



Food and Agriculture Organization  
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# The role of social protection in climate change adaptation, emergency response and disaster risk management

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# What is Social Protection?

A set of policies and programmes that address economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and poverty *through protective, preventive, promotive and transformative effects for its beneficiaries* (FAO, 2017a; Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004).

# What is Social Protection?

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Social protection  
includes:

**social assistance** – non-contributory programmes for the most vulnerable groups with no other means of adequate support

**social insurance** – contributory programmes to cushion the risks associated with life cycle-related events

**labour market interventions** – policies and programmes designed to facilitate employment and promote the efficient operation of labour markets

**Table 1.** Types of social protection

Types	Examples of programmes
<b>Social assistance:</b> direct, regular and predictable cash or in-kind transfers that are means-tested, or categorically targeted programmes for vulnerable groups (e.g. senior citizens, children). The programmes are non-contributory and financed through taxes and/or international development aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cash or in-kind transfers (including cash-for-work)</li><li>• Input or food subsidies</li></ul>
<b>Social insurance:</b> contributory programmes established or mandated by government to protect people from the potential financial losses linked to life cycle-related events (e.g. pregnancy, old age), livelihood risks (e.g. unemployment, illness) or climate-related shocks and stresses (e.g. droughts, floods).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maternity benefits</li><li>• Unemployment insurance</li><li>• Pensions</li><li>• Health insurance</li><li>• Agriculture risk insurance</li></ul>
<b>Labour market interventions:</b> protective measures for the working age population, which aim to enhance employment opportunities, improve skills of workers and offer livelihood support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skills transfer programmes</li><li>• Employment guarantee schemes</li><li>• Self-employment support</li></ul>

Source: adapted from Ulrichs and Slater, 2016 and World Bank, 2015

## SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

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focuses on the potential for using social protection systems to deliver response to shocks in low-income countries and fragile contexts, thus reducing the need for separate emergency responses. In the framework of this approach, it is **important to link with the humanitarian sector** in order to build systems that can **provide more timely and flexible support in advance, or in the aftermath, of shocks** (O'Brien et al., 2018).

## RISK-INFORMED SOCIAL PROTECTION

a set of **policies and programs designed with multiple social, economic, climate-related and other risks and considerations** in mind and flexible enough to inform long- and medium-term solution and timely respond to rapid and slow onset crisis, thus diminishing people's exposure to risks and strengthening their resilience, enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against interruption or loss of income, and facilitating recovery and restoration efforts, therefore reducing poverty and vulnerability (FAO, 2019)

# Linkages between CRM/DRR data and social protection for risk-informed actions

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**Reducing vulnerability and reliance on negative coping strategies in the event of shocks** – protecting people from potential losses incurred by shocks, by helping them to smooth consumption and protect their assets, increasing their capacity to cope and reduce impacts of shocks.

**Providing a stepping stone towards climate-resilient livelihoods** – contributing to reducing climate vulnerability by addressing economic barriers in order to adopt more productive and climate-resilient investments or complementing other production-focused programmes.

**Supporting inclusive disaster preparedness and response** – acknowledging that well-functioning scalable social protection systems can also be an important part of a country's disaster management strategy, by reaching poor populations affected by climate risks in a fast and cost-efficient manner - **Early Warning Early Action (EWEA)** - translate warnings into anticipatory actions

# Conclusions

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In a complex context of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- risk-informed social protection measures enhance capacities of the rural households to cope with, respond to and withstand economic, natural and manmade shocks. Indeed, immediate access to social protection measures in times of a crisis can, in the short-term, protect poor households from its impacts, including from loss of productive assets, and can minimize the risk of resorting to negative coping practices. In the longer term, social protection can help to smooth consumption, boost production, and allow for investments that contribute to building the resilience of people to future threats and crises.
- integration of a comprehensive early-warning early action (EWEA), forecast-based financing (FbF) and risk information management approaches into social protection systems can help to translate warnings into anticipatory actions, and to identify the best timing and modalities for interventions and laying the foundations for integrated approaches involving different sector. This can help to strengthen the capacities and preparedness of the social protection system to mitigate the impacts of a shock, while balancing competing priorities and scarce resources.



# References

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