



## High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

### STUDY ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

#### Public Electronic Consultation on the scope of the HLPE Study

16 August – 9 September 2011

In October 2010 the newly reformed **UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** requested its **High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)** to conduct a study on social protection, and in particular, to assess: “ways to lessen vulnerability through social and productive safety nets programs and policies with respect to food and nutritional security, taking into consideration differing conditions across countries and regions. This should include a review of the impact of existing policies for the improvement of living conditions and resilience of vulnerable populations, especially small scale rural producers, urban and rural poor as well as women and children. It should also take into account benefits for improving local production and livelihoods and promoting better nutrition.”

Final findings are to be presented at the CFS Plenary session in October 2012.

The High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) now seeks input on the following draft outline/scope to address this mandate. This will be used by the StC to finalize the terms of reference of the HLPE Project Team that will prepare the study and policy recommendations.

Draft Scope of work:

1. Definition of populations vulnerable to chronic and transitory food and nutrition deficiencies – who, where, why
2. Outline of what is necessary for these populations to become less vulnerable: availability, access, and use of food (including economic opportunities, local production and processing, risk management and risk coping strategies, education, health care, etc.)
3. Discussion of how and why existing social safety net programs are useful (with examples of successes and failures from research and impact studies)
4. Recommendations for the design and implementation of specific kinds of programs relevant in specific conditions

The report must include:

- Nutrition needs of vulnerable populations in specific lifecycle frameworks (first 1000 days, puberty, pregnancy and breast feeding, elderly, etc.)
- Creation of programmes that are sustainable from management and budgetary perspectives
- How such programmes could be organized, managed and funded
- Special role of women in insuring adequate nutrition for all (including implementation strategies)
- Methods for feasible measurement of impact

The report does not need to include an exhaustive listing of existing social safety net programs, but should reference lessons learned, positive and negative, from programs throughout the world, including relevant experiences from OECD countries.

This paper is meant to provide implementable policy options for governments, NGOs, local communities, and international organizations.

By this consultation, the HLPE Steering Committee invites you to comment on this outline/scope of work. Please be as specific as possible.

- Do you think it is appropriate?
- Have important elements been omitted or should any of the elements outlined be left out?
- In your opinion, what would be the main aspects that the report should emphasize?
- Are there innovative approaches that you would like to highlight?

To take part in this consultation, channelled through the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN), please visit <http://km.fao.org/fsn/discussions/social-protection> or send your contribution to [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org)

For any information on the HLPE, please visit <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe> or send a mail to the Secretariat [cfs-hlpe@fao.org](mailto:cfs-hlpe@fao.org)

We look forward to your kind response.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Bertini, Member of the HLPE Steering Committee

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the HLPE

## The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

The **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is the central international and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, where policies can be designed, interventions can be coordinated, options can be shared and decisions at different levels can be prepared.

The new **CFS** is inclusive. In addition to member countries, participate in the Committee a wider range of organizations working with food security and nutrition from UN agencies like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and other UN bodies. It also includes civil society and nongovernmental organizations, particularly organisations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolk, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people.

The **High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)** was created in October 2009 as an essential element of the reform of CFS, and as the scientific and knowledge-based pillar of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

The **HLPE** aims to help CFS to better understand the diversity of issues and rationales when dealing with food and nutrition insecurity. To do so, it will thrive to clarify contradictory information and knowledge, elicit the backgrounds and rationales of controversies, and identify emerging issues. This will among others build upon the diversity of disciplines, backgrounds and regional origins of the Steering Committee members and of Project Teams.

The **HLPE** is not mandated to conduct new research. The HLPE will draw its studies based on existing research and knowledge already conducted by various expertise providing institutions (universities, research institutes, international organizations etc), and adding value by global, multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary analysis.

**HLPE** recommendations and studies will combine scientific knowledge with experiences from the ground, in a same rigorous process. The HLPE will translate the richness and variety of forms of expert knowledge from many actors (knowledge of local implementation, knowledge based on global research and knowledge of "best practice") that draw on both local and global sources, into policy-related forms of knowledge.

### Key functions of the HLPE, as stated in the CFS reform document

As directed by the CFS Plenary and Bureau, the HLPE will:

1. Assess and analyze the current state of food security and nutrition and its underlying causes.
2. Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice on specific policy-relevant issues, utilizing existing high quality research, data and technical studies.
3. Identify emerging issues, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas.

The **HLPE** is directly linked to the foremost international policy platform for food security and nutrition, the CFS. This ensures the legitimacy and relevance of the studies undertaken, and their insertion in a concrete political agenda at international level.

The **HLPE** produces its recommendations and advice independently from governmental positions, in order to enrich discussions and debates at CFS. Thus, the internal process and its results guarantee the independence of the HLPE.

The HLPE has a two-tier structure:

- A Steering Committee composed of 15 internationally recognized experts in a variety of food security and nutrition related fields.
- Project Teams acting on a project specific basis, selected and managed by the StC to analyze/report on specific issues.

More information about the HLPE can be found on its website: [www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe)