

**Report of the Workshop**  
**“Leaving No-One Behind: Targeted Social Protection Programmes and  
Management Information Systems in Arab Countries”**

20-21 November 2019, Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan

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## **BACKGROUND**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that “eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development”. To furthermore underline the urgency and importance of this challenge, the first Goal is devoted to ending poverty. To deliver on this promise governments of the UN Member States are called to “implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable” (SDG1, target 1.3). In addition, Goal 10 aims at reducing inequality with special attention to the bottom 40 per cent of the population.

In recent decades, due to a variety of social, economic and political pressures, Arab countries are undertaking substantive and wide-reaching social protection reforms. In the domain of non-contributory social protection, countries are seeking to break the dependence on universal subsidies and to replace these with more targeted measures, typically cash-transfers. Targeted social protection presumes that limited resources should benefit the most impoverished population groups which raises a number of questions of how to define poverty and set poverty line, what indicators can be used to identify the poor in the absence of reliable data of households’ incomes, how often poverty status of beneficiaries should be updated, which type of support people would need, and the level of cash transfers and other support.

Furthermore, these reforms require a lot in terms of information infrastructure. Such infrastructure is necessary to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of individual programmes and achieve coordination between programmes across the complex social protection landscape. Governments are increasingly integrating beneficiary registries of different programmes in order to cover a wide range of population, including the poor and vulnerable. Integrated beneficiary registries, in addition, have the potential to enable Governments to monitor and manage the social protection system in a holistic manner. To know who the poor are and where to find them, many countries in the region are creating so-called social registries, which contain data on potential social protection beneficiaries indicating their level of poverty or vulnerability. An advantage of such registers is that they can be used by multiple programmes to select beneficiaries, eliminating the need for each such programme to carry out its own costly and time-consuming targeting process. Social registries also make it possible to rapidly scale up targeted social protection programmes in times of crisis. However, these registers also come with multiple dangers: notably, if a household is not in the registry, it risks being excluded from the whole spectrum of targeted social protection programmes. Critically, integrating social and beneficiary registries requires the existence of unique identifiers since different registers and users, in order to exchange data, need to identify individuals and households in the same way. Several Arab countries are therefore presently introducing such identifiers.

Developments on the technological front make it increasingly attainable for governments to set up the information infrastructure required by the ambitious social protection reforms. At the same time, doing so also brings to the fore many questions and challenges. For instance, establishing and utilizing social registries requires a valid and reliable way of identifying beneficiaries through an objective and transparent targeting system. Integrating registries renders necessary a high degree of cooperation between ministries and agencies, and therefore functional governance structures. In addition, the collection and sharing of individual data raise fundamental questions about privacy and security.

The workshop had the purpose of enhancing the knowledge and skills of ESCWA member countries to efficiently design, implement and monitor targeted social protection programmes and establish management information systems leaving no one behind through experience exchange and peer-learning. This way, the workshop strengthened the capacity of Arab countries to operationalize the 2030 Agenda (with specific focus on goals 1, 10 and 17). Furthermore, by applying an integrated “systems approach” to social protection – an approach that ensures better coherence across the different core components such as social insurance, health care and social assistance, and strengthens their connection to the wider social

policy landscape. ESCWA promotes an integrated manner of SDG implementation and stimulates coordination and collaboration between relevant ministries and other actors governing targeted social protection, management information systems and broader development policies. The 2-day workshop had focused sessions on targeted social protection programmes, poverty targeting methodologies, as well as management information systems set to govern targeted social protection. Sessions of the workshop began with thematic presentations of international experts, followed by presentations of 2-3 country cases from the Arab region and moderated discussions or group work.

## **2. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP**

This workshop was organized under the DA project “Implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Enhancing the Capacities of Arab countries”. The workshop was targeted at policy-makers working on targeted social protection and related management information systems in ESCWA member States. The key objective of the event was to exchange experience across countries in the region about ongoing or future mechanisms to effectively identify poor and vulnerable population groups, efficiently deliver targeted social protection programmes and better integrate these programmes and projects, including through the establishment of management information systems.

