

ROSA Newsletter

Zoom Promoting sustainable graduation out of food insecurity: The role of social transfers

Safety net programs are increasingly introducing graduation components. The concept of graduation refers to “a process whereby recipients move from a position of depending on social transfers, to a condition where they no longer need these transfers, and can therefore exit the programme”¹. This concept remains a topic under debate. It involves building sustainable pathways out of poverty and food insecurity. Social transfer programmes and other complementary interventions are intended to reduce livelihood vulnerability and build resilience to future shocks.

This special issue of the ROSA Newsletter examines the role of social transfers in promoting sustainable graduation out of food insecurity. The first article discusses the concept of graduation, its rationale and implementation issues. The second article presents the current experience of the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme. As one of the major donors to the PSNP, the European Commission has contributed to the process of defining and implementing graduation. Both articles highlight some of the lessons learned and challenges ahead to implement graduation at the operational level.

The promotive function of social transfers

According to conceptual models for social protection, social transfers are multi-functional instruments that have **protective, preventive and promotive benefits** for targeted households (see Box No. 1). Thus, **promotive measures** could help people increase their asset base and graduate out of poverty to the point where they are not dependant on social protection².

Social transfers could also play a **transformative role**. Some forms of transfers such as public works programmes could contribute to creating community assets, stimulating local markets and generating income and employment multipliers³.

Box No. 1: Core functions of social protection *Protection (“risk coping”)*

This includes the most basic “safety net” transfers to save lives during emergencies (e.g. disaster relief); and social welfare or social assistance grants to offer relief from chronic deprivation (e.g. disability allowance)

Prevention (“risk mitigation”)

Social transfers aim to reduce deprivation and prevent people from falling into (extreme) poverty, by various insurance mechanisms (crop insurance, health insurance, unemployment benefits, old age pensions).

Promotion (“risk reduction”)

Social transfers aim to protect livelihoods as well as to enhance incomes and capabilities (e.g. school meals; conditional cash transfers deliver cash and health care).

Source: Adapted from RHVP, 2007⁴



¹ S. Devereux, Dependency and graduation, Frontiers of social protection No. 5, RHVP, March 2010.

² For more information on the role of social protection in addressing food security, see the position paper prepared by EuropeAid for the seminar “Entitlement and access to food: Systems of social transfers to fight extreme poverty” (April 2008).

³ S. Ashley, T. Brown, S. Gibson, Building consensus for social protection: Insights from Ethiopia’s Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), the IDLgroup, 2007.

⁴ RHVP, What are social transfers?, Social transfer policy brief No. 1, July 2007.

A need for an enhanced focus on linkages between programmes and overall strategy

The available evidence suggests that where social transfer programmes are implemented in isolation from other complementary interventions to promote livelihoods, graduation is unlikely⁵. Hence, a package of interventions involving both protection and livelihood promotion is needed. This requires a shift from an inward-looking focus on programmes to a more comprehensive approach integrating different measures (such as microfinance, training programmes and livelihood diversification).

Nevertheless, this does not guarantee the long-term sustainability of livelihoods, which also depends, to a large extent, on an enabling environment. A report of the World Bank highlights that the broad concept of graduation involves improving the welfare status of beneficiaries. In several contexts, the effective implementation of comprehensive social protection systems could contribute to overall improvements in socioeconomic and poverty levels. In Chile, for example, Chile Solidario is part of a network of social protection programmes covering different vulnerable groups and their specific vulnerabilities (e.g. extremely poor families, homeless, vulnerable children)⁶. This emphasises the fact that graduation processes are complex and cannot be delivered through a safety net programme alone.

Towards a more dynamic approach

The concept commonly used for graduation is implicitly linear. It is considered that social transfers should be designed as time-bound programmes; once beneficiaries fulfill the conditions, they could graduate out of social transfer programmes. Graduation takes place when households are able to withstand a certain level of shocks. Nevertheless, this approach raises several questions.

