

**Strengthening linkages with
Social Protection systems**

**Orientation guidance for
Red Cross Red Crescent
National Societies**



Strengthening linkages with Social Protection systems

Orientation guidance for Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies

Scaling-up linkages between humanitarian cash and social protection for effective response to shocks, protracted crises and long-term vulnerabilities

Background

Social protection policies and programmes are key to an overall strategy to end poverty and build resilience. Access to adequate social protection, especially cash transfers where these are appropriate, is essential at times of crisis and must be part of national responses. Linking or aligning the humanitarian responses with national social protection programmes and systems, where feasible and appropriate, can contribute to an efficient and effective response and achieve lasting results. Engaging with them throughout the humanitarian-development nexus, reinforces the key role that social protection plays as a mechanism to address poverty, inequality, mitigate shocks and build resilience.

Cash and vouchers assistance is quickly becoming the most popular instrument to help vulnerable households reduce risks and manage shocks; enabling them to meet basic needs, maintain dignity, protect livelihoods; and preventing falling further into poverty and inequalities. The RCRC Movement has been using cash transfers for centuries, only in the last decade, around 100 National Societies have delivered cash assistance across a wide

range of contexts, from fragile contexts to natural disasters, conflict, forced displacement, epidemics, protracted crises, etc. Cash assistance can be particularly effective when used in combination with other services and support, evidence shows that in addition to helping to meet basic needs, enables access to healthcare and education services, support livelihoods protection and recovery and sustain investments in human capital.

National Societies, as auxiliary to governments, can bring its humanitarian expertise, technical and operational good practice, as well as evidence-based learning, to influence and advocate where necessary, for the appropriate use of CVA and contribute to strengthen the social protection systems in their countries. Each country will have a different set of programmes in place and the cooperation must be adapted to that.

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Who is this guidance note for?

This guidance is written to assist National Societies understanding the need and opportunities to strengthen the linkages with the existing social protection systems in their countries. Can be a practical introduction to the subject as well as an advocacy document to guide discussions with the Government and other relevant stakeholders. Finally, can be used technical people working in interventions that use cash and voucher assistance to identify areas of collaboration and promote coordination mechanisms.

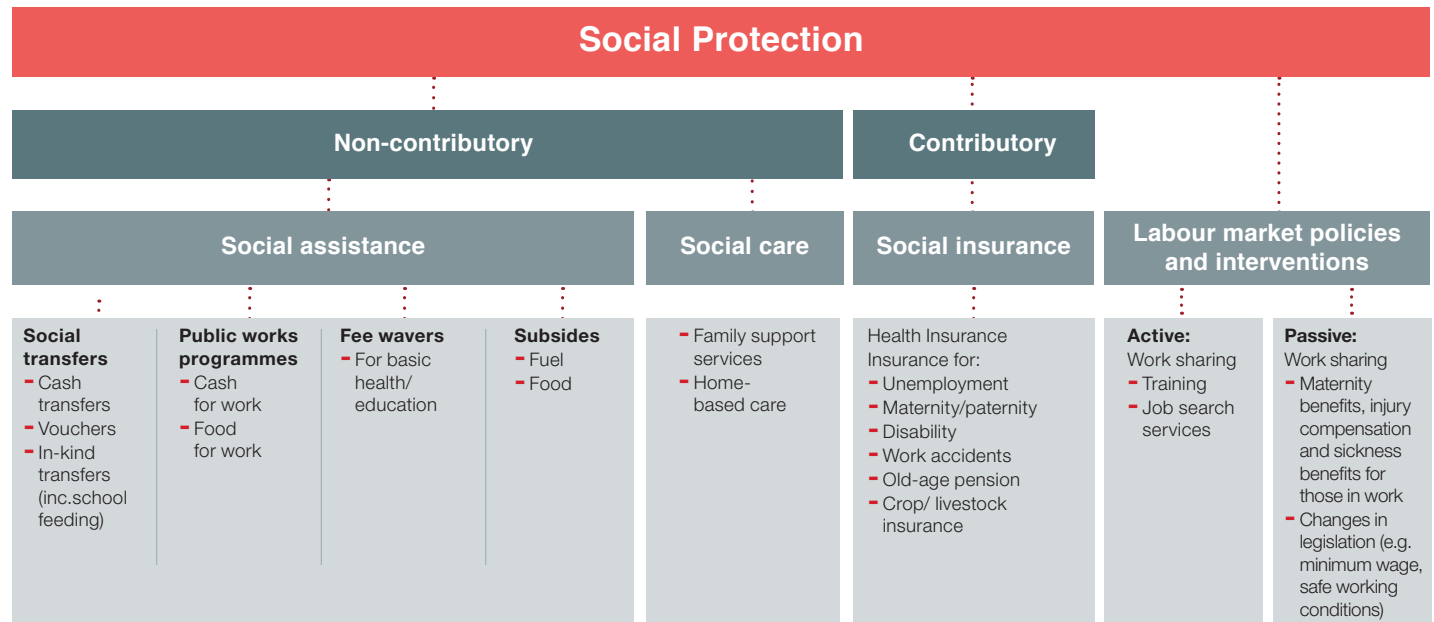
What is Social Protection and Shock Responsive Social Protection