For instance, participants from Arab countries:

- (i) exchanged and discussed information on targeting mechanisms for targeted social protection programmes in the Arab region;
- (ii) agreed on regional development priorities in the areas of targeted social protection delivery, poverty targeting and establishment of related management information systems;
- (iii) broadened their capacity and knowledge in the field of designing, implementing and monitoring of targeted social protection programmes, as well as developing related management information systems;
- (iv) strengthened intraregional cooperation between Arab countries in this sphere;
- (v) enhanced the capacity of Arab countries to operationalize the 2030 Agenda (with specific focus on goals 1, 10 and 17) and promote integrated approaches to SDG implementation.

## **3. OUTPUTS OF THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop was held to support social protection reform efforts in the Arab region through strengthened capacity of policy-makers as well as through increased cooperation and information sharing among countries. Participants engaged in discussions, learnt from each other as well as from external experts and agreed on regional development priorities in the areas of targeted social protection delivery, poverty targeting and establishment of related management information systems. The capacity of Arab countries to operationalize the 2030 Agenda (with specific focus on goals 1, 10 and 17) and promote integrated approaches to SDG implementation was strengthened.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS / FOLLOW-UP ISSUES**

- **ESCWA Member states are called upon to extend their targeted social protection programmes to the poor and vulnerable population groups, minimize exclusion errors and ensure effective grievance mechanisms;**
- **ESCWA Member States are called upon to harmonize their social protection systems and improve targeting through the application of sound management information systems;**
- **ESCWA, to the best of its ability, will facilitate capacity building and bilateral exchange between Arab countries on specific technical issues related to poverty targeting, targeted social protection delivery and establishment of management information systems.**

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

**Ms. Gisela Nauk (Chief, Inclusive Social Development Section, Social Development Division, ESCWA)** opened the workshop. **Representative of the Ministry of Social Development of Jordan** greeted the participants of the workshop and made introductory remarks.

### Session 1: Non-Contributory Social Protection: Main Challenges

**Ms. Gisela Nauk (Chief, Inclusive Social Development Section, Social Development Division, ESCWA)** presented the recently published ESCWA regional report on ‘Social Protection Reform in Arab Countries’ (2019), emphasizing that social protection was a human right and thus should serve people of all ages, in all locations, and in all income groups. Recent reforms were aiming at consolidating scattered social protection programmes and harmonizing approaches across the different components of social protection: social insurance, basic health services, targeted social protection (social assistance). These corresponded to the Social Protection Floor introduced by ILO (recommendation 202). Plus, these reforms went hand in hand with the establishment of major information databases and registries. Thus, a ‘systems approach’ to social protection was emerging in several Arab Countries.

**Mr. David Robalino (American University of Beirut)** presented different definitions of poverty (monetary poverty, basic needs, vulnerability and multiple deprivations) and approaches to measuring poverty.

Poverty could be absolute or relative. Absolute poverty was based on a certain definition of basic needs, whereas relative poverty was defined in relation to the overall distribution of consumption or income. He discussed three types of indicators: poverty incidence (the share of the population below a poverty line); poverty gap (how far below the poverty line households were); and poverty security, or squared poverty gap (highlighting the degree of inequality among the poor). Households who were not poor but living relatively close to the poverty line were defined as vulnerable. Existing PMT tests tended to focus mainly on monetary poverty and on the poor (not on the vulnerable).

Poverty was not only a question of income or consumption, but also of outcomes as regards for instance health, nutrition, literacy or social relations. Such alternative indicators of poverty could be measured separately or aggregated into a so-called composite index of poverty (e.g. the composite index used by UNDP). Moving towards a multidimensional conception of poverty was a good idea, without discarding income or consumption. Just classifying people as poor or non-poor was also insufficient: a more sophisticated set of instruments was needed to account for fluctuations. Policy-makers must consider factors increasing social risks, and whether the population had access to programmes that mitigate these.

**Mr. Anton Bjork (Consultant, ESCWA)** gave an overview of non-contributory social protection in the Arab region. Recent reforms in this sphere included the reduction or abolishment of subsidies, the establishment and expansion of large-scale national non-contributory programmes (often cash-transfers) to compensate for subsidies and reduce fragmentation, the introduction of proxy means testing (PMT) to identify beneficiaries, and various features to promote social inclusion in the longer term. In many countries of the region, spending on energy subsidies had significantly declined. Large national non-contributory programmes had been rolled out with the double purpose of replacing subsidies and reducing fragmentation. Many countries were introducing unified cash transfer schemes by merging existing programmes or creating new ones. Other types of non-contributory social protection measures were also becoming more common (e.g. poverty-targeted health coverage). Mr. Bjork then touched upon the levels of benefits of different non-contributory programmes.