First, this approach focuses on short-term outcomes. A more dynamic approach is therefore needed. A long-term perspective on resilience not only refers to the ability to cope with shocks, but also to retain its ability to continue and improve over time.

Second, it is difficult to assess whether and when a household is self-reliant and resilient and no longer needs social transfers. Even if a household is assessed as having passed an income or asset threshold at a point in time, it could remain vulnerable to future crises, in particular in highly vulnerable contexts.

Third, there can be little prospect of sustainable graduation for some households either because of their own characteristics or because of the challenging environment in which they struggle. Some authors stress the necessity to acknowledge that some recipients of social transfers have no prospect of graduating, and will require permanent assistance⁷. For these specific targeted groups, synergies need to be ensured between food security interventions and social protection systems.

These points should be taken into account when implementing graduation at the operational level, in particular to establish appropriate graduation criteria, and define realistic graduation objectives.

Key implementation issues and challenges ahead

The concept of graduation is quite difficult to operationalise. Some of the challenges include: identifying robust indicators of self-reliance that incorporate resilience against future shocks, setting realistic thresholds for income or asset ownership, determining the eligibility of beneficiaries and whether and when they should graduate⁸. The income poverty line is for example, an indicator usually used for measuring a household's level of income at a given point. Nevertheless, it gives no indication of a household's resilience and self-reliance. Furthermore, graduation objectives are often overly ambitious given the depth of poverty and food insecurity experienced by targeted households.

There is as yet little evidence on the effectiveness and impact of graduation strategies. More research is needed on the characteristics of beneficiaries that graduate from such programs, their pathways during and after the program, and the sustainability of the improvement in their social and economic conditions⁹.

⁵ A. McCord, Differing government and donor perspectives on cash transfer based on social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa: The implications for EU social protection programming, ODI, June 2010.

⁶ World Bank, Graduation, Safety Nets How to. A tool kit for practitioners, 2010.

⁷ S. Devereux, March 2010.

⁸ Idem.

⁹ World Bank, 2010.

Graduating from Ethiopia's PSNP and out of chronic food insecurity: Lessons learned and challenges ahead

During the last decades, Ethiopia has experienced recurrent food insecurity as a result of severe droughts and conflicts. For several years, policy responses focused on emergency assistance. Over time, concerns arose regarding the limited effectiveness of emergency food aid to address chronic vulnerability. By the early 2000s, a consensus emerged on the need to reform the humanitarian response system in Ethiopia and to develop a long-term approach to tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity.

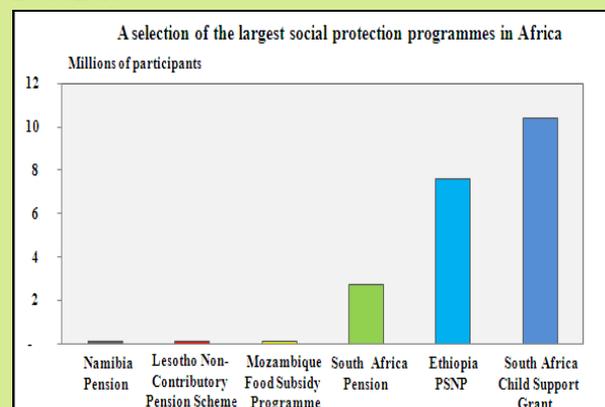
In 2005 after a two-year consultation process with development partners, the Ethiopian Government launched a large-scale national programme, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). It aims to respond better to the needs of chronically food insecure households by providing them with transfers of cash and/or food. The PSNP was designed as an **asset protection mechanism** at the household level, since the provision of predictable transfers to targeted beneficiaries could help to smooth consumption and protect their household assets from depletion. The programme also includes an **asset-building component** through labour-intensive public works that contribute to the development of community assets – the “productive” component of the PSNP.

As part of a larger Government food security programme, the primary goal to which the PSNP contributes is to “**graduate**” households from **food insecurity**. This is to be achieved through a combined effort of the PSNP and complementary programmes providing access to credit, agricultural extension and other services¹⁰.

