagements within the group.

No.	Name of Institution	Focal Person
1	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA)	Abebe G/Medhin
2	Private Organizations' Social Security Agency (POESSA)	Girma Sisay
3	Ethiopian Health Insurance Agency (EHIA)	Mulat Tegegn
4	Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU)	Fisehatsion Biadgilign
5	Confederation of Ethiopian Employers' Federations (CEEFF)	Dawit Moges
6	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Fanaye Tadesse
7	World Bank	Makda Getachew /Tesfaye Tlahun
8	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Mwenya Kapasa/Fantahun Melles
9	Irish Aid	Hiwot Mebratu
10	HelpAge International	Sophia Mohammed
11	World Food Programme (WFP)	Kamile Klaptauskaite

6. List of participants

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