

CATEGORY	:	Insurance Coverage Recognition Award
ORGANIZATION	:	Social Security Board (SSB), Myanmar
CONTACT PERSON	:	Mr. Tin Ko Ko Naing Director General Social Security Board Ministry of Labour Myanmar
NAME OF PROJECT	:	Extension of Social Security Coverage in Myanmar
OBJECTIVE AND NATURE OF PROJECT	:	To promote and strengthen social protection for workers through Social Security Scheme
WHY IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED	:	Social security is one of social protection which supports for its members to offset income loss or reduction and to protect life contingencies such as sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age and death. Everyone needs to be under the coverage of any social security programmes in order to protect their life contingencies. On the other hand, social security coverage extension is a key priority not to leave everyone behind social protection. Although everyone accepts that social security programmes are playing in a vital role for the substantial portions of the labour force of the formal economy, the coverage area of social security is still low and it does not exist in some places. In the case of social security coverage extension, some issues are complex and there is no sample solution especially in developing countries. Anyway, COVID-19 pandemic appreciably highlighted all people around the world how much social security is important and where the social security system is weak and strong. The people seriously suffered and were struggling for livelihood and income security under the threat of COVID-19 infection. In Myanmar, Social Security Scheme (SSS) launched on 1st January 1956, and Social Security Board (SSB) has been

	administered it in accordance with the 1954 Social Security Act covered General Insurance System and Employment Injury Insurance System. Within over fifty years after establishing SSS, (33,119) establishments and (689,514) workers in (110) townships were covered under SSS. In 2012, the long-standing Social Security Act was updated and the new law, 2012 Social Security Law was adopted. In 2014, SSB has been implementing SSS in accordance with the 2012 Social Security Law. There are six kinds of insurance systems such as Health and Social Care Insurance System, Family Assistance Insurance System, Invalidity Benefit, Superannuation Benefit and Survivors' Benefit Insurance System, Unemployment Benefit Insurance System, Employment Injury Insurance System and Other Social Security System in this new law. However, the two insurance systems namely Health and Social Care Insurance System and Employment Injury Insurance System has been implementing as the first priority in current. The remaining insurance systems will be carried out depending on the social economic development of the country. In the early years of establishing 2012 Social Security Law, the number of worker were significantly covered under SSS and the social security coverage could be extended to six townships. SSB could administer and manage SSS in 116 townships of Myanmar and provided twice social security benefit and health service. Moreover, SSB provided some social assistance programmes responded to COVID-19 impacts such as providing cash benefits (40% of the insured worker's wages) for the laid-off insured workers who are entitled in accordance with the guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and social security benefit (60% of the insured worker's wages) for the insured workers who are not only in quarantined but also infected COVID -19 positive and every pregnant insured women. In
--	--

		addition, the payment of monthly social security contribution was deferred and extended the duration of medical care, the reimbursement of medicine cost and travel allowance. The healthcare facilities were also developed to provide the treatment for COVID positive people in line with the WHO COVID-19 treatment guidelines. At that time, Myanmar workers in both formal and informal sectors became know how much social security system is fundamental to their lives to protect their income security and to take medical treatment and they are willing to be the members of SSS. Furthermore, the workers actively participate in SSS when SSB township officers conduct the awareness raising campaign and use to ask what they would like to know about SSS during the tripartite discussion session. On the other hand, SSB has been promoting awareness raising campaign not only in person but also via online. In 2021, SSB planned to extend social security coverage as a short-term plan by selecting and identifying the townships where is consistency with the criteria for coverage extension of SSS. Among townships where SSS is non-existent, three townships were selected to accomplish as the first priority during 2022-2023 financial year. On 5th December 2022, Patheingyi township, Sintgaing township and Taungtha township in Mandalay region were officially announced as the new townships entitled under SSS by issuing notification. In conclusion, the workers in these townships receive the following benefits due to the social security coverage extension. (1) Registering establishments and workers to cover under SSS. (2) Enjoying health service and social security cash benefit.
SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT	:	The ultimate objective of every social security organization is to cover all people under social security programmes. However, it is very difficult and complex to extend the coverage for

	difficult-to-cover people. As the administrative solutions for coverage extension is not simple, the implementation process can be different for each organization. In Myanmar, SSB initially takes into account the social and economic development of three townships namely Patheingyi township, Sintgaing township and Taungtha township intended to extend SSS coverage in policy shaping state. Then, the survey consisted of the total number of establishments and workers classified by ownership of public, cooperative, private, joint venture and other sectors, the estimated contribution of a month calculated depending on workers' average salaries, the estimated cost of social security benefit including administrative cost was conducted for the respective townships. Then, the number of hospitals and clinics situated in these townships and the utilization of healthcare were also studied in policy formulating state. According to the result of survey, the administrative procedures were operated in accordance with the 2012 Social Security Law to issue the notification in policy implementation state. After officially announcing these three townships as the new coverage area of SSS, totally (133) establishments and (7,413) workers could be covered according to the SSB statistics of March, 2023 report.
--	--