

COUNTRY FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

TOWARDS BETTER INTEGRATION WITH AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS



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ABBREVIATIONS

ASAL	Arid and Semi-arid Lands
CBOs	Community-Based Organization
CBT	Community-Based Targeting
CoP	Community of Practice
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CT-OVC	Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
DCS	Directorate of Children's Service
DSA	Directorate of Social Assistance
DSD	Directorate of Social Development
ESR	Enhanced Single Registry
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth Development Office
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HSNP	Hunger Safety Net Programme
HTM	Harmonized Targeting Methodology
HTT	Harmonized Targeting Tool
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPRS	Integrated Population Registration System
KSP	Kenya Social Protection Policy
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MERL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and, Learning
MIS	Management Information System
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MoALFC	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives
MTP	Medium-Term Plan

NCPWD	National Council for Persons with Disabilities
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund
NICHE	Nutritional Improvements through Cash and Health Education
NSCSP	National Steering Committee for Social Protection
NSNP	National Safety Net Programme
NSPP	National Social Protection Policy
NSPS	National Social Protection Secretariat
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
OP-CT	Older Persons Cash Transfer
PFSSPFO	Policy Framework for Sustainable Social Protection Financing Options
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
PwSD	People with Severe Disabilities
PwSD-CT	Cash Transfer for Persons with Severe Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSPSCA	State Department of Social Protection, Senior Citizen Affairs
SGSP	Sectoral Group for Social Protection
SP	Social Protection
SPF	Social Protection Floor
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNDP IPC-IG	United Nations Development Programme—International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme



INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that works to eradicate hunger, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. While FAO primarily focuses on food and nutrition security and agricultural development, it also recognizes the importance of social protection to achieve these goals.

This framework outlines a comprehensive approach to enhancing social protection systems and policies in collaboration with various stakeholders. FAO Kenya aims to address the multifaceted challenges related to food security, nutrition, and agrifood systems development, as a means to improving the well-being of vulnerable populations.

Delivering social protection requires interaction of multiple systems which are articulated around programmes, platforms and institutions that provide coherence and consistency and are organized around contributory or non-contributory forms of income support and around Income Security, Social Health Protection, Shock Responsive Social Protection, and Complementary programming in Social Protection.

FAO Kenya's engagement in social protection is firmly grounded in the agri-food systems approach which aims at narrowing the gaps in food productivity and gradually enhancing advanced capabilities (quality of livelihoods and better household resilience) that will give citizens the freedom and opportunity to live the lives they aspire to. It is anchored in the organization's work on Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment and Better Life.

Against this background, the framework presented here adopts an integrated vision of social protection in line with the imperatives to achieve the following:



Resilience Building –

by decreasing vulnerabilities to risks and shocks, ensuring adequate consumption, income, food security, and preserving access to basic services. The positive impacts of social assistance and social insurance interventions such as cash and in-kind transfers, and social care services in many countries around the globe provide evidence of their relevance.



Promoting Inclusive Social Protection –

by increasing productive capacities and new capabilities of vulnerable households, which in turn improves access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations.



Transforming Society –

to build a more just society based on fairness by addressing structural drivers of poverty, inequality and vulnerability, including by addressing social norms and promoting a transformation towards an equalizing, greener and more sustainable way of living.



Strengthening social protection systems and policies –

to contribute to better frameworks for the delivery of integrated Social Protection programs at the national and county level.



Partnerships and Collaboration -

Fostering partnerships and collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the sector has potential to contribute to improved efficiency, effectiveness, better resourcing, and opportunities for linking and learning.

Notably, the link between social protection and agrifood systems is multifaceted, as both are integral components of development. Social protection refers to policies and programs designed to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and inequality by providing support to individuals and households in need. Agrifood systems, on the other hand, encompass the entire food value chain, from agricultural production to processing, distribution, and consumption. As such, the link between social protection and agrifood systems is essential for promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty, and ensuring the well-being of individuals and communities engaged in agriculture. Integrating these two components in a holistic manner can lead to more resilient and inclusive agrifood systems.



THE FAO APPROACH

Social protection frameworks guide actions that provide safety nets to vulnerable populations, ensuring their basic needs are met while fostering economic growth and reducing inequalities. For FAO Kenya, investing in such a framework can greatly complement existing interventions in ways that lead to profound impacts on food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.

While FAO seeks to ensure food security for all, making sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives, it should be noted that food security is intrinsically linked to socio-economic protections. As such, achieving food security requires not only focusing on food production but also on establishing robust social protection systems that cushion vulnerable populations from threats and crises, and prevent them from sliding deeper into poverty.

