



Social Protection and the Climate Crisis

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Acknowledgements

This ‘Base Document’ was written by Daphne Francois, Valentina Barca and Anna McCord with the support of Zina Nimeh. It is adapted from a UNICEF-specific Operational Note on Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Contexts of Climate Change, previously authored by Valentina Barca, with support from Nupur Kukrety and Zehra Rizvi (UNICEF). This version received substantial comments and integrations from a range of colleagues to whom we are grateful, including Ian Orton, Rim Nour, Jana Bischler and Marialaura Ena (ILO), Matthew Walsham (FAO), and Vasumathi Anandan (UNICEF).

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 About this TRANSFORM sub-module

This Guidance Note builds out from [TRANSFORM's Shock Responsive Social Protection base module](#) and was developed to provide guidance to technical government officials and other national social protection stakeholders to strengthen their understanding of the linkages between climate change and social protection, and to support the design and implementation of more climate-responsive systems. It focuses on the impact of climate change and climate policies on lifecycle risks, the role of social protection in addressing these, the contributions of social protection to climate objectives, including mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage, and potential action points for governments and other stakeholders to better incorporate climate change challenges into their national social protection systems and programmes, and to promote the use of social protection to achieve national climate priorities.



See [Annex 1](#)

The module builds on an expanding body of knowledge and evidence on social protection and the climate crisis that is referenced throughout the document and shared in [Annex 1](#).

The document is organized in the following Sections:

- [Section 1.2 Rationale and context](#)
- [Section 1.3. On the same page: key concepts and definitions](#)
- [Section 2.1. Global principles and legal frameworks](#)
- [Section 2.2. Considerations on ways of working in contexts of climate change](#)
- [Section 3.1. Key programmatic considerations: Evidence and analysis](#)
- [Section 3.2. Key programmatic considerations: Policy and institutional setting](#)
- [Section 3.3. Key programmatic considerations: Programme design](#)
- [Section 3.4. Key programmatic considerations: Administration](#)

1.2 Rationale and context

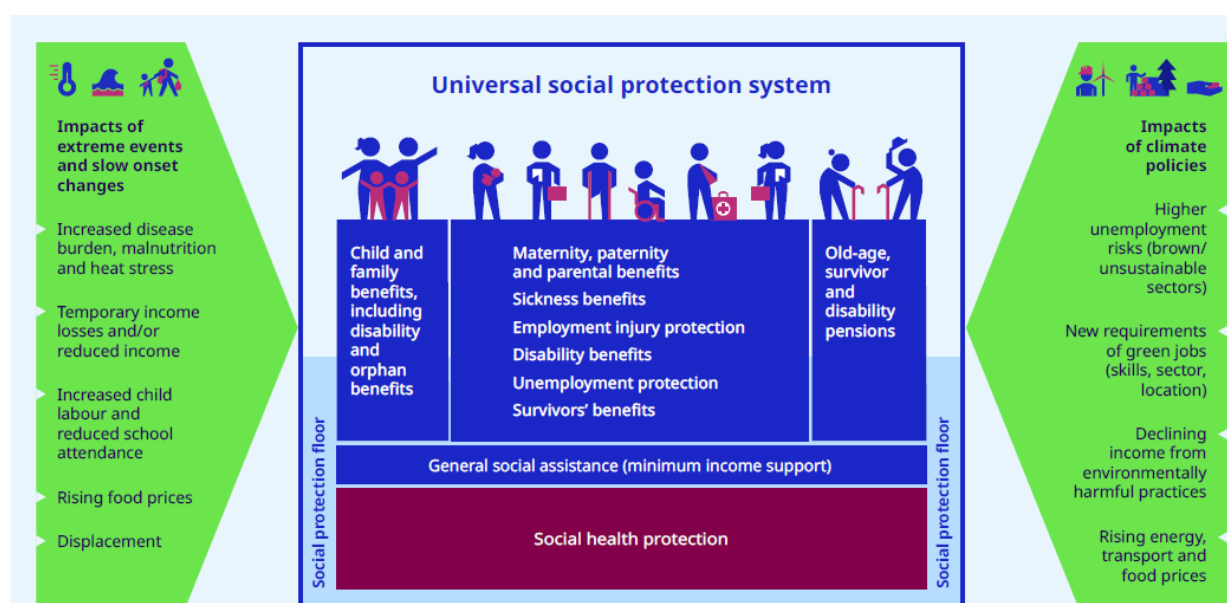
Climate change is one of the most significant global challenges today, posing an immediate existential threat to millions of people around the world. It is often described as a ‘risk-multiplier,’ because it intensifies shocks and disasters, exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, and introduces complex risks, creating a cycle of increased hardship and diminished resilience (Costella et al, 2023). While climate change is often associated with rapid and slow onset weather events - such as floods, droughts, and heat waves - it is also affecting ecological and human systems, impacting on livelihoods, health, food systems, settlement patterns and poverty in ways that will fundamentally reshape societies (IPCC, 2022).

The physical impacts of climate change, combined with the unintended consequences of “green transition” policies on populations, disproportionately affect countries most vulnerable and least responsible for having contributed to the problem. For instance, countries that are home to half of the world’s extreme poor, generate only 3% of global emissions (UNICEF, 2021). Moreover, climate change impacts are significant drivers of fragility and conflict (Rehman & Jaramillo, 2024), food insecurity and malnutrition (WFP, 2019), health (WHO, 2023), productivity and decent work (ILO), and forced displacement (UNHCR, 2024). Lower income and under-protected groups that have less adaptive and coping capacity - especially those facing intersecting forms of vulnerability, such as children, women,

elderly, workers in the informal economy, and people with disabilities - are particularly at risk of climate change-related hazards.

Social protection can help address climate-related vulnerabilities, contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty) and 13 (Climate Action), and support a Just Transition to sustainable economies and societies (ILO, 2019). As Figure 1 illustrates, both climate change itself, and climate and environmental policies can intensify lifecycle risks, and may result in malnutrition, loss of income, livelihoods or jobs, illness, displacement, and increased child labour paired with reduced school attendance (ILO, 2019; World Bank, 2016). In this context, universal social protection systems have the potential to raise people's adaptive capacities, protect health, income and jobs and support wider efforts to move to greener societies (Cherrier & ILO, 2023). Moreover, social protection systems can contribute to mitigation of climate change, by supporting activities that reduce emissions and promote sequestration.

Figure 1. Illustration of the role of social protection in addressing life-cycle and climate risks



Source; ILO 2019.

However, in countries most vulnerable to climate change, social protection systems remain underdeveloped, leaving billions vulnerable to climate-related hazards without sufficient shock-responsive support or reliable social protection coverage. ILO's 2024-26 World Social Protection Report found that the share of the population with access to at least one social protection benefit was only 9% in the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change, compared to 52% globally (ILO, 2024).

Moreover, social protection schemes are seldom adapted to address climate-induced risks, leaving significant gaps in support for communities facing intersecting vulnerabilities. As well as more frequent extreme weather events, many countries face increasing water scarcity, rising temperatures, and multiple associated human and ecological systems challenges – such as changes in crop productivity, loss of farming land through salination or sea level rise, disruption of power generation and food systems, damage to livelihoods dependent on natural resources as a result of ecosystems collapse, and increases and changes in the prevalence of vector borne diseases - which compound existing challenges such as high youth unemployment, fragility, displacement, informality, gender disparities, reliance on food imports, and political instability. Rising temperatures also pose a severe risk to the health of workers and vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children and older persons. There is thus an urgent need to

strengthen and adapt social protection systems so they can better address climate risks and build resilience among those affected.

Box 1 Regional trends

- **Arab region:** The Arab region is heating at nearly twice the global average, with 2024 marking its warmest year on record and average temperatures 1.08 °C above recent baselines, while heatwaves have exceeded 50 °C in parts of the region. With 15 of the world's 20 most water-scarce countries, climate change is expected to reduce water availability and agricultural productivity by up to 30% by 2050, intensifying exposure for rural and informal workers (representing around 50–70% of employment in many Arab countries), who are already excluded from social protection. In fact, while some countries have relatively advanced social protection systems, coverage remains heavily skewed toward public sector workers. These climate stressors, combined with reliance on food imports and protracted fragility in parts of the region, heighten vulnerability for under-protected populations.
- **Africa:** Africa is one of the continents most vulnerable to climate change, having just lived its warmest decade on record. Climate risks are particularly acute due to high dependence on rain-fed agriculture, pastoralism, and natural-resource-based livelihoods, alongside increasing exposure to droughts, floods, and cyclones. Yet only 17% of the population has access to at least one social protection benefit, falling below 10% in low-income African countries, while over 80% of employment is informal. Limited coverage and frequent dependence on reactive rather than proactive humanitarian support amplify climate-related income loss, food insecurity, displacement, and the use of negative coping strategies and maladaptation.

Sources: [WMO \(2024a\)](#); [WMO \(2024b\)](#); [UNDP \(2023\)](#); [IPCC \(2022\)](#); [Global Center on Adaptation \(2022\)](#); [ILO \(2024\)](#)

1.3 Key concepts and definitions

In order to ‘speak a common language’ across sectors, it is helpful to summarise some of the key definitions that social protection actors will need to better understand when thinking strategically about climate change. This is not a comprehensive list, but it is a useful start:

- **Anticipatory Action (AA) or Anticipatory Social Protection** refers to actions taken to reduce the humanitarian impacts of a forecast hazard before it occurs, or before its most acute impacts are felt. The decision to take action is based on a forecast or collective risk analysis of when, where and how the event will unfold (Anticipation Hub, 2023).
- **Climate change** refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. It is defined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. (UNFCCC, 1992)
- **Climate change adaptation (CCA)** refers to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climate change impacts. This involves changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change (IPCCC, 2022), while enabling systems to persist.