The specific definition of social protection may vary depending on each country and the programmes in place. **ILO definition** is: “Set of policies and programs aimed at preventing or protecting all people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout their lifecycle, with a particular emphasis towards vulnerable groups” .

Social protection is the wide system that include contributory and non-contributory programmes, insurances and labour market interventions or other type of interventions like social care services.

Source: Adapted from O’Brien et al. (2018)



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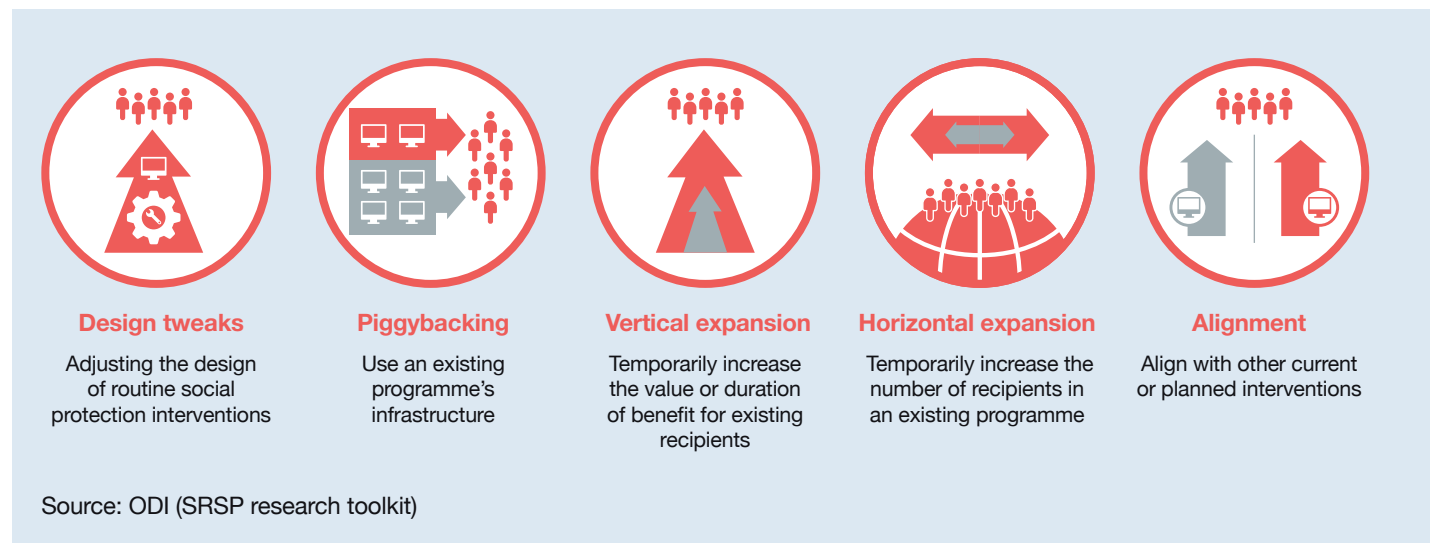
Social assistance and humanitarian cash and vouchers assistance

While the social protection systems include a broad range of services and support that can include cash transfers, (e.g. support for unemployment) the linkages with the humanitarian assistance and the use of cash is based on the social assistance programmes that are not conditioned by previous payment of insurances or contributions but focuses on providing unconditional support to the most vulnerable. Social assistance or social transfers, also known as safety net programmes, aim at supporting people meet their basic needs and are thus the main linkage to humanitarian support and responding to shocks - through the injection of cash to an existing mechanism - whereas the other instruments are much more system oriented that need time to establish.

Shock responsive social protection

“Shock-responsive social protection is a term used to bring focus on shocks that affect a large proportion of the population simultaneously (covariate shocks). It encompasses the adaptation of routine social protection programmes and systems to cope with changes in context and demand following large-scale shocks. This can be ex ante by building shock-responsive systems, plans and partnerships in advance of a shock to better prepare for emergency response; or ex post, to support households once the shock has occurred. In this way, social protection can complement and support other emergency response interventions (...).”