FAO Kenya collaborates with the national and county governments of Kenya to ensure that everyone has access to food and nutrition security and can live active and healthy lifestyles. FAO Kenya's CPF 2022-2026 has 5 result areas (RA) with 17 outputs for robust agrifood systems that include crop, livestock, and fisheries production and utilization systems; aggregation, agro-processing, and market access; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems, Natural Resources Governance, and gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture.

FAO Kenya is aware of the significance of a social protection system, which strengthens fairness in service delivery, encourages equal participation of target populations, fosters social cohesion, improves access to education and learning, promotes women and youth self- and co-determination, enables microeconomic growth, facilitates social protection investments capable of generating additional economic activities, and drives local economies.

Kenya, with its strategic location in East and Horn of Africa, boasts a rich diversity of landscapes and ecosystems, and a varied agriculture sector. However, the nation also faces significant challenges related to poverty, food and nutrition insecurity, and vulnerability to climate change – all of which can be addressed by approaches in integrated social protection programming.

Notably, over a third of Kenyans live below the poverty line. With subsistence farming being the main source of livelihood for the majority, they are susceptible to economic shocks, droughts, pests, and disease outbreaks. Despite the Kenyan government's efforts, existing social protection mechanisms are still not universally accessible.

Many vulnerable groups, particularly in the rural and marginal areas, remain uncovered, and insufficient linkage between agricultural development and social protection leads to missed synergies that could uplift vulnerable households.

Finally, Kenya is prone to climate-related shocks, such as droughts and floods. These exacerbate vulnerabilities for many households, especially those depending on agriculture. A well-structured social protection framework can serve as a buffer, enhancing community resilience against such shocks.

2.1. THE GAPS & OPPORTUNITIES

2.1.1. Coverage of Social Protection

There is a critical gap of coverage of social protection programs in Kenya, which is attributable to multiple factors, including; fragmented systems, inclusion and exclusion criteria, challenges of access, budget constraints and limited fiscal space for scaling up programmes. Challenges of access are also caused by more structural issues like gender-based discrimination, traditional norms and values that perpetuate exclusion of certain populations and working in the informal sector. Additional gaps are related to comprehensiveness (which risks are covered) and adequacy (how adequately the risks are covered).

As a result, there is need to look at governance arrangements, the design of the social protection schemes, as well as structural barriers and cultural norms and practices that prevent segments of populations from accessing social protection.

Whereas Kenya has adopted the Life -cycle approach to social protection, there is significantly low coverage for social insurance, and social security for the informal sector – a situation referred to as the ‘missing middle’. The informal sector (mostly consisting of small-scale artisans and small-scale farmers), and the urban poor are critical populations that are inadequately targeted. Notably, even the rural populations remain underserved.

2.1.2. Social Protection Governance

When programmes are not well coordinated, there are risks of exclusion of eligible populations, and inclusion of non-eligible households or duplications across programmes, delays in payments or delivery of benefits and even corruption. Social protection programmes must be properly managed, financed and implemented in ways that promote learning and guarantee both effectiveness and efficiency. The national administrative, institutional and legal architecture which drives policy and delivery of social protection programs should be reviewed and strengthened as a means to better sector-wide coordination.

That said, Coordination in the Social Protection sector has been enhanced by the development and adoption of a harmonized policy framework for the delivery of Social Protection interventions in Kenya particularly with regards to issues of identification, registration, payments, and grievance and case management in Social Protection programming. Further to this, the Social Protection Secretariat established a Community of Practice (CoP) for Social Protection Practitioners in Kenya as a platform for knowledge management and sharing of best practices. These are actions that need to be strengthened and utilized to further the agenda of social protection and food security.

2.1.3. Shock-responsive Social Protection

Shock-Responsive Social Protection entails the provision of relief and protection to persons affected by emergencies as well as social and economic shocks such as droughts, floods, forced displacement, and pandemics, therefore mitigating the loss of livelihoods and income. This ensures that the affected populations employ appropriate coping strategies that promote long-term investment in physical and human capital. It enables households to avoid negative coping strategies such as selling assets, child labour, early marriages etc.

Shock-Responsive interventions are time-bound and are expected to facilitate recovery from shocks, build resilience and rebound to normalcy. In order to ensure rapid response, shock responsive Social Protection interventions should be anchored on existing Social Protection systems. Kenya’s successful experience with shock-responsive interventions has seen the development of trigger mechanisms and Early Warning, Early Action Systems, in the context of climate change, natural disasters such as pandemics, and man-induced disasters.

Appropriate Early Warning Systems and trigger mechanisms related to different types of shocks will be further developed and integrated to allow for the appropriate early action and response to each type of covariate shock, including the humanitarian response.

