



Newsletter 2001/2



*InFocus Programme on
Socio-Economic Security*

Seeking Distributive Justice – Basic Security for All

The People’s Security Surveys

Fieldwork for the Indonesian PSS was completed and preliminary results have been compiled for the 3,200 households covered. In examining forms of social and economic insecurity in the wake of the Asian crisis, the PSS is also considering the relevance and reach of government policies and institutional support, along with the needs and aspirations of various types of worker.

Results will be presented at the tripartite conference in the ILO on November 27-29, along with comparable data from nine other countries - Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Hungary, India (Gujarat), Pakistan, Tanzania and Ukraine. It is hoped that preliminary results will also be presented from surveys in the field in China, Ethiopia and South Africa.



Family participation: A respondent answering questions for the Indonesian People’s Security. Cooperation and interest was wonderful from thousands of people across the country, and our enumerators spent hours listening and recording details of work histories, coping strategies in the wake of the crisis and attitudes to government policies and social justice.

VoiceNet Developments

Progress was made during the middle part of 2001 in building the network of correspondents in ILO member countries and in strengthening the resultant data bank. VoiceNet has been developing on the basis of a detailed SES Questionnaire, filled in by our correspondent members, which is mapping forms of social and economic security in ILO countries. In the period, several new correspondents joined the network, and we welcome them. So far, data from over 90 countries have been collected.

More countries from Africa have been joining the network, and we are pleased to have received information from our correspondents in Madagascar, Mauritius, Algeria and Zimbabwe, and preliminary material for other countries as well.

We are particularly grateful to those local ILO offices that have been facilitating the work, or actively participating in it in partnership with us. In the latter respect, we would like to thank the ILO

Tokyo office for its work, and the ILO Kinshasa office for covering the Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In this period, we have produced three new country profiles for the Caucasian region, which will be used by the UNDP’s Regional Office in Bratislava as key inputs in their reports on human security in the region.

Finally, under the Voicenet activities, we have made progress with preliminary evaluations of several innovative civil society organisations that have been operating schemes designed to strengthen worker security. An assessment of VivaRio is completed, and work in Nigeria and Egypt is progressing well.



That one is tricky!

In this issue:

- ICFTU support 2
- Care work: Quest for security 3
- Ukraine’s tenth anniversary horrors 3
- The MISA initiative 4

Checking out Check-in Workers

A pioneering study of hazards faced by airport check-in workers finds a high risk of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and substantial risk of violence from aggressive passengers.

Assisted by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the Programme conducted a survey to examine the impact of airport mechanisation on workers in airports in Canada and Switzerland. It found that check-in staff may be as vulnerable to injury as heavy manual labourers. Yet staff often remain unaware of work-related risks until temporary or permanent disorders develop. And while aware of the risks of violence from agitated customers, workers' lack of training or protection means they can do little to protect themselves against passenger assault. The results should ring alarm bells for management.

The majority of check-in workers are

women; MSDs, the women's most common occupational health problem, occur from lifting baggage and static work postures.

The survey reveals that 82.5% of workers have experienced verbal abuse from customers, 17.4% have experienced threats and 4.5% have been subject to assault from passengers. Nearly half perceive a substantial risk of work-related violence from customers.

Workers often lift loads exceeding the standard 30 kg limit; and very few workers receive manual lifting training.

The study provides an evidence-based tool for collective bargaining. The ITF will disseminate the results to its 570 affiliates in 132 countries, representing 5 million workers. Our Work Security Specialist, Ellen Rosskam, conducted the research in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. We thank them for that.



Only a few hours to go...

Latin American PSS Meeting

In preparation for the tripartite conference on the first round of People's Security Surveys, the principal researchers involved in the Latin American surveys, conducted in Argentina, Brazil and Chile, met to discuss the initial results. Particularly valuable was the fact that the three used the same methodology and approximately the same questionnaires.

Among the results that caused considerable discussion was the finding that employment security *per se* was not a crucial form of insecurity. Instead, personal

insecurity was shown to be more closely related to deficits in social and economic rights.

The two-day seminar also involved a group of distinguished French economists working on related issues of precariousness and insecurity in France. Edmond Preteceille and Helena Hirata, both directors of research at the CNRS, emphasised the relativity of the idea of security, and its usefulness as a conceptual device; they also summarised findings from French surveys bearing on the issues covered by the PSS.

Unions: Sustainable Development Requires Economic Security

Adopting the Programme's perspective on the seven forms of labour-related security, unions at the 9th meeting of the UN's Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York, successfully lobbied to include workers' security concerns in recommendations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in September 2002. Over 800 specialists attended the New York preparatory meeting. The work security special-

ist of the Programme participated and spoke about options for improving workplace and labour market security.