The most common option for adaptation of the Social Protection programmes are: design tweaks, vertical or horizontal expansion, piggybacking and alignment.



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- **Design tweaks:** implies making small adjustments to the design of a routine social protection intervention such as realising conditionalities or changing the delivery mechanism. Design tweaks and adapting administration by removing conditionalities has been one of the most common measure adopted in response to COVID-19 crisis. In Armenia, for example, pensions are being home delivered to elderly persons who would previously need to travel to post offices
- **Piggybacking:** means that a new different emergency response is built using elements of an existing programme. In Pakistan, the Ehsaas Emergency Cash (EEC) Programme was rolled out to deliver immediate relief to 12 million households, building on beneficiary information from pre-existing safety nets along with additional beneficiaries included from national database.
- **Vertical expansion:** it is a temporary increase in the value or duration of benefits for people already benefiting support that require additional assistance due to new circumstances. In response to COVID-19, in the Cayman Islands, a vertical top-up of financial assistance to existing beneficiaries has been introduced, extending for 3-6 months along with food vouchers, and rent utilities.
- **Horizontal expansion:** it is an extension of the programme coverage to include new beneficiaries not regular part of the programme but in need due to the new shock. In response to COVID- 19 in Nigeria, horizontal expansions were undertaken to scale-up support for additional beneficiaries using the existing National Social Safety Nets Project (NASSP) platform for existing chronic poor as well as transient poor (people affected due to COVID-19).
- **Alignment:** is when humanitarian intervention and social protection programmes are developed in parallel but as similar as possible. In Anguilla, a new cash transfer intervention has been initiated to financially support those who do not qualify for the Unemployment Benefit offered by the social security system, mirroring the objectives of the existing scheme.

Red Cross Red Crescent comparative advantages



National Societies, have a unique opportunity to build on their principled approach, auxiliary role and unique comparative advantages to position themselves partner of choice for Governments, humanitarian/development actors and donors to deliver humanitarian cash and social protection assistance. Building on its CVA experience and capitalizing on its extensive global and volunteers' network at national and community level to implement inclusive cash transfers assistance. Also by managing humanitarian responses differently and being adaptive and flexible, especially in fragile, conflict and displacement contexts, where Governments might not always reach those in need, or face challenges to scale-up, or simply be absent.

When appropriate and feasible, National Societies can make significant contributions to strengthen the timeliness, effectiveness, and accountability of shock-responsive social protection, by supporting or complementing

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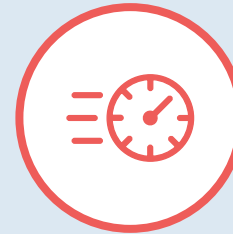
Government to reach those in need, reduce duplication, be quicker, more predictable, more cost effective and more sustainable.

National Societies can contribute to **improve the effectiveness of the Social Protection systems** to:

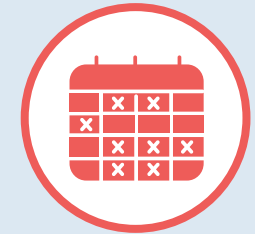
6 criteria of effective SR -SP



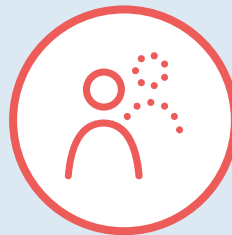
Cover those in need



Be quicker



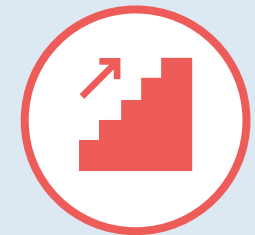
More predictable



Less duplication



More cost effective



More sustainable

Be quicker

- ✓ NS programmes may be more flexible and adaptive in countries affected by crisis and conflict, where Governments can struggle to scale up and adapt quickly to the context; they can adapt or create new programmes to complement Government efforts or channel assistance with less delays
- ✓ NS can build on RCRC experience in delivering humanitarian cash assistance to improve processes and systems, use more agile delivery mechanisms, support targeting and registration processes and coordinate to ensure a timely response

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- ✓ NS can implement the shock responsive element of a national social protection system for time bound response, provide the adaptive element in line with a government system, (e.g. Turkey, Kenya) or build a social protection element into an existing programme supported by the Government in countries where the NS receives a public financial contribution to do this
- ✓ In order to be quick and timely, the system must be established and ready. A NS can build on their auxiliary role and the long term relations with the Governments and other stakeholders, to create the conditions for a shock responsive mechanism that is integrated into preparedness, disaster management and contingency planning, in advance of a potential crisis.