Gaps in the uptake and delivery of social protection programmes increase the vulnerability to risks and shocks to populations exposed to varied forms of emergencies such as drought, land/mudslides, flooding, locust invasions, pandemics, etc. The COVID-19 pandemic particularly exposed gaps in the country's social protection systems and highlighted the importance of designing social protection programmes and systems that:

- Are scalable and adaptive to region specific shocks
- Have clear financing triggers, and requisite databases/registries to enable rapid expansion of coverage both vertically and horizontally.
- Integrates both short term and long-term interventions that work together to promote resilience of targeted households/affected communities

2.1.4. Social Protection Financing

The financing of social protection in Kenya is a multifaceted approach involving various stakeholders, including the government, international partners, the private sector, and local communities. This multi-tiered approach aims to ensure that a safety net is available for all Kenyans, particularly those who are most in need. The country has developed a sector investment plan which is not being implemented to the extent and pace anticipated. This presents a unique opportunity for FAO Kenya and would involve mobilizing actors towards funding commitments and towards diversifying funding options and funding flows.

2.1.5. Social Protection and Productivity

The country is in the process of strengthening systems for complementarity of social protection with programmes that contribute to long-term improvement of livelihoods, social and economic inclusion, adaptation to climate change and resilience.

Facilitating access to social services allows the development and accumulation of human capital (for which health, nutrition, education, and training are core inputs), contributing to long-term economic growth and the sustainability of the Social Protection system. In addition, linkages with economic inclusion interventions and labour market policies can boost ownership of productive assets and facilitate access to jobs, particularly for the youth.

To create synergies and boost the impacts of these complementary programmes, it is necessary for the country to foster a coherent approach that relies on the integration between Income Security and broader social and productive policies. Setting up coordination mechanisms to achieve this objective at both National and County levels remains a challenge.

2.1.6. Social Protection and Nutrition

The integration of social protection and nutrition represents a critical pathway towards enhancing the well-being and health of vulnerable populations. In Kenya, several gaps persist in this integration, hindering the effectiveness of interventions aimed at reducing malnutrition and food insecurity. There is often a lack of coordination between social protection programs and nutrition-specific interventions, leading to missed opportunities for synergistic effects.

This can result in the inefficient allocation of resources and programs that address either social protection or nutrition, but not the intersection of both. Additionally, social protection programs may not be adequately sensitive to the nutritional needs of different population groups, such as pregnant women, infants, and young children, who require targeted nutritional support.

Another significant gap is the limited capacity for monitoring and evaluating the impact of social protection on nutritional outcomes. Without robust mechanisms to track progress and assess impact, it is challenging to adapt programs to better meet the nutritional needs of beneficiaries. Furthermore, there is often insufficient attention to the underlying causes of malnutrition, such as poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices, which are crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of nutrition interventions.

Closing these gaps requires a multi-sectoral approach that fosters collaboration between social protection, health, and nutrition stakeholders, and a commitment to designing programs that are both nutrition-sensitive and responsive to the specific needs of vulnerable groups.



ENTRY POINTS FOR FAO-KENYA

The future of food security for vulnerable populations in Kenya lies in integrating development initiatives with social protection. A country-specific social protection framework, tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities of the country program, can act as a significant enabler for FAO's overarching goals of ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

To address these gaps outlined above, FAO Kenya will (working with other partners) support the Government of Kenya with a systems approach aiming at the following objectives:



Food Security and Nutrition:

Carefully designed integrated social protection mechanisms can directly impact food security by improving household productivity and providing vulnerable households with the means to purchase food.



Promoting Investment in Agriculture:

By providing a safety net, social protection programmes enable small-scale farmers to take calculated risks and invest in new farming techniques, seeds, or equipment which can potentially lead to higher yields and incomes.



Reducing Vulnerability:

Vulnerable populations, such as small-scale farmers, are often hit hardest by economic shocks, natural disasters, and effects of climate change. The integration of social protection interventions can provide safety-nets that reduce the impact of such shocks.



Catalyst for Partnerships:

A unified social protection framework will act as a catalyst for partnerships between different governmental bodies, NGOs, the private sector, and international organizations, thereby leveraging collective efforts for greater impact.



Enhancing Rural Development:

Most of the world's poor live in rural areas. A social protection framework can be an effective tool to promote rural development, ensuring that the benefits of growth reach even the most remote areas.



Resilience Against effects of Climate Change:

With the increasing impacts of climate change, especially in agrarian societies, a social protection framework would include provisions that offer mechanisms to aid those most affected helping them adapt and become more resilient.



Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices:

By offering support and incentives through social protection mechanisms, county governments can be supported to encourage farmers to adopt sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, aligning with FAO's sustainability goals.

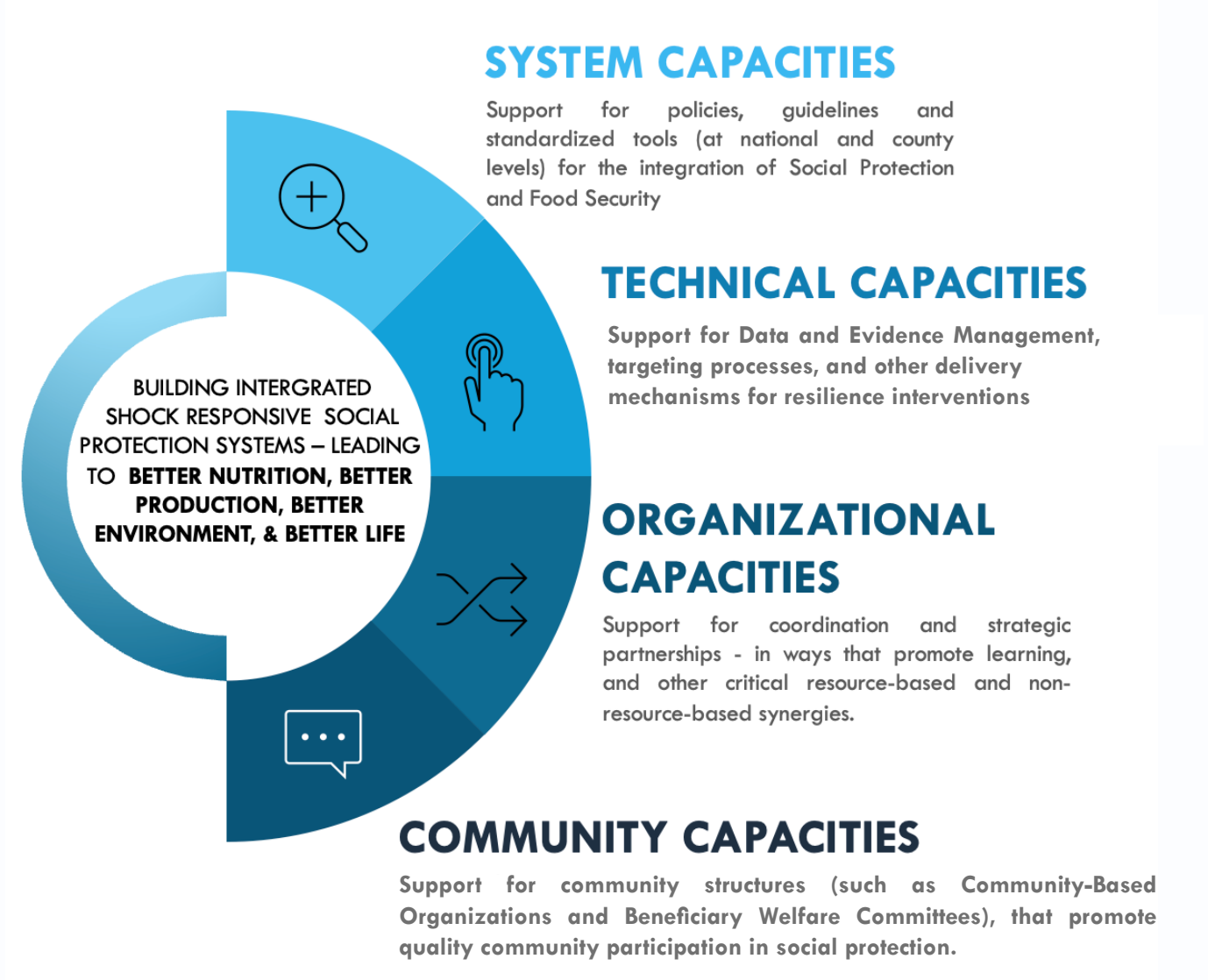
In achieving the above objectives, FAO Kenya will work to improve System Capacities, Technical Capacities, Organizational Capacities and Community Capacities that are critical to the effective delivery of the agrifood systems transformation agenda.



Empowering Women and Youth:

Tailored social protection measures often address the specific challenges faced by women and youth, such as access to resources, land, and markets. This can ensure their greater participation in the agricultural sector and broader economic activities.

