



## Social Protection contribution to Climate Risk and Disaster Management

*Workshop – Bangkok*

*8-10 April 2019*

### I. Background and Rationale

Climate risk and disasters pose a major threat to achieving the SDG objectives of no poverty and zero hunger by 2030. The impacts of climate risk (including climate change) and disaster on agriculture are already alarming, impacting food systems and increasing the vulnerability of the rural poor. In 2017 – for the third year in a row – there was a rise in world hunger. The absolute number of undernourished people has increased to nearly 821 million (FAO et al., 2018). This is the same level as almost a decade ago.

A 'business as usual' approach is no longer an option. It is necessary to promote coherent climate risk management approaches that address the underlying causes of vulnerability, poverty and food insecurity. These approaches must also increase the capacity of people to cope and adapt to climate shocks in the short- and long-term

To ensure that no one is left behind, countries are striving to achieve the global commitments framed within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Social protection is a critical tool to protect people from the impoverishing impacts of shocks and stresses and other disasters, while enhancing their resilience.

This workshop aims at highlighting the contribution of social protection to climate risk management, including disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/M) as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCA/M). The contribution of social protection will be presented along three main pathways:

- *Reducing vulnerability and reliance on negative coping strategies in the face of shocks* – protecting people from potential losses incurred by shocks, by helping them to smooth consumption and protect their assets, increasing their capacity to cope and reducing impacts.
- *Providing a stepping stone towards climate-resilient livelihoods* – freeing-up household income and assets which can be used for productive and climate-resilient investments or complementing other production-focused programmes.
- *Supporting inclusive disaster preparedness and response* – well-functioning scalable social protection systems can also be an important part of a country's disaster management strategy, by reaching poor populations affected by climate risks in a fast and cost-efficient manner.

Different sessions of the training will discuss the importance of system design features and policy and programmatic coordination among sectors. For social protection (SP) to play an effective role in managing climate risk and disasters, it is important that SP systems are well designed and implemented, and that the linkages with relevant sectors such as disaster risk management and

climate change adaptation are operationalized successfully. For that, it is important to build and increase policy makers and practitioners understanding of relevant areas.

## II. Workshop Objectives

The workshop aims to increase practitioners' understanding of the potential role social protection policies and programmes have for disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/M) and climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCA/M) approaches. It also aims to support practitioners in identifying opportunities for more effective linkages across policies and programmes in these three sectors, in order to protect the rural poor from the impoverishing impacts of climate shocks and to achieve food security objectives.

By the end of the 3 days participants should have an improved understanding of:

- i) The underlying causes of poverty and vulnerability to climate change and how these reinforce each other;
- ii) Policy gaps and synergies that social protection can support for climate and disaster risk management;
- iii) Design and Delivery of social protection that appropriately considers climate risks;
- iv) Underpinnings of effective cross-sectoral coordination that contributes to more effective policy and programme implementation
- v) Using forecasts and predictive mechanisms to enable timely early action, linking social protection and disaster risk management systems

## III. FAO commitment

To achieve its strategic objectives on rural poverty reduction and increasing the resilience of livelihoods, FAO has been working on the synergies between social protection and climate risk management policies and programmes since 2016. Within this framework, FAO collaborates with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and other partners such as other UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, ILO), donor agencies (DFID, EU, World Bank) and several civil societies organizations. FAO provides technical training, policy and programmatic support to national governments and support research and evidence generation.

In the second quarter 2019 FAO will publish a position paper and a guidance note on the topic “Managing climate risks through social protection” (draft available). This will build on the 2017 FAO position paper on “Social protection and resilience: Supporting livelihoods in protracted crises and in fragile and humanitarian contexts” ([link](#))

## IV. Workshop methodology

The workshop is delivered through an interactive and participatory learning approach developed in partnership with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. The format will allow participants to reflect on the new concepts by drawing on their respective country experience, engage in collective learning processes and apply the concepts of social protection and climate risk management to programming and practice.

## V. Workshop participants



The workshop will be facilitated from a team from FAO HQ in partnership with FAO regional office and will include participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.