Cover those in need and reduce duplication

- ✓ NS can contribute with their experience using participatory approaches, community engagement and accountability, to improve the targeting and registration systems and define appropriate objectives for a social protection programme that responds to the needs
- ✓ NS can help address access constraints for both Government and a population, increasing the availability and access of programme assistance in remote areas. In these locations NS can support improved targeting, registration and support the delivery of assistance
- ✓ NS can use their presence on coordination mechanisms to advocate on behalf of vulnerable people, ensuring they can access the support they are entitled to, and where programmes are not available, advocate for additional support to be provided

More cost effective

- ✓ NS long term presence and their extensive network of branches and volunteers can support programme implementation, the delivery of assistance, provide ongoing monitoring and identify new complementary activities that can promote graduation from the safety net support being provided
- ✓ NS experience of delivering humanitarian assistance can contribute to reduce costs, support system improvement, create more agile mechanisms, and support alignment and coordination in emergency and recovery phases of a response
- ✓ NS can identify innovative solutions to improve programme effectiveness
- ✓ With a widespread volunteer base, branches are located close to communities and with a seat at the government table, the National Society is ideally positioned to facilitate a two-way exchange on possible gaps in current or planned social protection programmes. This exchange of information and experiences at all points in the project cycle, with the general public, target groups, communities, government, civil society, private sector, humanitarian and development actors, is critical for good programming and good practice.

More predictable

- ✓ NS can contribute to improved Early Warning systems and deliver Early Action including shock responsive social protection, linking this with existing community disaster committees and improved community surveillance

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- ✓ NS can use the experience of Forecast Based Financing to be part of national systems for EWEA, building their capacity and use of mechanisms such as Early Action Protocols that can trigger social protection support
- ✓ NS can support social protection systems to become more adaptive by integrating climate smart indicators into the system for more timely responses
- ✓ Advocate with Government and donors to fund Early Action and crisis modifiers that enable adaptive social protection systems

More sustainable

- ✓ NS can establish linkages with their long-term programmes to define graduation models and build the bridge between emergency and resilience programmes
- ✓ Leveraging experience from the RCRCM, NS are better positioned to provide advice and generate awareness on best ways of utilising cash and voucher assistance
- ✓ Often NS structure – NHQ, branches and sub branches – can mirror Government ministries with similar structures and partner relationships, supporting delivery but also challenging and advocating for innovative and more appropriate programmes

NS supporting scaling up Social Protection: ways of engagement



While there is no one single solution or programme that would fit all contexts, NS will need to decide when and to what extent the engagement with the SP systems is appropriate. In countries where SP programmes are in a nascent stage, the RCRC can play a key role to fill the gaps in providing humanitarian assistance, implement new programmes that contribute to overall poverty reduction outcomes that are aligned with existing ones, or advocate for appropriate local programmes to be set up. Where robust SP systems exist, the NS could help the expansion of the systems in response to crisis and strengthen the adaptive element; also, can focus on reinforcing the reduction of risk and vulnerability reduction through linking humanitarian assistance and long-term resilience programmes. National Societies can play a critical role in ensuring the inclusion of hard to reach or vulnerable population groups that might otherwise be left behind and contribute significantly to making shock responsive social protection more effective.

It is important that NS's involvement in social protection schemes, especially government-run social protection, is done in a way that is mindful of the need to balance the integration with its the role as principled humanitarian actor. The Red Cross Red Crescent's involvement in social protection schemes at the country level, will be context specific and must be done following a thorough analysis as it is normal practice for any other programme, weighing up operational necessity, capacity and risks.

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SP Programme adaptation options and RCRC engagement



Vertical expansion NS can support the vertical expansion of government programmes by providing additional support to top up the assistance given to households, when there is a temporary increase in the needs. E.g. Montserrat Red Cross is providing food vouchers to beneficiaries of the Government programmes set up in response to COVID-19 to ensure they meet their food needs.



Horizontal Expansion In Kenya, the Red Cross is engaging with the national social protection system for a horizontal expansion and provides support to additional beneficiaries not covered, expanding the coverage of the programme. They also support targeting and registration in difficult access areas.



Piggy Backing Equally in Kenya, in 2017, the NS has coordinated with the social protection system piggybacking elements of this, so they used the same delivery mechanisms and the beneficiaries list to support people in response to drought.

In Eswatini the National Society has supported the Government change into a cash assistance response for COVID-19, piggybacking on the delivery mechanism used by the Red Cross.



Shadow/Alignment In Turkey, the NS experience is a great example for alignment and integration with the existing national systems. In collaboration with the IFRC, the National Society is delivering monthly cash assistance to refugees through the ESSN programme which was designed to be aligned with national policies and institutions to scale-up and reach countrywide coverage despite remaining a separate programme. The high degree of alignment and coherence with the national systems is providing immense advantages in terms of efficiency, facilitation and rapid roll-up.



