



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO's approach and added value **RURAL SOCIAL PROTECTION**

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FAO as a important player in Social Protection

Specific added value:

- Addressing key strategic gaps around social protection, rural development and resilience (in rural areas)

Strategic Framework includes a specific outcome on Social Protection:

- Formally Positioned under SP3 (Outcome) and SP5 (Thematic Work stream) but contributing to all 5 strategic Programmes

Agenda is implemented in close partnership with key stakeholders

Ministries of social development, agriculture, environment, the UN, World Bank, civil society, research organizations, among others

Why is FAO involved in social protection?

Zero hunger and Poverty Reduction

- A thriving agricultural sector requires an 'inclusive' transformation approach.
- Social protection:
 - important way to provide assistance to over 767 million living in extreme poverty
 - provides liquidity that facilitates access to social services and economic opportunities
 - generates economic impacts that can help to 'unlock' innovation potential

Promoting sustainable agriculture

- Even commercially viable, market-oriented small holders (fisheries, foresters, farmers) generally lack basic instruments to manage risk
 - social protection can reduce barriers to adopt new technologies and facilitate transition to more productive and sustainable practices

Resilience

More than 50% of the extreme poor live in environmentally vulnerable and fragile countries

- Risk informed and shock responsive social protection contributes to enhance the prevention and response capacity of the most vulnerable

Rural Social Protection Programme

Addressing technical gaps from:

- (i) social protection
- (ii) rural development sectors

Three components:

1. Expansion of coverage: (SDG 1, 2)
2. Economic inclusion (SDG 1, 2, 5, 10, 14, 15)
3. Resilience (SDG 1, 13, 16)

Focusing on: Policy advice, programming supporting, capacity development, impact evaluation, south-south learning and communications/advocacy

Expert Consultation
Social Protection and Forest Dependant communities
FAO's approach and added value

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ECONOMIC INCLUSION
Rural Social Protection
Promoting resilient livelihoods and the economic potential of the rural poor and vulnerable

The issue
Three-quarters of the world's poorest and most undernourished people live in rural areas. They are predominantly family farmers (including fishers and foresters) with few to no assets, engaged in low-quality, low-paid labour, dependent on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. They struggle to access social and financial services, infrastructure, markets or innovative technologies and practices, preventing advancement to more efficient, sustainable and productive livelihoods. They are particularly vulnerable to economic, climatic and conflict-related risks and shocks. Such shocks can have devastating impacts on income and livelihoods, and push people into negative coping strategies, such as the sale of productive assets, over-deforestation or cutting the quality of children's diets, exacerbating the cycle of food insecurity and poverty. Women and girls face extra challenges due to gender-related inequalities.

The issue in numbers

- 75%** of the chronically undernourished and poor reside in rural areas
- Only 45%** of the global population is effectively covered by at least one social benefit
- 59%** of the extreme poor live in vulnerable and fragile contexts

The action
Rural Social Protection works to eradicate rural poverty, boost economic inclusion and rural economies, and increase resilience. This programme will boost small-scale farmers' risk-management and economic capacity, so they can withstand economic, environmental and social shocks and gradually move from subsistence livelihoods to sustainable productivity. It responds to the particular economic, social and environmental contexts of each target country.

Limited social-protection coverage: Here, FAO helps governments build an investment case for expanding social protection. It assesses the barriers to accessing social protection, providing costed scenarios and economic impact analyses. Poor and vulnerable farmers receive tools to manage risk and build productive livelihoods, lifting them out of extreme poverty, enabling their social and economic inclusion.

Social protection coverage, ready for economic inclusion: FAO works to scale-up social-protection schemes, facilitating integration between social protection, food security and nutrition, disaster risk and agricultural policies. The aim is to boost the productive potential of rural households and maximize the impact of social protection on rural transformation.

Fragile and humanitarian contexts: FAO supports the design and implementation of risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection and nascent systems, enhancing crisis-response capacity and helping to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace divide.

The programme stresses sustainability and government ownership, scaling up successful pilot programmes and working with governments committed to their integration into national strategies.

Programme targets

- 10** countries expand social-protection programmes to rural areas
- 16 countries** enhance social-protection schemes to include productive packages
- 6** national crisis response systems have enhanced capacity

The budget

- USD 35 million**
- 5 years**
- 21 countries**

1. Expansion of Coverage

Ensuring programmes at scale in rural areas: (SDG 1 and 2)

SDG1 includes a specific target on expanding the reach of social protection

FAO's contribution:

- Making sure the expansion includes those living in rural areas and that programmes effectively respond to their needs: **scale and adequacy**

How?

- Generation of Evidence*: Investment case for scaling up social protection programmes
- Design and implementation features to ensure the adequacy of programmes to respond to rural livelihoods

2. Economic Inclusion

From Protection to Economic inclusion (SDG 1, 2, 5, 10, 14, 15)

Social protection provides minimum income security as well as promotes the economic and productive capacity of the poorest

FAO's contribution:

- Supporting the move of the poorest from subsistence to productive, sustainable and resilient livelihoods (fragile and development contexts)

How?