This article focuses on **current experience of the PSNP in defining and implementing graduation at the operational level**. It briefly summarises main features of this programme. It then discusses PSNP’s conceptual framework and practical issues concerning its current system of graduation. This case study highlights the complexity behind this concept, the difficulty of establishing graduation criteria and the necessity to ensure effective integration and coordination with other interventions in order to support the graduation objective.

Box No. 2: The PSNP at a glance

Participants: 7.6 million beneficiaries (approximately 10% of Ethiopia’s population), about 1.5 million households.



Coverage: PSNP operates in 8 regions, reaching 300 chronically food insecure woredas (a third of Ethiopian woredas).

Components: Conditional transfers through labour-intensive public works and unconditional transfers to labour-poor households and those who have no other means of support¹¹. Around 85% PSNP beneficiary households¹² contribute to public works.

Budget: US\$ 1.5 billion (2005-2009); US\$ 2.2 billion (2010-2014)

Annual budget (2009): 2.14 billion ETB in cash and 457.966 MT of cereals. This is equivalent to approximately US\$ 360 million (1.2% of GDP)¹³.

Donors: Canada, Ireland, Sweden, UK and US governments, the European Commission, the World Food Programme and the World Bank.

EC support to the PSNP

	1st phase 2005-2009	2nd phase 2010-2014
9th EDF	78 M €(D)	
FSBL	20 M €(D)	
10th EDF A Env	42 M €(21,45 D)	58 M €(D)
10th EDF B Env	20,2 M €(D)	
Food facility	23,1 M €(D)	
	10,8% of the total programme cost	

¹⁰ S. Ashley, T. Brown, S. Gibson, Building consensus for social protection: Insights from Ethiopia’s Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), the IDLgroup, 2007.

¹¹ Direct support beneficiaries include, but are not limited to, orphans, disabled people, ill individuals, elderly, pregnant or lactating women and poor female-headed households.

¹² The household allocates the work requirement among able-bodied adults.

¹³ The PSNP is integrated into the national budget.

Main features of the PSNP

Ethiopia's PSNP is an international flagship programme both in its scope and in its approach. It is the largest social transfer scheme in Sub-Saharan Africa, outside of South Africa. It represents a fundamental shift towards a social transfer programme led by the government, in collaboration with a joint group of donors. Its integration within a broader food security framework is also a major feature of this programme.

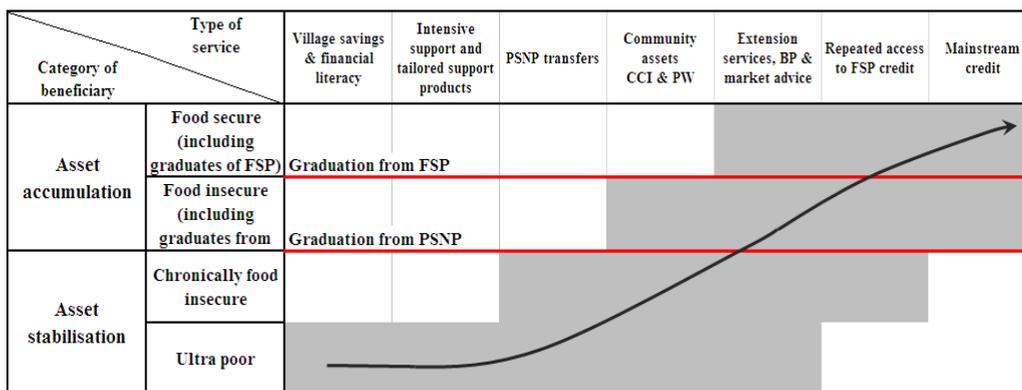
The PSNP has been **implemented through national systems**¹⁴, in order to strengthen long-term implementation capacity. From the early stages of the design phase, it was decided not to create parallel structures and systems to administer the PSNP. A capacity building strategy was developed to address the implementation constraints, in particular for the delivery of cash transfers. But major challenges remain to improve the existing capacity for programme delivery as implementation continues to differ across regions and woredas. High staff turnover has undermined the efforts made in training.

