

Topic

Youth, Rural Livelihoods and Social Protection

Summary

Chronic and transitory food insecurity is a key feature of some countries in East and Southern Africa due to a variety of reasons that include low agricultural productivity, poor market linkages, and the impact of HIV and AIDS and changing climate, and political instability. For example, the UN recently designated the situation in Somalia the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world. As a result, many countries are not on course to achieving MDG 1 of halving the number of people living in poverty and hunger. The Session will share an update on the food security status in East and Southern Africa, before looking at how the FANRPAN Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) can be used to profile vulnerability, and sharing perspectives on innovative initiatives from the region aimed at addressing vulnerability of youths.

Objectives

- a) Share the current food security status of the East and Southern Africa regions
- b) Share how the HVI tool can be used to assess household vulnerability for designing, targeting, monitoring and evaluating development interventions, and to generate evidence to inform policy development
- c) Discuss innovative approaches from the region aimed at addressing vulnerability to children and youths in the face of food insecurity and HIV and AIDS

Speakers

a) Key speakers

- **Dr John M. Omiti (Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA))**
John is the Head of the Productive Sector Division that is responsible for KIPPRA's work on agriculture, industry, trade, tourism and natural resources. The division is responsible for policy research and analysis on the performance and competitiveness of these sub-sectors that are the backbone of economic development in Kenya. Among others, the Division has researched the key issues affecting food security in Kenya and the Nile Basin countries and proposed policy measures to enhance food security in the region.
- **Mr Evance Chapasuka (Southern Africa Development Community (SADC))**
Evance is a Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Expert with the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme. The Programme, under the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate, is responsible for monitoring, analysing and addressing food security in the broader context of poverty and livelihood vulnerability.

b) Panelists

- **Mr Dalton Nxumalo (World Vision Swaziland)**
Dalton, a Knowledge Management Officer with World Vision Swaziland, was responsible for managing the field testing and piloting of the FANRPAN Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) in Swaziland between 2008 and 2010. Innovations introduced during the pilot phase include use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) for data collection, geographic information systems (GIS) for spatial analysis of the results, and advocating for the ownership of the livelihoods database to the community level.
- **Ms Boitshepo BibiGiöse (NEPAD Agency)**
Bibi is a Senior Advisor (food and Nutrition Security) at the NEPAD Agency. She is championing a partnership initiative between the NEPAD Agency and the World Food

Programme (WFP) on the Home Grown School Feeding (HGFS) Programme that seeks to address the needs and growth of local small farmers while providing nutritious meals for pupils and improving enrolment and retention in schools.

- **Josee Koch (United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF))**

Josee is a Knowledge Management Specialist with UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). ESARO is managing the Children and AIDS Regional Initiative (CARI) that is aimed at mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS in Southern Africa and developing social protection systems focusing on vulnerable children in the region. The programme is working in HIV hyper-endemic countries (South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Namibia) and one hot-spot with rising infection rates (Angola).

Programme

- a) Introduction (Ian Mashingaidze)
- b) East Africa Food Security update (Dr John M Omiti)
- c) Southern Africa Food Security update (Mr Evance Chapasuka)
- d) Profiling vulnerability – the FANRPAN HVI (Ian Mashingaidze)
- e) Domesticating the HVI livelihoods database at community level (Mr. Dalton Nxumalo)
- f) Promoting agricultural productivity through home grown school feeding programmes (Ms BibiGiöse)
- g) Targeting children affected by HIV and AIDS (Josee Koch – UNICEF)