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STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTIONS WITH A SOCIAL PROTECTION LENS

May 2019

SDGs:



Countries:

Uganda

Project Codes:

TCP/UGA/3603

FAO Contribution:

USD 105 000

Duration:

1 March 2017 – 28 February 2019

Contact Info:

FAO Representation in Uganda

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Implementing Partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

Beneficiaries

Poor households, in particular in rural areas, as well as the government ministries involved in the project, private/civil society organizations, research institutions and development partners involved in strategic social protection planning for agricultural and rural development.

Country Programming Framework

The project contributed to the CPF 2015-2019, specifically Area 3, “Resilience of vulnerable communities and households to livelihood threats, and improvement of food and nutrition security”.



BACKGROUND

Despite the significant transformation of Uganda’s economy and prevailing peace, the country’s economic growth has been fluctuating at a declining rate since 2008-2009, registering its lowest growth rate of 4.8 percent in the financial year from 2013 to 2014. Given the current status of the economy, GDP growth is not currently expected to perform above these levels. In addition, poverty, vulnerability and income inequalities continue to affect a large section of Uganda’s population, with over 19.7 percent still living below the poverty line and 43.3 percent still insecure and vulnerable to poverty. Despite the significant role that social protection can play in helping the vulnerable to build their resilience, many of the agricultural interventions implemented in Uganda do not adequately address the challenge of poverty from a social protection perspective. Indeed, there is a limited capacity and understanding of the role social protection in the agricultural sector, with food and nutrition security interventions aimed at the poor often implemented in isolation by different stakeholders and, as a result, poorly coordinated.

The project was therefore the result of the growing realization that social protection can help the poor to engage better and take part in agricultural development. In addition, if they are well streamlined within the agricultural sector, plans, strategies, policies and programmes can play a role in helping the vulnerable population to better manage social, economic and environmental risks.

In this context, the main objective of the project was to contribute to improved household incomes, livelihoods and the food and nutrition security of poor and vulnerable people in Uganda.

IMPACT

The project’s expected impact was to ensure strengthened synergies between social protection and agriculture in support of food security and nutrition in Uganda.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

There was enhanced collaboration between the social and agriculture sectors as a result of the project and the participation of the agriculture sector in social sector planning was enhanced.

During the review of the Programme Plan of Interventions (PPI) for the NSPP, the project facilitated the participation of agricultural stakeholders, in particular those from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), in the roadmap for the PPI, facilitating their attendance of meetings and provision of inputs, and guiding their roles and responsibilities. This directly contributed to improved synergies and greater policy coherence between the social protection and agriculture sectors.

In addition, assessments of the social protection and agricultural sectors were carried out, with a focus on policies and programmes targeting rural poverty reduction and on the sharing of existing, globally-developed research materials and publications on the coherence and linkages between social protection and agriculture.

The project also facilitated the attendance by stakeholders of international, national and regional/local government trainings and dialogues on the linkages described above. By the end of the project, at least 60 national-level stakeholders from the Government and Civil society organizations (CSOs) had been trained on the linkages between social protection and agriculture.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN

Given the significant demand for social protection interventions, the activities initially planned required a larger budget and longer time frame than scheduled. As a result, an activity extension and a budget revision were granted. The revised activities were completed as planned.

Although the chances of the risks occurring were considered minimal, the project recognized the following two main risks during implementation: (i) the project mainly implements soft activities related to policy and evidence-generation, yet most stakeholders, including beneficiaries, demand direct or hardware interventions such as public work and cash transfers and (ii) the significant demand for social protection interventions means that financing beyond the funds provided under the project is required.

These risks were mitigated through the linking of the project with ongoing public interventions such as the Senior Citizen Grants (SAGE), a social pension benefit for the over-65, the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF), a public work scheme including further livelihood interventions, and other livelihood initiatives that targeted disadvantaged and vulnerable youth and female groups. In addition, the key government officials responsible for the implementation of SAGE and NUSAF 3 were closely involved in the capacity-building, dialogue and evidence generation. This provided an opportunity for broader visibility and greater impact despite the small budget.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

At the end of the project, a meeting was held between the two major ministries – the MAAIF and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD). The meeting featured discussion of a number of follow-up recommendations, which will be taken up by the two ministries. The recommendations entailed a number of actions related to capacity-building and awareness creation through internal tours and South-South cooperation, evidence-generation (in particular in terms of impact evaluation of government programmes), coordination of social protection and agriculture sectors, synergizing efforts and interventions and resource mobilization.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

The existing social and agriculture policy already supports interventions linked to the project's outputs and outcomes. For instance, the National Development Plan (NDP) II 2015/16 to 2019/20, which operationalizes Vision 2040, recognizes social protection as a global issue that is required in Uganda to ensure sustained poverty reduction, inclusive growth and social cohesion. NDP II supports this and is operationalized through the NSPP, which underscores the significance of social protection in addressing the risks and vulnerability of some parts of the Ugandan population, as well as the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) 2015/16 to 2019/20, which is aimed at reducing poverty and creating wealth.