He then discussed challenges of the aforementioned reforms: the need to agree on a definition of poverty, improve transparency of targeting, regularly update targeting formulas and check their sensitivity to specificities of certain population groups, as well as pros and cons of community targeting.

**The ensuing discussion touched upon** a number of related subjects, including whether modelling tools can be used to find fiscal space for social protection reform, intergenerational transmission and geographic

concentration of poverty, the need for social protection that goes beyond narrowly targeting the monetary poor, and the fact that the middle classes as well as the poor may be negatively affected by subsidy reform and might need some form of compensation.

**Mr. Mohamed Hedi Bchir (Chief of the Modelling and Forecasting Section, ESCWA)** presented modelling tools developed by ESCWA that can be used to model impacts of social protection reform. In Arab countries, the social aspect of economic reforms was not always sufficiently considered. A holistic modelling tool could give an idea about the social effect of economic policies and vice versa. While modelling tools could help policy makers predict the social outcomes of reforms, a problem was the lack of data relating to the informal economy. Then, Mr. Bchir modelled several scenarios of subsidies' reform and targeted social protection reform and demonstrated their projected impact on growth, unemployment, investment, inflation, consumption, deficit, debt and etc.

**The participants discussed** approaches to measuring poverty/ income / consumption, relative poverty and vulnerabilities; the optimal [acceptable] margin of error (for inclusion and exclusion errors); grievance mechanisms; integration of targeted social protection and social insurance; modelling tools and finding fiscal space for social protection; multidimensional poverty indexes; the need also to provide complementary services for the poor (housing, education, health, etc.) and harmonization of policies.

### **Session 2: Identifying People in Need**

**The representative of the National Aid Fund, Jordan,** presented targeting approaches used by the Supplementary Support Programme (Takaful) in Jordan. In 2019, the National Aid Fund (NAF) had started implementing Takaful programme which would run until 2021. Data concerning applicants was provided from a range of actors including, for example, the pensions department. 25,000 families have been provided cash transfers in 2019, but the programme would be expanded in 2020 - 2021. The Takaful also included support in the form of access to renewable energy, health insurance, public transport subsidies, and free school meals. The programme relied on an absolute poverty line of 100 dinars per month per individual. The targeting mechanism consisted of 57 indicators: 40 served to measure households' standard of living and 17 determined its level of need. Based on these indicators, the household's poverty score was calculated.

**The participants discussed** geographical distribution of benefits, approaches to choosing PMT indicators, data collection and implementation of targeting, financing mechanisms for targeted social protection, different ways to distribute benefits and minimize inclusion errors.

**The representative of the Ministry of Education, Morocco,** presented targeting approaches of the Tayssir programme in Morocco. Although Tayssir served to alleviate poverty among beneficiaries, the main objective of the programme was to reduce the level of school drop-outs. When Tayssir had been inaugurated in 2008, it used geographical targeting (in poor rural municipalities with a drop-out rate of 8 per cent or above). Tayssir initially focused on the primary education, but was expanded to encompass lower intermediate level.

During the pilot phase (2008-2010), Tayssir was implemented in 132 municipalities in 17 provinces making part of the 5 poorest regions, but was gradually expanded to primary education pupils in virtually all rural municipalities, and to lower intermediate pupils in practically all rural and urban municipalities. The decision to extend to Tayssir was motivated by the high drop-out rates in the country. In the municipalities where Tayssir was already established, the existing targeting methodology was retained. In the newly added municipalities, a new PMT formula was applied. The number of families benefitting from Tayssir reached 1,266,900 in 2018-2019. Morocco was in the process of setting up a Unified Social Registry (USR) which would constitute a harmonized targeting mechanism for targeted social protection programmes and a single-window entry-point for applicants. The USR would target beneficiaries by a PMT methodology. Exchange of information between the USR and other institutions would enable verification of data. USR piloting would commence in 2020 in the region Rabat-Salé-Kénitra.

**The participants discussed** conditionalities of targeted social protection programmes, the main reasons behind school drop outs, a supplementary educational support programme, and other issues.