We are delighted to report that the draft report for the World Summit, "Fashioning a New Deal", drawn up by a working party of the ICFTU, TUAC and ITS, has given a prominent position to our seven-fold approach to basic security and decent work, stating that it is a prerequisite for sustainable workplaces and distributive justice.

Collective Voices of Africa

A rare opportunity for non-government organisations dealing with development issues and social protection to come together to share experiences and articulate their vision of how such informal bodies can improve the lot of workers, their families and their communities.

This is how we see the primary objective of a three-day conference of local organisations and unions from 19 of the poorest 'least-developed countries' of Africa, Asia and Latin America, to be held in Addis Ababa in late October.

Organised by the Programme in collaboration with UNCTAD and the Centre Libret, we see this as a way of assessing the effectiveness of informal Voice organisations, in strengthening representation security amidst dire social and economic circumstances.

Social Policy Association

The Programme director was invited to give the keynote speech to the annual conference of the British Social Policy Association, held in Belfast in July. His paper was entitled, "Globalisation: The Eight Crises of Social Protection". The conference brought together leading social problem specialists from all over the UK and from several other countries.

Ukraine's Sad Tenth Anniversary

Ukraine celebrated ten years of independent existence in August 2001. In social, economic and labour market terms, there was not much to celebrate.

Ukrainian incomes have plunged, millions of workers have not been paid their wages, pensioners have not received the modest amounts due to them, and workers and families have inadequate access to healthcare services, schools and training opportunities.

These and other results were derived from the Programme's special People's Security Survey and the latest Ukraine Enterprise Labour Flexibility and Security Survey presented at a tripartite conference in Kiev, organised in collaboration with the Government and the UNDP. The conference was attended by about 150 people, including senior officials from the Ministry of

Finance, the Ministry of Labour, the Government's statistical office, members of the *duma* (Parliament), international financial agencies, employers and academics.

The technical papers are available on request. The data show that over 80% of all Ukrainians not only have inadequate incomes but also anticipate remaining poor. On average, they think the unemployment rate is about 40%, much higher than implied by official statistics.

Many proposals were made on how government policies affecting social and economic security could be improved. It is clear that foreign aid and technical assistance could ameliorate the situation and check the rampant growth of inequality at a time when data show the average person making do on about \$17 a month. No wonder, life expectancy has dropped.



Breaking the news on Ukrainian realities. Could be better, much ...

Women Workers' Income Insecurity in Gujarat

In the Indian state of Gujarat, 84% of workers covered in our People's Security Survey reported that their income was "less than adequate" for their normal living expenses.

This perceived inadequacy was highest among women workers who were members of the Self Employed Women's Association. This is mainly because SEWA has been reaching out to women working in low-income 'informal' activities. So far, two detailed analyses have been completed of aspects of the Gujarat PSS, and these will be presented at the November conference in the ILO.

Work programme initiated in Tanzania and Ethiopia

The IFP/SES has broadened its work in Africa with a comprehensive programme commencing in Tanzania. We are collaborating with the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) on an Enterprise Labour Flexibility and Security Survey, and with the Research Institute on a Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) on the People's Security Survey. The Programme is also working with the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, which is undertaking two focus group studies, as well as acting as a correspondent – through an association with the Central Bureau of Statistics – for the SES database questionnaire.

Work has also started on the PSS in Ethiopia, which is being undertaken by our partner institutions, the Miz-Hasab Research Centre and the Forum for Social Studies, both based in Addis Ababa. The latter is also our correspondent for the SES database.

ISSA General Assembly

The Programme contributed to the General Assembly of the International Social Security Association held in Stockholm in September attended by over 1000 ISSA members. The director acted as moderator in a substantial debate on privatisation of social security, and also as a contributor to a debate on opportunities for 'extension of coverage of social security'.

Care Work: The Quest for Security

An intense three-day workshop discussed a set of papers on legitimising, compensating and protecting those performing the multiple activities of care work. This brought academics, activists and policymakers together from around the globe to consider how care work should be treated, in statistics, in work and labour analysis. The essence of our position is that care work should be treated just like any other form of work, which means giving income security for those performing it and other forms of social protection. And it means giving Voice for the care givers and for the care recipients.

The workshop discussed how income security and representation security could be strengthened, drawing on policy initiatives from around the world and on the experience of those who have been working with and for care workers. It proved particularly important to draw on developments in policy and institutional initia-

tives in both industrialised 'welfare states' and developing countries in which extended family structures have been under increasing strain.