The PSNP has been developed by **intensive collaboration** between the GoE and donors. The design process was characterised by intense debate under the aegis of the "New Coalition for Food Security"¹⁵. One of the biggest design challenges was how to bring diverse institutional interests, resources and internal operating procedures under one unified programme¹⁶.

Despite the differences of views, one of the main design challenges was how to bring diverse institutional interests, resources, and internal and approaches¹⁷ there was a broad agreement on the need to shift from an emergency response to a development-oriented approach. This common vision helped to build consensus between the different stakeholders and resulted in a strong agreement on the principles concerning the PSNP design and coordination processes¹⁸. A financial framework was also developed to ensure multi-annual financing and to harmonize support from nine different donors, including both bilateral and multilateral assistance.

The PSNP is **fully integrated into one overarching food security programme** (FSP 2010-2014), which includes the PSNP, Complementary Community Investments (CCI)¹⁹, the Household Asset Building Programme (HABP)²⁰, and a resettlement programme²¹. These combined programmes are intended to enable chronically food insecure households to reduce vulnerability and increase their resilience to shocks. Beneficiaries are expected to graduate from assistance programmes, once they have achieved sustainable food security through benefiting of different types of tailored services and interventions (cf. Figure No. 1). Nevertheless, it still remains a challenge to maximize the potential synergies of interventions under the umbrella of the FSP, in particular by supporting both agricultural and off-farm activities.

Figure No. 1: Pathway to graduation from PSNP and overall FSP



¹⁴ In particular Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED).

¹⁵ In 2002/03, the Government initiated a series of consultations to develop solutions to the country's food security challenges. A "Coalition for food security" was launched in June 2003, reflecting a strong partnership among government, development partners, civil society and private sector.

¹⁶ World Bank, Designing and implementing a rural safety net in a low income setting. Lessons learned from Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme 2005-2009, 2010.

¹⁷ Debates centered mainly on whether PSNP reform should focus on productive or protective elements and whether to prioritize cash or food transfers (World Bank, 2010).

¹⁸ Cf. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and PSNP donors. Memorandum of understanding for the PSNP, 2005.

¹⁹ It ensures the provision of credit and technical support in order to build household assets and increased incomes.

²⁰ It supports the creation of an enabling environment by funding small-to-medium scale community infrastructures.

²¹ This programme facilitates the movement of chronically food insecure households interested in settling in identified resettlement areas and provides access to key services in these areas.

Addressing graduation in the PSNP

Graduation is considered as a key goal of the PSNP in combination with other programmes. It remains a high political priority, reflecting the Government's intention to avoid dependency and address food insecurity problems. In 2005, the GoE set ambitious targets: most of the PSNP participants were intended to graduate out of the programme within 5 years of its launch. In 2009, however, about 1.3% of total beneficiaries had done so. Despite the fact that targets seem to be over-optimistic, this situation reflects the challenges faced to develop new effective pathways for the poorest to graduate out of food insecurity.

The framework of the current system

The key source of guidance on graduation in the PSNP is a document produced in November 2007, which provides guidelines on how graduation was to be understood and how it should be assessed in practice (cf. Box No. 3).

Box No. 3: Current guidelines on graduation

The Graduation Guidance Note clarifies the following issues:

- It defines graduation from the PSNP.
- It encompasses key agreements regarding the steps that regions, woredas, kebeles and communities should undertake in identifying graduates.
- It outlines the key principles guiding how they should conduct these steps.
- It outlines the key responsibilities with regards to graduation held by different institutions at woreda, kebele and community level.

Graduation from PNSP is defined as the move from being chronically food-insecure to being food-sufficient: "A household has graduated when, in the absence of receiving PSNP transfers, **it can meet its food needs for all 12 months and is able to withstand modest shocks**". This definition raises several issues, in particular the difficulty to assess the food gap²² and the concept of a modest shock²³.