- Promoting policy coherence between social and agriculture /natural resource management sectors
- Defining roadmaps towards economic inclusion based on gender analyses, territorial characteristics and opportunities
- Enhancing capacity for gender sensitive design of integrated approaches
- Assessing impact of integrated approaches- what are the best complementary interventions?
- Integrating social protection in broader rural development Programmes (eg: National Agriculture Investment Plans; Sustainable Value Chains Strategies)

3. Resilience

Building Resilient livelihoods (SDG 13, 16)

Rural poverty reduction requires integrating risk-sensitive programming; while humanitarian action requires addressing chronic poverty and exclusion to reach those furthest behind

FAO's contribution

- **Building on FAO's experience** and delivery capacity in humanitarian contexts, supporting the design of risk informed and shock responsive social protection programmes
- **Effectively delivering aid** via social protection structures and building nascent systems
- **Helping host communities (in rural areas) to cope with strain on services** and supporting displaced people to effectively contribute to local economies

How?

- Helping to design social protection frameworks in contexts of extreme fragility
- Diversifying source of income and consequently improve their resilience to shocks
- Linking environmental information with social protection systems
- Integrating social protection into resilience programmes and emergency response plans- operational guidance
- Promoting the expansion of social to rural areas, prioritizing host communities (in the context of migration)
- Identifying the gender dimensions of risk-informed and shock responsive sp

Social protection and Forestry: Core strategy for rural poverty reduction

Reducing poverty is a key component of Sustainable Forestry

- Forest dependent communities are over represented among the poor and extreme poor; they require specific multi-sector interventions
- Smallholders, indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities play an essential role in sustainable forest management: agents of change for accelerated progress in SDG1, 2, 10, 13, and 15

Specific considerations for FDCs

How?

- The importance of *multisectoral policies* – tackling multiple needs at the same time, recognizing independency of policies, programmes and outcomes
 - Eg: livelihood support and climate adaptation strategies
- *Job diversification*- in agriculture, NRM and non- agriculture activities in rural areas (or taking advantage of urban-rural linkages)
 - How to take advantage of the opportunities in the forestry sector? How to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities?
 - Provide opportunities to all: Myth—the extreme poor are not productive
- Address *structural constraints* faced by households in forest communities
 - Access to innovative and climate smart practices and technologies
 - Access to insurance, credit, technology, services, information, markets
- *Empowerment and agency*: eg: engaging indigenous communities in policy and programmatic sustainable forestry management processes / part of the solution not the problem
- Strengthen resource rights for the poor: ownership, control and sharing (specific focus on women and IPs)
- **Ensuring access to effective risk management and economic inclusion strategies, including social protection**

The specific role of Social Protection

- Different pathways out of poverty require specific social protection mechanisms that can allow to income stabilization, risk management and sustainable investments
- Social protection
 - is one effective way to provide immediate assistance to those living in extreme poverty and with hunger, including FDCs (*Important to ensure effective and adequate coverage)
 - contributes to managing risk and economic inclusion
 - Facilitates the transition to more sustainable livelihoods, including in forestry sector

Adequate expansion of Coverage

- Forest dependent communities face specific social and economic risks and vulnerabilities which require focus on coverage and adequacy of social protection instruments
 - Dependent on forests for their livelihoods; often indigenous peoples/ethnic minority
 - In terms of *coverage*, forest dependent communities are not systematically included in social assistance programmes and/or not eligible to access insurance mechanisms given limited formalization
 - In terms of *adequacy*, programmes are not designed responding to the specific vulnerabilities of forest dependent communities, including location, access
- FAO's supports governments in reaching SDG 1.3, with a specific focus on households living in rural areas and/or dependent on natural resources
 - Making exclusion explicit; identification of specific needs and vulnerabilities
 - Identifying tailored packages for more adequate protection

Moving towards sustainable economic inclusion and resilience

- How to combine conservation and poverty reduction objectives?
- Forestry policies are key, but require a specific lens to ensure economic inclusion
 - What are the trade-offs of focusing on protected areas and environmental conservation with livelihoods development and poverty reduction?
 - How to ensure that tenure reforms enhance social inclusion, empowerment and income?
- Social protection can contribute to promoting equitable natural resource management in three dimensions:
 - Minimizing negative coping mechanisms in the event of shocks, thus protecting key assets, including forests
 - Addressing economic barriers to adopting more sustainable practices, including climate smart agroforestry (eg: PROEZA)
 - Enabling the poorest to access new economic opportunities in natural resources management, including in sustainable forestry value chains (Eg: Tanzania)

Thank you!

www.fao.org/social-protection

