Ways to embed food security and the right to adequate food in the Social Protection Floor agenda

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Seminar on social protection as a catalyst for food security and the right to adequate food

ILO, Geneva

18 March 2013
Context

HLPE report

“The ‘food security floor’ proposes a minimum set of interventions that would ensure food security for all. ... aims to support countries to fulfil their responsibility to deliver on the right to adequate food. ... While there are obvious overlaps between the two agendas, the ‘food security floor’ focuses explicitly on measures to ensure or protect individual access to food”.

CFS HLPE reports:
www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe
Context

ILO response

“The ILO recommendation guides member states towards building social protection systems, with the objective that over the life-cycle all individuals have access to adequate goods and services to achieve income security, which would include food security. In other words, the Social Protection Floor will be sufficient to achieve the right to food for all. The ILO recommendation therefore adequately addresses the concerns raised in the HLPE report”.

Social protection for food security

A report by
The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition
June 2012
CFS response

“The Committee ... suggested that the CFS Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and with the support of the Secretariat consider ... further exploration of a way forward on integrating food security and nutrition issues in social protection floors, in consultation with Rome-based Agencies and relevant organisations and entities, such as the High-Level Task Force on Food Security (HLTF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank”.
ILO’s two-dimensional strategy for the extension of social security: Building comprehensive social security systems.

**Vertical dimension:** progressively ensuring higher levels of protection, guided by Convention No. 102 and more advanced standards.

**Horizontal dimension:** Guaranteeing access to essential health care and minimum income security for all, guided by Recommendation No. 202.

Outcomes can be guaranteed through different means - there is no one-size-fits-all.
ILO’s two-dimensional strategy for the extension of social security: Building comprehensive social security systems

**Vertical dimension:** progressively ensuring higher levels of protection, guided by Convention No.102 and more advanced standards

**Horizonal dimension:**

- **Social Protection Floor:** Access to essential health care and basic income security for all, guided by Recommendation No. 202
- **Voluntary insurance under government regulation:**

Outcomes can be guaranteed through different means - there is no one-size-fits-all
UNICEF’s conceptual framework for malnutrition
“minimum income security”

UNICEF’s conceptual framework for malnutrition
UNICEF’s conceptual framework for malnutrition
UNICEF’s conceptual framework for malnutrition
FAO framework for food and nutrition security
FAO framework for food and nutrition security
Components of food security

AVAILABILITY
- Food production
- Food trade
- Food aid

ACCESS
- Purchasing power
- Market integration
- Access to markets

STABILITY
- Seasonality
- Food price variability

UTILISATION
- Food use practices
- Food intake
- Micronutrients
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<th>Contribution of the Social Protection Floor</th>
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<td></td>
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### Components of Food Security

#### Availability
- Food production
- Food trade
- Food aid

#### Contribution of the Social Protection Floor
- Income transfers can be invested in food production
- Income transfers can increase local demand for food and local food production

#### Contribution of the ‘Food Security Floor’
- Access to land
- Access to water
- Access to fertiliser and seed
- Access to financial services

#### Access
- Purchasing power
- Market integration
- Access to markets

#### Contribution of the Social Protection Floor
- Income transfers finance food purchases, providing direct access to food

#### Contribution of the ‘Food Security Floor’
- Price-indexed cash transfers
- Social pensions
- Public works programmes that build community infrastructure

#### Stability
- Seasonality
- Food price variability

#### Contribution of the Social Protection Floor
- Income transfers can address fluctuations in food prices – but only if they are indexed against local food prices

#### Contribution of the ‘Food Security Floor’
- Seasonal employment programmes
- Weather-indexed crop insurance
- Grain reserves

#### Utilisation
- Food use practices
- Food intake
- Micronutrients

#### Contribution of the Social Protection Floor
- Access to essential health care services partly addresses food utilisation issues

#### Contribution of the ‘Food Security Floor’
- Community-based child growth promotion
- Community-based management of acute malnutrition
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

- Market failures
- Food price variability
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

- Market failures
- Food price variability

Food price inflation in Ethiopia
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

- Market failures
- Food price variability
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

- Market failures
- Food price variability

HSNP cash transfer, northern Kenya
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

- Market failures
- Food price variability

Index–linked cash transfers in Malawi
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

- Market failures
- Food price variability
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

What is the appropriate social protection response to market failures and food price variability?
‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

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‘External’ determinants of food (in)security

What is the appropriate social protection response to market failures and food price variability?
‘Intra-household’ determinants of food (in)security

- Intra-household differences in marginal propensities to consume
- Intra-household discrimination against weaker household members
- Gendered control over income and food
- Inadequate care practices
- Intergenerational transmission of malnutrition
- ‘Dilution’ of social transfers among ‘secondary beneficiaries’
Implications for Social Protection Floors

The implicit theory of change – that income security leads automatically to food security for all, needs careful assessment in each context.

✗ Are income transfers sufficient to purchase adequate food at all times? Do they take account of seasonality? Price spikes? Market failures?

✗ Are income transfers intended to support access to food actually used to purchase adequate food for the intended beneficiaries?

✗ Are income transfers distributed equitably within households to ensure adequate food intake by all? Is there discrimination or dilution?

✗ Does adequate food intake translate into nutrition security for every individual? Is the disease environment undermining effective food utilisation? Are feeding and caring practices appropriate?
Ways forward for Social Protection Floors

PROPOSITION:
Income security and access to essential health care are necessary but not sufficient to realise the right to adequate food for all people at all times.

If we accept this proposition, there are (at least) 3 options for national Social Protection Floors...
Ways forward for Social Protection Floors

1. Design national Social Protection Floors to address food insecurity: e.g. calibrate and index-link income transfers against local food prices, to guarantee consistent access to adequate food at whatever price; or deliver in-kind transfers rather than cash, in contexts of variable food prices.
Ways forward for Social Protection Floors

1. **Design national Social Protection Floors to address food insecurity:**
   e.g. calibrate and index-link income transfers against local food prices, to guarantee consistent access to adequate food at whatever price; or deliver in-kind transfers rather than cash, in contexts of variable food prices.

2. **Integrate food security instruments into the Social Protection Floor:**
   Complement income security and access to health care with instruments that operate at the community or sector level (e.g. food price stabilisation) as well as targeted support to individuals and households.
Ways forward for Social Protection Floors

1. Design national Social Protection Floors to address food insecurity: e.g. calibrate and index-link income transfers against local food prices, to guarantee consistent access to adequate food at whatever price; or deliver in-kind transfers rather than cash, in contexts of variable food prices.

2. Integrate food security instruments into the Social Protection Floor: Complement income security and access to health care with instruments that operate at the community or sector level (e.g. food price stabilisation) as well as targeted support to individuals and households.

3. Add food and nutrition security as a “third pillar”: Recognising that income security and access to health care cannot guarantee the right to food for all, add food and nutrition security to the Social Protection Floor as a third “guarantee”.
Thank you!

IDS Bulletin: www.ids.ac.uk/idspublication/social-protection-for-social-justice