- **Climate Change Mitigation CCM)** refers to efforts to decrease the amount of emissions released into the atmosphere and reduce the current concentration of carbon dioxide by enhancing sinks (e.g. increasing the area of forests) (UNFCCC, n.d.).
- **Disaster** refers to a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts (UNDRR, 2017).
- **Disaster risk reduction (DRR)** prevents new and reduces existing disaster risk and manages residual risk, to strengthening resilience and promote sustainable development (UNDRR, 2017).
- **Extreme Weather Events (EWE)** (e.g. extreme rainfall, storms, meteorological drought, heatwaves/ extreme temperatures).
- **Green Transition** is the transformative shift towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive economy that addresses climate change, environmental degradation, and inequality.
- **Indirect transition risks** are risks arising from CCM and adaptation measures, including those that are negative externalities of the green transition.
- **Just Transition** refers to the process of transitioning to a green economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned and leaving no one behind. This includes ensuring adequate (social protection against risks and impacts from both climate policies and also from climate change, actively promoting the Green Transition while enabling everyone to contribute to and benefit from the transition to a sustainable economy and society (ILO, 2024).).
- **Loss and damage** refers to “the adverse observed and/or anticipated impacts of climate change that arise despite — or in the absence of — mitigation and adaptation” (IPCC, 2022).
- **Maladaptation** refers to “actions that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes—including via increased greenhouse gas emissions, increased or shifted vulnerability to climate change, more inequitable outcomes, or diminished welfare, now or in the future. Most often, maladaptation is an unintended consequence” (IPCC, 2022).
- **Resilience** is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions (UNDRR, 2017).
- **Risk** emerges from the interaction between *hazards* (e.g. extreme weather events), *exposure* (e.g. of people, livelihoods, ecosystems), and *vulnerability* (e.g. vulnerability to harm and ability to adapt) (European Union, 2016), and is described as “the potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems” (IPCC, 2022, p2921). Compound risks arise from the interaction of more than one hazard.
- **Slow onset events (SOE)**, refer to the risks and impacts associated with increasing temperatures, desertification, loss of biodiversity, land and forest degradation, glacial retreat and related impacts, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and salinization (UNFCCC, n.d.)

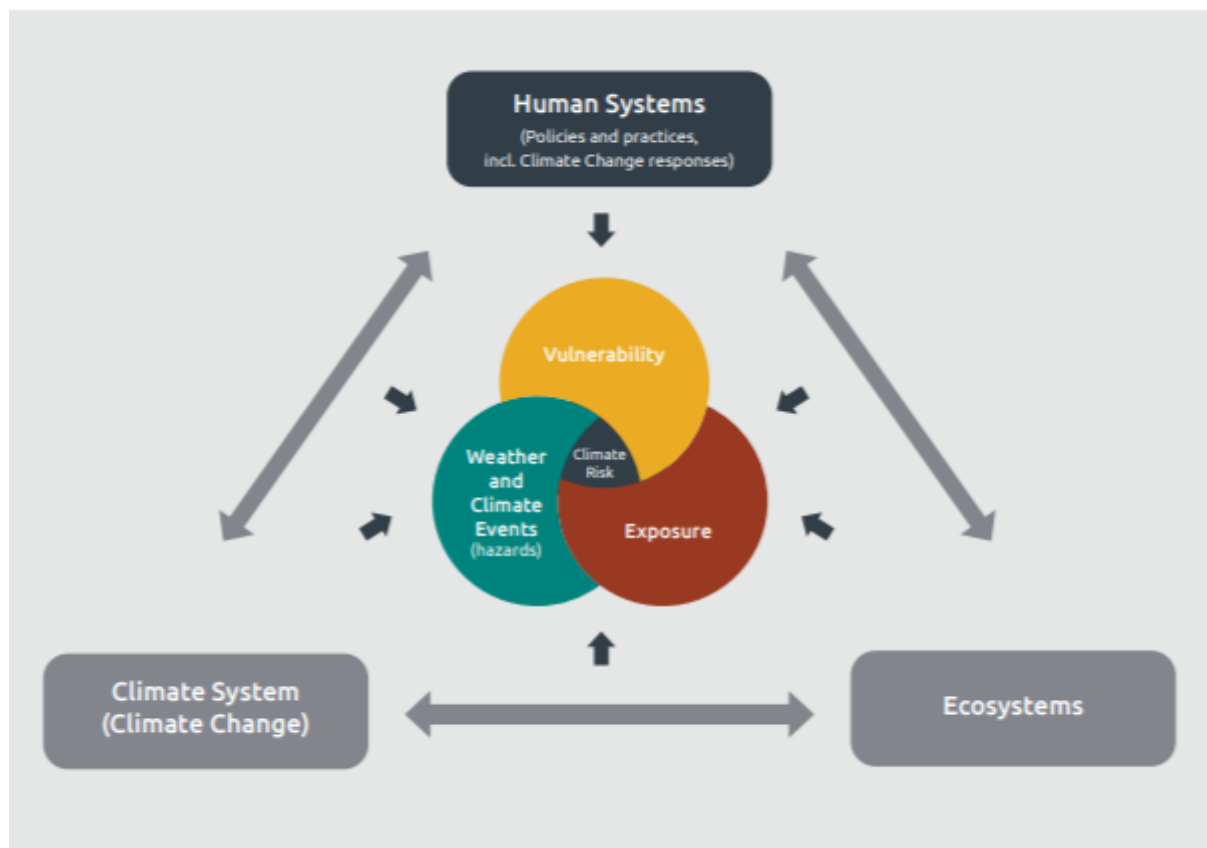
The role of climate change as a driver of risk and the implications for social protection as an instrument that addresses the risk are visualized in Figure 2 and Figure 3(a/b) below.

- Figure 3a showcases the typical social protection framing of the issue (see Table A1 in Annex 2)
- Figure 3b flips perspective and sets out how social protection can contribute to addressing the challenge set out in the Paris Climate Change Agreement, which states that ‘parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage’. Social protection’s role vis-a-vis the three pillars of climate action set out in the Paris Agreement to address these challenges through mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage are further set out in Table 1.

[See Annex 2](#)

TABLE A1 IN ANNEX 2 is designed as an accompanying guide to these definitions and to Figure 3, to reflect on the implications for social protection programming of thinking about climate change more intentionally, along key dimensions.

Figure 2 Climate, human and ecosystem interactions leading to increased climate risk



Source: Costella and McCord, 2023

Figure 3 a) How social protection addresses the risks arising from climate change – SP framing

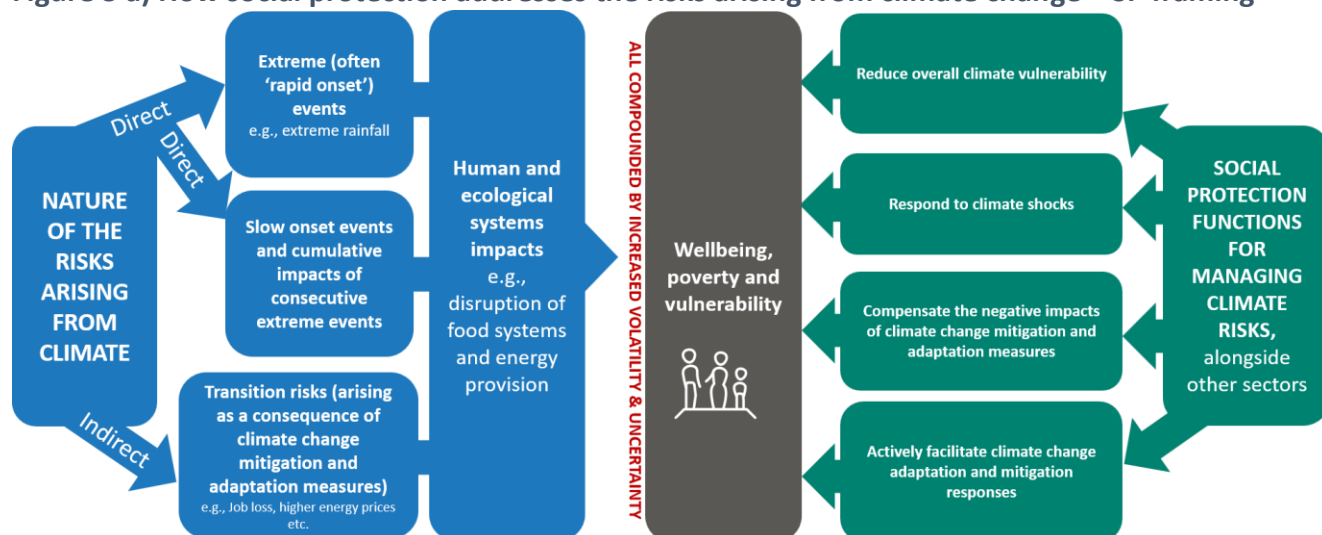
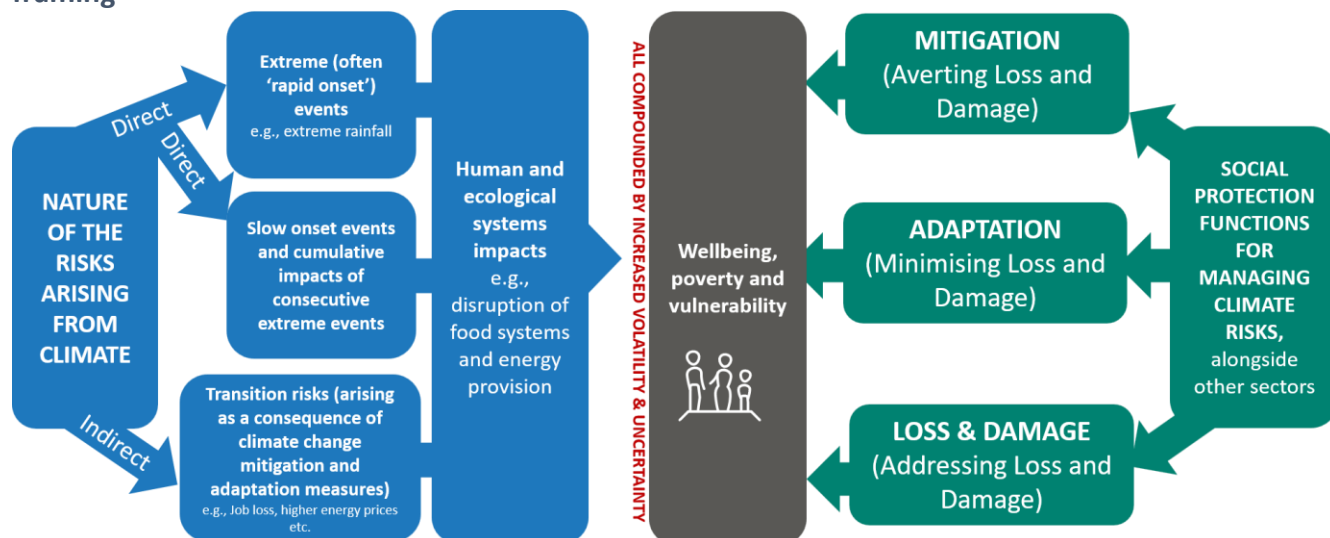


Figure 3 b) How social protection addresses the risks arising from climate change – Climate framing



Source: Adjusted from UNICEF, 2025.

