KEY MESSAGES FROM
SHOCK RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DISASTER RISK FINANCING - SOCIAL PROTECTION AND MIGRATION
March, August & November 2022
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Meetings: March, August & November 2022

Objectives:

- Actively share evidence and experiences in shock-responsive social protection and disaster risk financing.
- Collectively reflect on the existing and emerging evidence in this field to translate evidence into action.
- Cross-fertilize and identify opportunities for collaboratively and innovatively fill knowledge and capacity gaps in the region.
- Devise joint initiatives to advocate for and move forward this agenda, ensuring the uptake and dissemination of collective lessons learnt.

Key messages

Topics discussed were inter-agency evidence and group needs (March), Migration and Social Protection (August) & Disaster Risk Financing linkages to SRSP and anticipatory actions through forecast based in finance (November).

- The group is a valuable platform to share experiences and manage knowledge at the regional level, systematizing good practices on systems strengthening for shock responsive social protection and its instruments.
- The LAC Region is affected by compounding shocks that require more complex, and integrated responses. The experiences using social protection in the migration crisis are examples of what the international community can do to support governments and people in vulnerable situations.
- Innovative financial mechanisms are possible through the cooperation of different sectors to fund both the preparedness of systems as well as social protection extension in response to a shock.

First Meeting

Prior to the meeting, a survey was circulated to better understand interests and needs of the group. In terms of types of shocks, group seemed to be interested in droughts and rapid onset events more than the pandemic, likely because of the extensive discussions the topic has received in the last years. In terms of the operational topics, the group vote most for information systems and financing, including disaster risk financing. In terms of cross cutting issues, group pointed to migration, climate change and nexus with humanitarian support as their priorities. The priorities also matched the areas where organizations have experience, which is a positive outcome and can foster evidence generation within the group.

One of the issues highlighted through the survey previously sent to participants is the need for more evidence that can support policy and programmatic technical assistance in the region. With that in mind, the first session focused on inter-agency experiences with relevant systematization of evidence in the cross-setting areas that support shock responsiveness of social protection systems.
During the discussion, perks of collaboration among agencies were highlighted, especially when it can be translated into achievable strategies adopted by countries, although participants recognize the importance of government in the leading seat of shock responsive social protection and disaster risk management.

### Second Meeting

In an overview of the migration on the region, the increasing barriers for visas have shaped to the recent flows, contributing to most frequent irregular migration flows in 2022 that present several challenges for an organized humanitarian response. There is a role for governments and the international community to invest in economic integration of migrants and ensuring the expansion of social protections systems and economic opportunities that motivates people to remain in their countries of origin.

A regional study in migration and social protection based on assessments and evidence recommends to the international community to remove operational barriers for migrants to access beyond legal status, including financial, and further inclusion in the labour force. **It is suggested an alignment of humanitarian assistance with national systems to ensure further cohesion, efficiency and sustainability and inclusion of vulnerable communities to mitigate social tension.**

It is important to approach migration in a holistic manner, therefore, in the discussion participants were asked to reflect on converging roots of migration, on what the international community could contribute to the integration of migrants to regular social protection systems, and finally, what the humanitarian sector can further do to align its responses to national systems. Participants mentioned the difficulty to separate the different crises in the region, where migration flows are entangled as both an emergency and as a structural issue.

### Third Meeting

The meeting started with a presentation on the overall WFP’s strategy for disaster risk management and explained different approaches. For more frequent events that don’t cause high levels of affectation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation are the most adequate instruments. Risk transfer instruments are used for when the frequency of events decreases but their impact increases, causing more losses.

At the bottom of the strategy, there is humanitarian assistance and shock responsive social protection, tools that deal with residual of risks when the event finally occurs. This has been exemplified by different models of DRM financing:

- In Dominica, WFP paid a CCRIF policy top up for the government to which, in case an activation is to happen followed an extreme event, the government would receive a bigger payout and use it for the national social protection system. In exchange to WFP’s contribution, the government of Dominica compromised to improvements in the management and information system (MIS), targeting methods and payments.

- In Nicaragua WFP paid for a CCRIF policy top up with the condition that, if an event occurs and the Government receives a payout, the proportion of the premium covered by WFP will be given back to WFP to respond to the emergency with school meals.
Both models are an innovation on disaster risk financing by linking to different social protection programmes.

- Red Cross is developing a project in Guatemala focused on forecast-based financing (FBF), a relatively new approach to disaster risk management and emergency response. This model uses weather forecasts to trigger anticipatory actions and release humanitarian funds PRIOR to an extreme event to reduce the impact of the impending hazard on the population. In the case of Guatemala, Red Cross is working on both slow and rapid onset disasters by developing anticipatory action plans against droughts and hurricanes/tropical storms.

Despite challenges presented, the audience concluded that these are innovative models that can, and should, be replicated further as they represent a win win for the governments and the organizations supporting macro insurance top up. By linking the finance with national systems, the sustainability of emergency social protection financing is more secure. The presented models represent an interesting, and promising, way forward in disaster risk management and shock responsive social protection.