**The representative of the Ministry of Social Development, Palestine,** presented the PMT formula used in Palestine. Poverty had many dimensions in addition to the monetary: it could manifest itself in the form of lacking access to services, incapacity, etc. Palestine developed a national concept of multidimensional poverty (NCMP) based on the methodology of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index and using information of the Expenditure and Consumption Survey. In conformity with the Palestinian Basic Law, the multidimensional poverty concept was founded on the rights-based perspective. The components of the NCMP were: 1) with 20 per cent weight - monetary dimension measured by a minimum consumption standard and 2) with 80 per cent weight - six equally weighted dimensions with sub-indicators: education, health, work conditions, housing and access to services, safety and property use, and personal freedom. The new strategy stipulated that those afflicted by extreme multidimensional poverty should be entitled to cash and in-kind transfers and services, whereas those experiencing moderate poverty should be entitled to services. The improved information system would consist of a) a database of current beneficiaries and b) a social registry with data of potential beneficiaries. The case management system would entail household visits by social workers to evaluate families' needs and to provide psycho-social support. The new methodology was under review by the Cabinet.

**Participants discussed** increasing number of poor in the region, programmes stimulating graduation from poverty, PMT formulas, case managers and complaint mechanisms, social protection funding, and other.

### **Session 3: Levels of Benefits in Non-Contributory Social Protection**

**The representative of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Egypt,** discussed the levels of benefits in Takaful and Karama programme in Egypt. The Takaful and Karama programme provided a social safety net to people unable to work and poor families with children. To benefit from Takaful households had to reside in the targeted area, have children between 0 and 18 years enrolled in educational establishments, the family must be poor, and the applicant or his/her spouse should not receive pension exceeding the Takaful benefit. To benefit from Karama, applicants had to reside in the targeted area, be either orphaned or have medically certified disability of more than 50 per cent or be over 65 years and have no steady income. A Karama applicant must be poor and not receiving pension exceeding Karama benefit. Takaful beneficiary-household received 325 Egyptian pounds plus supplement of 60 pounds per each child under 6 years old, 80 pounds per child in elementary school, 100 pounds per child in junior high school and 140 pounds per child in high school (for up to 2 children per family could benefit). Karama beneficiaries received 450 Egyptian pounds per single person, 900 pounds per two persons and 1350 pounds per three or more persons in one family. The rates and some exclusion criteria were based on the 2013 Egypt Household, Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey (HIECS).

**The participants discussed** targeting approaches, pros and cons of conditional [cash transfer] programmes, awareness raising techniques and approaches to setting benefit amounts.

**The representative of the Ministry of Planning, Iraq,** stated that Iraq had a Strategy for the Reduction of Poverty 2018-2022 with 6 major pillars: 1) sustainable income for the poor from employment; 2) improved health of the poor; 3) better education for the poor; 4) suitable housing and risk resilient environment; 5) effective social protection and 6) emergency response. The assistance was supposed to be temporary (e.g. for the unemployed), because beneficiaries were expected to graduate from poverty, except for some groups (like persons with disabilities). The analysis of the pre-2015 targeted social protection system (based on the 2012 Iraqi Household Socio-Economic Survey) showed that only 20 per cent of beneficiaries were poor according to the new criteria. To limit leakage, a targeting model were developed in 2014 in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour [and Social Affairs]. Beneficiaries were reassessed using the new model. Plus, social research was carried out and personal information was verified using databases of other

entities. Currently, the Ministry of Planning was working on conditional cash transfers (CCT) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

**The participants discussed** impact assessments of targeted social protection programmes, electronic links between different databases, data verification, time frame for reviewing applications and PMT formulas.

**The representative of the Center for Research and Social Studies, Tunisia,** said that the National Programme of Assistance to Needy Families had been created in 1986. It included cash transfers and free or subsidized health coverage for needy and limited income families. The programme was based on the theory of deprivation: conditions for participation were the inability of the household-head to work due to age, their health status, disability or loss of the breadwinner. Once these conditions were met, the average annual income of each family was calculated and compared to the poverty line. Initially, this programme covered 73 thousand families with benefits of 7 dinars per month, whereas in 2019, the programme covered 285 thousand families and the benefit amount was 180 dinars per month (approximately 50% of the minimum industrial wage). The remaining challenges included difficulties of targeting of beneficiaries and the need to develop a national strategy for social inclusion and economic empowerment. As a part of social protection reform, Tunisia was developing a management information system and a database of poor and low-income families. The Center for Social Research and Studies would devise a new targeting methodology to identify the poor and vulnerable groups.