Design Tweaks NS can also work with the systems to include design tweaks into the programmes to help them become shock responsive, release access conditionalities to ensure inclusion or changes on the delivery schedule based on climate or disaster triggers to ensure timely response. The IFRC Climate Centre works to promote climate smart social protection systems.

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Operational areas of cooperation

Not all the activities below will be the responsibility of the Red Cross Red Crescent to be implemented, hopefully the RCRC will be the facilitator of the process and share the responsibilities with the Government and other partner organisations. This list of activities presented here is not exhaustive but tries to highlight some of the areas of collaboration identified based on current experiences when engaging with Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems; as more and new experiences are documented, new and more specific guidance will be developed.

Working with Shock Responsive Social Protection is only one area of focus when engaging with the Social Protection Systems in country. Depending on the context, the NS priorities and the development of the social protection programmes in country, the collaboration can be applied to other areas of the social protection system (e.g. Health or Livelihoods) and some of the activities listed below can be part of a long term systematic collaboration.

Coordination & Dissemination

NS are often part of different coordination bodies in country and so are well placed to support coordination among different stakeholders that otherwise do not interact, this is often the case between emergency response agencies and social welfare or long-term resilience building actors.

- ✓ Join existing working groups and identify existing workstreams or areas of common interests
- ✓ Facilitate the intercommunication between different working groups already existing
- ✓ Promote specific working groups for Social protection, or subgroups in existing clusters
- ✓ Advocate for coordination in emergency and inter cluster communication
- ✓ Include coordination and development of MoU and joint workplans with other stakeholders in the contingency planning
- ✓ Include the analysis of social protection programmes in the contingency plans, develop scenarios based on the most common disasters and the possible use of the social protection systems to respond, identify triggers and response options, define roles and responsibilities and the role of the NS in the response

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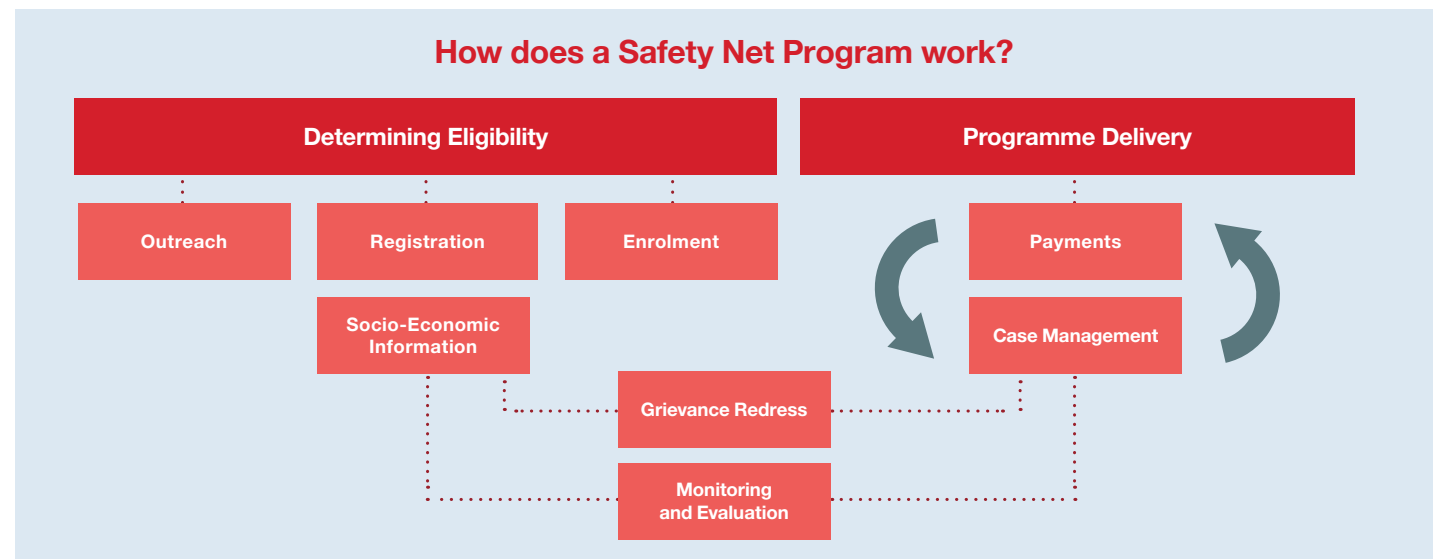
Programme set up and objectives

Social Protection programmes overall aim is supporting vulnerable and poverty reduction. Often the SP programmes do not have clear objectives that allow measure impact, or these might be outdated and not aligned with the needs of the people. NS through their permanent presence on the ground, their branches, programmes and volunteers network have a good understanding of the context, the vulnerabilities and the needs. The SN can advocate for the revision of the programmes' objectives and alignment of the support provided to achieve impact.

