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Social Protection and Climate Resilience in Rural Areas

Social Protection and Climate change in the SADC 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Business as usual no longer an option

- More than 59% of the extreme poor live in fragile contexts, many in rural areas
- Increases in hunger and malnutrition largely due to compounding crises: economic, conflict and climate-related emergencies (SOFI, Global Report on Food Crises)

- **Agriculture** sector greatly impacted by climate-related risks:
  - Between 2005 and 2015 natural disasters cost the agricultural sectors of developing country economies $96 billion in damaged or lost crop and livestock production.
  - 83% of all drought-caused economic losses were absorbed by agriculture

- Achieving SDG1 and 2 requires multi-sectoral, innovative and risk informed approaches
- Rural poverty reduction requires integrating risk-sensitive programming; while humanitarian action requires contemplating chronic poverty and exclusion: *key role for social protection in promoting climate resilience*
Multiple risks

The SDGs 1, 2 and 13 present a vision for integrated approaches to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the context of climate change, through sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture: addressing multiple vulnerabilities (social, economic, environmental)

Coordinated approach in terms of:

- *Inclusive* CCA/M and DRR/M policies
- Adequate design to respond to multiple and compounding vulnerabilities
- Integrated planning *to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus*

*Concept of “climate resilience” developed in this context*
What do we mean by climate resilience? Key components

- **Climate risk governance** structures and processes – implies the inclusion of immediate and long-term considerations of risk into climate policies and practices as well as climate-risk measures within and across sectors.

- **Risk monitoring and early warning systems** – Climate risk assessments, and risk monitoring together with early warning and early action systems and forecast-based financing are essential.

- **Vulnerability reduction and climate adaptation measures** within and across sectors, e.g. in the agriculture sector, including the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural good practices, along with climate-proofed infrastructure and nature-based solutions, ecosystem and landscape restoration.

- **Risk sensitive and/or shock-responsive social protection** schemes and risk transfer mechanisms such as climate risk insurance.

- **Emergency preparedness and response** includes contingency planning, risk management coordination mechanisms and the capacity to respond across and within sectors.
What is the role of social protection in Climate resilience?

- Reducing vulnerability and minimizing negative coping mechanisms
- Supporting transition to productive and sustainable livelihoods
- Supporting cost effective and time-efficient disaster preparedness and response
Enhancing coping capacity

Reducing vulnerability and reliance on negative coping strategies in the event 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 of shocks*

And... also by offsetting the negative impact of adaptation measures on the poor

- FAO and partners generated evidence on the impact of social protection programmes on:
  - minimizing negative coping mechanisms – detrimental to FSN, poverty and natural resource management
  - consumption stabilization and asset protection (including human capital) – enhancing capacity to plan and manage risk
Providing a stepping stone towards climate-resilient livelihoods – contributing to reducing climate vulnerability by addressing economic barriers in order to adopt more productive and climate-resilient investments

Key gaps include: access to formation, targeting, costs of transition and risk

Evidence generated by FAO and partners showing that:

• Risk taking: social protection can increase the capacity of poor smallholder farmers to invest resources in productive assets

• Adoption and transition: Addressing the economic barriers to adopting some CSA practices, including capital constraint

• Sustainability: support sustaining the adoption of CSA practices for multiple years, which enhances the benefits the benefits farmers derive from these practices
PROEZA (Paraguay)

Dual approach:

- implement incentives to mitigate climate change through planting fast growing trees in mixtures with valuable native species
- contribute to reduce rural extreme poverty, particularly within forest communities and indigenous peoples, through the diversification of production

PROEZA targets participants of Paraguay’s national flagship social assistance programme, Tekoporã and provides a “cash transfer top-up” (E-CCT).

Added value of social protection - two fold

- (i) reaching the poorest (poor have access to climate adaptation interventions)
- (ii) addressing economic barriers to transition to and transition towards climate smart agro-forestry production systems
Shock responsive social protection

Supporting inclusive disaster preparedness and response –

Social protection can, in contexts of recurring climate-related shocks and stresses, provide protection through ex ante vulnerability reduction, but also be effective mechanisms to deliver humanitarian aid in response to, or anticipation of, a shock.

• **Key components:**
  - Scalable and flexible programming; (eg: contingency funds, price indexing, expansion in participants, transfer size, etc)
  - Risk-informed targeting; (a mix of socio-economic and risk related variables to inform targeting and programme design)
  - Connection with early warning and early action plans
  - Operational coordination with humanitarian system and financing mechanisms
  - Policy coordination with climate change and adaptation mechanisms
Lesotho: CASH+

Responding to El Nino: CASH+

- In Lesotho, FAO’s pilot initiative Linking Food Security to Social Protection Programme (LFSSP) provided seeds and training on homestead gardening and food preservation practices to Lesotho Child Grant Programme (CGP) eligible households in Leribe district.
- IE revealed that the combination had an increased impact on households’ food production and food security, as compared to each programme in isolation;
- FAO and Government decided to scale-up the initiative at national level (all 10 districts) starting in 2015 as part of El Nino drought response. The upscale is implemented entirely through government channels ensuring this way future up scales.
FAO’s added value

• From a **systems building perspective**: making the system more shock responsive/risk informed
  • Using FAO experience on early warning systems, food crises analysis and data to promote stronger linkages with social protection management information systems (MIS), and define triggers for early action response
  • Integrating livelihoods perspectives into the design of SP systems and responses (e.g.: pastoralism, farmers, fisherfolk, nomads, etc)
  • Integrating conflict-sensitive analysis in the design of cash, cash+ or SRSP responses in fragile contexts (or other)
  • Using FAO’s expertise in agriculture risk insurance to enhance the discussion around risk financing

• From a **prevention and response perspective**
  • Complementing cash-based responses with livelihood packages (and integrating this approach into resilience strategies) to enhance resilience capacity at household and community levels (including in contexts of forced displacement)
Examples

- **ASEAN Community**
  - Developing sub-regional level guidelines for the development of risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems
  - Exploring the scale-up of national social cash transfers as “Early Action” based on natural hazards forecast information

- **Ethiopia**
  - Support the implementation of the livelihoods component of the PNSP, particularly in low lands (pastoralist communities), as well as enhancing the definition of triggers to rapid response in the event of crises

- **Mali**
  - Supporting the design of cash+ pilots to strengthen the national social protection programmes

- **Somalia**
  - Providing support to poor and vulnerable households via UCT, CFW and CASH+ while supporting Federal Government in the design of a National social protection policy

- **Turkey**
  - Providing support to Syrian under temporary protection (SuTP) and host communities (CT, Trainings, Grants) through the national social protection system in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

- **Lebanon and Jordan**
  - Support implementation of cash based programmes in alignment with the existing national social protection systems, to increase employment opportunities, create income-generation activities, of host communities and Syrian refugees.
THANK YOU!