Specific criteria for graduation were developed by using a set of "asset-based benchmarks" tailored to local conditions²⁴. On an annual basis, information on household assets is collected and assessed in comparison with the regional benchmark to determine if a household is ready

to graduate. An assessment of the current PSNP graduation system (2010)²⁵ showed that there is a significant variation in how benchmarks are being interpreted and applied at the local level. More generally, it highlights that the process for assessing graduation is functioning, even though several improvements are needed.

Integration of the PSNP and OFSP interventions

To enable households to move out of food insecurity, PSNP participants were to have access to Other Food Security Programmes (OFSP)²⁶, particularly household packages. One of the main challenges to achieving this coordination was that the agricultural extension system was under-resourced and there were too few sufficiently skilled development agents. The government initiated a reform considered as crucial for the success of the PSNP and OFSP²⁷.

Another issue to be addressed is the exclusive focus on agricultural livelihoods, particularly on-farm activities, under the OFSP. Recently, the scope of support has been expanded to include non-farm activities and households not having available labour and land.

Ensuring a greater integration of the PSNP and OFSP is a key challenge. These combined interventions can push some (but not all) households up towards graduation. Nevertheless, whether they graduate into food security will also depend on a number of different factors which help them to improve their livelihoods. These are factors beyond the direct control of PSNP and other programmes that concern the wider environment. The PSNP cannot alone be expected to bring graduation. Graduation needs to be considered as a process that requires regular investments in household asset building, together with improvements in the **enabling environment**.

Lessons learned from the Ethiopian experience show that graduation cannot be expected to result from the safety net alone. It needs to be viewed with an understanding of the multiple paths out of food security. Targeted support to households needs to enable movement along these multiple social, economical and technical conditions determining the paths while simultaneously creating synergies with sectoral investments in financial access, agricultural extension and rural infrastructure²⁸.

²² The criterion used is a self-reported food gap of less than one month in the last 12 (13 Ethiopian) months.

²³ The concept of a modest shock has not been fully defined.

²⁴ The use of graduation threshold has been criticised as they give no indication of a household's ability to withstand seasonal stress and their resilience to future shocks. This could lead to situations where PNSP graduates are pushed back into destitution in case of drought or failed harvest.

²⁵ IDLgroup, Assessment of graduation. A way forward, 2010.

²⁶ The OFSP was financed through a Federal Government Specific Purpose Grant to regions and the donor-financed Food Security Project.

²⁷ World Bank, 2010.

²⁸ Idem, 2010.

Views on current news:

FAO Voluntary guidelines: Towards a responsible governance of land tenure?

Since 2005, the FAO has been working on raising awareness of the importance of good governance of land and natural resources tenure. To develop a formal policy response, the FAO has been facilitating a multi-stakeholder process to elaborate a set of principles and a framework for responsible tenure governance. This work is intended to result in Voluntary Guidelines (VG) prepared jointly by governments, civil society and international organisations and approved by FAO member States and other interested parties. In this interview, Paul Mathieu from the FAO's Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, shares some key insights into the on-going process and highlights the challenges ahead for implementing the Voluntary Guidelines.

The zero draft of the VG was recently released and open for comments through an e-consultation. How was the process for elaboration of this document?

The process leading up to the adoption of these guidelines comprises different steps. An important phase is now closing with the publication of the zero draft which is based on a consultation process held during 2009-10. It included ten regional consultations and five separate consultations with civil society and the private sector²⁹. The purpose of these meetings was to identify key issues in the regions they were held and identify good practices and possible solutions³⁰. The zero draft is thus the result of an inclusive and participatory process and reflects inputs from a variety of stakeholders. It was an important step forward towards creating a space for dialogue and collaboration on land issues and identifying synergies with existing processes, such as the African Land Policy Initiative³¹.

