

Advisory Service in Social Transfers (ASiST)

Hervé BUSCHAERT

DEVCO C1. Rural development, Food
Security and Nutrition.

Rationale

- Hunger increasing as a result of global crises
- Achievement of MDGs in doubt
- Social transfers playing an increasingly important role in EC, MSs' and partners' response to food insecurity
- Need for guidance and access to resources

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Brussels, 31.3.2010
- An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges

Reference Document

- Drafted during 2011
- Field visits
- Review with Member States
- PDF draft released late-2011
- Approved and released in April 2012



Reference Document ToC

Chapters

1 Introducing social transfers

2 Conceptualising social transfers

3 Justifying social transfers

4 Using social transfers to fight hunger

5 Contextualising social transfers

6 Designing social transfers

7 Managing social transfers

8 Supporting social transfers

9 Financing social transfers

Special Court of Auditor report on food security 1/2012

Recommendation 1

For the programming period after 2013, the Commission and the European External Action Service should carry out a structured assessment of the food security situation in each country and systematically consider the potential scope for EU support in this area.

Recommendation 2

The Commission and the European External Action Service should give adequate priority to nutrition when defining the cooperation strategy, identifying and designing interventions, and using policy dialogue with partner governments, notably in the framework of budget support programmes.

Recommendation 3

The Commission should set out intervention objectives that are sufficiently precise and measurable through performance indicators. It should ensure that the objectives are achievable by better assessing the risks and assumptions concerning the successful implementation of interventions.

Recommendation 4

The Commission should better support the financial sustainability of agriculture and social transfer programmes. In doing so, the Commission should place more emphasis on the development of effective agricultural extension services, post-harvest infrastructure and rural credit.

Recommendation 5b

The Commission should better support the financial sustainability of agriculture and social transfer programmes. In doing so, the Commission should ensure that social transfer programmes provide for adequate support to the development of income-earning capacities of the beneficiaries.

Advisory Service on Social Transfers (ASiST)

- Overall objective
 - Increase the impact, quality, sustainability and coverage of social transfer schemes to address poverty and hunger
- Specific objectives
 - raise awareness among public authorities and civil society in the most vulnerable partner countries and in the donor community
 - promote quality throughout the project cycle in designing, strengthening and promoting sustainable national social transfer schemes for food security;
 - share lessons learnt among development partners, supporting the EC in actively participating in global discussions on comprehensive systems of social transfers.

ASiST resources

Position	Name	Days
Team Leader/Senior Food Security Expert	Nicholas Freeland	77 days
Senior Food Security Expert	Cécile Cherrier	41 days
Senior Public Finance Expert	Nazy Sedaghat	40 days
Senior Rural Development Expert	Martin Caldeyro-Stajano	40 days

ASiST activities

Activity	Days
Web platform	5
Regional seminars	30
Technical expertise and advice to partner countries	90
Thematic paper	45
Update of the Reference Document	10
Technical support for policy development	18

Regional seminars

Region	Sahel	East & Southern Africa	Central Asia
Main participating countries	Burkina Faso Mali Niger Senegal Mauritania Chad	Mozambique Rwanda Zimbabwe Tanzania Kenya Uganda	Kyrgyz Republic Kazakhstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan Turkmenistan Armenia Georgia
Other possible participating countries	Gambia	Madagascar Zambia Malawi Swaziland Lesotho	Nepal Afghanistan Mongolia

Regional seminars

Region	Sahel	East & Southern Africa	Central Asia
Specific themes	LRRD	Employment-based schemes/ guarantees	Transfer value/ affordability and M&E
Examples/models	Cape Verde Ghana Nigeria	India Ethiopia South Africa	Pakistan Bangladesh Turkey
Location	Ouagadougou	Maputo	Bishkek
Date	April 2012	June 2012	October 2012
Regional partners	CILSS ECOWAS	SADC/EAC/IGAD COMESA	

Technical support

- Respond to requests from partner countries (through Delegation and Unit C1)
 - pragmatic and small scale, sowing the seeds
 - Country Strategy Plans for next EDF cycle
 - ToR for short studies or identification/action fiches
- Three substantive field missions
 - support next programming phase
 - compile case studies
 - feed into a thematic papers
 - be incorporated into Ref Doc
 - used to inform policy development

Thematic paper

- Thematic study on social transfers and nutrition
- Desk reviews of the existing literature
- In collaboration with EC Nutrition Advisory Service

EC policy development

- Reflect findings in EU policies
 - EC Communication on Social Protection
 - Social transfers in the Horn
 - Social transfers in the Sahel
- Missions to Brussels (overlap with NAS and SUPRA)
 - meeting with the private sector unit (C4)
 - InfoPoint on social transfers and nutrition,
 - Liaison with Capacity4Dev and/or ROSA teams
- Closing “splash” event (eg in European Parliament)
 - clear political message on social transfers for food security
 - need to support social transfers for inclusive growth
 - present updated version of the Reference Document