Table 1. Social protection's role vis-a-vis Mitigation, Adaptation and Loss & Damage (L&D)

(→ See also Table A1 in Annex 2)	
Mitigation	• Supporting mitigation policies, by: ○ directly contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by combining the provision of income support that promotes sustainable natural resource management and nature-based solutions to increase carbon capture and storage (e.g. Jordan's cash for work programme and Lebanon's cash for work programme) ○ incentivising mitigation programs and activities led by others (e.g. <i>acting as behavioural incentive for relocation, shifting of livelihood strategies, etc.</i>). ○ ensuring the broader objectives of a Just Transition (e.g. <i>supporting re-skilling, re-training, and job placements to facilitate the transition of workers from high-emission industries to low-carbon jobs</i>). ○ Facilitate workforce transitions without hardship or resistance through pensions schemes and early retirement options ○ Extending social protection to workers in the informal economy in emerging green sectors (i.e., ensuring that jobs created by the transition are decent jobs) • Providing protection from the negative effects of mitigation policies, helping to offset these and make reforms more socially acceptable by addressing compounding inequalities (e.g. <i>accompanying fuel subsidy reforms in Egypt, Morocco, Indonesia and Iran with the expansion of social protection benefits or the implementation of one-off cash compensation; maintaining income for workers directly or indirectly affected</i>)
Adaptation	• Ensuring income security and access to essential healthcare for everyone: social protection floors and systems help individuals and households to strengthen their adaptive capacities to better cope with and adapt to changes induced by climate change in the medium-long term. • Preventing food security and malnutrition (e.g. Egypt's First 1,000 days programme) • Providing health insurance covering climate-related diseases (e.g. heat stresses, vector borne illnesses) • Social care and support services for people affected by disasters (e.g. community-based care systems during disasters, psychosocial support for displaced persons) • Supporting adaptation policies by: ○ reducing disaster risk, (e.g. <i>via support to natural-resource management and ecosystem restoration, such as Jordan's Water Dams Cash for Work programme and India's MGNREGS.</i> ○ enhancing resilience and adaptive capacities to better anticipate, prepare for, cope with, and recover from climate shocks (e.g. <i>increased assets, productivity, and savings, improved and more diversified livelihood opportunities, see evidence in FAO, 2024</i>). ○ promoting income opportunities arising from climate change.
Loss and damage	Addressing impacts that have already occurred and cannot be avoided or adapted to such as supporting households during rehabilitation, using public works labor to rebuild critical infrastructure or providing <i>additional</i> support in response to specific climate-related shocks and stressors to cover residual risks/needs. • Where linked to early warning systems and mechanisms that allow rapid access to finance, risk-informed (and 'shock responsive'/'adaptive') social assistance

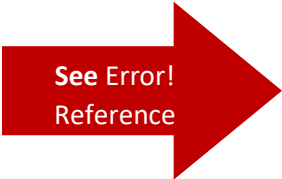
	systems can provide more timely, accurate, adequate, cost-effective, people-centred support at scale, and do so more effectively than <i>ad hoc</i> measures led by other sectors (see e.g. <i>scalable cash transfers with pre-defined triggers in Malawi, Fiji, Kenya</i>). • This can also play out during the post-disaster recovery phase (e.g. <i>transitioning households from emergency relief to long-term resilience-building activities</i>) • Social insurance can also play similar functions, if designed to do so (e.g. <i>temporary unemployment benefits during heatwaves, employment injury insurance for workers injured or killed during extreme events, health insurance, survivor's benefit to provide income continuity and compensation for loss of breadwinner due to disasters, etc.</i>).
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Source: Huber and Murray (2023); ILO Recommendation No. 202 (2012); FAO (2021); USP2030 (2025); UNICEF (2021), UNICEF (2025, unpublished); WFP (2019); Bhalla, G et al (2024); McCord and Ridout (2025).

Section 2: Guiding principles and ways of working

2.1 Global principles and legal frameworks

A set of global legal frameworks and overarching principles should guide our work on social protection in contexts where climate change is a major determinant of life outcomes.



See Error! Reference

ANNEX 3 provides useful further details on each of these legal frameworks and principles, to frame discussions with national and international stakeholders, outlining crucial multilateral sustainability and climate agreements, as well as other relevant declarations, while clearly establishing the implications for action in the social protection sector.

2.2 Further considerations on ways of working in context of climate change

When thinking about contexts and countries where climate change is a major determinant of life outcomes, acting as a ‘risk multiplier’, and compounding other structural drivers of poverty, the following overarching recommendations emerge in terms of ‘ways of working’:

1. **Apply a climate-aware lens to all SP programming:**
 - a. **all social protection programmes, across social assistance, social insurance and beyond, can be designed with a climate-aware lens** – as Section 3 outlines in depth (not just those with a ‘plus’ dimension). See social insurance example from [Algeria](#).
 - b. **This should not be limited to a focus on high visibility climate-change induced extreme weather events**, but also consider slow onset events that are longer-term climate stressors as well as the indirect impacts of mitigation and adaptation measures, as outlined in [Table A-1](#) in Annex 2.
 - c. **Work hand in hand with other social sectors for maximum impact:** Working with other sectors is critical for understanding population vulnerabilities (e.g. vulnerability to food

insecurity and malnutrition) and for providing a comprehensive response (e.g. social transfers linked to health and nutrition services).

- d. **Strengthen links between social protection (across all pillars), employment promotion and skills development** to enable workers and enterprises to transition toward climate-resilient and green livelihoods.
2. **Overcome the assumption that changes will be gradual, linear and will require ‘more of the same’ and plan for uncertainty.**
 - a. Address the profound social and economic changes that climate change will bring and the dynamic changes in people’s needs and conditions that require appropriate social protection responses (McCord and Costella, 2023). This will require a systems-thinking approach, moving beyond gradual modifications (‘tinkering at the edges’) to embrace scenario-based planning that accounts for realistic climate impacts.
 - b. Climate models can assess current and future climate variability, but there remains some uncertainty about the exact nature of compounding climate impacts, the effect of reaching tipping points and domino effects. Social protection systems need to be designed to accommodate this uncertainty by incorporating spatial, temporal, and targeting flexibility in programme design and operational systems along the life cycle.
3. **Understand exposure to climate risk is not held equally** - certain groups are more exposed and less able to cope and recover. Social protection responses need to address intersecting forms of vulnerability, such as gender, age, disability status, and employment status.
 - a. **Carry out vulnerability assessments**, that can inform different social protection options for different groups and ensure these are viable in a variety of possible scenarios while avoiding maladaptation (WFP, 2019).
 - b. **Recognise that in some instances populations may become vulnerable as a consequence of climate change, especially when these are not covered by social protection** (e.g. urban populations, the non-poor) and that high coverage social protection systems that provide comprehensive cover for lifecycle risks are in a better position to address covariate shocks and stressors.

Box 2 Care and support within the context of the Climate Crises

Climate Change has been shown to disproportionately impact women and girls, people with disabilities, children, and the elderly due to pre-existing disparities in asset control, mobility, access, and power, increasing their risks of poverty, hunger, and displacement. Just as one example, women depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources – and are most affected by their depletion, especially given their additional care responsibilities. Gender/disability-responsive and age-sensitive social protection can thus contribute to addressing the impacts of climate-related risks on these categories by reducing the underlying risks that make them especially vulnerable, supporting tailored adaptation measures, and strengthening disaster recovery strategies and just transitions plans that are attuned to those differential needs. This includes working via a broader range of measures than social assistance alone (see the importance of social care services), and focusing not only on what support is delivered but *how* it is delivered (e.g. ensuring participation of these groups across all design and implementation decisions).

Source: Nesbitt-Ahmed (2023); UNWomen (2025); CBM (2023)

4. **Understand and communicate the critical role of social protection in achieving climate justice¹ and a just transition, translating this into action:**
- a. **Learn to speak and plan in a way that resonates with colleagues working on climate change and just transition and identifies co-benefits**, by understanding the terminology and processes used in the climate and green transition sectors. For example, using the 'mitigation, adaptation and L&D' framing (Table 1) and working alongside climate sector colleagues to reinforce their planning with a social protection lens, following their timelines e.g. for NDC (USP2030, 2024/2025) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) submissions.
 - b. **Use key climate initiatives strategically** as an opportunity to integrate social protection into climate planning and financing (e.g. **the development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every 5 years**) and engaging in global governance mechanisms (e.g. Just Transition Work Programme, Loss and Damage Fund).
 - c. **Integrate social protection into climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage (Table 1), as well as Just Transition strategies** to ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation policies create decent work opportunities and protection affected workers and enterprises.
 - d. **Adapt social protection systems** to be able to deliver their core functions in the face of climate change and its related shocks and stressors (USP2030 2024/2025).
 - e. **Better articulate and develop sustainable financing strategies** including the use of climate finance, green taxation, and social protection financing assessments.
5. **Acknowledge that the expansion of coverage and adequacy of routine social protection is a prerequisite for the reduction of climate vulnerability** – it is de-facto the most anticipatory of anticipatory actions and a key strategy for building the adaptive capacity of the social protection system (see e.g. [REAP, the Early Action Partnership](#) position on the [role of social protection in early action](#)).

¹ i.e. recognition of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, emphasizing fairness and equity in addressing the climate crisis.

Section 3: Key programmatic considerations²

This Section of the Operational Guidance provides programmatic insights and potential entry points/action points for Governments and other stakeholders to better incorporate climate change into their national social protection systems and programmes. Key programmatic areas of action are grouped along four dimensions of the [Social Protection Systems framing](#): evidence and learning, policy, programme design, and administration – but map back to all the dimensions discussed within the [TRANSFORM SRSP Guidance](#) and [other Modules](#). This Section argues that accommodating climate change into programming does not require a different approach to the design and implementation of social protection. It requires a different mindset that ensures programmes are informed by climate shocks and stressors and aligned with national climate priorities, so that they can better contribute to climate action and address climate change risk drivers.

See Annexes 4
and 5

Promising country-level practices and in-depth Case Studies are showcased in Annex 4 and Annex 5, to further illustrate the many points presented below

NOTE: An explicit choice has been made to keep these considerations and recommendations as broad and ‘universal’ as possible, focusing on what needs to change for national social protection systems to better contribute to climate change action. While this Guide is primarily targeted at Governments, all actors working on social protection and climate change may interrogate the Sections below by asking ‘what can I do to support this change?’



3.1 M&E, evidence and learning

This area of action focuses on integrating climate change considerations into social protection **evidence generation to inform advocacy, planning and broader decision-making** and into broader **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)**. It is complementary to Section 3.1 in the Main Guidance and should be read alongside it.

Table 2 Evidence and analysis: key actions that may be useful in contexts of climate change

Evidence generation to inform advocacy, planning and decision-making (see also Main Guidance Section 3.1) → see also information systems and data Section below
Integrate climate risk assessments that accommodate EWE, SOE, CCM policy risks and their compounding impacts on human and ecological systems into national and sub-national poverty and vulnerability analyses, alongside disaster and environmental analyses. Geospatial analyses can help understand which regions and provinces are most climate-affected, and which populations are most at risk, and how this relates to existing patterns of poverty and vulnerability, to inform advocacy and planning.

