

World Vision's Response to Call for reactions: Proposal for a Global Fund for Social Protection

World Vision is a faith-based relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities worldwide to help children reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people and it serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Throughout of the COVID-19 response, World Vision has advocated for the social protection measures which are child sensitive, gender responsive and accountable, as highlighted in our policy brief, [COVID-19 & Urgent Need for Child Sensitive Social Protection](#). World Vision advocates for the most vulnerable children to be reached out and prioritised, thus internally displaced, refugee, migrant and conflict-/crisis-affected children should be included in national systems, policies and plans.

In response to the call for inputs on the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Mr. Olivier De Schutter, a questionnaire was circulated among the experts and practitioners on Social Protection of World Vision in order to collect their opinions. The following is a summary of the inputs provided by the technical experts, which we hope will contribute to the Special Rapporteur's report, for the 47th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2021, which will address the proposal to set up a Global Fund for Social Protection.

Response to the key questions

Added value of the Global Fund for Social Protection (GFSP)

The added values of the GFSP should be underpinned by the SDG 1.3, and the further points are listed below:

- Direct contribution to the achievement of SDG 1.3 eradication of extreme poverty.
- Transparency of the investment in the social protection programmes and systems
- Strengthening the systems and coordination efforts.

Furthermore, the following two points should be the priority objectives of the GFSP:

- Improving the coordination of efforts towards the establishment of social protection floors worldwide, both at multilateral / inter-agency level and at country level; and
- Increasing levels of financial support to low-income countries.

Strengthening international coordination

There are important areas that should be considered for international cooperation. These include:

- Technical and financial support for institutional and human capacity-building;
- Official development assistance (ODA) grants, or loans on highly concessional terms;
- Introducing contracts for sovereign debt-servicing that delay or reduce or cancel payments under pre-set conditions; and
- Facilitating fair, effective and timely sovereign debt restructuring when necessary.

Provision of financial support

In order for the objective (c) 'increased levels of financial support to low-income countries' to be most effectively achieved, the following points should be taken into considerations:

- Representing a greater focus of existing international development aid resources and development finance facilities; and
- Voluntary contributions of individuals and other donors.

If the GFSP provides financial support for the establishment of social protection floors, it is preferable to be in the form of development aid, multilateral grants and funds for emergency response, and in case of loans, it should be on highly concessional terms.

While the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness emphasised the importance of ownership and mutual accountability as key to development aid effectiveness, donor assistance can come with a number of challenges including transaction costs, limited predictability and sustainability of a scheme, tied aid, lack of policy coherence and other conditions as imposed by donors. Further, when donors fund social protection programmes, accountability is often to the donor rather than to citizens – programmes thus run the risk of prioritising donor preferences ahead of the needs of people. Therefore, it is critical that the decision making processes and governance structure count on the participation of the recipient and donor governments, as well as the civil society organisations.

Governance

The governance issue is critical. Especially for social transfers, the role of national governments as key gatekeepers has proven to be a challenging issue. (See some news that [highlight the ineffectiveness due to diversion/ corruption, inadequacy of some LIC national mechanisms to really ensure most vulnerable are reached](#).) Therefore, the governance structure must be inclusive of civil society organisations.

- Civil society must have a key role in the governance structure, helping to ensure social accountability, transparency, equity and access, and effective reach of the most vulnerable community member;
- The GFSP should be governed by a board, representative of both recipient and donor states, civil society organizations, trade unions and informal workers organisations in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and ILO Recommendation R204 (2015), in line with the [CSO call](#); and
- Be governed by the principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, notably the respect for country ownership, national financial co-responsibility and the necessary support for national systems in line with the [CSO call](#);
- Civil society actors play a key role so as to ensure that funding of a Social Protection Floor is underpinned by strong complementary mechanisms that help credibility and inclusion, as World Vision showcased in Bangladesh (see the link [here](#)).
- While World Vision and other civil society organisations play more than an advocacy role and can help effectively leverage their cash transfer capacity to fill gaps, support private sector (FSP/ MNO) engagement in most Fragile Contexts and remote areas for the delivery.
- Pledging from both donor and recipient countries with specific target figure for funding will be critical for the success.
- The structure should be lenient and agile, so as to reduce the structural cost.

Next steps

World Vision strongly advocates for civil society to be part of the discussion and decision making processes, as robust, appropriate SP systems require trust and collaboration. Moreover, inclusion of girls and women, vulnerable children, such as those with disabilities or belonging to certain ethnic or caste groups internally displaced, refugee, migrant and conflict-/crisis-affected children, should not be a side discussion, but be inherent to establishment of the GFSP and the social protection systems and programmes.

SPIAC-B should not be the only entity to be tasked with the GFSP. While the global mechanisms must be more inclusive of civil society, unfortunately it is not always the case. USP2030 has a broader participation of the civil society organisations. The inclusion of civil society representation that has sufficient footprint, scale and particular expertise in some areas on community engagement, system strengthening (and inclusive agile targeting, cash delivery) should be a key element of the GFSP.