With the ageing of societies and with the state reorienting social protection and labour market policies in much of the world, the emphasis given to the private provision of care has been increasing. There seems to be a care deficit, in that needs are growing, while traditional forms of care, notably from family members, are under strain, and the state is being pressured to fill the gap at a time of retreat from state-provided social protection. This raises a host of strains, which were raised by many speakers in the workshop.

A book consisting of the main technical papers and policy recommendations is to be published by the ILO shortly, entitled *Care Work: The Quest for Security*. It can be obtained from ILO Publications or through the Programme.

The MISA Initiative

In collaboration with UNCTAD, and strongly backed by the UNCTAD Secretary General, Ruben Ricupero, the Programme developed a policy proposal submitted to the Third UNCTAD Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels earlier this year. Called MISA (Minimum Income with School Attendance), the idea is to link cash transfers to poor families with regular school attendance by their children.

Similar schemes have proved successful in Brazil and Mexico, as shown by our evaluations, which show that they can reduce poverty, increase school attendance

and performance, reduce child labour and increase female labour force participation, the challenge is to determine whether it would work as a device for social protection and enhanced economic security in African contexts.

A joint SES-UNCTAD Task Force was assembled, consisting of distinguished social scientists with many years of applied experience. They produced a background report, simulating possible scenarios and examining potential advantages and disadvantages, or difficulties, of applying such schemes in Africa to reduce family poverty and to enhance education.

The Task Force's conclusion was clear: *"MISA programmes offer an approach to promote economic opportunities, to facilitate empowerment and to enhance the security and dignity of poor households at the same time. As such, they provide a powerful and innovative approach that can be integrated within poverty reduction strategies."*

The Task Force recommended that pilot projects be undertaken in selected African LDCs, and expressed the hope that donor funding could be raised. The Government of Mozambique has already expressed a desire to launch a pilot in its country.

Extreme Inequality and Insecurity

At a seminar held in September, a study commissioned by the Programme on recent trends in income distribution and economic insecurity showed that orthodox measures of inequality such as the Gini coefficient understate the growth of inequality and the development of 'winner-takes-all' markets, in which a small minority of people in many countries are receiving a growing proportion of national income. The statistical findings will be incorporated in the Programme's Global Report to be completed by early 2002.

Liberalisation and Credit for the Poor

Liberalisation of the Indian banking sector seems to have increased the income insecurity of the rural poor, according to a detailed study completed for the Programme. Tracing what has happened to landless and landholders since liberalisation in 1991, the study presents compelling evidence showing that a consequence has been that banks lend much more to the most creditworthy, meaning the wealthier groups. The result is that the system has tended to widen income and wealth inequalities, while the poor have been deprived of consumption loans.

IFP/SES Web site and Newsletter now trilingual

The IFP/SES Web site (<http://www.ilo.org/ses>) is now available in English, French and Spanish.

Our Newsletter is produced in French and Spanish too (downloadable from the IFP/SES site).

For further information, please contact the Programme secretariat.

IFP/SES Seminars

- September 12:** Anna Ricciardi, "Promoting Security for Workers with Disabilities".
- September 19:** Gabriel Palma, "Extreme Inequality and Insecurity: The Latin American Story".
- October 18:** Guy Standing, "Globalisation: The 8 Crises of Social Protection".
- November 22:** Ravi Kanbur, "Labour standards and work security in development thinking".

SES Papers

- ◆ "Worker Insecurities in the Ukrainian Industry: The 2000 ULFS", by Guy Standing and László Zsoldos.
- ◆ "Workfare Programmes in Brazil: An Evaluation of Their Performance", by Sonia Rocha.
- ◆ "Applying Minimum Income Programmes in Brazil: Two Case Studies", by Sonia Rocha.
- ◆ "Assessing Local Minimum Income Programmes in Brazil", by Lena Lavinas, Octavio Tourinho and Maria

Lígia Barbosa.

- ◆ "Concealed Unemployment in Ukrainian Industry: A Statistical Analysis", by Maria Jeria Caceres
- ◆ "Coping with Insecurity: The Ukrainian People's Security Survey", by Guy Standing and László Zsoldos

Other

- ◆ "Minimum Income for School Attendance (MISA) Initiative", by ILO/UNCTAD Advisory Group.



InFocus Programme on Socio-Economic Security

Telephone: (+41 22) 799 6455

799 8893

799 7326

Telefax:

799 7123

<http://www.ilo.org/ses>

ses@ilo.org

International Labour Office, Route des Morillons 4, Geneva, CH-1211, Switzerland