The draft version was submitted for comments through an e-consultation from 18 April to 16 May. It helped gather together comments and feedback and allowed interested parties who were not able to attend the regional consultations to contribute in the drafting of the guidelines. The VG Secretariat received 131 comments from civil society organisations (60% of the total), individuals (27%), governments (23%), UN

agencies, research and professional organisations. The consultation is now closed and comments are being taken into consideration in the preparation of the first draft of the guidelines.

What is the nature of the guidelines and the main issues being addressed?

In setting out principles and internationally accepted standards, the VG intend to provide practical guidance to States, civil society and the private sector on responsible governance of tenure. The guidelines will constitute a framework that States can use when developing their own strategies, policies, legislation and programmes. Being voluntary, they will not establish legally binding obligations nor replace existing national or international laws, treaties or agreements. Therefore, they are consistent with international and regional instruments that address human and tenure rights.

Key issues are addressed and included in the draft version, following a sequential approach: i) guiding objectives and principles of responsible tenure governance; ii) policy, legal and organisational frameworks; iii) legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties; iv) transfers and alteration of tenure rights; v) administration of tenure; vi) responses to emergencies; and vii) implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

What are the next steps for the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines and their implementation?

The process towards the adoption of the VG will be led by the Committee of World Food Security (CFS). The first draft is being finalised and will be submitted to the open-ended working group of the CFS for review. The OEWG will meet twice in the summer. The first meeting (14-17 June) will focus principally on the identification of issues of convergence and disagreements. Negotiations will take place at the second meeting during a 4-day CFS plenary session (12-15 July). The final text of the VG will be submitted for the consideration of the 37th session of the CFS in October 2011.

Once adopted, the VG are likely to be a point of reference and they should be widely disseminated and promoted. This will help ensure broad awareness and the effective use of the guidelines. The development of a set of practical guides is also envisaged to provide further guidance on specific topics (gender and women's land rights, private investments in agriculture,...). Particular attention needs to be paid to capacity building at the national and regional level. This is a key element to influence and improve policies and practices.

²⁹ Regional consultations brought together almost 700 participants, from 133 countries, representing the public and private sectors, civil society and academia. Four consultations, held for civil society in Africa, Asia, Europe and Central and West Asia, and Latin America, were attended by almost 200 people from 70 countries, and an additional private sector consultation drew over 70 people from 21 countries

³⁰ The findings of these consultations are reported on the Voluntary Guidelines website.

³¹ It is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AU), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Agenda

Past events

- **International Dakar agricultural Forum** (18-19 April 2011, Dakar, Senegal): Agricultural experts, researchers, representatives of 40 countries, delegates from producers and consumer associations participated in this forum. It was the second edition of the Forum, which was first held in 2005. This event aimed to discuss on i) agricultural price regulation to prevent recurring agricultural and food crises, ii) governance and international co-operation instruments to combat food insecurity and alleviate poverty and iii) global food security. In a press release published at the end of the forum, participants suggested adopting urgent measures for regulating main agricultural prices and the creation of a global organisation in charge of agricultural and food security governance. [>>>](#)
- **Meeting of the Food crises prevention network (RPCA)** (21-22 April 2011, Paris, France): The objective of this meeting was to review the food and nutrition situation and to discuss on progress made in the implementation of regional initiatives to address food insecurity in West Africa. Among these initiatives, participants stressed the importance of accelerating the implementation of a network of food security stock management boards - RESOGEST. [>>>](#)

Forthcoming events

- **12-13 May:** Workshop on "Measuring the effects of agri-health interventions" - London (UK) [>>>](#)
- **16 May:** GAIN and DFID meeting on "Market-based strategies for improved nutrition" - London (Great-Britain)
- **17 May:** Montpellier Panel Launches on "Scaling Up Nutrition"- London (GB) [>>>](#)
- **19-20 May:** Conference on "Urban agriculture for resilient cities" (Almere, the Netherlands)
- **23 May :** EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) Conference on "Food for Everyone" - Brussels (Belgium)
- **26 May :** Food and nutrition security: The missing ingredient of EU Development Policy (European Parliament) – Brussels (Belgium)

