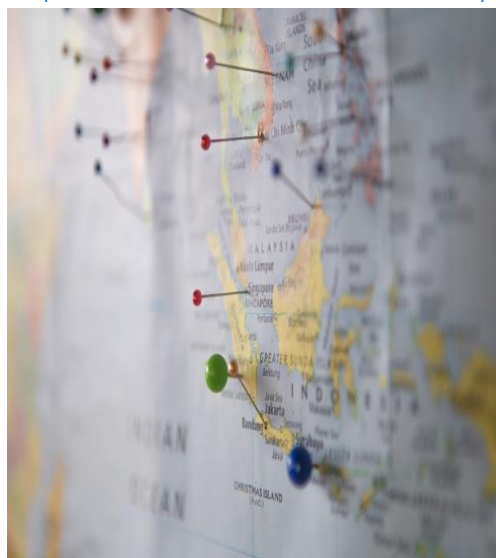


## The Regional Actuarial Services Unit

Report on activities from 1 January to 31 December 2021



### Highlights:

- Actuarial valuations, policy, extension, pension reform, communication, HR and investment work in **Thailand**
- E-coaching and 'Train the Trainers' in **China**
- Finalising actuarial valuation and policy work related to a new Unemployment Insurance scheme in **Indonesia**
- Employment injury actuarial valuation and training and investment capacity building in **Malaysia**
- Shock responsive social security assessment in **Myanmar**
- Actuarial valuation work & capacity building in **Vietnam**
- Training and preparation of actuarial valuation of three schemes in **Cambodia**
- New actuarial valuation of three schemes in **Nepal**

### 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.

The ongoing impacts of Covid19 meant that no Missions and limited meetings could take place in 2021. Training and capacity building continued mainly online where the lessons from 2020 could be incorporated in the approach chosen (e.g. shorter and more interactive sessions). Covid19 also impacted the type of work with a number of projects specially looking at the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken by social security systems to improve robustness and shock responsiveness. In addition to actuarial valuation work, investment governance support and other technical support, the training and knowledge transfer activities supported the legacy aim of the work and strengthened the close link from actuarial and investment work to policy and financial decision making.

### 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. Part of the RASU mandate is therefore to secure new project work which finances the Unit. This was done successfully in 2021.

### Resourcing of Work

In 2021, the RASU worked with 9 different external collaborators ('ExCOLLs') with actuarial, statistical and investment backgrounds. Technical input and review was also provided by ILO colleagues in the region and in HQ.

## Activities

In 2021, the Regional ASU conducted work in eight countries in the region on different projects: existing projects in Thailand, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Myanmar and two new projects in Cambodia and Nepal that started in 2021.

- In [Thailand](#), work continued on the ILO SSO Project '[Strengthening research and actuarial services in the Thailand Social Security Office](#)' with the following key activities completed:
  - Finalisation and delivery of the actuarial valuation of the Workers Compensation Fund, delivery of training and model and results & recommendations presentation
  - Completion of Investment technical advice with seven steps and accompanying reports and delivery of a model to support asset allocation decision making.
  - Policy support including suggested reforms to the pension system, extension of coverage and on issues relating to Covid.
  - Support to the development of the SSO actuarial bureau and training of staff
  - Extension of coverage to four priority sectors including Concept Note and Seminars
  - Delivery of Actuarial Course at Mahidol University
- In [China](#), the RASU continued to provide technical support on the [EU -China project: Improving China's institutional capacity towards universal social protection support](#). This work included technical support for a train the trainers course and five e-coaching sessions
- In [Indonesia](#), the RASU finalised the actuarial valuation of the new Unemployment Insurance ('UI') scheme and legal, policy and financing implications. A three-day workshop on investment governance and management was also delivered as part of the [Fast Retailing Co. Ltd. Project](#) for Unemployment Insurance in Indonesia
- In [Vietnam](#), RASU input involved support for the development of an actuarial model for an actuarial valuation of the health branch and reviewed actuarial valuations for other branches of the social security system.
- In [Malaysia](#), work on the project: *Eleventh actuarial valuation of the Social Security Fund and capacity building of Social Security Organisation (SOC SO) on actuarial work and investment governance* continued with the Final Draft of the actuarial valuation report produced, other technical reports delivered and the training stated. This project is a collaboration between the RASU and GEIP in Geneva.
- In [Myanmar](#), extensive work was undertaken on shock responsiveness social protection under the EU funded project on *Social Protection and Public Finance Management*. This included analysing the shock responsiveness of social security schemes with recommendations, investment and an actuarial valuation of a new UI scheme
- In [Nepal](#), initial preparation work for actuarial valuations for three schemes was undertaken
- In [Cambodia](#), initial preparation work for actuarial work and training was delivered

## Working with others

The RASU has extended ILO actuarial work in the region with the support of the ASU. 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 also work with top quality external Collaborators and my personal thanks go to them for their excellent work over the period as well as to ILO colleagues in the region and in HQ.

*Simon Brimblecombe, Head, Regional Actuarial Services Unit, Bangkok, January 2022*