FIGURE FAOKE's support for social protection in Kenya



3.1. THE INTERVENTION AREAS

In the duration of this framework, FAO Kenya will approach the outlined objectives through Key Intervention areas in which it has strong expertise. The agency will therefore seek partnerships to support the government in making progress towards better implementation of integrated (resilience-centred) social protection programmes. FAO Kenya will thus organize its Social Protection work in Kenya along the following intervention areas:

3.1.1. Intervention Area 1 | Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition.

Food security and social protection are closely interlinked. Integrating food security initiatives within social protection frameworks ensures a more coordinated approach to tackling hunger and malnutrition. By addressing the immediate needs of the vulnerable while also investing in sustainable agricultural development, governments can create a virtuous cycle that not only feeds people today but also builds the resilience of communities against future food crises.

Action Areas:

- Support households enrolled in Social Assistance Programmes in adopting climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Address underlying and basic causes of malnutrition through programme integration in the delivery of critical nutrition services.
- Strengthen early warning and response systems for food security.
- Provide support to Home-Grown School Feeding programmes.
- Promote innovative financing mechanisms for social protection.
- Support the roll out of the Enhanced Single Registry and optimize targeting and delivery mechanisms, with a significant emphasis on digitalization to enable robust data management and expedited service provision.
- Strengthen Social protection aspects within programmes for agri-food systems transformation.

3.1.2. Intervention Area 2 | Strengthening Social Protection Systems

The various intervention areas work together to address the gaps and challenges within social protection coverage. This intervention area will focus on improving social protection governance in Kenya by working with other actors to strengthen components of the system. Effective governance plays a crucial role in establishing rigorous oversight and dismantling both overt and covert obstacles that hinder full access to social protection benefits.

Moreover, the governance component will bolster governmental processes to pinpoint administrative efficiencies and promote synchronized delivery methods, ensuring optimal resource utilization and advocacy for the sustainable financing of social protection initiatives.

FAO Kenya will support the active involvement of civil society in national level discourse on social protection, as a means of promoting better implementation and policy level synergies, greater ownership, accountability, and transparency within the social protection sector in Kenya.

Action Areas:

- Support the Government of Kenya in the development and implementation of various framework documents for social protection and agri-food systems.
- Work with policy level committees and working group on social protection to strengthen the administration and delivery of integrated social protection programs.

3.1.3. Intervention Area 3 | Strengthen Resilience to Shocks and Crises

FAO Kenya will assist the Government of Kenya with modelling and executing systems, programs, and reforms that acknowledge the diverse risks communities are exposed to, and the ways in which families handle these risks. The emphasis will be on exploring a spectrum of strategies, from universal or rights-based approaches to specific design elements like national household registries, which enhance the system's flexibility to scale up (increase benefits) or scale out (add more beneficiaries) when shocks occur. Additionally, there's room for FAO Kenya to introduce new pilot (integrated) programs designed to counteract shocks - leveraging and building upon established systems to meet previously unaddressed needs, and drawing from lessons from other shock responsive programs such as Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNT).

Action Areas:

- Enhance the capacity of vulnerable communities and targeted Households to cope with shocks and stresses through prepositioning and early recovery interventions
- Develop and implement risk-informed social protection programs, and extend similar expertise to governments at the national and county level
- Promote sustainable natural resource management practices.
- Promote investments in Food Banks and Food safety as part of community-based resilience building.
- Integrate Value chains development with social Protection