- **24-27 May:** Regional workshop on "Maximising the nutritional benefits of food security interventions in West Africa" – Dakar (Senegal)
- **26-27 May:** G8 Summit – Deauville (France)
- **7 June:** FAO expert workshop on "Territorial perspective of food security policies and strategies" - Rome (Italy)
- **7 June:** EC agriculture and rural development (ARD) seminar on "Sector approaches in natural resources" – Brussels [>>>](#)
- **13 June:** International civil society meeting on "Building political commitment for the 1,000 days and Scaling Up Nutrition" - Washington D.C. (USA) [>>>](#)
- **15 June :** Brussels policy development briefing No 23 "Addressing ACP nutrition security : the key role of Agriculture" – Brussels [>>>](#)
- **15 June:** EU Parliament hearing on food security (including nutrition) – Brussels [>>>](#)
- **22-23 June:** Ministerial Meeting - G20 « Agriculture » (France)
- **22-24 June:** First Africa College International conference on food security, health and impact - Leeds (UK) [>>>](#)
- **29 June:** European Commission ARD seminar on "Hot issues in ARD" – Brussels (Belgium) [>>>](#)
- **4 July:** European Commission ARD seminar on "Value chain in ARD" –Brussels [>>>](#)
- **18-20 July:** EC training "Acting in transition" – Brussels
- **4-6 November:** 4th McGill Conference on Global Food Security - Montreal (Canada) [>>>](#)
- **18-22 October:** 37th session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) - Rome (Italy)
- **3-4 November:** G20 Summit (France)
- **28 November-9 December:** The 17th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 17) - Durban (South Africa)

For further information: [Upcoming events](#)

EC's latest news

- **The agriculture and food security interactive touch screen map:** It will be the third interactive map developed by EuropeAid's Natural resources unit. Previous initiatives resulted in a climate change touch screen, presented at the UN Climate Change Conference held in Copenhagen in December 2009, and a biodiversity touch screen. The agriculture and food security interactive map will be accessible both on a touch screen, which will be used at conferences, seminars and other events, and via internet. This interactive map will include charts and graphs showing commitments made by the EC between 2004-2010 by country and by region, covering a wide range of sectors contributing to one or several pillars of food security. In addition, a selection of 80-100 good projects will be showcased in the form of case studies. This sample of case studies has been compiled in consultation with geographical units and European Union Delegations.

The selection criterion has been primarily based on significant positive results of ongoing or finalized projects³². Another important aspect considered in the selection process has been to have a wide variety of projects in terms of EC's partners and instruments, as well as covering different geographical areas and sectors of intervention.

The food security interactive map aims to be an educative tool, allowing the wide public to learn more about the problematic linked to it and understand food security is not only confined to production.

- **A training course for EC staff "Acting in transition":** During the last 8 years, the Commission has continuously invested to promote a more effective response in transition situations and ensure better linkages between relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD). Originally developed in 1996³³, the European Commission approach on LRRD was reviewed in the early 2000s³⁴. Since then, several new instruments have been created (Instrument of stability, DCI with a specific LRRD component in the FSTP - Food Security Thematic Programme...) to address these issues.

EuropeAid is organising a training course in Brussels from 18 to 20 July for EC staff of HQs, Delegations and ECHO offices. The objective of the training course is to help participants to better intervene in transition situations such as: conflict situations, post conflict situations, post natural disaster situations and other crisis or post crisis situations (economic or political crisis...). Sessions will provide participants with an understanding of EC/EU policies, regulations and administrative modalities, relating directly to transition situations. They will also help EC staff to prepare "Joint Humanitarian-Development Frameworks", which is a new requirement in the FSTP aiming at linking rehabilitation and development interventions. This seminar will be a good opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from case studies and good practices. >>>

³² For ongoing projects, this means implementation has to be at an advanced stage. In order to have an up-to-date map, only projects finalized in 2008 or later have been included.