² Throughout this Section, most of the insights on entry points, actions and country examples come from two main reference documents: [Costella et al. \(2021\)](#) and [McCord and Costella \(2023\)](#). In several cases text is directly taken and adapted from these, without quotation mark to ease the reading process. Further insights from other documents are cited within each relevant section.

- **Also integrate the findings of these assessments into national social protection systems assessments** to identify areas where investment in systems’ operational capacities may be required. This will involve working alongside climate change stakeholders to:
 - a. **assess and anticipate potential adverse social and economic impacts of climate change and climate policies in the short to medium -term** to simulate how different social protection interventions may help address these.
 - b. **assess how social protection transfers can help households manage the impacts of slow onset events, and avoid the risk of maladaptive responses where short-term interventions may have adverse medium term impacts** (e.g. using transfers to help households maintain livelihoods in locations where they will no longer be viable in the medium term due to ongoing climate related stressors such as desertification or salination, rather than supporting relocation).
 - c. **generate evidence on** the unique risks faced by different vulnerable groups and the differential impact of different types of social protection instruments across climate risks.
 - **Build on climate co-benefit approaches developed by Multilateral Development Banks** for the projects they finance (e.g. see the World Bank’s [Reference Guide on Adaptation Co-benefits](#)). These offer methodologies for calculating the contribution of specific projects to climate change adaptation and mitigation and can be used for advocacy with e.g. Ministries of Finance.
- ➔ See also Information Systems section below as data integration and coordination will play a big role in what is feasible

M&E (see also Main Guidance Section 3.1)

- **Ensure climate-related objectives, metrics and Key Performance Indicators are incorporated in M&E frameworks for social protection.** Such evaluations are essential to ensure that interventions are having the desired impact, are not maladaptive, and that they are linked to both sectors’ strategic outcomes.
- **Vice-versa, support the integration of social protection into the M&E frameworks of climate actors,** noting increasing systematization of this for COP30, where e.g. the Global Goal on Adaptation indicator list has been expanded to include social protection. See operational recommendations here: [Measuring Adaptive Social Protection for All under the Global Goal on Adaptation Operationalising Belém Adaptation Indicators 8\(b\) and \(c\) under Target 9\(f\)](#)
- **Understand how climate-induced risks, needs and coping strategies vary across different population groups and individuals.** This includes analysing disaggregated data—by gender, disability, minority status, and other relevant factors—to inform context-sensitive and inclusive programming.

Source: The Table considerations draw heavily on [Costella et al. \(2021\)](#), [McCord and Costella \(2023\)](#) and [Costella et al \(2024\)](#) which are based on extensive review of relevant literature. They also incorporate insights from: [ILO \(2024\)](#), [USP2030 \(2024/2025\)](#), [UNICEF EAPRO \(2025, forthcoming\)](#).

3.2 Policy and institutional setting

*A. COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE; B. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS; C. FINANCING;
D. FUNCTIONAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY*

This area of action focuses on better integrating climate considerations into the key building blocks of social protection institutionalisation within government, including through a) Clarity of strategic vision embedded in **legal and policy frameworks**; b) Sustainable **financing** sources; c) Established **governance arrangements and coordination mechanisms**, d) Strong **technical and functional capacities** at all levels of administration – including the social worker workforce.

Table 3 Policy and institutional setting: key actions that may be useful in contexts of climate change

Legal and policy frameworks (see also Main Guidance Section 3.3)
• Advocate for the comprehensive national vision and discourse for addressing climate change to include social protection as part of a set of cross-sectoral interventions contributing to reducing climate induced poverty and vulnerability (while maintaining alignment to legislation and objectives in national gender equality, disability, and inclusion policies) (e.g. India). • Embed social protection in national climate and DRR policies, strategies, and sector-specific plans and vice versa. This includes: a. Incorporating social protection as a tool to achieve climate objectives in national climate plans and commitments. For instance, in NDCs – (see guidance here and examples of why important here, as well as Cambodia example), National Adaptation Plans, Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs), National Climate Change Strategies/action plans, Green Structural Transition Strategies, National Disaster Risk Management plans, etc. (E.g. Jordan’s National Climate Change Policy; Egypt’s National Climate Change Strategy). b. Ensuring that strengthening social protection is a key objective in other sector specific climate plans (e.g. national climate nutrition strategies and actions plans that aim to prevent climate-induced malnutrition). c. Ensuring climate policy objectives (and global legal frameworks) inform the design of social protection legal frameworks/policies/plans/strategic documents. For example, ensuring these are based on an evidence-based understanding of the socioeconomic impacts of climate risks, as well as analysis of current and future climate risks (including slow onset events and CCMCCM risks as per Annex 2 Table). • Ensure the participation of a wide range of social partners/stakeholders across climate change and social protection communities of practice, through an inclusive social dialogue, in the formulation and implementation of these policies/strategies. Focused on identifying the current and future impacts of climate change and accounting for impacts on different vulnerable groups (children, elderly, women, people with disabilities, displaced, etc.) and on the social protection system’s functionality throughout the transition (e.g. South Africa, Colombia).
Financing (see also Main Guidance Section 3.4)
<u>Sources of financing:</u> • Explicitly make the link: ○ Financing strong social protection systems with wide coverage offers a mechanism for responding to the direct and indirect impacts of EWE, SOE, and CCM policies. This will create a basis for the provision of SRSP while also addressing climate change-induced poverty. See advocacy effort for this in Sahel and Section above on legal and policy frameworks. ○ Predictability of support to households is a crucial variable mediating resilience-related impact. Sustainable and reliable – ideally domestic - financing is needed for this. • Identify and work on relevant:

- **Domestic financing sources**, with an understanding that in low- and middle-income countries, these are likely not sufficient in the medium/long-term given the increasing scale of needs due to climate change and subsequent contraction of national fiscal space. Options for channeling resources to social protection include: a) replacing direct fossil fuel subsidies; b) using/recycling revenue from climate change mitigation policy measures including energy/carbon taxes; c) pricing and taxing of natural resource extraction (e.g. [Morocco](#), [Iran](#), [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Mongolia](#), [Indonesia](#)). Other out-of-the-box solutions may also be relevant, e.g. municipal, green, and corporate bonds; broader environmental taxes earmarked for social protection/ social services (e.g. ; “climate adaptation levies” for high-emission sectors.
- **Multilateral climate funds** such as:
 - the [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#) , which has an adaptation and mitigation mandate and supports a growing number of projects using social protection instruments, as its criteria are aligned closely with social protection goals.
 - the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) which now explicitly recognises social protection in its draft GEF-9 strategy for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), highlighting it as one of the key approaches in delivering support.
 - the [Adaptation Fund \(AF\)](#), as its framework documents requires proposals to provide economic and social benefits, especially for vulnerable communities. The fund has already successfully integrated social protection components into cross-sectoral adaptation projects and financed project activities such as cash transfers and livelihood support.
 - the [Climate Investment Funds \(CIF\)](#), which has piloted adaptive social protection through the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and is now generating valuable lessons that informed the design of the new Accelerating Resilience Investments and Innovations for Sustainable Economies (ARISE) programme, which recognizes the high return on investments in social protection instruments.
 - the [Fund for responding to Loss and Damage \(FRLD\)](#), dedicated to assisting particularly vulnerable developing countries, the FRLD has the potential to be an important vehicle for social protection activities in the face and aftermath of extreme weather events and slow onset processes. See specific guidance on ‘[How Social Protection Can Help the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage to Achieve its Goals: A Primer](#)’
 - as well as **multilateral/bilateral development banks and climate finance partnerships** such as the [Just Energy Transition Partnerships \(JET-Ps\)](#).
- **These funds have all been increasingly including explicit reference to social protection and its relevance to achieving climate goals in their investment frameworks and programming guidelines**, while reframing how climate funds track the contributions of social programmes to climate resilience - adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage (e.g. GCF financing in [Paraguay](#), [Uganda](#), [Mozambique](#)). **It will thus be essential to understand monitoring and reporting requirements of these funds and the extent to which social protection programs are set up to align to these requirements** (e.g. risk of disproportionality between the level of effort required to meet the reporting requirements for these funds and the chances of sufficient funding being allocated).
- **Disaster risk-financing instruments**, e.g. via the [Global Shield Against Climate Risks](#)³ partnership, or sovereign risk insurances provided by regional risk pools such as the [African Risk Capacity](#) and the [Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility](#) (e.g. [Malawi](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Philippines](#)). Acknowledging and addressing the limitations of certain risk-financing instruments, as discussed in a [2021 guidance](#)

³ The Global Shield, for example, incorporates social protection as one of its areas of focus and has the objective of “protecting the most vulnerable people against climate risk”.

[document](#) will be important: e.g. with increasing frequency and severity of impacts insurance-based options risk collapsing.

Public Financial Management (PFM) considerations to channeling financing:

- **The criteria, processes and systems adopted by climate related funding sources may not accommodate the needs of social protection financing** and there will likely be need for adaptation and negotiation.
- **More broadly, work on anticipatory and forecast-based financing will be relevant:** e.g. triggers for automatic financing when specific climate risks are forecasted, allowing for timely and preventive interventions.
- **Tools such as Climate Public Expenditure Reviews and climate tagging in national budgets can be usefully leveraged to jointly pursue climate and social policy objectives**, enhancing the alignment of expenditures with SDGs, inclusiveness and climate goals, identifying synergies by developing an Integrated Expenditure Framework and overcoming fragmented/siloed approaches.
- **Ensure monitoring and review of climate and inclusion objectives** at different stages of the budget cycle.

Governance and coordination (see also Main Guidance Section 3.2)

- **Enhance *horizontal* coordination between social protection, climate, environmental, DRR, humanitarian, and gender/inclusion actors** (including between Government, international actors, and civil society), ideally linked to joint financing and targets and [aligned with NDCs and National Adaptation Plans](#). This may entail:
 - The creation of new coordination forums/bodies or ensuring the inclusion of a broader diversity of actors within existing mechanisms (Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Disaster Risk reduction/Management, Ministries of Finance, Nutrition actors, etc.).
 - Explicit efforts to ‘demystify’ each sector for those who are new to it, building trust over time and creating shared terminologies.
 - A focus on drafting of legal stipulations, Standard Operating Procedures, Memorandums of Understanding, manuals defining roles and responsibilities, joint Theories of Change, etc. (e.g. [Jordan](#), [Philippines](#), [Bosnia](#)).
 - Joint planning tools, joint assessments, shared data systems, shared M&E and a more efficient allocation of resources across sectors to ensure seamless transitions, e.g. between pre-emptive and post-disaster support.
- **Ensure a focus on *vertical* coordination across layers of government and *horizontally at the local level*** (a lot of the ‘action’ on linking different agendas will need to happen at the local level) ([Pakistan](#), [India](#)).
- **Provide incentives, but also flexibility and medium to long-term horizons** to allow for coordination around outcomes and objectives that are not project- and time-bound ([Bosnia](#)).