**Participants discussed** the impact of targeted social protection on poverty, data sources used to devise targeting formulas and regional differences in targeted social protection priorities.

**The representative of the Tayseer Programme, Morocco,** discussed benefits of the Tayssir cash transfer programme. The benefit amount grew incrementally and depended on student's age and grade: AED 60 for Level 1 and 2 of the primary cycle, AED 80 for Level 3 and 4 of the primary cycle, AED 100 for Level 5 and 6 of the primary cycle and AED 140 for preparatory level. The amounts were increasing to encourage attendance, because the number of drop outs grew with age and grade. The programme covered 10 months per academic year.

**Participants discussed** levels of benefit as compared to the average income and poverty line in each country and number of household members that were eligible to benefit per family.

#### **Session 4: Beneficiary Databases and Management Information Systems**

**The representative of the World Bank** presented management information systems which could be used to address many social policy issues: social integration of the poor and vulnerable and providing relevant services to them; determining who was eligible for social programmes, how to reduce fragmentation and avoid duplications between different programmes. He then discussed major implementation stages of social programmes and different types of registries (beneficiary registries (containing data on beneficiaries of specific social protection programmes) or social registries (containing data on potential beneficiaries of non-contributory social protection programmes).

Registration could be organized on-demand (allowing people to come and register) and "en masse" (occurred once every several years when social workers collected data in the field).

Integration of beneficiary registries allowed policy-makers to see who was benefitting from which programmes, identify complementary bundles of benefits, identify duplications, analyze the "supply" of programs, monitor results, facilitate budgeting and planning. Integrated social registries could be also used to deliver many other services: education and training, labour and employment, etc. For integration a unique personal identifier was needed. Social and beneficiary registries combined would produce an integrated management/social information system allowing for profiling of the population; tracking of coverage, gaps and overlaps; policy analysis; budgeting and planning.

**Participants discussed** optimal levels of integration of databases and registries, unique identifiers (including biometrics), information protection, verification of sensitive issues (like domestic violence and abuse), the possibility to integrate registries of national beneficiaries and refugees.

**The representative of the Ministry of Economy and Industry, Mauritania,** presented the social register in Mauritania. The National Strategy on social protection in Mauritania provided for the establishment of a registry to target the poor in a transparent way. In rural communities, poor households would be identified with the help of community-targeting: during the meetings in local communities, names of eligible households would be announced. Then, the socio-economic conditions of pre-selected families would be verified. In urban areas targeting would be delivered differently. The social registry would be completed by June 2020. Later, laws would be passed to coordinate all the programmes implemented by state and non-state actors: all the actors would be mandated to use the social registry to avoid duplications, concentration of aid and improve transparency. Mauritania used biometric national ID cards and the poor could receive financial support to obtain these IDs.

**Participants discussed** management of databases and registries, good strategies of shift from universal subsidies to targeted support, subsidies on food items, reevaluation of beneficiaries, coordination of targeted social protection delivery between governmental and non-government actors.

**The representative of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Egypt,** presented Takaful and Karama database administered by the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS). According to the procedures, socio-economic data of Takaful and Karama applicants was recorded (social, health, economic and educational characteristics of households). The accuracy of the provided data was verified by cross-checking it with databases of other entities. The database electronically connected MOSS with a number of public entities, namely Administrative Control Authority, Ministry of Education and Al-Azhar Institute, administration of specialized medical councils, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Housing, etc. Data exchange with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health was used to check whether beneficiaries fulfill the Takaful conditionalities: school enrollment, attendance and health visits. The database should facilitate decision-making, provide information for scale-ups of social protection programmes, limit leakage and encourage regular health visits and school attendance among the Takaful beneficiaries. Access to personal data from databases of cooperating Ministries is organized on demand, using national ID number.

**The representative of the Government of Tunisia** described the recent reform of the national social protection platform in Tunisia. The contributory social protection system suffered from increasing actuarial deficits and contribution evasion. In turn, non-contributory system experienced challenges of identifying the poor, high poverty rates among children and suboptimal coverage of people with disabilities. Tunisia initiated a comprehensive social protection reform to align the current system with the provision of the ILO Recommendation No. 202 of 2012 on national social protection floors and the Tunisian Constitution.

