Long-term care for older persons as part of Social Protection Floors: An ILO perspective

by
Xenia Scheil-Adlung
Health Policy Coordinator
Social Protection Department
International Labour Organization
Outline

Social Protection Floors and LTC

What are the deficits in LTC coverage and access?

How to provide resilient LTC protection?
How is LTC covered in Social Protection Floors?

ILO Recommendation 202:
Components of National Social Protection Floors guaranteeing access to services and income support

- Universal access to preventive and curative health care services
- Basic income security at poverty level for children to access education, health, housing
- Basic income security for all in working age; Social assistance for the poor and unemployed
- Basic income security at poverty level for those in old age; securing access to needed services

LONG-TERM CARE:
Range of services and cash benefits addressing reduced functional physical and/or cognitive capacities of older persons

Georgian Association of Social Workers, Tbilisi, Georgia, 30 October 2015
LTC benefit packages for older persons include

- **LTC benefits in kind**  
  *For care recipients:*  
  - Basic medical Services  
  - Assistance with daily activities (getting dressed, preparing meals, etc.)  
  *For informal LTC workers:*  
  - Paid or unpaid leave for informal carers  
  - Social protection for informal workers  
- **LTC benefits in cash**  
  - Financial support for formal / informal LTC services  
  - Financial support for enabling environments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LTC benefit packages for older persons include</th>
<th>Provided to older persons in</th>
<th>Delivered through</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• LTC benefits in kind</td>
<td>- Institutions</td>
<td>- Formal health and LTC workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>For care recipients:</em></td>
<td>- Communities</td>
<td>- Informal LTC workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Basic medical Services</td>
<td>- Private homes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assistance with daily activities (getting dressed, preparing meals, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>For informal LTC workers:</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paid or unpaid leave for informal carers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social protection for informal workers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• LTC benefits in cash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Financial support for formal / informal LTC services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Financial support for enabling environments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Georgian Association of Social Workers, Tbilisi, Georgia, 30 October 2015
### Social Protection Floors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key principles for benefit coverage and access</th>
<th>Based on legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Universal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equitable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solidarity in financing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria for benefits</th>
<th>Affordable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Available;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial protection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guarantees to access nationally defined, at least essential health care and basic income security: **In-kind and in-cash component**

Georgian Association of Social Workers, Tbilisi, Georgia, 30 October 2015
Social Protection Floors and LTC

What are the deficits in LTC coverage and access?

How to provide resilient LTC protection?
48% (300 million people) of the global older population lives in countries without any right to LTC (red)

46.3% of the global population lives in countries with means tests forcing people to become poor before becoming eligible for LTC (orange)

5.6% of the global older persons live in countries with rights-based universal LTC coverage (green)
- Globally we find a critical workforce shortage of 13.6 million LTC workers
- The related reliance on mostly unpaid informal workers is unacceptable
- Wage levels of LTC workers are globally very low; of informal workers very low to zero

Source: ILO estimates, 2015; OECD, 2014
Impact of workforce shortages on access to LTC

Global access deficits due to workforce shortages
in % of population not covered

European access deficits due to workforce shortages
in % of population not covered

LTC is hardly accessible due to major gaps in the availability of quality services

Georgian Association of Social Workers, Tbilisi, Georgia, 30 October 2015
Financial protection and quality of LTC services

Public expenditure on LTC per person 65 years and over in selected countries
in PPP dollars, 2013

Georgian Association of Social Workers, Tbilisi, Georgia, 30 October 2015
Affordability of LTC services

Share of population 65+ experiencing OOP for LTC (home and institutional care) selected countries, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>OOP (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>56.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>83.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>66.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>73.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>75.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>65.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- OOP occur in globally all countries
- Insufficient public funding results in often intolerable high private expenditure

Georgian Association of Social Workers, Tbilisi, Georgia, 30 October 2015
Social Protection Floors and LTC

What are the deficits in LTC coverage and access?

How to provide resilient LTC protection?
Removing leading causes of deficits within LTC and health schemes and systems

**Establish and implement LTC as a right in its own**
- Develop and implement inclusive legislation for older persons that are often vulnerable
- Develop LTC schemes based on needs rather than means separately from other social protection schemes and systems
- Ensure in kind and cash benefits

**Make quality LTC equally available**
- Increase number of skilled LTC workers with decent working conditions
- Balance the formal and informal LTC workforce and provide support and compensation to informal workers
- Develop infrastructure

**Guarantee affordability and financial protection**
- Adjust scope of benefits and eligibility rules to ensure effective access
- Minimize out-of-pocket payments (OOP)

**Develop fiscal space and matching health and LTC**
- Provide sufficient public funding
- Improve interface and coordinate national health and LTC schemes

Georgian Association of Social Workers, Tbilisi, Georgia, 30 October 2015
Removing leading causes of deficits **beyond LTC schemes** and systems in a coherent multi-sectoral policy framework and creating returns of investment

**Consider living conditions of older persons**
- Poverty
- Age and gender discrimination
- Exclusion from participatory processes

**Reallocate fiscal resources**
- Set up enabling macroeconomic frameworks

**Address the socio-economic determinants of deficits**
- Based on social protection floors policies: coordinate health, social, economic, labour market and developmental policies

**Achieve economic growth**
- Raise household income of older persons
- Create health worker jobs to achieve higher productivity, formalization of informal labour markets
- Ensure the political/electoral support of older citizens
• SPF are guarantees that ensure effective access to necessary goods and services to all in need over their entire life. They include LTC for older persons but...

• LTC is generally overlooked and wide coverage and access deficits exist all over the world, even if some countries perform better than others.

• To ensure resilient LTC worldwide, inclusive legislation need to be implemented, specific schemes developed and fairly financed, workforce and infrastructure shortages addressed in a coherent policy framework as outlined in ILO Recommendation 202 on National Social Protection Floors.
Thank you!

scheil@ilo.org