



Name of Event: [Roundtable] Safety Nets for Disaster Risk Reduction

Date of Event: May 12, 2011

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Panellists:

- Mr. Alfredo Lazarte, Director, Crisis Response, Prevention and Recovery, International Labour Organization (Chair)
- Mr. Ato Mitiku Kassa, State Minister, Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia
- Mr. Milton Rondo Filho, Minister, General Coordination of Fight Against Hunger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil
- Dr. Aslam Alam, Deputy Minister and Secretary in Charge of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh
- Mr. Ruben Hofliger Topete, Director-General of Natural Disasters' Fund, Mexico
- Ms. Relinda Sosa, President, National Confederation of Women Organised for Life and Integrated Development, Peru
- Mr. Carlos Scaramella, Coordinator, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, World Food Programme

1) Outline

The session presented the experience of existing safety nets in dealing with disaster risk of the poor and explored ways in which social protection mechanisms can have an integrated and proactive approach to helping the poor manage disaster and climate risk for poverty reduction. Experience from the governments of Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, and Mexico was presented, as well as a grassroots perspective from Peru and an institutional perspective of WFP.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- Recent experience from around the globe related to the use of social protection systems for managing disaster and climate risk indicates that these have great potential for helping the poor manage risk.

- While there is much promise, there are challenges. Graduation would mean real long-term resilience building and is a challenge.
- There is a need to prioritize connecting the social protection agenda with the climate change adaptation agenda
- Independent evaluations of social protection systems are critical to ensure that the programs are reaching their poverty reduction and risk reduction objectives.
- Community and civil society participation is critical for effective targeting and to avoid that political interests distort the programs.

3) Conclusions

The session highlighted and explored a number of important ideas, including that people have a right to social protection and a right to safety; the need to fully integrate food security interventions into disaster response; and the need to think of how social protection programs can be used for better preparedness for disasters and to build resilience.