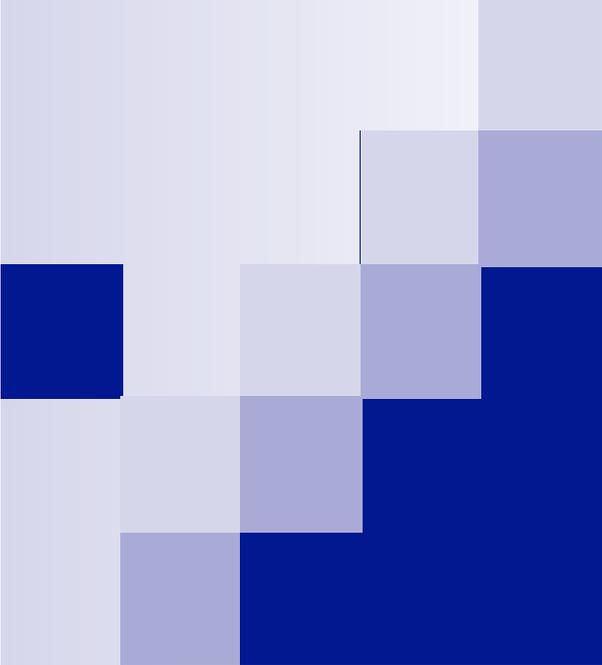


Social Protection and the right to food



SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Olivier De Schutter

ILO - FIAN, Oxfam and IUF seminar 18 March 2013

« ...draft proposals to assist with taking forward institutional discussions on integrating food security and nutrition in social protection floors ».

SOME MAJOR OBSTACLES TO MAKING SOCIAL PROTECTION UNIVERSAL

- **Lack of capacity of national administrations, including labor inspectorates**
- **Importance of the informal sector**
- **Macro-economic constraints - two separate constraints: (i) insufficient public budgets in the short term and (ii) fiscal unsustainability in the medium and long term**
- **Lack of political will and the exponential growth of inequalities**

THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT – AN ENABLING INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Overcoming gridlocks**
- **Incentivizing the establishment of social protection schemes**
- **Stimulate a national conversation: “...national consultations through effective social dialogue and social participation” (Recomm. (n° 202), para. 12)**

| Rural poor net food buyers | Small-scale food producers net food buyers | Small-scale food producers net food sellers |
|--|--|---|
| Interest in low retail prices and reduced price volatility | Interest in low retail prices and reduced price volatility | Interest in high farmgate prices and reduced price volatility |

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

A majority of the rural poor are not net sellers of tradable food staples.

| | Bolivia 2002 | Ethiopia 2000 | Bangladesh 2001 | Zambia 1998 | Cambodia 1999 | Madagascar 2001 | Vietnam 1998 |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Share of internationally traded staples in food consumption of the poor (%) | 25.5 | 24.1 | 41.2 | 40.4 | 56.3 | 62.7 | 64.4 |
| Distribution of poor (%) | | | | | | | |
| Urban (buyers) | 50.9 | 22.3 | 14.9 | 30.0 | 8.4 | 17.9 | 6.1 |
| Rural landless (buyers) | 7.2 | — | 53.3 | 7.4 | 11.5 | 14.8 | 5.8 |
| Smallholders net buyers | 29.1 | 30.1 | 18.8 | 28.8 | 25.8 | 18.9 | 35.1 |
| Smallholders self-sufficient | 7.1 | 39.5 | 4.6 | 20.8 | 18.0 | 27.3 | 19.4 |
| Smallholders net sellers | 5.6 | 8.0 | 8.4 | 13.0 | 36.3 | 21.1 | 33.6 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Share of net purchase/sale of staples by specific groups of the poor (% of the total expenditures of the specific groups) | | | | | | | |
| Purchase per net urban buyer | 12.0 | 9.4 | 22.7 | 11.5 | 5.9 | 4.8 | 13.1 |
| Purchase per net rural buyer | 12.9 | 28.4 | 27.3 | 18.9 | 20.8 | 10.7 | 19.9 |
| Sales per net seller | 37.6 | 35.1 | 39.7 | 21.0 | 39.0 | 70.3 | 37.4 |
| Share of net purchase/sale of staple aggregated across all the poor (% of the total expenditure of all poor) | | | | | | | |
| Purchase by all poor net buyers | 11.3 | 10.2 | 22.0 | 10.3 | 8.1 | 3.6 | 8.8 |
| Sales by all poor net sellers | 1.4 | 2.8 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 14.4 | 18.4 | 12.5 |

Source: Authors' calculations, based on data provided by Ataman Aksoy and Aylin Isik-Dikmelik, personal communication.

Note: Data are only for those people below the national poverty lines.

Tradable staples included are rice, wheat, maize, and beans. Excluded staples are cassava, potatoes, plantains, sorghum, and teff.

— = not available.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Next steps in the CFS :

- monitoring implementation of recommendations adopted by the CFS**
- CFS 41 (Oct. 2014): implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security**

2. Discussion on post-2015 global development goals

High-level event under the UK's G8 presidency on food and nutrition security: 8 June 2013

Three priorities, moving from defining objectives to means towards such objectives : 1° self-standing objective of reduction of inequalities, 2° universal social protection floors and decent work; 3° adequate 'double-level' accountability for progress towards global development goals

3. The proposal for a Global Fund for Social Protection

The facility branch

The reinsurance branch

4. The follow-up to the ILO Recommendation (n° 202) on national floors of social protection : the 2019 horizon

Guideline 12. National financial resources

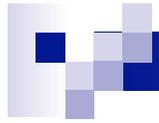
12.3 States are encouraged to promote basic social programmes and expenditures, in particular those affecting the poor and the vulnerable segments of society, and to protect them from budget reductions, while increasing the quality and effectiveness of social expenditures. States should strive to ensure that budget cuts do not negatively affect access to adequate food among the poorest sections of society.

Guideline 14. Safety nets

14.1 States should consider, to the extent that resources permit, establishing and maintaining social safety and food safety nets to protect those who are unable to provide for themselves. As far as possible, and with due regard to effectiveness and coverage, States should consider building on existing capacities within communities at risk to provide the necessary resources for social safety and food safety nets to fulfil the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. States may wish to consider the benefits of procuring locally.

Committee on World Food Security, 39th session (Oct. 2012)

recognized « ... the role of international cooperation in reinforcing national actions to implement sustainable social protection programmes and systems and underlines that social protection programmes for food security and nutrition should be guided by human rights norms and standards, including through the adoption of integrated and mutually-supportive social protection and food security and nutrition strategies and policies, based on human rights standards and principles, including non-discrimination and equality (including gender), meaningful participation, transparency and accountability » (CFS 2012/39, para. 7)



THANK YOU