- ✓ Support Government revising existing programmes and their objectives
- ✓ Identify gaps and need of new programmes to be created
- ✓ Define programmes objectives, implementation and appropriate support for impact achievement

- ✓ Advocate for the revision of regulations in place to enable programmes flexibility for programmes to become shock responsive
- ✓ Link with other humanitarian actors and safety nets programmes to fulfil gaps
- ✓ Identify graduation models and build linkages with long term interventions to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance
- ✓ Prepare exit strategies for the use of shock responsive social protection in emergencies

Social protection Programmes are not different that others in term of cycle management, so a programme could be structured around the following main components.



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Targeting, selection criteria and outreach

NS can support dissemination of the programmes information, targeting and registration to enable people access the support. Accurate targeting systems reduce exclusion errors and make programmes more cost effective.

- ✓ Advocate for the revision of targeting criteria when not appropriate
- ✓ Support the revision and definition of appropriate the selection criteria
- ✓ Advice on different targeting systems, including community-based approach for targeting and validation of lists
- ✓ Support case management for vulnerable people
- ✓ Identify alternative solutions for special cases e.g. undocumented people, victims of human trafficking, gender-based violence, etc.
- ✓ Integrate information about the social protection programmes in their regular activities
- ✓ Create referral systems between RCRC and the social protection system to identify people in need and support them access the programmes

Registration and data management

Weak or inexistent data management systems, lack of single registry or an appropriate data base is a major constraint to deliver efficient support. NS can support directly or in partnership with other humanitarian actors, build a reliable and inclusive beneficiary register that reaches those vulnerable segments of the population to ensure no one is left behind. This is especially appreciated in large scale disaster or with weak systems and can contribute toward developing a two-way supportive relationship between NS and government.

- ✓ Support develop social registries, define and contribute to the data collection of the vulnerability information to be included in the system
- ✓ Promote and support the creation of single beneficiary's registers or data base that can be share and consulted to avoid duplication and improve case management, develop protocols for the use and access to information
- ✓ Support data collection and registration of beneficiaries as ad hoc activity or as part of regular programmes
- ✓ Take responsibility to ensure the respect to personal data protection regulation and minimum standards
- ✓ Promote, when appropriate, preregistration of people in prone disaster areas in preparedness plans
- ✓ Support through the NS network of volunteers the field data collection and registration

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Transfer values and support modality

The assistance provided by the programmes often is inadequate for the programme objectives, obsolete as economic context changes or not appropriate for the needs. In emergencies, but also in normal times, NS can play an important role in advocating for the revision of the support to respond to the needs. In emergencies, coordinated and harmonised cash transfer values facilitate the delivery of complementary programmes by the different actors involved.

- ✓ Advocate, revise and design transfer values adapted to the programme objectives
- ✓ Harmonize the transfer value among the humanitarian actors when appropriate
- ✓ Promote the regular revision of the transfer value according to the economic changes in country (i.e. inflation)
- ✓ Be prepared and advocate for the use of cash assistance when feasible
- ✓ Support top up expansion of the system in response to new crisis or disasters to ensure people can meet their basic needs

Delivery mechanisms

RCRC Movement has long term experience delivering support to programme beneficiaries and important experience using cash assistance as modality of providing support. For the provision of social assistance, the use of cash transfer is increasing, and NS can support sharing experience with the government to support the changes in the system. When the support is provided in kind, also, NS have important experience to share and can support delivery.

- ✓ Revise delivery mechanisms used and promote innovative methods to improve efficiency
- ✓ Share learning and good practices from the humanitarian sector that can contribute to adapt the systems used by the social protection schemes
- ✓ Share feasibility studies and information on financial service providers
- ✓ Support the design of the delivery procedures, including SoP
- ✓ Where necessary, support delivering the assistance through RCRC mechanisms
- ✓ Promote harmonization, joint platforms or single delivery mechanisms when appropriate and strengthen coordination with among humanitarian actors
- ✓ Promote pre-agreements to facilitate flexibility and alternatives in case of disasters or crisis to ensure the assistance reach those in needs independently of the context

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Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

RCRC traditional way of working is based on participatory approaches, in emergencies, recovery or resilience, the Movement places people at the centre of any response. The NS have enormous experience in giving voice to the people and in the recent years have been developed tools and guidance to support CEA. Social Protection systems often lack community-based approach and don't have effective feedback mechanisms or communication with the population. This is an area where NS can play a critical role facilitating information exchange and participation.

