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## Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia

### TOPIC NOTE

10.09.2015 – 30.09.2015

[➤ http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/eca/en/social\\_protection](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/eca/en/social_protection)

## Addressing the main challenges of food security and rural poverty reduction by incorporating social protection into national strategies and actions

To contribute to the knowledge building and dialogue on the social protection reforms in the post-Soviet countries, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) has initiated an online consultation that is supported by the regional platform of the FAO Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum in ECA).

### Purpose

This online consultation aims to add value to a regional study<sup>1</sup> on the current status and trends in the social protection reforms in the post-Soviet countries. This will provide an opportunity for individuals and organizations to contribute to the process by providing their views and opinions on the issues listed below.

### Outcomes/Expected results

The comments of experts and stakeholders will help REU in formulating and ensuring the success of the regional and country initiatives in social protection, in line with the FAO Strategic Objectives and the REU Regional priorities. The online consultation will have the additional benefit of increasing the awareness level on social protection issues among stakeholders at global, regional and country levels.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Comparative Study on Social Protection for Rural Population in Post-Soviet Countries* will provide policy recommendations at the intersection of social protection and the areas of FAO's technical competence, and also inform the development of the organization's strategy in the region.

## Audience

The consultation is aimed at individuals and national institutions representing public and private sectors as well as civil societies and subregional and regional organizations and initiatives, especially those dealing with social protection, resilient livelihoods initiatives, agricultural and rural development, and food security and nutrition. Even though the geographical focus is on post-Soviet countries, contributors from other regions of Europe and Central Asia will be welcomed to join and share their experiences.

To read the background paper to this consultation please [click here](#)

## Issues to discuss:

- **Policies / strategies:** Are social protection programmes conducive to national agricultural and food security and nutrition policies, and vice versa? What strategies cover the support to rural population in case of floods, droughts and other environmental disasters?
- **Rural population:** Is the rural population included in social security and social assistance schemes, and to what extent? What are examples of social protection policies and programmes that make a specific effort to address the needs of rural residents? Are these rural dwellers always aware of such social protection programmes?
- **Gender:** Is there evidence of the gender-differentiated impact of social insurance and social assistance programmes? What is the access of rural women to social payments if they are engaged in other forms of activities such as working in household plots, self-employment in agriculture, seasonal employment, etc.?
- **Stakeholders:** What would be the role of various stakeholders, including FAO-REU, to support governments and societies in creating social protection nets?

We look forward to a dynamic discussion and do believe that your recommendations will help REU to support governments and partners in addressing the main challenges of agricultural development and rural poverty reduction by incorporating social protection into national strategies and actions.

We wish to thank you in advance for participating in this important consultation!

Respectfully Yours,

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and

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### Recommended readings

- International Labour Office. 2014. *World Social Protection Report 2014/15: Building economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice*. Geneva, Switzerland, retrieved from [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_245201.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_245201.pdf)
- Background paper prepared by FAO-REU for the 39th ECA session.
- HLPE. 2012. *Social protection for food security*. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2012.