Functional and technical capacity

At central level

- **Conduct capacity assessments across sectors and explicitly address capacity gaps** to support government efforts to enhance cross-sectoral joint planning and strategic thinking that accommodates climate analytics. As with any cross-cutting expertise, staff with the right ‘hybrid’ skill-set will be scarce and will need to be supported. Assessment can be supported by the [CADRI assessment tool](#), which includes a specific module on social protection (e.g. [Tanzania](#)) and the ILO Country Diagnostic on the readiness of the social protection system to support a Just Transition (ILO, forthcoming).

- **Especially for time-bound yet critical planning activities** (e.g. embedding social protection considerations into climate action plans and vice-versa), **external support will likely be needed** to fill capacity gaps within the required timeframes.

At decentralized/operational level:

- **Build the capacities to understand the rationale for incorporating climate objectives into social protection programming; implement programmes to align to those objectives, including working across sectoral boundaries, and monitor closely against those** to flexibly address emerging issues (including potential for maladaptation outcomes). This capacity could be embedded in cross-sectoral one-stop-shops (e.g. [India](#), Assam state).
- **Upskill the social protection workforce with a climate lens:** train social protection ministries, social workers and administrative staff to work collaboratively with actors from sectors developing and implementing climate policies, to promote cross sectoral co-benefits and to accommodate climate analysis in the design and implementation of climate-responsive social protection schemes. This can be supported through partnerships with universities or climate institutions.
- **Ensure surge capacity at local level as and when needed, playing cross-sectoral functions** e.g. facilitating access to social protection schemes alongside Disaster Management authorities, etc.

Source: The Table considerations draw heavily on [Costella et al. \(2021\)](#), [McCord and Costella \(2023\)](#) and [Costella et al \(2024\)](#) which are based on extensive review of relevant literature. They also incorporate insights from: [ILO \(2024\)](#), [USP2030 \(2024/2025\)](#), [UNICEF EAPRO \(2025, forthcoming\)](#)



Additional resources on financing:

- USP2030 (2025) [How Social Protection Can Support Climate Action and Climate Justice by Leveraging Climate Finance](#)
- Task Force on Linking Adaptive Social Protection and Climate Financing (2025) [Scaling Social Protection for Climate Action: Insights from and for Multilateral Climate Funds](#)
- STAAR (2025) [How Social Protection Can Help the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage to Achieve its Goals: A Primer](#)
- IDOS (2021) [The Untapped potential of global climate funds for investing in social protection](#)
- Poole & Clarke (2024) [Making Social Protection Shock Responsive through Disaster Risk Finance Mechanisms](#)
- UNICEF/UNDP (2024) [Budgets for Climate, Sustainability and Social Inclusion: A Rapid Review of Approaches and Tools](#)
- UNICEF (2023) [Disaster risk financing and shock responsive social protection in East Asia and Pacific;](#)
- Longhurst et al. (2021) [What are future financing options for shock responsive social protection? A technical primer](#), which includes a section on climate financing
- WFP (2023) [Linking Disaster Risk Financing with Social Protection: an Overview of Concepts and Considerations'](#)

3.3 Programme design

SETTING OF: A. INTERVENTION TYPES, OBJECTIVES & LINKAGES; B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & QUALIFYING CONDITIONS ('TARGETING'); C) SOCIAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION LEVELS & MODALITIES; D) TRANSFER LEVEL, FREQUENCY & DURATION; E) CONDITIONALITY

This area of action focuses on better integrating climate considerations into the key building blocks of social protection programme design. Decisions relating to these elements not only inform individual programme design, but also how the range of programmes within a system can best work together to maximise outcomes. This includes the capacities to weigh trade-offs and translate data-informed insights into programmatic decisions on the most appropriate: a) **Benefits and service package** (→ affecting *comprehensiveness* of support): the choice of programmes that best address different vulnerabilities and needs of different groups, with what key objectives and intentional linkages between these; b) **Eligibility criteria and qualifying conditions** (→ affecting *coverage* of support): in other words, targeting design decisions, which are likely to differ across programmes; c) **Level, value, frequency and duration of support** (→ affecting *adequacy*); d) type of **conditionality**, if any. Across all of these, the supporting questions in the STAAR [Framework for integrating climate change into social protection programming](#) will be helpful.

Table 4 Programme design level: key actions that may be useful in contexts of climate change

A. Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages (see also Main Guidance Section 3.5) <i>affecting comprehensiveness of support provided</i>
• Think beyond the short term. ○ Acknowledge the increasing/changing risks driven by climate change and plan for extended coverage and increased needs, thinking across all possible social protection programmes (e.g. social insurance – as in Algeria- and active labour market interventions, as well as social assistance and social care services) - including filling any gaps in the current system (e.g. with new programmes and benefits). ○ Accommodate potential limits to adaptation, and maladaptation. This may require redesign (e.g. social benefits encouraging investment in profitable yet unsustainable cash-crops or disincentivizing mobility; pension funds disinvesting from fossil fuels). • Based on a solid evidence base (climate risk information, see Evidence and Analysis section above): ○ Think through which potential climate functions of social protection (Table 2) can be pursued in each programme and how well design matches those functions. E.g. Poverty reduction, vulnerability reduction, enhanced resilience, shock response adaptation, compensation for any adverse effects of climate policies (e.g., carbon prices, subsidy removal, industrial restructuring, REDD+), socio-political stabilization. ○ Incorporate these climate and resilience considerations into social protection programme objectives and theory of change, where relevant (and vice versa, adding poverty reduction objectives to climate programmes). ○ Ensure linkages and complementary programming within the social protection sector and beyond (e.g. Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Anticipatory Action) to enhance

resilience building ex-ante (e.g. linking to ‘green skills’ such as training on agroforestry to reduce land degradation, to agricultural extension services and inputs, or DRR-focused Behavioural Change Communication⁴) (e.g. [Philippines](#), [Kenya](#), [Sahel](#)).

- **Do not just focus on short-term ‘shock responsive’ (and anticipatory action) needs**, but also medium-term vulnerability reduction and adaptation needs as well as long-term mitigation effects.
- **Test and assess specific approaches to meet climate objectives or challenges.** Key examples include **Payment for Ecosystem Services** linked to social protection and **‘climate-smart’ public works programmes (PWP)**s. This may include: a) the construction of labour-intensive assets that boost the capacity of ecosystems to absorb the impact of climate hazards such as flooding or cyclones; b) the creation of infrastructure that helps highly exposed households transition away from high-risk agricultural livelihoods into new activities that are less exposed and less sensitive to climate hazards (e.g. see [Box 3](#), [Malawi](#))
- **Design programmes to think of resilience and climate risks at the individual level, and not just household level** (e.g. considering the types of constraints (and opportunities) faced by individuals in terms of time, capacity, capabilities, gender inequalities etc.).

B. Setting of eligibility criteria and qualifying conditions (‘targeting’) (see also Main Guidance Section 3.5 → Affecting coverage

- **Acknowledge poverty is not the only factor driving climate vulnerability** and that climate change further increases the dynamic nature of poverty. This needs to be reflected in targeting.
 - **See the Guidance Note on Social Protection in Contexts of Displacement for displacement-specific considerations**, as climate-induced migration is likely to become increasingly common.
- **Consider ways to extend core entitlements by taking into account climate change exposure** (e.g. river basin, recurrently drought-prone area, etc.), **vulnerability** (e.g. characteristics of household (e.g. age, gender and disability), housing and livelihoods that mediate this) and **potential for impact** (via better natural resource management) – **or complementing routine eligibility criteria with this lens (‘climate-smart targeting’)**. This could include horizontal and/or vertical expansion of routine social protection programmes, or putting in place programmes that specifically aim to contribute to resilience outcomes related to slow and gradual changes to the environment as well as slow- and rapid onset events (e.g. [Dominican Republic](#), [Paraguay](#)) → *Note implications for how social protection information systems (e.g. social registries) are designed (see below).*
 - **To inform these decisions, assess chosen eligibility criteria and qualifying conditions (i.e. current de facto coverage) against the characteristics of populations facing climate risks.** Incorporate area-level data (e.g. climate hazard maps, agroclimatic zones and spatial planning tools for land use/landscape management/watershed approaches) and household level data (e.g. housing conditions, location, livelihood type, etc.) to identify those most vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change-related risks. As an example, remote sensing and satellite imagery data offer important opportunities for layering area-level data with household data to identify the most vulnerable. See also 3.1 - Evidence and Analysis Section above and an example from the [Sahel](#).
- **Consider qualifying conditions that may mediate climate-impacts.** For example, programmes linked to domicile can disincentivise mobility and promote maladaptive or unsustainable responses. Ensure targeting design accommodate internal and transboundary migration as an adaptation strategy.

⁴ Entry points for Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) may include flood risk management, cleaner energy uptake, sustainable natural resource management, etc.

- **Consider whether the scale of coverage resulting from existing eligibility criteria is sufficient** to take account of changing and increasing patterns of climate-induced chronic poverty, climate vulnerability and covariate risk.

C. Setting of transfer type, level, frequency duration (see also Main Guidance Section 3.5)



Affecting adequacy

When setting these, consider:

- **Increased/changed needs** due to climate exposure or vulnerability when determining the ‘adequacy’ of benefits. For example, taking into account climate-induced needs such as: loss/change in livelihood, reduction in crop yield, changes in food availability, food and basic commodity price inflation, involuntary migration, loss of informal sources of social protection.
- **Scale-effects** aimed at increasing resilience to future shocks and stressors (e.g. lump sums enhancing productive investment) and the importance of **predictability**.
- **Seasonal needs and cyclical food deficits** linked to changing climate patterns e.g. [El Niño in ESARO](#).
- **Ensuring flexibility** to cater to possible expansions in response to covariate shocks.

D. Conditionality

- **Build theories of change towards desired climate-related objectives** that may hinge on labelling effects (e.g. via communications strategies stressing the advantages of certain behaviours), not just explicit conditioning (e.g. [Indonesia](#), [Colombia](#))
- **Consider explicit conditionality linked to adaptation and mitigation objectives**, while ensuring these do not nullify impacts of the social protection package, e.g. via opportunity costs or increasing barriers to access. In other words, balancing environmental and social objectives. One such example is [payment for ecosystem services](#).
 - Where this is done, ensure flexible conditionalities that can a) account for local contexts and differing capabilities (e.g., time constraints, gender roles); b) be easily waived in times of crisis escalation.
- **Consider providing voluntary top-ups or complementary support** layered onto core entitlement to households that choose to engage in activities such as land restoration or conservation farming.