- ✓ Raise awareness and advocate for the inclusion of effective feedback mechanisms
- ✓ Agree on regular feedback sessions, complaints mechanisms, and understand who in the government oversees case management and programme adjustment, as well as how and who will document learning.
- ✓ Reach agreements for the use of the RCRC systems if there are no other options
- ✓ Promote the use of participatory approaches for vulnerability assessment, targeting and validation of beneficiaries' lists
- ✓ Promote the use of a mixed targeting systems that includes community-based targeting to reduce exclusion errors
- ✓ NS could be impartial manager of feedback mechanisms
- ✓ CEA mechanisms to include, a part of communities, local actors and institutions
- ✓ Disseminate information on programmes and feedback mechanisms in place

Monitoring and Evaluation

In line with the programme objectives support the institutions in charge of the programmes to define monitoring systems and evaluation processes that allow learning and adaptation of programmes to improve impact.

- ✓ Define impact and how this will be measured
- ✓ Identify learning objectives
- ✓ Advocate for commitment to regular revision and programmes adaptation based on learnings
- ✓ Plan for monitoring and data collection
- ✓ Support data collection, ongoing monitoring of programmes, and evaluation activities

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Capacity building

Although new for the NS, engaging with Social Protection shouldn't be looked at as a new sector to be developed. The linkages with social protection build on the auxiliary role of the NS, the already humanitarian actions and coordination for disaster preparedness and response, and as such it should be mainstreamed in the ordinary activities the NS implement. Nevertheless, not a specific area, engaging with social protection require first an understating of the possibilities and then having the systems and capacity in place to implement. Processes such as cash readiness and Early action protocols are essential to this linkage. Ideally, the Government and institutions involved in the social protection programmes should be part of the capacity building programmes to strengthen their own capacity and facilitate common understanding and cooperation.

- ✓ Mainstream engaging with social protection as part of existing auxiliary role of the NS
- ✓ Include establishing relations with social protection as part of the cash readiness programmes, preparedness for effective response or early action protocols
- ✓ Invite social protection institutions to participate of the NS capacity building processes
- ✓ Build relations and exchange experiences with other NS that can support the process
- ✓ If not done, NS to start cash readiness programmes
- ✓ NS to build their capacity to integrate Forecast based Financing in their activities and develop Early Action Protocols that will enable them access new financial opportunities including the new

Red Cross Red Crescent Experiences



The examples below are only some examples of experiences of National Societies with experience in linking CVA with national and social protection systems. A part of Turkish Red Crescent, Kenyan Red Cross or the British Virgin Islands, there are experiences in Malawi, Lesotho, Philippines, Nepal, Pakistan, other NS in the Caribbean and other countries around the globe.

RCRC Cash Hub is in process of documenting Movement experiences linking cash and social protection. More RCRC experience will be documented and available on the Social Protection section of the RCRC Cash Hub starting September 2020.

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Turkish Red Crescent Society - KIZILAYKART CASH BASED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

- Programme website <http://kizilaykart-suy.org/EN/hakkinda.html> and <http://platform.kizilaykart.org/en/SUY.HTML>
- More information available in the Cash Hub here <https://www.cash-hub.org/search-results?q=turkish>
- IFRC ESSN information <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/essn/>

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), is the largest programme ever implemented by the IFRC. The programme provides monthly humanitarian support through cash assistance to over 1.7 million refugees living in Turkey using the KIZILAYKART debit card. The programme is implemented jointly by IFRC, Turkish Red Crescent (Türk Kızılay) and Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS).

The programme has been created, aligned and integrated with the existing programmes that support vulnerable Turkish citizens. The KIZILAYKART is a cash-based assistance modality that was initially established by the Turkish Red Crescent in 2011 to assist Turkish citizens and was later used to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis starting 2012. The experience is an example of integration while remaining separate programmes.

Kenya Red Cross Society

- **Case study: A BUFFER AGAINST THE DROUGHT.** Riding on the Hunger Safety Net Programme platform to deliver aid to the most vulnerable through the use of Bank Accounts
- More information and case study available on the Cash Hub [here](#)
- In 2017 Kenya Red Cross coordinated with the Government Hunger Safety Net programme, a government funded social protection activity to use the data base and same delivery mechanism to support people affected by drought. In its database of HSNP beneficiaries, GoK has more than 370,000 households registered and issued with ATM cards for the social protection cash transfers. Being an emergency response, KRCS proposed to ride on the already established platform, the Hunger and Safety Net program in which Equity bank is used as a delivery method. Upon registration and verification of the targeted households, cash assistance was delivered using a smartcard system which beneficiaries used to access cash from the local Equity agent.