In addition, the project supported the formation of a technical working group comprising officials from key relevant ministries (MAAIF, MGLSD and the Office of the Prime Minister) and food rights alliances. This working group will continue to support and promote coherence between social protection and agriculture.

2. Gender equality

The project ensured that equal opportunities were given to all gender categories, including young people, women and men.

3. Economic sustainability

The project helped to share evidence with key policy-makers on the vulnerability and poverty situation in Uganda and the need to mainstream social protection in agricultural policies, as well as to plan and allocate funds for the very poor and vulnerable. This evidence includes the Malabo commitments and reporting social protection indicators, and indirectly enables the MAAIF to advocate for the allocation of 10 percent of the national budget to the agricultural sector.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

Most of the project interventions, including policy, evidence and capacity-building, contributed directly or indirectly to the achievement of the key principles of human rights, in particular the right to food and the creation of opportunities for vulnerable people. Social protection training blended decent work principles, including entrepreneurship skills, with the development and protection of the rights of women, young people and children. By the end of the project, at least three ministries were considering mainstreaming social protection in the design of food and nutrition security programmes.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Improved household incomes, livelihoods and food and nutrition security of the poor and vulnerable people		
Outcome	Synergies between social protection and agriculture are strengthened in support of food security and nutrition in Uganda		
	Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural plans and programmes include explicit indicators to assess progress towards reducing food insecurity and poverty and have design features to better reach poor and vulnerable households. Institutional mechanisms that support coordination with social protection actors at national and subnational levels are in place. 	
	Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies and strategies do not consider social protection. Agriculture and social protection sectors do not meet to discuss the coherence between social protection and agriculture. 	
	End Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two policies/sectoral strategies or programmes have social protection content. At least 50 project stakeholders are able to articulate the linkages between social protection and agriculture. 	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	<p>A review consisting of national policies and a report is being compiled for dissemination at national workshops. This report will guide the agriculture sector in planning and programming. A roadmap for operationalization of the PPI of the NSPP has been reviewed to include the roles and responsibilities of agriculture sector actors such as the MAAIF.</p> <p>A technical working group has been formed, comprising actors from the social protection and agriculture sectors.</p> <p>A total of 60 stakeholders were trained on the coherence between social protection and agriculture at national and regional levels. These stakeholders are now able to ably articulate the linkages between social protection and agriculture.</p>	
Output 1			
Knowledge and evidence on the contribution of social protection to rural poverty reduction generated, collated and disseminated and agriculture policy framework reviewed to integrate social protection			
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
Output 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of knowledge products generated. Number of policy frameworks reviewed to integrate social protection. Number of stakeholders and institutions accessing and utilizing the knowledge products on social protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two knowledge/ information products. At least three policy/ strategy frameworks. At least 25 government institutions and CSOs. 	Yes
Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information material on the coherence between social protection and agriculture developed or disseminated. The major agricultural policies lack a social protection coherence. 		
Comments	<p>One study was completed on “Coherence between Social Protection and Agricultural Policies and Strategies”, focusing on the review of agriculture policies and strategies in the context of social protection. A “Framework for Coherence between Agriculture and Social Protection”, with a diagnostic tool for assessing coherence, was disseminated.</p> <p>During the assessment of the social protection and agricultural sectors, with a focus on the policies and programmes targeting rural poverty reduction, four Policies and three programmes were reviewed, including the NSPP (2015), the National Employment Policy (2011), the National Agricultural Policy (2013), the ASSP (2015/16 to 2019/20), the National Agricultural Extension Policy, the Food and Nutrition Strategy (2005) and programmes including SAGE and NUSAF (2015-20).</p> <p>A total of 35 officials access and utilize knowledge products on social protection. Of these, five were from the MAAIF, 10 from the MGLSD, 10 from Office of the Prime Minister and 10 from CSOs.</p>		

The capacities of government and CSOs to design, implement, monitor and evaluate effective food and nutritional security interventions with a social protection perspective are strengthened			
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
Output 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of actors trained in the design and implementation of programmes sensitive to social protection. Number of targeted institutions mainstreaming social protection in the design of food and nutrition security programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 200 officials from the Government and CSOs. At least five institutions from government ministries, departments and agencies in the agriculture and nutrition sectors. 	Yes
Baseline	220 stakeholders were trained in the design and implementation of programmes sensitive to social protection.		
Comments	<p>Three government line ministries (MAAIF, MGLSD and the Office of the Prime Minister) are considering mainstreaming social protection in the design of food and nutrition security programmes. Although the line ministries cited above expressed an interest in mainstreaming social protection within their programmes at the end of the project, FAO has no control over whether these ministries implement this or not.</p> <p>There is also a need for participation by the National Planning Authority, the National Agricultural Research organization and academic institutions.</p>		

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