

# Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean



WFP Ecuador/ Berta Tilmantaite (2016)

## What is Shock-Responsive Social Protection?

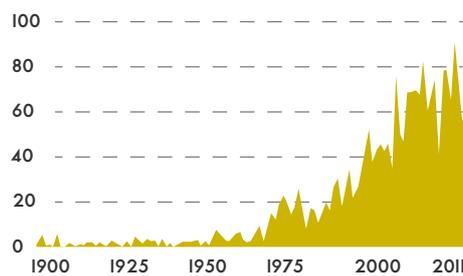
Is the use of national social protection programmes and administrative capacity to provide assistance to the population affected by a crisis.



## Why is it relevant for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)?

1 The LAC region is increasingly exposed to disasters

Chart 1  
Disasters in LAC



Source: CEPAL 2015

2 Social protection systems in the region are relatively advanced and with significant coverage, reaching especially the population in poverty and vulnerability.

3 Social protection's administrative systems have the potential for a quick, efficient and effective response, by avoiding creating a new parallel delivery mechanism to support humanitarian response but using the existing institutional architecture.

4 It strengthens the coordination between national actors for a longer term benefit.

**SOME COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY ACHIEVING THIS SUCCESSFULLY!**

## What are the main challenges?

Social protection systems have been developed for objectives different from response to shocks, and therefore they require design tweaks.

The target populations of existing social protection programmes not always coincide with the households affected by a shock, and also programmes have specific operational rules and processes.

Institutional coordination can be very complex, and there may be financial challenges as well.

# How does it work?

## Preparedness of the social protection system

### TARGETING AND DATA MANAGEMENT



Adapt ex-ante the targeting mechanism in order to allow a better emergency response.

#### HOW

Develop contingency processes to register new beneficiaries; link protocols for coverage expansions with early warning indicators; ensure integration of databases/information systems where possible; collect and consider to include in social registries additional data on vulnerability to shocks; pre-register households in vulnerable locations.

### DELIVERY MECHANISM



Adapt ex-ante the delivery mechanism of cash and in-kind transfers.

#### HOW

Define protocols for the expansion of existing delivery mechanisms; shock-proof delivery systems and develop contingency plans for alternative payment mechanisms; consider pre-registering populations in high-risk areas and consider electronic payment systems.

### COORDINATION AND FINANCING



Align resources and actors for an integrated shock response.

#### HOW

Define the social protection's role in emergency response on the national risk management plan; create coordination mechanisms between the social protection and civil protection actors; develop joint preparedness initiatives; and create innovative financing instruments for disaster response.

## Response of the social protection system

### VERTICAL EXPANSION



Temporarily increase the value or duration of transfers for the beneficiary households of existing social protection programmes.

#### HOW

Use the targeting and delivery systems of existing social protection programmes to reach affected households as fast as possible (see area 'A' in figure 1).

### HORIZONTAL EXPANSION



Temporarily increase the number of beneficiaries in existing social protection programmes.

#### HOW

Expand existing programmes reaching new households affected by a shock,

By extending benefits to registered but non-beneficiary households (e.g. from the country's Social Registry—area 'B' in figure 1), and/or

By extending new households (areas 'C' of figure 1)

### PIGGYBACKING



Use social protection systems and mechanisms for emergency response.

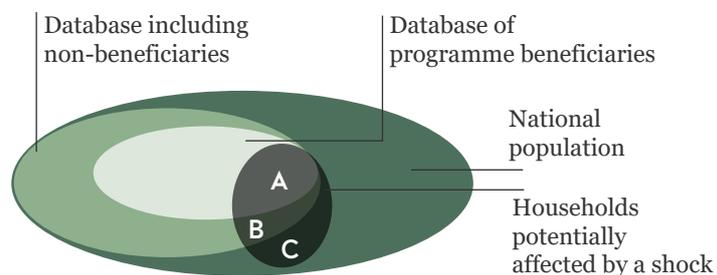
#### HOW

Piggybacking on existing programmes' systems (e.g. their data, their targeting approach, their delivery mechanism, their staff) and delivering a new temporary programme.

The government or humanitarian actors creates a new temporary aid programme but this uses the existing targeting system, delivery mechanism or the database and/or the social protection staff.

FIGURE 1

### Response options through social protection databases



- A Households that can be reached through vertical expansion (or piggybacking on the beneficiary database)
- B Households that can be easily reached through horizontal expansion (or piggybacking on non-beneficiary database)
- C Households not covered by existing databases that could be reached through horizontal expansion



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This information is based on the **Study on Shock Responsive Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean**, conducted by OPM and WFP. It includes a literature review of experiences in the region and case studies in Ecuador, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, and Peru, as well as a report with key findings and policy recommendations. These reports and other material are available in Spanish, English and French here: <http://es.wfp.org/> and <http://www.opml.co.uk>

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