

DRAFT CFS DECISION BOX: SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOOD SECURITY

CSO comments, 26th July

The Committee notes that:

- Social protection refers to measures that address food insecurity and vulnerability through social **transfers** assistance (~~safety nets~~), social insurance and efforts at social inclusion.
- The right to adequate food and the right to social protection are human rights under international law.
- Social protection should pay attention to gender and related vulnerabilities and discrimination. This also includes the particular nutritional needs of women and children.
- Social protection policies should adequately consider the challenges faced in contexts of political fragility, protracted crises or conflict situations **as well as consider designing and implementation of programmes in the contexts** where state capacities are limited.
- Social protection systems should not be seen as a burden on fiscal systems but as investments in **people** ~~human capital~~ and sustainable economic growth.

The Committee:

1. Urges Member States to design and put in place comprehensive and nationally owned social protection systems for food security, considering:

- The development of comprehensive social protection portfolios and action plans that seek to address structural poverty and food insecurity.
- Country-led processes with rigorous stakeholder consultation, including the active participation of local communities.
- Appropriate national food security assessment and the inclusion of appropriate tools, goals and intended beneficiaries, targeting and registration methods, institutional arrangements, delivery mechanisms, accountability systems, sound monitoring and evaluation that includes impact indicators, funding requirements and sources.
- Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination to ensure that social protection is integrated with broader food security programming.

2. Calls upon Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that social protection systems pursue a ‘twin-track’ strategy to maximise impact on food security and resilience, by:

- Ensuring that social protection systems provide essential assistance in the short-term while simultaneously protecting or building productive assets that support livelihoods and human **development** ~~capital~~ in the long term.
- Giving attention to its use to foster increased agricultural productivity for the poor through targeted input subsidies, weather, crop and livestock insurance, farmer organisations and co-operatives for market access, productive public works that create agricultural assets such as irrigation, home-grown school feeding that purchases food from local smallholder farmers, and integrated programmes that link food and/or cash transfers to agricultural livelihood packages and extension services.
- Establishing strong linkages between social protection and complementary sectors such as education, health, **decent employment in rural areas** and agriculture, and enhancing people’s access to markets and financial services.

3. Urges Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to improve design and implementation of social protection interventions to address vulnerability to chronic and acute food insecurity, considering:

- The importance of provision of access to social protection to those in need at anytime of the year.
- That chronically vulnerable individuals might need permanent assistance, recognizing that not everyone can graduate out of food insecurity.
- That social protection should be predictable and reliable and should be appropriate and sensitive to vulnerabilities at particular stages of life.
- The need to adopt a lifecycle-based approach to nutrition, prioritizing social protection that addresses the critical “first 1000 days” from pregnancy to 2 years old. Programmes should **be aligned with existing human rights entitlement established under international law and with national nutrition policies. They should ensure maternal nutritional food support and, access to health care and maternity protection for women in the workplace, with support for exclusive breastfeeding** for the first six months of life and continued breastfeeding alongside appropriate nutritious locally produced complementary foods ~~as well as ongoing nutritional support for lactating mothers, and appropriate nutritious complementary feeding for children between 6 - 24 months~~ **on a sustainable basis as a fundamental human right.** ~~and overall access to fortified nutritious food with required micronutrients on a sustainable basis.~~ Potential programming may include direct transfers of appropriate food and/or cash transfers to ensure access to a nutritious diet, care and services, **ensuring that all programmes are adequately safeguarded against conflicts of interest.** ~~and encouragement of the private sector to develop and deliver into the marketplace appropriate, affordable and acceptable nutritious food products.~~
- Social protection systems should be designed in such a way that they can respond quickly to shocks such as in response to droughts, floods and food price spikes by establishing contingency financing for rapid scale-up.
- ~~As part of contingency planning, national-level mapping of vulnerabilities to covariate risks should be undertaken along with the creation and regular updating of a database to support targeting (if needed) in times of crisis.~~

4. Calls upon Member States to complement social protection programmes with appropriate legislation supporting the fulfilment of human rights, particularly the progressive realization of the right to food and social protection, including through:

- The recognition of international human rights law and by provisions recommended by the International Labor Conference on the Social Protection Floors.
- The grounding of social protection in national institutional frameworks and legislation, so that governments implement and deliver these basic human rights.
- The adoption of a national right to food strategy to ensure food and nutrition security for all, based on human rights and the formulation of policies and corresponding benchmarks.
- The promotion of gender equality and the protection of women’s rights, based on active and meaningful participation, transparency and access to information as part of broader development strategies.
- ~~When cash is the most appropriate response, Social protection programmes should build in mechanisms to evaluate the cost of a nutritious diet, and use this to determine the size of cash transfers ; they should also be flexible to allow for mid course corrections in the value and modality of transfer to meet the needs of people affected by covariate risks.~~
- ~~Protect productive assets during time of crisis and address the ‘resilience deficit’ which results from recurrent crises.~~
- ~~Ensure minimum living wage and social protection schemes cover rural workers.~~

5. Requests the CFS Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and Secretariat, to promote policy coherence, lessons-sharing initiatives, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes for food security, through:

- Facilitation and convening of lessons-sharing event on social protection policy and practice for food security, including using and complementing existing global and regional platforms.
- Further exploration of the concept of a “food security floor”, as laid out in the HLPE report, by Rome-based agencies in consultation with relevant organizations such as the World Bank, ILO and others.
- The monitoring working group, to identify the role of the CFS in contributing to effective monitoring and evaluation of social protection for food security in consultation with relevant stakeholders, taking into account gender audits and indicators such as dietary diversity to capture risks and performance.