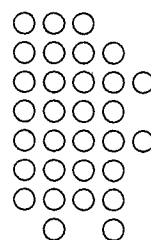


The ISSA Initiative: Findings and Conclusions

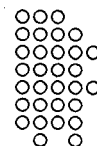
International Social Security Association

September 2004

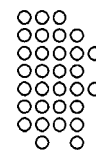


Principal findings

- Economic and social development are integrally linked.
- For either to occur, the other must also occur.
- Governments must develop integrated strategies for both social development and economic development.

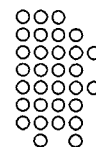


Principal findings



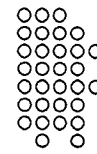
- An effective and affordable social security system is the foundation for social development.
- Social security can take many forms.
- There is no one right model for all countries.
- Each country must find the model that is right for it.

Principal findings



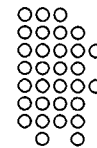
- There are four prerequisites for delivering the security promised by social security:
 - Broad coverage
 - Guarantee of rights
 - Good governance
 - Public understanding

Broad coverage



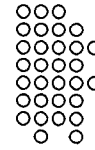
- Less than 20% of the world's population is covered by any form of social security.
- Coverage is not expanding as hoped. In some countries, it has fallen in recent years.
- Lack of coverage is particularly serious for:
 - Workers in the informal and agricultural sectors
 - Women
 - Migrants

Broad coverage



- The design of a social security system can be an obstacle to expanding coverage.
- A contributory social insurance approach is not always feasible, especially for workers in the informal sector.
- There is need to consider other approaches.
- The highest priority for most countries is to expand social security coverage.

Good governance



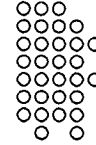
- Good governance is the foundation of effective social security.
- Good governance depends on respect for the laws on which social security is based.
- No one is exempt from obeying the law.

Good governance



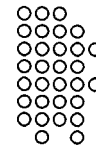
- Four requirements for good governance:
 - Resisting political interference
 - Transparency in decision-making
 - Accountability to government and stakeholders
 - Sustainable financing
- It is essential that all four requirements are met for social security to succeed.

Guarantee of rights



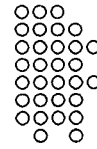
- Social security is a basic human right.
- Governments must:
 - Protect social security rights
 - Enable citizens to exercise their rights
- Where parts of social security are privately managed, governments must put in place effective regulatory and supervisory mechanisms.

Public understanding



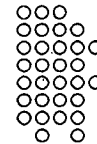
- Public understanding is critical for the success of social security programmes.
- Social security programmes are complex.
- Social security administrators often do not explain their programmes adequately.
- Public confidence in social security programmes is closely linked to the public's understanding of those programmes.

Public understanding



- Public understanding of social security programmes makes it easier for governments to introduce new programmes and expand or adapt existing programmes.
- Social security programmes must be reasoned, logical and fair.
- Information on social security programmes must be clear, simple, timely and readily available when needed.

Next steps



- The future of social security is in our hands.
- All of us – government, the social partners, civil society, social security administrators and the public – need to work together to achieve the social security system our country needs and wants.
- The benefits of improved social security are clear: Greater social cohesion, greater social justice, faster economic growth.