To establish the national social protection platform a dedicated law, relevant institutional structures and a dynamic database of beneficiaries were necessary. A Unique identifier was necessary to identify beneficiaries in the same way across all social protection programmes, avoid duplications, improve coverage and targeting and ensure transparency. India had provided relevant experience in the field of social protection, namely the unique biometric identifier system "Aadhar", the digital platform MOSIP and Argentinian experience of implementing a universal cash transfer programme for children.

**The representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Tunisia,** presented the current state of the database of poor and limited income families in Tunisia. Prior to the reform, targeted social protection in Tunisia encompassed multiple separate programmes. Organic Law #2019-10 of January 30, 2019 on the establishment of the social safety programme, mandated the development of a database with information on different characteristics of poor and low-income households. Data in the database would be regularly updated through a link to public databases, social research, updates made by citizens and CSOs.

A comprehensive research was conducted to collect and update data on the demographic, educational, health and economic characteristics and living conditions of households (questionnaire included 150 questions). The work was supported by 267 local social advancement units and 1500+ social workers.

Major stages of establishment of the information system included: applications by citizens followed by data verification (applicants were checked across databases to identify possible overlaps). This way the initial eligibility was assessed. Afterwards, each applicant was informed about his/her preliminary acceptance or rejection. Eligible applicants proceeded to the stage of field visits and their applications were reviewed by Local Committees. On the next step, a PMT formula was applied and a “poverty score” was derived. Based on its “poverty score”, a household was classified either as poor (eligible for cash benefits and free healthcare) or limited income (eligible for subsidized services) or ineligible. Some categories of population (households with PWDs) were positively discriminated by the selection criteria. More than 660,000 households were registered in the database.

**The participants touched upon the topics** of grievance mechanisms, inclusion errors, updating household data, graduation programmes, piloting PMT models on a sample of families, national ID number, etc.

**The representative of the World Bank** presented registries and management information systems used in Arab countries. In Jordan, the registry of the National Aid Fund covered around 20 per cent of the population and was linked to 54 databases through the national ID. Data was collected and updated on-demand in Fund branches. In December, the first phase of National Unified Registry would be completed.

In Djibouti, a unified social registry served 6 programmes and covered 34 per cent of the population. There data was collected both on-demand (from the existing beneficiaries) and through on-masse registration in targeted areas (for new registrants). PMT targeting was applied in urban areas and community-based targeting in rural areas. In Yemen, the beneficiary registry of the Social Welfare Fund served 1 programme and covered 33 per cent of the population. The data for the registry was collected en-masse in 2017-2018, plus the data was being updated in cooperation with UNICEF. The registry used PMT targeting. In Egypt, Takaful and Karama beneficiary registry was connected to the National Unified Registry and other databases. Data was collected on-demand. National Unified Registry, in turn, covered all population, served 34 programmes and was linked to 34 entities online. In Tunisia, the Database of Poor and Limited Income Families served 3 programmes and covered around a fifth of the population. In Iraq, a database of low income households served 6 programmes and covered 14 per cent of the population. It used PMT targeting and was linked to tax, pension and car registration database, but not via national ID.

In general, differences in the National ID systems influenced integration and data sharing possibilities. In Jordan, for example, registration and data sharing was facilitated by the fact that all Jordanians had individual national ID numbers that were used for data sharing and integration. In other countries, the national ID system might be structured differently, where household members might be registered on the national ID of one parent. In those countries, data sharing thus necessitates unique identifiers to substitute for individual IDs.

**Participants touched upon the following issues:** community targeting, developing statistics capacities and systems, percentage of poverty gap that should be covered by targeted social protection benefits.

**Gisela Nauk** summed up that due to its multi-dimensional nature, poverty was not only a social protection issue – it was a public policy issue. Poverty considerations were part of a social protection system, mainly in the form of cash transfers and subsidies. However, graduation from poverty would require a broader approach, drawing in education, housing, labour policies as well as fiscal space to provide sufficient funding. A national decision on the definition of poverty should be made in each country.

**The representative of the Ministry of Social Development of Jordan** thanked participants and closed the workshop.