Shock-Responsive Social Protection

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Outline

1. What is the role of social protection in shock response?
2. How can SP systems respond to shocks?
3. How can social protection link to a humanitarian response?
4. Preparedness under SRSP
5. Research on SRSP
Can social protection systems play a role in shock response?
Different types of shocks

Social Protection typically helps with idiosyncratic shocks whilst DRR/emergency response efforts respond to co-variate shocks…
What could social protection do?

Opportunity to use

1. Experience
2. Capacity
3. Delivery mechanism

of **existing social protection systems** in an emergency response.

Complement other sectors, such as disaster risk management, in an emergency response.
An adaptive SP response reduces impact of shock

- **Shock**: Adaptive social protection response attempts to keep income up during a crisis (e.g., through cash payments).

- **Response**: Idealised development of well-being if shock response plans are developed and working.

- **Degree of Vulnerability**: Simplified development of well-being under reactive response to a crisis, which may be late and withdrawn once the worst is over.
Terminology Detour: Shock responsive or adaptive

**Similarity:**
- are about changes in social protection systems that make them more adaptive and responsive to shocks
- aim to support long term resilience of those affected by shocks

**Difference**
Adaptive: emphasises that synergies are gained if social protection, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation are considered simultaneously
2. How could a response look like?

Based on O’Brien et al. (2018)
Design Tweaks
Adjusting the design of routine social protection interventions

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

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

Piggybacking
Response that uses elements of the national system

Alignment
Standalone responses that aligns with existing or future SP programme/system
Parallel Systems

What it is: The delivery of humanitarian assistance is separate and stand-alone from national systems.

How this looks like in practice
1. Refugee influx, ongoing, Jordan
   *Parallel SP programme for refugees*
2. Conflict, 2019, Syria
   *IRC delivering cash to Syrian women*
How to decide what to do?

1. Meeting needs
2. Ensuring greater coverage
3. Ensuring timeliness and predictability
4. Eliminating duplication
5. Sustainability
3. How does this look like in humanitarian response?

Based on Seyfret et al. (2019)
‘Classic’ humanitarian delivery structure (parallel systems approach)
Alignment of delivery systems
Piggy backing delivery systems
Nationally-led delivery systems
## Combining Humanitarian Response & Social Protection

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Preparedness under SRSP

Based on Beazley et. al (2018)
https://www.opml.co.uk/files/Publications/a1537-shock-responsive-social-protection-latin-america-caribbean/summary-of-key-findings-and-policy-recommendations.pdf?noredirect=1
What can be done ex ante?

Identify and select people affected by shocks

Deliver transfer cash and in-kind support

Align resources and actors for an integrated response
Research on SRSP
Existing work on SRSP

What role can social protection systems play in responding to humanitarian emergencies?
Valentina Barca and Clare O’Brien

Strengthening the capacity of ASEAN Member States to design and implement risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems for resilience
Regional Synthesis Report

Unbundled: A framework for connecting safety nets and humanitarian assistance in refugee settings
Karin Seyfert, Valentina Barca, Ugo Gentilini, Manjula Luthria, and Shereen Abbady

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Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program
Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change and Disaster Risk for the Poor and Vulnerable

Human(itarian) Capital? Lessons on Better Connecting Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection
Ugo Gentilini, Sarah Laughton and Clare O’Brien
Ongoing work

Plus other work by DFID, World Bank, WFP and UNICEF
Research gaps - I

1. Better – *practical* – understanding of what works, in which contexts, how and why
2. Beyond cash – what is the role for other instruments and social protection as a system?
3. Measuring and assessing *relative effectiveness* – and acting on findings
4. Ensuring equitable outcomes and inclusiveness (gender, PWDs)
Research gaps - II

5. Using social registries
6. Poverty and vulnerability targeting methods
7. Political economy
8. Financing shock-responsive social protection
Conclusion

1. Social protection systems bring experience, capacity and delivery systems to a response
2. There several ways to make a system responsive
3. A response can be nationally led or humanitarian led
4. How you adapt can vary across the delivery chain of a SP system
5. In preparation: think about targeting and who does what
6. Lots of conceptual thinking but need for more research on what works and how
Thank you