³³ Linking relief, rehabilitation and development. COM(1996) 153 final. 30.4.1996. This document is available on ROSA's library.

³⁴ Linking relief, rehabilitation and development - An assessment. COM(2001) 153 final, 23.4.2001. This document is available on ROSA's library.

New online documents

➤ Nutritional and food situation

The future of food and farming. Challenges and choices for global sustainability, Foresight, the UK Government office for science - March 2011

The report of the Foresight project *Global Food and Farming Futures* follows a two-year study involving over 400 experts from 35 countries. One of the major challenges highlighted in the report is ending malnutrition. The authors stress the importance of making agriculture work harder for reducing malnutrition and implementing measures that impact the entire food system. The challenges identified in the report show an urgent need to link food and agriculture policy to wider global governance agendas (climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and international development). >>>

Lessons learnt on destocking interventions in 2010 in Niger – February 2011

This report is the result of an emergency destocking intervention in Niger in 2010, followed by a workshop which gathered technical and financial partners. The paper analyses the role of destocking as a relief assistance measure. It can be used by agents on the ground and financial partners, and may serve as a basis for future destocking strategies. >>>

➤ Social transfers and access to food

Paying attention to detail: How to transfer cash in cash transfers, Oxford Policy Management – 2010

The choice of payment system in cash transfer programmes affects the costs and barriers faced by those receiving cash and the costs and risks of successful programme implementation. This paper presents qualitative and quantitative evidence on three different payment systems being used in cash transfer programmes in Kenya. The article compares challenges in implementing these systems, difficulties recipients face in using them, and the effects these systems have on the impact of cash transfer programmes. It concludes that the type of payment system used can have a large effect on recipients' experience of the programme. >>>

Poverty, equality and growth: the role of social transfers. A handbook for parliamentarians, SADC Parliamentary Forum – November 2010

This handbook has been designed as an aid to building greater awareness and understanding amongst parliamentarians in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of the role of social transfers as a specific social protection policy instrument for reducing chronic poverty and inequality and for promoting inclusive, or pro-poor, economic growth. The handbook specifically focuses on Southern African experience and is intended primarily for use in countries where the debate on comprehensive and scaled-up social transfers is ongoing and where political will remains uncertain. The handbook provides an overview of social transfers; from explaining what they are (and what they are not) and how they work, to addressing a range of common concerns regarding their appropriateness and effectiveness. It also provides parliamentarians with guidance on how they can use their positions and influence to promote the adoption and expansion of social transfer instruments. >>>

Social protection 2.0: Exploring issues, evidence and debates in a globalizing world, U. Gentilini, S. Were Omamob - 2011

This paper reviews the growing literature on social protection. The paper examines the evolution and definitions of social protection, and unbundles critical policy, institutional and implementation quandaries. Taken together, these considerations shape a set of context-specific models of social protection. The paper's five core conclusions may help chart future directions for social protection research and practice. >>>

➤ External links

Bi-monthly newsletter No. 5, ACF-E Central America – May 2011: The second issue of 2011 has been recently released. This interesting newsletter provides an update on project progress and activities undertaken by ACF in the region. To access all publications (in Spanish): <http://www.scribd.com/doc/45005381/Publicaciones-Online-de-ACF-E-en-Centroamerica>

Network activities

- **Call for focal points:** A system of “focal points” is being set up to strengthen the network. The idea is to get some members more actively involved in the network activities, as information hubs in relation to specific themes or regions.

The role of a focal point would be not only to propose documents, events or any information to be shared with the other members of the network, but to programme publications, to contribute with articles, to launch forum discussions and to reply to questions posed by other members of the network thanks to the tools available on ROSA.

Focal points can contribute by e-mail or by using the tools available on ROSA’s website (forum, wiki, et.). You are not familiar with these applications? Do not worry the animation team is there to help you make the best of these tools.

Please let us know whether you (or your colleague, or partners) are interested becoming a focal point by June 15 2011.