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Adapting Social Protection Systems for DRM

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This presentation will cover:

- What is social protection?
- How does it relate to disaster risk management and climate change?
- Why is it important now?
- Presentation of research project
- Preliminary findings

What is social protection?

Public policies and actions that aim to directly help people escape or avoid poverty

- Cash transfers
- Food transfers
- Public works
- Social insurance

Social protection systems are normally long-term development interventions run by national governments and aiming to provide a 'safety net' to help people meet immediate basic needs in times of crisis.

How does social protection link to DRM?



Following a disaster the number of people requiring assistance increases. Adapting existing social protection programmes is a way of potentially coping with the increased demand without needing an humanitarian intervention.

Can social protection systems be used, in collaboration with DRM systems, after seasonal / cyclical crisis or one-off emergencies to help post-disaster recovery and relieve pressure on the humanitarian system?

Why is this necessary?

- **Volatility:** the frequency and severity of crises and disasters are increasing, pulling more people into poverty and disproportionately affecting the poorest.
- **Humanitarian system:** is under strain, unable to keep pace with growing needs from sudden onset (e.g. floods) and protracted crises.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** a well-functioning social protection system offers a potentially more cost-effective shock-response option than humanitarian aid
- Created more attention in SP field than in DRR. Mentioned in SFDRR.
- Examples include HSNP in Kenya, BISP in Pakistan, 4Ps in Philippines...

Our research

Consortium approach with OPM leading,
March 2015- 2017



Funded by DFID's Humanitarian Innovation
and Evidence Programme (HIEP)

Global literature review



3 in-depth case studies: Mali, Mozambique
and Pakistan

3 review case studies: Philippines, Sahel
and Lesotho



Research questions

What factors enable social protection systems to be responsive to disasters and to deliver effective shock response?

- What features in the design and implementation of social protection systems facilitate an effective response to shocks?
- How can humanitarian, disaster risk management and social protection systems best work together for more effective responses to shocks?

Different options for scaling up

- Vertical expansion – increase the amount or duration e.g. Haiyan
- Horizontal expansion – increase the numbers either geographical areas or social groups
- Piggybacking – use the administrative system
- Shadow alignment – create parallel system that is aligned so could one day be absorbed
- Refocusing – narrowing or shifting the focus in times of crisis (scaling down)

Enabling factors

- Will explore importance of the following factors:
 - **Legislative and policy frameworks** within which social protection and humanitarian response operate
 - Key stakeholders - **mandate, roles and responsibilities**
 - **Interests and levels of influence** of key stakeholders
 - **Fiscal environment** and **financing mechanisms** available
 - State of **existing response mechanisms** (social protection / disaster risk management / emergency response)
 - **Capacity** of organisations providing humanitarian support and social protection in responding to shocks

Linking DRM and social protection systems

- EWS have been linked to social protection programmes in several countries:
 - In Kenya the Hunger Safety Net Programme is linked to a vegetation index
- But also other DRM mechanisms that could potentially be linked to SP programmes:
 - Risk and vulnerability assessments to help targeting
 - Contingency planning and sectoral disaster planning
 - Public information, awareness raising and coordination mechanisms
 - Post-disaster assessments to help targeting
 - DRM committees to help with targeting, planning and implementation
 - Recovery and 'build back better' programmes linked with public works initiatives
 - Resettlement and livelihoods adaptation programmes could be incentivised by transfers

And finally...

Very keen to hear more – any thoughts or examples?

Webpage

<http://www.opml.co.uk/projects/shock-responsive-social-protection-systems>

Twitter

#shockresponsiveSP

The research team welcomes news of any relevant interventions or related studies being undertaken. We would be happy to include information from these in our research. Do also contact us if you have any questions about the research programme, or if you would like to receive communications about the project findings.

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Thank you