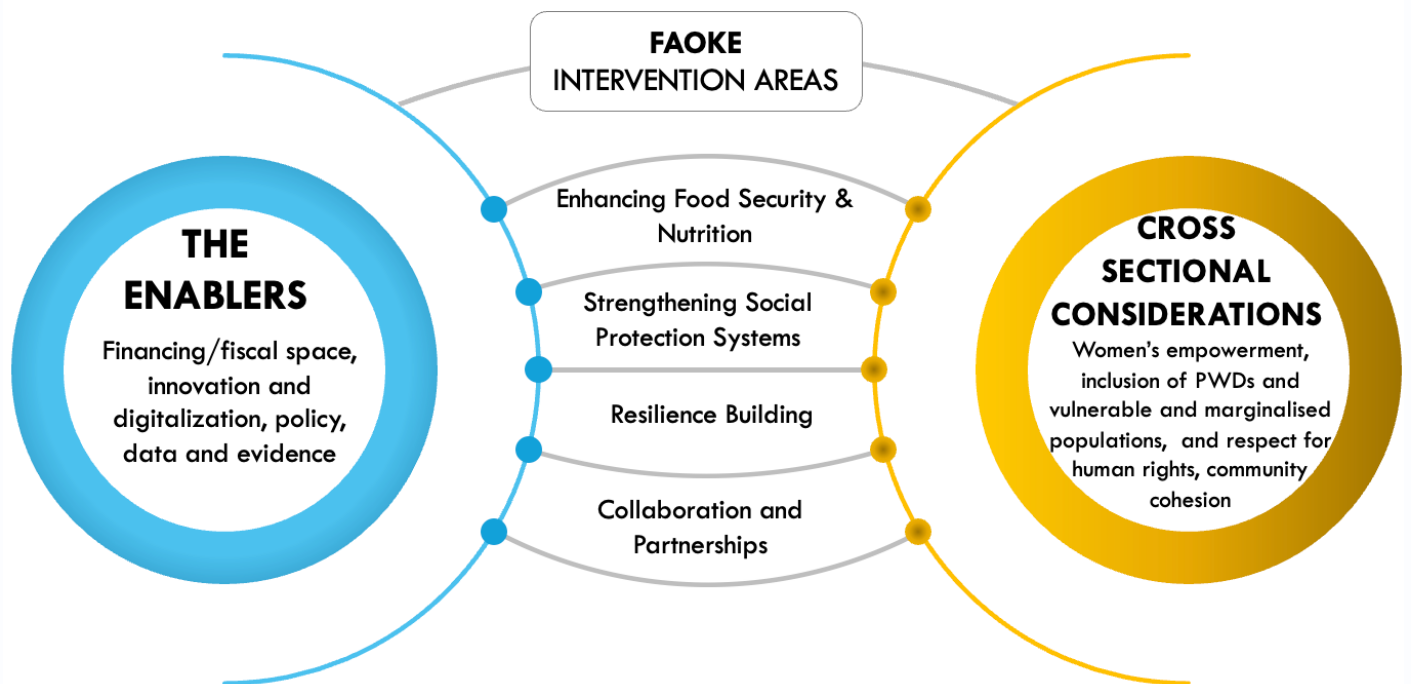
3.1.4. Intervention Area 4: Collaboration and Partnerships

Social Protection remains a function of the National Government, but the role of County Governments has increased significantly, subsequently becoming more noticeable. The coordination structure at the National level (The Social Protection Secretariat) should be supported in fulfilling its role of mobilizing relevant Ministries, National Institutions, County Governments and Development Partners.

Action Areas:

- Foster collaboration with government institutions, NGOs, and development partners.
- Engage with civil society organizations and community- based groups in promoting Social Protection integration with Agri-food systems.
- Strengthen and leverage Social Protection systems to integrate Agri-food systems programming.
- Promote knowledge sharing and capacity building for Social Protection actors on the integration with Agri-food systems.

FIGURE FAOKE’s Social Protection Intervention Areas



3.2. THE ENABLERS AND CROSS-SECTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.2.1. Empowerment of Women

Gender considerations are crucial in the design, implementation, and evaluation of social protection programs. Men and women often experience poverty and vulnerability differently due to social, cultural, and economic factors that influence their roles and responsibilities within society.

Women and girls, in many contexts, are disproportionately affected by poverty and are more vulnerable to economic shocks due to lower income, less control over assets, and limited access to resources and basic services. They also often bear a heavier burden of unpaid care work, which can limit their participation in the formal labor market and thus their access to social insurance schemes.

Well-designed gender-responsive social protection systems can play a transformative role in advancing gender equality. They can mitigate the impact of shocks and stresses on women and girls, improve their social status and health outcomes, promote their economic empowerment, and challenge the gender norms that perpetuate inequality.

3.2.2. Leaving No One Behind

The principle of “leaving no one behind” is foundational to inclusive development and humanitarian efforts, signifying a commitment to ensuring that every individual, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, has the opportunity to benefit from and contribute to economic, social, and cultural development.

The principle requires a deliberate focus on marginalized and disadvantaged groups, identifying and breaking down the barriers that prevent them from accessing services and opportunities. It involves proactive strategies to reach those who are often excluded, such as people living in poverty, persons with disabilities, minority groups, the youth, and people in remote or conflict-affected areas.

In practice, FAO Kenya will support the Government of Kenya to develop more inclusive policies, involve Persons with Disability (PWDs) and Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups (VMGs) in decision making. FAO Kenya will also work with the Government to ensure data is disaggregated to reflect the inequalities, which then ensure that the specific social protection needs of marginalized groups are addressed, and resources are directed to areas where they are most needed.

3.2.3. Financing

Social protection needs sustainable financing that ensures the implementation of programmes in the long term. While funding remains a major challenge due to tight fiscal space, more and more countries are recognizing that social protection is a long-term investment in social cohesion and human development, rather than an expenditure, and therefore should be prioritized in budgeting plans. The current momentum should be seized by building on the strong willingness of countries to address the structural issues driving inequalities.

Overall, it is important to note that increased resources are needed to maintain the current programmes and expand the sector, while increasing investment in Social Protection systems towards universal coverage of the respective schemes.

3.2.4. Digitalization and innovation

Digitalization offers promising options for the management of social protection programmes and systems and offers solutions at the most macro and micro levels. At the macro level, digital solutions will be developed for collecting, cross-referencing and managing data to improve the effectiveness of targeting and identification of beneficiaries, as well as the definition of benefit levels. Likewise, continued investment on digitalization of the sector will help to better connect fragmented programmes and eventually contribute to cohesion in the social protection sector in Kenya. At the micro level, a key entry point is digitalization of self-targeting workflows for existing scalable cash transfer programs.

Digitalization also plays a key role in modalities for delivery of benefits, from mobile phone payment systems (preferably linked to national ID systems) and electronic wallets to ATM or debit cards, generation of national identification cards for beneficiaries, biometric identification modalities, postal system delivery, as well as systems for verification of benefit delivery. Finally, digitalization can also be used not only to deliver payments, but also receive contributions of individuals, even informal sector workers, to their own social protection plans, such as pensions. These are initiatives that the government can be supported to achieve.

3.2.5. Data Demand and Evidence

Disaggregated data and evidence are critical elements for measuring progress and informing design of social protection interventions. Data and evidence are generated through the interventions proposed in each entry point and at the same time the interventions require data and evidence for design and for determining their adequacy in addressing the issues they are meant to address and reach the people they are meant to reach.

Setting common standards, indicators, interoperable information management systems, and gathering and analysing essential data regularly and consistently and reporting are critical elements to support monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of Social Protection programmes. Supporting the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning (MERL) Framework for the Social Protection Sector fosters coordination, accountability, and synergy.

A National M&E Framework that includes key Sector indicators, joint work plans, performance monitoring plans, reporting guidelines, reporting tools, and results frameworks has been developed, to address the gaps identified in the Social Protection system in the Kenya Social Protection Sector Review Report, 2017, which cited the absence of a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) framework for the Social Protection system to allow effective MERL of the government investments.

The M&E Framework is designed to be a tool for the systematic and routine Monitoring, Evaluation and Research of high-level indicators of the progress and achievements of the Social Protection Sector in Kenya. In an ideal sense it is meant to guide the development of actions regarding vital cross-cutting issues such as gender, equity and social inclusion. Once fully adopted within the sector, this will help build synergies in the Sector and enhance coordination, consensus, and ownership of Social Protection policies and programmes through reporting. FAO Kenya will explore the possibility of supporting the Government of Kenya with the roll out of the National M&E framework for social protection. In relation to data and evidence management, FAO Kenya will consider the following actions as workstreams of Support;

- Ensure the progressive nation-wide roll out of the comprehensive Social Protection M&E Framework.
- Conducting research on Social Protection to generate evidence to inform policy decisions.
- The inclusion of indicators for the integrated Food Security and Social Protection programs specified in the National socio-economic surveys.
- Promote learning and data sharing across the Social Protection Sector.

4

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES

In undertaking the provisions of this framework, FAO Kenya will implement processes that translate the strategies, approaches, and intervention areas into tangible outcomes. Below is an outline of some of the key aspects of implementation processes.

4.1. Intra-FAO Coordination

Intra-coordination in this context would involve various departments and sectors within FAO Kenya working together to coordinate their strategies, share information, and identify opportunities within the various programmes that align to this framework. The Country programmes team will particularly identify points of convergence and map out linkages between this framework and the Country Programming Framework (CPF) for Kenya - 2022–2026.

This internal coordination is crucial for FAO's efficiency and effectiveness, as it ensures that resources are used optimally, efforts are not duplicated, and the vast expertise within the organization is fully leveraged. By coordinating internally across the two frameworks, FAO Kenya can better respond to global food and agricultural challenges and provide more coherent and comprehensive support to the Government of Kenya.



Development Partners:

FAO Kenya will seek partnerships with other UN agencies such as UNICEF, WFP, and ILO that equally have made (and continue to make) significant investments in the social protection sector in Kenya. Collaborations will be in the areas of financial, technical, or strategic support to government social protection systems. Partnerships may also be sort with other international donors such as SIDA, FCDO, World Bank, and Foreign Governments



Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

FAO Kenya has strengths in community organizing and in working with community-based organizations (CBOs). This enables direct connections with the communities we serve. This approach will remain critical in the implementation of this framework considering the extent to which mobilizing grassroots support, and sensitivity to on-the-ground insights, can help in tailoring the framework to local contexts.

4.2. Stakeholder Engagement

The successful implementation of this framework requires active engagement with a range of stakeholders, including the Kenyan government, development partners, civil society organizations, and local communities.



Kenyan Government:

As the primary authority in social protection, the government's involvement is critical. FAO Kenya recognizes that the government at both national and county level is responsible for creating favorable policies for the delivery of social protection. It will therefore be critical for the agency to ensure that its work aligns with national priorities and regulations and compliments the efforts of government – especially the Ministry responsible for Social Protection.



Research Institutions:

Engagement with research institutions is a cornerstone of Fao kenya's strategy to foster innovation and knowledge exchange in the agricultural sector. Collaborating with a wide network of research institutions, including universities, governmental research agencies, and private sector research entities, FAO Kenya leverages cutting-edge scientific research to inform its policies, programs, and projects.



Local Communities:

The ultimate beneficiaries of this framework are the local people. Their buy-in is essential for sustainability and relevance. Engaging with them ensures that their needs and perspectives shape the implementation process. Additionally, it can enhance community ownership and increase the likelihood of long-term success.

Active engagement with these stakeholders can take various forms, such as consultations, partnerships, joint planning sessions, and feedback mechanisms.

4.3. Monitoring and Evaluation

A robust monitoring and evaluation system will be established to track progress towards achieving the framework's objectives and make necessary adjustments. Specific social protection indicators will need to be developed and integrated into FAO Kenya's M&E frameworks/ plans for the various country programs. These could include indicators of access, coverage, benefit adequacy, and impact on beneficiaries' well-being.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in the context of social protection should be designed to assess whether social protection components within respective programs achieve their intended objectives, are cost-effective - ensuring resources are used optimally, and contribute to long-term impact for targeted communities.

Notably FAO Kenya will need to take into consideration some of the M&E challenges already experienced by existing social assistance programs, which include data quality and availability, complexity of measuring impact of social protection programs, balancing accountability and learning, and limited allocation of resources for M&E.

M&E in social protection is vital for understanding the effectiveness of interventions, informing policy and decision-making, and ensuring that the programs are responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Integrating indicators that track social protection aspects of existing FAO Kenya programs will be a key requirement to the implementation of this framework.

4.4. Resourcing the Framework

Financing the FAO Kenya framework for social protection is a multifaceted endeavor, requiring a mix of funding sources and innovative approaches to ensure that these proposed interventions are sustainable and can effectively reach and support the most vulnerable populations.

In the fulfilment of the provisions of this framework, funds may be drawn from; International organizations, such as the World Bank, FCDO, Regional Development Banks, Grants from developed countries, Collaborations with the private sector, United Nations Funding, and Innovative Financing Mechanisms such as crowd funding.

Other financing options may include; Combining social protection with other development initiatives (like agricultural development, environmental sustainability, etc.), and advocacy to encourage increased investment in social protection by highlighting its benefits for economic growth, poverty reduction, and food security.



FAO's VALUE PROPOSITION

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is strategically positioned to play a crucial role in supporting the growth of the social protection sector in Kenya. Based on the details of the objectives, approaches and interventions outlined above, the value proposition of the organization can be summarized as shown by the venn diagrams below. Each circle represents FAO's unique strength and capacity to which the sector can greatly benefit



ECONOMIC INCLUSION

By integrating social protection with agricultural development, FAO Kenya has potential to contribute to the economic inclusion of the rural poor.

FAO Kenya has potential to be a critical partner in the delivery of poverty graduation programmes in the Country.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

FAO Kenya programmes are often designed to empower communities, promoting local ownership and participation in the development process. This would be a critical value-add to national government efforts to strengthen



RESILIENCE BUILDING

FAO Kenya has expertise in resilience building against shocks such as climate change, economic crises, or locust invasions. These often includes measures like crop insurance or emergency assistance. The social protection sector in Kenya could greatly benefit from such diversity and innovation.



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

FAO Kenya's approach to delivery is anchored on their ability to work in collaboration with other UN agencies, NGOs, and local communities, leveraging resources and expertise for greater impact. Experience with diverse and multilevel partnerships would be useful to the Community of Practice for Social Protection in Kenya.

Trusted partner in Food systems and a trusted convening power for partners involved in Agrifood systems



ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY

FAO Kenya has an opportunity and capacity to lead national conversations on the integration of food security and social protection. This will require the development of guidelines, strengthening of systems and mechanisms for financing the integrated programmes- while establishing a nexus with humanitarian response initiatives.

In summary, FAO's value proposition in social protection in Kenya is about integrating food security and agricultural support with broader social safety nets to create a more sustainable and resilient food system, improve livelihoods, and reduce poverty.



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**