Shock-Responsiveness Learnings from ESSN

Presented by: Edward Fraser

December 5th, 2023

TRUST
CONSULTANCY & DEVELOPMENT
شركة ثقة للاستشارات والتطوير

Methodology

Desk review of ESSN documents and global CVA discussions

12 KIIs with the partners, donor, and basic needs working group representative

Five mini-workshops with ESSN staff and MoFSS representatives

Validation workshop with ESSN management and staff

ESSN's Approach to Shock-Responsiveness

Primary Objective: Assist refugees in meeting their basic needs, as well as foster long-term, development-oriented outcomes, even during times of crisis or shock

Data-driven: Dynamic use of data, enabling the programme to make evidence-based adaptations to shocks while maintaining efficiency and effectiveness. The approach was underpinned by **shock analysis, vulnerability analysis,** and **systems analysis.**

Systems-based: Leveraging existing systems and mechanisms, such as the Decision Support Mechanism Algorithm (DSMA) and the SASF Discretionary Allowance (SDA), to enhance shock responsiveness. Employing various delivery mechanisms tailored to specific crises, such as card delivery to homes during COVID-19 lockdowns and integration with FSPs for earthquake response.

People-centered: Relying heavily on field teams and social workers for feedback on vulnerability and adaptive decision-making, utilizing various communication channels to keep communities informed and engaged, and adapting communication strategies to suit the specific context and needs of each response, ensuring effective outreach and support.

Reactive: Balancing reactive agility with proactive planning, allowing ESSN to effectively respond to a variety of shocks. Response options included: seasonal shock-responsiveness, rapid- or slow-onset shock-responsiveness, vertical expansion, and horizontal expansion.

What was the Impact?

Basic Needs: ESSN's targeting changes and top-up payments helped vulnerable refugees meet their basic needs, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

Coping Strategies: ESSN's regular assistance and top-up payments reduced the need for coping strategies among recipient households. The rCSI and LCSI scores decreased for ESSN recipient households, indicating an improvement in their food security and reliance on negative coping strategies.

Income: ESSN played a crucial role in supporting households during the initial shock of the pandemic by increasing its share as a primary source of income. Collective Kindness became the primary source of income for a growing number of ESSN recipient households in the second round.

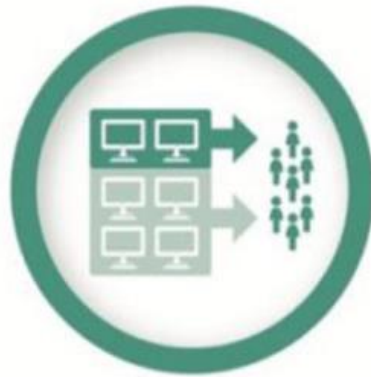# OPM Framework for Shock-Responsive Social Protection

Design Tweaks
Adjusting the design of routine social protection interventions

Piggybacking
Use an existing programme's infrastructure

Vertical Expansion
Temporarily increase the value or duration of benefit for existing recipients

Horizontal Expansion
Temporarily increase the number of recipients in an existing programme

Alignment
Align with other current or planned interventions

COVID-19: Card delivery

Earthquake: Payment through FSPs via SMS codes

Earthquake: Piggybacking on MoFSS and AFAD databases

Increased transfer value and introduction of top-ups in response to the three crises

Cost of living inflation: adjusting targeting criteria

Earthquake: Targeting non-ESSN households, including host community

Alignment with the government and response coordination with partners and humanitarian organisations

Key Themes – OPM Framework

Transfer Value: ESSN adjusted transfer values and provided top-ups in response to various shocks.

Targeting: ESSN revised its targeting criteria to enhance responsiveness and effectiveness, focusing on gender-based vulnerabilities and minimizing inclusion and exclusion errors.

Coordination: ESSN leveraged remote tools and systems to maintain communication and collaboration during the COVID-19 lockdown and coordinated closely with external partners to ensure alignment with broader initiatives.

Financing: ESSN reallocated funds to expedite top-up payments in response to the COVID-19 crisis and utilized surplus resources from its budget to provide assistance to those affected by the earthquake.

Recommendations

Maintain long-term assistance but adapt to varied crises

Design with flexibility in mind but adapt to changing contexts and needs

Clearly define shocks and triggers

Establish a formal adaptation process

Undertake scenario-based preparedness planning

Adopt a learning-oriented approach

Leverage a dynamic use of data from various sources to inform evidence-based adaptations

Prioritise partnerships and coordination

Conduct regular assessments

Advocate for sustained funding

Focus on vulnerable groups

Provide support for host communities