Source: The Table considerations draw heavily on [Costella et al. \(2021\)](#), [McCord and Costella \(2023\)](#) and [Costella et al \(2024\)](#) which are based on extensive review of relevant literature. They also incorporate insights from: ILO (2019,2024) and Kuriakose et al (2013).

Box 3 Public works can be successfully designed to be climate sensitive

If intentionally designed to perform climate functions, developed alongside relevant sectors (DRM, climate change adaptation, etc), and monitored against these objectives, public works programmes have great potential in terms of building resilience to climate risks, while acting as platforms to build the capacity, skills, and know-how of households (see also ‘[Innovations in Public Works: Rethinking Public Works for Jobs and Skills in a Changing World](#)’). Examples of programmes where this has been experimented and evaluated abound, e.g. [MGNREGS in India](#), PSNP in Ethiopia, the Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works Program in [Malawi](#), Mexico’s Special Program on Climate Change (PECC). This can be achieved via:

- a. **focusing on the types of activities that enhance adaptive capacities**, e.g. (i) environmental conservation and rehabilitation, ii climate-smart agricultural practices (for example, soil and water conservation through tree/mangrove planting, or construction of bunds, area catchments, or fenced enclosures); (iii) improving soil and water management (for example, improving water delivery, de-silting irrigation, especially in drought-prone areas); (iv) disaster-proofing physical

infrastructure (for example, by strengthening embankments, buildings, roads, bridges, or gullies that can resist flash flooding); and (v) constructing community-based disaster risk-reduction assets, such as storm shelters; (vi) Asset categories that encourage low-carbon and climate resilient development, including off-grid sustainable energy infrastructure such as solar and wind energy or biogas, or green technology investments such as passive housing to reduce exposure to heat extremes.

- b. **developing interventions in convergence with wider investment in risk management instruments** (e.g. agricultural, natural resource management and livelihood initiatives), **as well as skills training** (e.g. climate resilient livelihoods, etc.).
- c. **incorporating climate-sensitive reflections to the wage** (cash transfer) **dimension** of public works too (e.g. anticipatory wages, climate responsive wage rates, waiving the work requirement in exceptional circumstances (such as extreme heat or pandemic)).
- d. **using climate information services (CIS)**, i.e. use of climate data in a way that aids people and organizations in making decisions (ideal location and characteristics of infrastructure, etc).
- e. **ensuring adequate programme impact monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** to improve: the relevance of asset selection; the quality of implementation and maintenance;; and the durability and sustainability and equitability of the impact of infrastructure and assets created in terms of climate impacts. If this is not done, the assumptions around the causal chain between asset creation and 'resilience building' are unlikely to be met.
- f. **No matter what, designing these from a [gender and disability perspective](#)** to enable meaningful participation of marginalized groups, acknowledging intersections with climate risks.

Sources: Kuriakose et al (2013); Himmelstine and McCord (2016); Kaur et al (2019), Levine et al (2024)

3.4 Administration⁵

A. OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION; B. REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT, PAYMENTS/DELIVERY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS (GRIEVANCES) AND ACCOUNTABILITY, CASE MANAGEMENT, REFERRALS AND PROTECTION RISKS; C. INFORMATION SYSTEMS & DATA

This section focuses on key actions at the administrative level to strengthen measures to enhance the core operational processes along the [social protection delivery chain](#) that enable effective delivery of social protection in contexts of climate change.

⁵ NOTE that insights here are skewed towards the implementation/administration of social transfers/cash benefits rather than the broader set of interventions discussed in table 1 and Section 3.3. This is due to the nature of the evidence to date, which can and should be integrated in future iterations of this Guidance.

Table 5 Programme administration: key actions that may be useful in contexts of climate change

A. Outreach and communications (see also Main Guidance Section 3.6)
• Messaging is crucial with respect to addressing the risks related to the green transition, and social protection provision can be a platform for doing so, especially when the immediate effects of green transition policies have negative consequences on already vulnerable populations (e.g. Ecuador). • Leverage outreach and communication opportunities to reinforce climate change-related Behavioural Change Communication. • As per SRSP standard guidance, focus on communications related to early warning, making sure that people receive timely, clear and accessible alerts about upcoming shocks (climate events, price spikes, health outbreaks). Such messaging could include what is happening, what it means for them, how and when social protection support will be provided and what steps they should take to access benefits and /or prepare.
B. Registration and enrolment, payments/delivery, complaints and appeals (grievances) and accountability, case management, referrals and protection risks (see also Main Guidance Section 3.4 B/C/E)
Climate-relevant considerations for these dimensions cut across, and include: • Ensuring ‘universality of delivery systems’, as climate change will affect households and individuals broadly, beyond current recipients. I.e. even if we are not covering significant segments of population as beneficiaries of current programmes, ensuring that our administrative readiness to flexibly cater to significant scale-ups, both temporary and permanent. This has many implications in terms of preparedness actions, as discussed in the Guidance on Social Protection in Conflict. • Ensuring foundational investments. Some national administrative systems play an important ‘enabling’ role for more effective and accountable climate-informed social protection programming (including, but not limited to, flexible scaleups): this includes Civil Registration, inclusive National IDs, and integrated information systems alongside digital payment/delivery systems with potential for national and regional interoperability (e.g. facilitating portability). → <i>See also information systems section below</i>. • Digital systems being part of the solution but also reinforces importance of investment in local-level workforce. The frontline workforce will be increasingly critical to managing the complexity of needs elicited by climate change, including via case work → <i>see also Section 3.2 on Capacity above</i>.
C. Data, digital and information systems (see also Main Guidance Section 3.4 D and Evidence and Analysis Section)
Data and information systems serving the social protection sector can be designed with a climate lens. The most important actions being: • Ensuring an understanding of climate-related risks is reflected in social protection data, eg. In terms of: ○ Coverage: e.g. planning for higher or 100% coverage in highly affected areas and addressing access/inclusion barriers (Sahel).

- **Relevance:** e.g. ensuring the types of variables that correlate with vulnerability to climate risks are collected and analysed (e.g. livelihood type, housing location and quality etc.)
- **Currency:** e.g. attempting to shift to more dynamic approaches to registration and updating
- **Enhance/develop a comprehensive and interoperable information system, including a social registry function,** which contains this climate-relevant population data to support outreach, registration, and eligibility determination, including when covariate shocks happen.
- **Linking social protection data with geo-coded (Geographic Information System/GIS) data/databases** (including Climate Information Services, other Climate Risk data, weather forecasts, etc.), allowing for granular understanding of the spatial dimensions of risk associated with climate change and interactions with individual, household and community vulnerabilities ([India](#)). The value of this is huge for climate-sensitive planning, design (e.g. targeting) and implementation).
- **As above, vis-a-vis Disaster Management, and climate-based Early Warning Systems data/triggers,** with value across the different stages of any emergency (ex-ante, during, ex-post).

The Table considerations draw heavily on [Costella et al. \(2021\)](#), [McCord and Costella \(2023\)](#) and [Costella et al \(2024\)](#) which are based on extensive review of relevant literature. They also incorporate insights from: ILO (2019,2024) and Barca et al (2023).

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World Bank (2025) Framing Social Protection and Labor Policies to Enable and Ensure a Just Green Transition

Annex 1: Relevant guidance and framing documents

This Annex summarises relevant guidance and resources which are fully complementary to this document and should be viewed alongside it as and where possible. To avoid redundancy, insights from within these documents are not repeated, just referenced where necessary. These include:

- USP2030/SPIAC-B (2024) [Integrating social protection in NDCs- Joint Guidance Note](#) – offering practical guidance for Ministries to intentionally integrate social protection into their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), highlighting how leveraging existing social protection systems can strengthen mitigation, adaptation, and loss-and-damage efforts while ensuring climate action is people-centred and inclusive.
- USP2030/SPIAC-B (2025) [Placing people at the centre of NDCs 3.0: The power of social protection to accelerate climate action](#) - supporting Ministries of Environment, Finance and other key national partners to integrate social protection within their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to accelerate climate action.
- ILO 2024-2026 World Social Protection Report - [Social Protection for a Just Transition: A global strategy for increasing ambition in climate action](#), - emphasises how robust social protection systems are essential for supporting climate policies and enabling a just transition by protecting populations from both life-cycle risks and climate-related challenges, and related [Policy Brief](#)- providing practical guidance for integrating social protection into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, emphasizing the role of inclusive, gender-responsive, and shock-responsive systems in building resilience to climate impacts
- STAAR (2023) [Integrating climate change into social protection programmes and policy](#) - providing guidance to practitioners working on social protection, and specifically to: highlight the relevance of climate change to social protection and explain why it is important to consider climate change as part of social protection policy, programming and systems; present ideas for integrating climate change considerations into social protection policy and programming.
- FAO (2021) Policy Brief [Social Protection and Climate Change](#) - highlighting the essential role of social protection in supporting inclusive climate risk management strategies that contribute to safeguarding livelihoods and enhancing resilience to climate change.
- WFP (2019)[Social protection and Climate Change](#) - discussing how climate change presents distinctive challenges to social protection programming that are often different from those of other disasters and shocks and sets out ten principles for social protection designers to consider in the context of climate change.
- Hoppe et al. (2024) [The Realities of Climate Finance for Social Protection](#) - outlining the status of international public climate finance providers, bilateral, multilateral development banks, and the climate funds and proposes options for more efficient and targeted use of climate finance for social protection.
- STAAR (2025) [How Social Protection Can Help the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage to Achieve its Goals: A Primer](#)
- STAAR and FAO (forthcoming) [Scoping review on innovative climate financing for social protection in rural areas](#).
- (Forthcoming) [Strengthening social protection programming for inclusive climate action in rural settings](#)
- FAO (Forthcoming) [Social Protection and the Limits to Climate Adaptation: An Exploration](#)
- UNICEF (2021) [The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index \(CCRI\)](#) – Interactive Atlas available [here](#). CCRI provides the first comprehensive view of children's exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.
- World Bank (2025) [Framing Social Protection and Labor Policies to Enable and Ensure a Just Green Transition](#)

Annex 2: Breaking down ‘climate change’ to understand implications for social protection

Table A1 is designed as a guide to reflect on the implications for social protection programming of thinking about climate change more intentionally, by breaking down the different risks arising from climate change and how these have different direct/indirect impacts, requiring different social protection functions.

