

Advancing Social Justice and Social Cohesion through Inclusive Social Protection in Conflict-Affected States

Wednesday 10 April 2019 | 16:15-18:00 | Main Hall | UN House, Beirut

Background:

- Arab states are determined to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Inclusive social protection is a powerful tool to fulfil this pledge, particularly SDG 10 (Inequality) and 16 (Peaceful and inclusive societies).
- Social protection systems are essential to reduce poverty and inequality, but also to avoid negative coping strategies at times of shock and build resilience, particularly among the most vulnerable, thereby preserving human and social capital for recovery.
- Well-designed, inclusive social protection systems can also foster social cohesion and help build and sustain peace.
- However, social protection systems in Arab states, particularly in conflict-affected states, face great coverage and financing gaps, coupled with operational and capacity constraints.
- Ensuring effective access to basic social services for all vulnerable people - men, women, children, among host and displaced communities, proves to be a great challenge.
- This underscores efforts to preserve and strengthen national social protection service delivery systems and institutions while more comprehensive and flexible approaches to social protection are also needed to cater for the needs of the displaced.

Session Objective:

Policy makers from Arab states affected by conflict and fragility will engage in an open dialogue on social protection policies and programs, and related opportunities, challenges and emerging good practices for improving inclusiveness and effectiveness of their social protection systems and enhancing their transformative potential.

Themes of Discussion:

- How can development and humanitarian partners work together and strengthen national social protection systems to better respond to needs of vulnerable people while promoting social cohesion between displaced and host communities?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in establishing 'social protection floors' and universal social protection systems in conflict-affected states while ensuring specific needs are adequately addressed?
- What are some practical steps for benefiting from country experiences and lessons learnt and how can we make social protection programs more shock responsive?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Rana Jawad**, PhD., FHEA Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, United Kingdom.

Opening:

- **Ms. Nathalie Bouché**, PhD., UNDP Inclusive Growth Team Leader, Arab States, Co-chair of Regional-UNDG Working Group on Social Protection.
- **Mr. Luca Pellerano**, PhD., ILO Senior Social Protection Specialist, Arab States, Co-Chair of Regional-UNDG Working Group on Social Protection.

Panelists:

- **H.E. Mr. Richard Kouyoumjian**, Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon
- **H.E. Ms. Basma M. Ishaqat**, Minister of Social Development, Jordan.
- **H.E. Ms. Ebtihag Abdulkder Ahmed Alkamal**, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Yemen.
- **Ms. Najla Ali Murad**, Director General Poverty Reduction Strategy, Ministry of Planning, Iraq.
- **Mr. Ayman Sawalha**, Advisor to Minister of Social Development, State of Palestine.
- **Mr. Hazim Rahahleh**, PhD., Director General, Social Security Corporation, Jordan.
- **Ms. Fatima Ahmed Fadul Madawi**, PhD., General Commissioner of the Social Security and Poverty Reduction Commission, Sudan.

This Special Session will be live-streamed

The session is organized by the Regional-UNSDG Arab States/MENA Working Group on Social Protection.

