

## The Regional Actuarial Services Unit

Report on activities from July 1 2019 to 31 December 2020



### Highlights:

- Actuarial valuations, policy, extension and investment work in **Thailand**
- Training, coaching and capacity building in **China**
- Costing and policy input into proposed new UI scheme in **Indonesia**
- Employment injury actuarial valuation and capacity building in **Malaysia**
- Health actuarial valuation and training in **Myanmar**
- Capacity building & review of modelling in **Vietnam**

### Overview

The ILO Regional Actuarial Services Unit (RASU) was set up on 1 July 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Unit provides actuarial and investment technical support for social security institutions in the region. This work includes actuarial valuations, policy analysis, training, capacity building of actuarial and investment governance resources and investment technical support. The work feeds into analysis and decisions on costing and design of new schemes, shock resistant measures for social security, financing and investment decisions and general policy and reform advice and communication of these.

This report exceptionally covers the period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2020. In subsequent years, an annual report on activities will be undertaken from 1 January to 31 December each year.

The period was split into pre-Covid and post-Covid. Whilst a number of Missions were carried out up to February 2020, the way of working was adjusted from March 2020 to ensure activities could continue. Training and knowledge transfer activities - which make a big part of the work - were moved on line. However, Covid gave us the opportunity to re-think how we do work and deliver it. These lessons will be useful going ahead, whatever the state of the world looks like in the future

Covid19 has not only highlighted the need for extensive (and extended) social protection but also that policy and financial decisions need to be based on sound data and analysis. The demand for our work reflected this. The focus of our work remained on providing technical advice AND building up national actuarial capacity within social security institutions in the region. This was to ensure not only a legacy to our work but also the close link from actuarial and investment work to policy decisions.

### Financing of Work

The RASU works on the same basis as the ASU in Geneva set up in 2012. Our work is financed directly from the projects we undertake. This financing approach provides transparency regarding the work undertaken and the value for stakeholders.



## Activities

In the reporting period (1 July 2019 to 31 December 2020), the Regional ASU conducted work in six countries in the region on different projects.

This work took place in Thailand, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Myanmar:

- In [Thailand](#), the work continued on the ILO SSO Project entitled '[Strengthening research and actuarial services in the Thailand Social Security Office](#)'. In this period, the following key activities were undertaken:
  - Undertaking of the actuarial valuation of the Workers Compensation Fund and preparatory work for the main valuation of the SSO
  - Investment technical advice.
  - Policy support including on reforms to the pension system, extension of coverage and unemployment insurance changes. Ad hoc briefs on issues relating to Covid and appropriate responses were also produced.
  - Support on the setting up of the Actuarial Bureau
  - Communications and training work
- In [China](#), the RASU provided technical support on the [EU -China project: Improving China's institutional capacity towards universal social protection support](#). This work included the provision of training and supporting documentation as well as initial work for a train the trainers course and e-coaching
- In [Indonesia](#), the RASU provided actuarial support and input into the costing of a proposed new Unemployment Insurance scheme and accompanying legal, policy and financing implications. This was undertaken as part of the [Fast Retailing Co. Ltd. Project](#) for Unemployment Insurance in Indonesia
- In [Vietnam](#), RASU input involved support for the development of the proposed actuarial valuation and related policy work as well as a review and recommendations regarding an actuarial model for the health branch.
- In [Malaysia](#), work on the project: *Eleventh actuarial valuation of the Social Security Fund and capacity building of Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) on actuarial work and investment governance* was started. This included Project Management, collection of data and a technical note on policy and reform options. This project is a collaboration between the RASU and GEIP in Geneva.
- In [Myanmar](#), work included actuarial training delivered on site (pre-Covid) and follow up, a review of data management and analysis and the preparation for the actuarial valuation of the health and social benefits scheme

## Working with others

The RASU has provided an important addition to the work carried out by the ASU in Geneva. There is a strong link between the two entities which allows technical reviews and informal feedback to ensure the work is undertaken in a professional way.

The RASU work supports and complements other ILO work on social protection in the region. We work as a team and special acknowledgements to our social protection colleagues in the region. We also work with top quality external Collaborators and my personal thanks go to them as well for their excellent work over the period.

*Simon Brimblecombe, May 2021*