

## Online conference “Addressing food insecurity in Africa: strategies for ensuring child-sensitive social protection”

**Date 9 September, 8 am -12.00 am, EST (New York Time)**

*ICSW in cooperation with IASSW, UNICEF, IFAD, ILO, KNCSW and UNED*

### **Purpose of the conference**

Recognized as a multifaceted challenge, food security is high on the political and socio-economic agendas of many countries. The conference seeks to explore a wealth of issues on child-sensitive social protection in the context of efforts aimed at fighting food insecurity in Africa and at highlighting different national perspectives and policy responses. The effective targeting of these responses to ensure that they meet the needs of all, especially the poorest and most marginalized – and, among these groups, children in particular – remains a challenge. Child-sensitive social protection requires, among other actions, specific programme design and interventions, accessing links between poverty and malnutrition, emphasis on the gendered nature of poverty as well as on the size and frequency of cash transfers as well as non-cash and in-kind interventions and support.

Food and nutrition security are some of the key issues among the development priorities of many African countries. The existing food insecurity in Africa is a huge and complex challenge that is closely linked to the risk of malnutrition, health care, education, political stability, poverty as well as overall national development priorities and directions. Gaining a better understanding of the multidimensional nature of the challenge of food insecurity especially its complex impact on children can facilitate concerted actions and better targeting of interventions by national governments, international bodies and civil society organizations.

Addressing a range of specific issues in the context of food security and child-sensitive social protection in Africa, the conference will provide perspective on areas of particular importance, including the role of key stakeholders and their interaction. There are roughly two major sets of issues to address. First, conceptual and general issues pertinent to food insecurity in Africa, analysis of vulnerabilities, measures aimed at promoting inclusive growth, efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation with various stakeholders and strategies to improve capacity

development. Second, national case studies that may illustrate changing approaches to the above issues, various dimensions of the existing situation and national best practices.

The projected outcome could bring an improved understanding of the whole spectrum of policy issues and trade-offs in the context of food security and child – sensitive social protection in Africa and could be used by ICSW and partners in their advocacy and policy advice.

## **Preliminary programme**

### **Opening session**

**8:00-8:30 (NYT)**

**Welcome remarks: Dr Suh Sang-Mok, ICSW President**

#### **Statements:**

**Ms Joyce Njoro, Lead Technical Specialist – Nutrition,  
Division of the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion,  
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

**Ms Lisa Moon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Global Foodbanking  
Network**

#### ***Session 1.***

**8:30-10:00 (NYT)**

**Food insecurity in Africa and vulnerability of children: scope of the challenge**

**Key-note statement - Prof Michael Samson**

**Director of Research at Economic Policy Research Institute and Williams College, City of Cape Town.**

*"Food insecurity in Africa and vulnerability of children: scope of the challenge and opportunity"*

***Presenters:***

**Prof Shirley Gatenio Gable, Fordham University and IASSW.**

*"Reducing vulnerabilities, promoting resilience"*

**Dr Driss Guerraoui, President of the Competition Council of Morocco**  
*"L'avenir de l'agriculture et de la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique. Réalités, défis et perspectives". (The future of agriculture and food security in Africa. Realities, challenges and perspectives)*

**Prof Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Cornell University**

*"Four demographic perspectives on food insecurity, and policy implications."*

**Prof Admos Chimhowu, University of Manchester**

*"Fighting food insecurity through sustainable rural development"*

*Q&A, interactive discussion*

**Moderator: Prof PK Shajahan, Tata Institute, India**

**Intermission 5 minutes**

***Session 2.***

**10:05-11:00 (NYT)**

**Ways and means to address food insecurity and promote child-sensitive social protection in Africa**

***Presenters:***

**Enrique Delamonica, Chika Hayashi, and Suguru Mizunoya (Senior Advisers on Monitoring and Statistics for Child Poverty, Nutrition, and Education respectively, UNICEF)**

***School feeding programs in Africa: lessons learned***

**Tatenda G. Nhapi, Research Associate, University of Johannesburg.**

***Government’s policies to overcome food insecurity and child protection challenges—the case of Zimbabwe.***

**Prince Amadichukwu, Director, Africa Research and Development Foundation**

***“Food insecurity and child-sensitive social protection in sub-Saharan Africa: Prioritizing opportunities, evidence and policy measures”.***

**Dr Julie Newton, Senior Researcher, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the Netherlands.**

***The value of a gender lens to child and nutrition sensitive social protection: new opportunities through food system approaches***

***Q&A, Interactive discussion***

**Moderator-- Prof Antonio López Peláez, ICSW Executive Director**

***Session 3.***

**11:00-12:00 (NYT)**

**[Moving forward on social protection front: strengthening integrated approach](#)**

***Presenters:***

**Dr Christina Behrendt, Head of the Social Policy Unit, Social Protection Department, ILO.**

***Social protection at the crossroads: from crisis responses to universal social protection***

**Prof Haradhan Kumar Mohajan, Premier University, Chittagong.**

***Fighting food insecurity and improving nutrition in different world regions: comparison of policy efforts and lessons learned***

**Dr Sergei Zelenev, ICSW Special Representative to the UN in New York.**

***Building partnerships for social protection: the COVID-19 and beyond***

**Dr Isabel Ortiz, Director at Global Social Justice Program, Initiative for Peace and Dialogue at Columbia University.**

***The quest for universal social protection and social justice***

***Q&A, Interactive discussion***

**Moderator: Dr Amson Sibanda, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat (TBC).**

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**Methodology:**

The duration of this virtual event will be 4 hours with brief intermissions. The meeting will use **Zoom** as a technical platform for presentations and for face-to-face interactions. During the speakers' interventions, there will be an open chat to encourage participation. All participants are welcome to participate in all sessions (or any particular session), including the interactive discussions. Experts giving a presentation are requested to send their PowerPoint presentation (if any) by email by Monday, 6 September 2021 to Ms Yunji Kwon at [ikncsw@ssnkorea.or.kr](mailto:ikncsw@ssnkorea.or.kr)

The main questions will be addressed during the interactive segment at the end of each session.

A detailed background note of the conference is attached.