Table A- 1. Understanding climate change: key considerations and implications for social protection

Nature of risks arising from climate change ⁶	Key implications for social protection
<i>Direct: Extreme Weather Events (often ‘rapid onset’) events</i> (e.g. extreme rainfall, storms, meteorological drought, heatwaves/ extreme temperatures)	<u>Impacts (direct/indirect) and considerations:</u> • Socio-economic impacts linked to e.g. food price hikes, malnutrition, loss of lives and livelihoods, infrastructure damage, increased risk of social conflict and displacement/migration. These lead to transitory or chronic declines in income and can further deteriorate if not managed. • Covariate risk, increasing the need (and demand) for social protection by increasing people’s vulnerability, stretching existing systems if they are not prepared. • Often high visibility, resulting in strong international and donor attention. <u>Social protection functions:</u> • Preventing and reducing poverty, thus decreasing overall vulnerability (to extreme events), including ex-ante. This can lead to increased coping capacity during climate extremes. • Maintaining households’ incomes in anticipation or response to specific climate-related shocks, helping households cope with the immediate impacts of extreme events by providing direct income support when shocks occur or via anticipatory action (transferring income in advance of a shock based on forecast/early warning-based mechanisms) <u>Implications:</u> • Many design-related implications to ensure scalable, contingency-based arrangements, and institutional linkages with Disaster Risk Management and humanitarian action.
<i>Direct: Slow onset events</i> (e.g. sea level rise, increasing temperature means, changing precipitation patterns, glacial melt,	<u>Impacts (direct/indirect) and considerations:</u> • Socioeconomic impacts similar to those above, affecting human and ecological systems – affecting land availability, crop productivity, global food systems and availability, water scarcity, the viability of livelihoods dependent on natural resources and patterns of disease, energy supply, transportation, increasing the risk of climate-related impoverishment, displacement and migration. • Covariate risk, further accentuating chronic rather than transitory vulnerability, undermining ongoing poverty reduction efforts and exponentially increasing demand for social protection. Also introducing new trade-offs between social protection

⁶ Given the focus of this Guidance we do not discuss ‘non-climate human processes interacting with climate change’

Nature of risks arising from climate change ⁶	Key implications for social protection
desertification, soil salinization, land and forest degradation etc.) and cumulative impacts of consecutive extreme events	measures in the short term and managing the impacts of gradual/slow onset events in the long term that need to be considered. • Far less ‘visibility’ and less addressed in programming, financing and research. Requires step change rather than gradual design tweaks. <u>Social protection functions:</u> • Reducing income poverty to decrease overall vulnerability to slow onset events, for reasons above, but also with medium/long-term focus: regular, predictable income transfers can lead to positive health outcomes, higher education levels, income diversification, and social inclusion, potentially increasing resilience to slow onset events over the long term. • Facilitating livelihoods transformation to manage slow onset events (similar to functions for supporting adaptation). E.g. Facilitating approaches to transform productive livelihoods in areas where climate stresses from slow onset events are already, or are projected to become, severe constraints; facilitating measures that build “ecological resilience” to SOEs, for instance through public works approaches that combine cash transfers with measures that help reduce environmental degradation. <u>Implications:</u> • Far less about ‘responding’ and far more focused on expansion of routine coverage and capacity (see Main Guidance), as well as building climate change considerations into social protection strategy/policy work (and vice versa) as well as the theory of change (and thus design) of every social protection programme.
<i>Indirect:</i> Transition risks (i.e. risks arising from climate change mitigation and adaptation measures)	<u>Impacts (direct/indirect) and considerations:</u> • Socioeconomic impacts are very different from those above as they are the unanticipated negative spillover effects of climate change mitigation policies notably i) Green Transition policies that lead to changes in labour markets resulting in loss of income (factory closures, loss of associated formal and informal employment ⁷ etc.); ii) carbon pricing interventions that lead to rises in commodity prices, notably: food, transportation and energy prices; and iii) NRM conservation policies (such as REDD+⁸) that restrict access to NRM undermining traditional livelihoods. • Idiosyncratic or localised risks as a result of some measures (e.g. industry-specific transition), and covariate risks for others (e.g. carbon price increases). These are types of risk with which social protection already deals, mainly through social insurance for formal sector workers, and through job search and skills training to support workers transitioning to a new jobs or in need of new skills to be reinserted in the labour market.

⁷ Closure of polluting industries, the enactment of conservation measures, and even measures that aim to contribute to adaptation (e.g. sea barriers, agricultural transformation) can limit economic opportunities and affect jobs and livelihoods

⁸ The ‘REDD+’ framework to protect forests is part of the [Paris Agreement](https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/what-is-redd#:~:text=‘REDD’%20stands%20for%20‘Reducing,enhancement%20of%20forest%20carbon%20stocks.”). ‘REDD’ stands for ‘Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the ‘+’ stands for additional forest-related activities that protect the climate, namely sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Under the framework with these REDD+ activities, developing countries can receive results-based payments for emission reductions when they reduce deforestation. This serves as a major incentive for their efforts. <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/redd/what-is-redd#:~:text=‘REDD’%20stands%20for%20‘Reducing,enhancement%20of%20forest%20carbon%20stocks.”>

Nature of risks arising from climate change ⁶	Key implications for social protection
	<u>Social protection functions</u> to support the transition to net-zero carbon economies, and particularly to support fairness and redistribution objectives as part of the Just Transition: • Compensating for negative impacts, helping to offset these and make reforms more socially acceptable. E.g. replacing direct fossil fuel subsidies with social transfers; recycling revenues from carbon taxes and carbon pricing into social protection provision; maintaining income for workers directly or indirectly affected (via social insurance or social assistance); implementing active labour market policies (re-skilling, re-training, and job placements) to facilitate the transition of workers from high-emission industries to low-carbon jobs. • Actively facilitating climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. I.e. adaptation and mitigation responses that are either: ○ Behavioural, e.g. providing an income base for supporting measures aimed at protecting homes and crops, relocating, and shifting livelihood strategies; linking to complementary interventions via economic inclusion, livelihoods, or “plus” approaches (encouraging livelihoods diversification, financial services, training and skills development) ○ Nature-based, e.g. influencing land use and conservation behaviours indirectly via cash transfer or directly via public works that specifically integrate environmental or climate objectives (focused on land and water availability, afforestation and drought proofing, etc.), or via Payment for Ecosystem Services ○ Infrastructural, e.g. supporting technological and infrastructural adaptation, for instance by incentivising housing, transportation, and infrastructure measures that contribute to adaptation or to emissions reductions (acknowledging higher barriers faced by the poor). Implications: • Ensuring these considerations are actively incorporated into social protection programming.

Source: Adapted from Costella et al (2023), which itself draws on vast literature and evidence.

Annex 3: Relevant global agreements, legal frameworks and principles

Global agreements, legal frameworks, principles, and documents where principles on social protection in contexts of climate change are presented in Table A- 2. The table outlines crucial multilateral sustainability and climate agreements, as well as other relevant declarations, while clearly establishing the implications for action in the social protection sector. An acceleration is clear in recent years.

Table A- 2 Global Frameworks Reinforcing Social Protection Principles in Climate Change Contexts

Relevant agreement	Key implications for social protection
The 2016 Paris Agreement (including its Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)), is a legally binding	• Embedding social protection considerations and child-sensitive considerations in NDCs and

international treaty on climate change which brings the world together in a common effort to combat climate change, adapt to its effects and mobilize climate finance. It includes a process for submission of mandatory national climate action plans, known as <i>Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS)</i> .	National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) is a crucial entry point for the sector. See USP-2030 Guidance on how to best do this here , noting the third round of submissions is due early 2025 (and the next in 5 more years), and further guidance on how social protection can accelerate climate action within NDCs here .
The 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction , which guides the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development.	• The Sendai four priorities for action are all relevant for social protection strategy and programming: (i) Understanding disaster risk; (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (iii) Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; (iv) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction⁹.
The 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity , which promotes conservation, sustainable use and fair benefit-sharing of biological diversity.	• Principles should be integrated into Social Protection theories of change (e.g. ecosystem management, etc.) and action (e.g. ensuring fallback of conservation work does not adversely impact livelihoods, etc.).
Resolution 76/300 , of 2022, whereby the United Nations General Assembly recognizes that there is a basic human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. In 2023, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) affirmed the obligations of government signatories to safeguard this right for children. This was further reinforced by the General Comment No. 26 on Children’s Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change , which affirms the children’s right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and issues interpretation of states’ obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	• Human rights legal foundation for the Social Protection sector to be contributing to the realization of this right, including a specific focus on children.
The 2023 UN-SDG Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs outlines the integrated approach and the investment pathways needed to fulfill the 2030 Agenda	• Not legally binding, but one of the 6 pathways is focused on Fostering Inclusion, Strengthening Social Protection and Decent Jobs, supported by the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

⁹ For example, in the [Sendai mid-term review](#) the importance of linking multi-hazard early warning systems to social protection is stressed.

UNFCCC COP28 (2023) Decision on Operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund	• Calls for the scale up of support for social protection mechanisms
The 2023 Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in decision 7/CMA and the IPCC 2023 Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	• Recognises the role of social protection in reducing the adverse effects of climate change on poverty and livelihoods
The 2023 Joint Statement of the USP 2030 Working Group Social Protection and Climate Change , which reaffirms that “integrating social protection into climate change adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage strategies, and adapting social protection systems to be able to deliver their core functions in the face of climate-related shocks and stresses, is fundamental to achieving climate justice and a just transition”, among	• Not legally binding, but an important step in terms of clearly and jointly affirming the roles of social protection in relation to climate change objectives, while also calling for directing international climate finance to Social Protection.
The (2024) Just Transition Work Programme	• Advocates for the incorporation of social protection into climate action for a just and equitable transition, while also urging to ‘substantially reduce the adverse effects of climate change on poverty eradication and livelihoods, in particular by promoting the use of adaptive social protection measures for all’
2024 Baku Guiding Principles on Human Development for Climate Resilience (COP29). Principle 10 states: ‘Strengthen adaptive social protection systems to build resilience for all, especially for the most vulnerable’. Principle 9 also touches on the prioritisation of children’s unique vulnerabilities.	• Important principles stance on how ‘Climate change exacerbates the vulnerabilities and risks people face throughout their lives’ (...) inviting Governments to ‘provide access to universal child-sensitive social protection systems to reduce inequalities, eliminate exclusion, prevent poverty, and protect vulnerable groups from the impacts of climate change and workers’ transition to climate-resilient development’, while calling social protection systems to be ‘adequate, flexible, crisis-ready and coordinated with care services (...)’
July 2025 International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on “the obligations of states with respect to climate change”	• Implications yet to be fully defined, but pertinent especially to issues of cross-border displacement due to climate change and related social protection rights.
(2025) Belem Declaration on Hunger, Poverty, and Human-Centered Climate Action (COP30)	• Reaffirms the importance of aligning social, economic and environmental goals and squarely commits to ‘Making Social Protection a Foundation of Resilience’ including strategies to increase financing for the sector.

Annex 4: Promising country practices

The overall sources for this section include ILO (2024), Costella et al (2024), USP2030 (2024/2025). Country specific case study sources are hyperlinked within.

