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Social Protection

From Protection to Production

Enhancing the Food Security and Nutrition outcomes of Social Protection Programmes: An Assessment Tool

Food and Agriculture Organization
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Social Protection can contribute to address food insecurity and malnutrition

Why?

- Social assistance programmes (i.e. cash transfer, public works and school feeding programmes, etc.) have a high potential to enhance food security and reduce malnutrition
- Impact on FSN not AUTOMATIC
 - nutrition-sensitive design and adequate implementation matters
 - Cross sectoral collaboration is necessary

How?

- Increasing households' food consumption and dietary diversity
- Minimizing negative coping mechanisms affecting nutrition and health
- Enhancing households productive capacity:
- Addressing economic and social barriers to accessing services (direct and indirect):
- Social protection interventions as entry points to access health and nutrition services (complementary services)



What is the FSN-ISPA tool?

Objective:

- To assess the performance of social protection programmes on food security and nutrition and set out possible options for enhancement
- To strengthen social protection systems and programmes to ensure greater positive impact on food security and nutrition.

FSN-ISPA tool consists of:

Guidance note	• Identifies the criteria to be used to assess the programme(s)
Implementation Guidelines	• Provides guidance on the steps to conduct the assessment
Questionnaire	• Guides the data collection (through a desk review and national and field interviews)
Assessment matrix	• helps to identify areas that may benefit from strengthening
Country report	• Presents the main findings and provides recommendations



The process of application of the FSN-ISPA

Definition through broad consultation of national priority programme(s) to be analyzed

Relevant information is collected about the programme(s) design and implementation according to a set of criteria

Analyze the evidence through a consensus-based process – national assessment workshop

Country report is prepared and validated by stakeholders



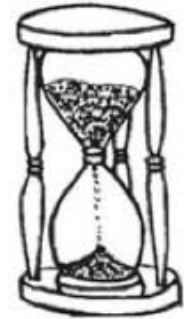
Assessment criteria

- Inclusion of explicit FSN objectives and indicators based on FSN needs



- Inclusiveness and accessibility

- Adequacy of benefits, timing and duration



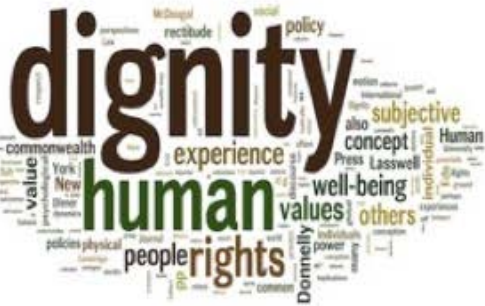
- Responsiveness to adapt to changing FSN needs and crises

Assessment criteria



- Inter sectoral Coherence in operation and governance structures

- Sustainability



- Rights and Dignity



Early Successes/lessons learnt

- Early successes
 - Identified areas of the programme to enhance the FSN impact,
 - Raise the visibility of the challenges being faced,
 - Supported the definition of an action plan for the government,
 - Fostered constructive dialogue between sectors,
 - Contributed to greater policy coherence,
 - Supported national public debates or/and transition.

- Lessons learnt suggest that success:
 - Calls for an appropriate allocation of time,
 - Rests upon engagement and ownership of national stakeholders,
 - Timing of the assessment is key.



Cambodia's experience piloting the FSN-ISPA tool

How FSN-ISPA tool introduced in Cambodia?

- FSN is a complex and cross sector issue, and there is limited assessment tool available.
- WFP is phasing out from its HGSF program (nutrition intervention program at primary school) by 2020.
- An independence assessment was needed to show an effectiveness of the HGSF program.
- CARD representing the government of Cambodia engaged FAO and GIZ to support in piloting the ISPA-FSN tool in Cambodia.

How has FSN-ISPA been applied in Cambodia?

- Collaboration among stakeholders was initiated in August, 2017.
- Institutional arrangement was defined (with CARD to lead the Inter Ministerial Task Force (TF) with members from government agencies, DPs, and nutrition consultants)
- TF organized a two days workshop to localize the questionnaires to Cambodian context.
- Members of the TF went to meet beneficiary to do the survey.
- Consultants did a desk review and consolidated the data from the survey.
- Draft Assessment Matrix and Country Report has been produced, which need to be reviewed and comments by (1) TF (2) stakeholders workshop (3) FSN forum (4) high level TWG-FSN meeting.

Lessons learned so far.....

- Challenges:
 - Complexity of the tool which require experts from nutrition area.
 - Language barriers (need to translate into local language for more participation/comments from stakeholders, and this take lots of time).
- Opportunities:
 - Show how effective the ISPA-FSN assessment tool.
 - Serve as an evidence to start the policy dialogue for the HGSF program in Cambodia.
 - Use as an example to replica in other countries.



For more information :

Jessica Owens Jessica.owens@fao.org

<http://www.fao.org/social-protection/en/>



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