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British Virgin Island- Joint Cash Platform with Ministry of Social Development

- Full case study can be consulted here in the Cash Hub here <https://www.cash-hub.org/search-results?q=british+virgin+islands>

In September 2017, hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated British Virgin Islands (BVI). The BVI Red Cross, with British Red Cross (BRC) support, conducted needs market and cash feasibility assessments in collaboration with CRS and the Ministry of Health and Social Development (MOHSD).

A joint cash-based response plan and the Joint Cash Platform (JCP) were developed as a result, formalizing the collaboration between BVI Red Cross and Caritas Antilles (supported by CRS), with the Government via the Social Development Department (SDD). The JCP used a single streamlined approach to the team structure, functions and systems. Including beneficiary management (registration, targeting and validation), a single registration database, a single targeting tool, a single approach to Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and a single information and reporting system and a single cash delivery platform, (the JCP Bank account with First Caribbean Bank, managed by BVI RC on behalf of the partners).

The Greece Cash Alliance – May 2017 – Jan 2018

- More information Cash Hub: [Cash in Greece 2016 2019 the story](#)
- [CaLP Greece Cash Alliance: Building an Evidence Base on Operational Models for the Delivery Of CTP](#)

The Red Cross began to deliver cash to refugees and migrants in Greece in October 2016. In 2017 the cash actors in Greece agreed to continue to deliver cash under the coordination of UNHCR, but as part of an alliance, which became known as the Greece Cash Alliance, having a single contract, a single Financial Service Provider, one database and the same card, common SOPs and standards. The second stage of the GCA, was marked by the ‘exit strategy’ of the cash assistance funded by ECHO to be transitioned to a structure provided by the Government of Greece, like the newly established Social Solidarity Income system. Unfortunately, the plans for the handover to the Greek authorities in 2018 didn’t follow through and as such the IFRC decided to continue implementing the cash program as implementing partner for UNCHR in 2019.

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Resources

A Movement Cash and Social Protection technical working group has been established in April 2020, under the umbrella of the Cash Peer Working Group (CPWG) with the objective to support resource creation and capacity building as well as advocacy efforts towards establishing linkage with Social Protection.

- RCRC Cash Hub Social Protection section <https://www.cash-hub.org/>
- Climate Centre <https://www.climatecentre.org/programmes-engagement/social-protection>
- Movement technical Working group for Social Protection under the Cash Peer Working group <https://www.cash-hub.org/guidance-and-tools/movement-cash-community>

External

- <https://socialprotection.org/>
- <http://www.socialprotection-toolbox.org/>

Free online trainings

- <https://socialprotection.org/learn/e-learning>
- **Social Protection: A Primer**
- **Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. A Game Changer in Supporting People Through Crises**
- **What is Social Protection? An introduction (micro-course)**
- CVA and Social Protection Part 1: Introduction to Linking Humanitarian Cash Assistance and Social Protection <https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=493>



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International relevant commitments



Social Protection as part of the Sustainable Development Goals is included in several targets aiming at improving wellbeing, reduce poverty and inequalities.

- SDG 1: No poverty. Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- SDG 3. Good Health: 3.8 achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- SDG 5. Gender equality. Target 5.4 - Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- SDG 8. Decent work. Target 8.5 by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- SDG 10. Reduce inequalities. Target 10.4 - Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

The Red Cross Red Crescent network aims to be adaptive, transform to be more fit for future and capable of thriving through the complex and dynamic changes occurring throughout the world to more effectively meet humanitarian and development challenges. The **IFRC strategy 2030s' strategic goals** are guided by major

global humanitarian and development frameworks, along with other major compacts and alliances. These goals are underpinned by the Movement Fundamental Principles, building on the Do no harm and Leave no one behind. IFRC along with DFID and UNICEF is co-chair of the cash and Social Protection sub-working group under the Grand Bargain Cash workstream; aiming to define, coordinate, and advocate for stronger links between humanitarian CVA and social protection, in both preparedness and response activities across the humanitarian sector, bringing together humanitarian and development actors.

As part of the **Grand Bargain** commitments on localization and cash scale-up, the IFRC is contributing to making principled humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary; increasing, when adequate, the use and coordination of cash and vouchers assistance (CVA). CVA should be aligned or linked, where possible and appropriate, with local and national mechanisms such as social protection systems.

The **Common Donors Approach** seeks to strengthen the ability of national actors and national systems to respond to shocks and seek complementarity between humanitarian cash programming and predictable, long term funding. In situations of conflict and protracted crises, where national systems are not yet developed, donors support building on learning from shock-responsive social protection systems to strengthen humanitarian cash programming.