Antigua and Barbuda
• Legal and policy frameworks: The Government, in its 2021 updated NDC, has committed to working on: ensuring a ‘just transition’ to end poverty in all its forms including “building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters” (Target 1.5). It also considers poverty reduction as part of its mitigation targets
Algeria
• Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages: The National Fund for Paid Leave and Bad Weather Unemployment for the Building, Public Works and Hydraulic Sectors (Caisse nationale des congés payés et de chômage intempéries des secteurs du bâtiment, des travaux publics et de l’hydraulique) is a social insurance programme that aims to provide workers in the building, public works, and hydraulics sectors with paid leave during periods of extreme or unsafe weather conditions. As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, workers in outdoor sectors face growing risks to their health and safety, as well as disruptions to their livelihoods. CACOBATPH helps build resilience to these climate impacts by providing a financial and social safety net that reduces economic vulnerability.
Bangladesh
• Legal and policy frameworks: the Enhancing Resilience program is part of the Government’s Five Year and Climate Change Action Plans where social protection is a key pillar
Brazil
• Legal and policy frameworks: The Ministry of Environment which implements Bolsa Verde, a conditional cash transfer program in the Amazon aimed at reducing deforestation and carbon emissions (Costella et al 2024) • Conditionality: the Bolsa Floresta programme offers a monthly payment to low-income households if they commit to zero deforestation and enroll their children in school
Cambodia
• Legal and policy frameworks: Cambodia’s third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) marks a global first: the elevation of social protection to a full, independent sector status within a national climate pledge, including four social protection measures with targets and indicators, cost estimates and timeframes. Following initial consultations and webinars on the role of social

protection in climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong advocacy by the development partners working on social protection, the Ministry of Environment endorsed Social Protection, Social Services, and Child Protection as a new sector for inclusion. The Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) for 2024-2033 already explicitly mentioned providing social protection system as one of the activities for strengthening resilience of vulnerable groups and mainstreaming Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion in climate actions and resilience. Cambodia's National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024-2028 also seeks to strengthen preparedness and service capacity of social protection ([Sengupta, 2025](#))

Colombia

- **Legal and policy frameworks:** The National Association of Entrepreneurs facilitated discussions on energy and mining transition among industry leaders, trade unions developed strategies for ensuring fair energy access, and the Government committed to a Green Jobs Pledge to support workers and employers with regard to green growth and a just transition, through social dialogue inclusive of indigenous peoples
- **Conditionality:** The [Familias en Acción programme](#) contributed to lower deforestation rates, despite not having explicit conditionality around this.

Dominica

- **Legal and policy frameworks:** The Commonwealth of Dominica's NDC includes the introduction of social safety nets as part of the Sustainable Fishing Communities and Livelihoods Strategy, recognising the high risk of fishing communities.

Dominican Republic

- **Legal and policy frameworks:** Dominican Republic's Superate program employs a sophisticated vulnerability index (based on climate-specific data) for emergency targeting embedded in its social registry SIUBEN, via the IVACC index.

Egypt

- **Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages:** (1) Under the "Decent Work for Women in Green Economy" initiative, rural women in Upper Egypt received training in solar panel installation and maintenance, enabling income security while expanding renewable energy access; (2) The Takaful & Karama cash transfer expansion was used to offset the distributional impacts of energy subsidy reforms — a mitigation-relevant policy with social compensation. Means-tested transfers and temporary top-ups provided a scalable instrument to protect poor households during price adjustments.
- **Governance and coordination:** The Ministry of Manpower, in collaboration with UN agencies and local women's associations, ensured that training for the "Decent Work for Women in Green Economy" initiative linked directly to employment opportunities, embedding green jobs into national social protection efforts.
- **Information systems and data:** Labour market information systems were strengthened to map demand for green skills, supporting job placement for trained women in renewable energy sectors.

Fiji
• Legal and policy frameworks: The Adaptive Social Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan reaffirms the Government's commitment in providing social assistance and strengthening resilience in all aspects of disaster management, with a strong focus on medium-term resilience as well as anticipatory action.

Honduras
• Legal and policy frameworks: Social protection commitments in the NDC include the development of a strategy to promote access to new technologies, green jobs, and financial and market opportunities for women, youth, and indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples and the establishment of a gender-sensitive agricultural insurance mechanism for losses and damages accessible to women, indigenous peoples, and youth.

India
• Legal and policy frameworks: the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is officially recognised as one of the 24 key policy initiatives to address climate change in the country • Functional and technical capacity: In Assam State, following severe flooding in 2022, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) with support from UNICEF created Community Facilitation and Resource Centres, a one-stop-shop approach to facilitate access to existing Government support and provide critical information (including via a simple 'Financial Assistance During Disasters Handbook'). The staffed Centres now play a role in disaster recovery and long term development. • Governance and coordination: The Government supported Community Facilitation and Resource Centres (CFCRs) to facilitate horizontal coordination at local level and improve access to services, social protection and recovery programs for households impacted by floods. UNICEF provided technical assistance. • Information systems and data: In India GIS data is used for strengthening local level planning processes of MGNREGS, focused on building long term resilience Maps from the Bhuvan platform of the National Remote Sensing Centre such as land cover, drainage line treatment maps, etc. are used for identifying high impact public works. More recently IIED has introduced the Climate Resilience Information System and Planning ('CRISP-M tool') to provide information on drought projections and water conservation to identify suitable water and soil conservation structures to be built through the MGNREGS

Indonesia
• Conditionality: Indonesia's national poverty alleviation programme Leluarga Harapan reduced tree cover loss in villages by 30 per cent, without any direct objective or conditionality linked to conservation.

Iran

- **Financing:** Between 2010 and 2016, Iran undertook [energy subsidy reforms](#) which phased out most fuel subsidies and raised domestic prices to near international levels. Fiscal savings made were subsequently redirected into universal cash transfers and [expanded health coverage](#) under the Health Transformation Plan. Evidence showed that the reform led to a significant reduction in inequality reflected in a Gini coefficient decline from 0.41 to 0.37 while halving poverty rates within one year, while also encouraging more efficient energy use and reducing emissions.

Jordan

- **Governance and coordination:** In Jordan, the disaster risk management strategy identifies the Ministry of Social Development as the entity responsible for the provision of social assistance in times of crisis.
- **Financing:** Energy subsidy reforms were paired with social assistance measures to protect vulnerable groups, ensuring political and social feasibility of the policy. The National Aid Fund linked social assistance delivery with the reform process, coordinating across fiscal, energy, and social policy areas.

Kenya

- **Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages:** In 2020, the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection reached 1.7 million households with cash transfers through [Inua Jamii](#), which is part of Kenya's National Safety Net Programme. Working with partners, including the World Bank and UNICEF - this programme also included an Energy Cash Plus initiative to subsidize access to sustainable energy for off-grid households with solar home systems, contributing to 3.4 hours more energy per day for children and their families.

Lebanon

- **Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages:** (1) Under the National Reforestation Plan (NRP) and linked initiatives under the National Reforestation and Afforestation Programme (Ministry of Environment) national cash-for-work schemes engage local workers in reforestation, terracing, and soil conservation, generating income while simultaneously reducing flood and erosion risks for affected communities. Moreover, (2) in 2023, new disability benefits were introduced to extend support to people most vulnerable to climate-related shocks. These provide regular payments to cover healthcare, assistive devices, and other essential needs during and after extreme weather events.
- **Governance and coordination:** For (1) Municipal councils coordinated with the Ministry of Environment and donor partners to integrate environmental restoration into local disaster recovery and social protection programmes. For (2) the reform is part of efforts to strengthen resilience in a context of economic, political, and climate crises under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- **Information systems and data:** For the above-mentioned cash-for-work schemes, hydrological and flood risk mapping informed the targeting, by identifying the most vulnerable communities with both environmental and livelihood support.

Malawi

- **Financing:** the [Global Shield Financing Facility](#) provided financial support for the scale up of social protection during drought under the Social Support for Resilient Livelihoods Project (SSRLP). It provides contingency financing - a form of pre-arranged funding that acts as a deductible- and supports the procurement of an insurance (risk transfer) product to finance rapid scale-up of cash transfers when shocks like drought occur. The mechanism was activated in 2021/22 across three districts (Blantyre, Ntcheu, Thyolo), reaching 74,000 poor and vulnerable households, and expanded to over 100,000 households in six districts the following year.
- **Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages:** The Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works Programme (CS-EPWP) in Malawi, a sub-component of the SSRLP, aims to enhance climate resilience and improve livelihoods by creating durable assets in micro-catchments through community-based projects like soil and water conservation, and afforestation.

Moldova

- **Legal and policy frameworks:** Moldova's NDC identifies a role for social assistance in increasing the climate resilience of rural livelihoods for vulnerable groups.

Mongolia

- **Financing:** Mongolia taxed natural resource extraction and reallocating revenues to the wider population through universal child benefits

Morocco

- **Financing:** Although initially not aimed towards a green transition, Morocco engaged in [phased fuel subsidy reforms](#) between 2013 and 2015 with the objective to reduce the fiscal deficit and enhance fiscal stability. Fiscal savings from the reforms were among others channeled towards social protection.
- **Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages:** Part of the savings were invested to expand the coverage of (a) a cash benefit for children from 80,000 to 466,000 families and (b) the social health insurance scheme from 5.1 million to 8.4 million people. They were also invested in the introduction of short-term new programmes in support of low-income widows and people with disabilities. These parallel measures contributed to public acceptance of subsidy reforms while beefing up support to the most vulnerable households and individuals.

Mozambique

- **Financing:** the Green Climate Fund [approved a \\$28 million project in Mozambique in 2024](#), linking climate adaptation and social protection by using Mozambique's Productive Social Action Programme to target and deliver support to communities. Key activities focus on strengthening institutional and community capacity for climate resilience, implementing locally-led adaptation actions, and mainstreaming climate change adaptation into district development planning and budgeting.

Pakistan

- **Legal and policy frameworks:** Pakistan's revised NDC identified a key role for social protection instruments like cash transfers and social pensions for disaster-affected communities.
- **Governance and coordination:** A mapping of social service points was used to link these to Shock Responsive Social Protection Programming. A Gender and Child Cell, established within Pakistan's NDMA, is aimed at strengthening local capacity and coordination to ensure the needs of women and children are adequately identified and addressed, particularly during crisis (UNICEF South Asia, 2024).
- **Information systems and data:** The National Socio-Economic Registry Data with Citizen Registry Data is mapped with the NDMA multi-hazard data for risk assessment and planning interventions. As an example NSER data was extensively used in the post-flood [2022 Post-Disaster Needs Assessment](#). This is still rare in other south Asian countries, but crucial to (pre-)identify HHs facing high disaster risk.

Paraguay

- **Financing:** The Green Climate Fund has co-financed investments with social protection components in Paraguay ([PROEZA - Poverty, Reforestation, Energy, and Climate Change programme](#))
- **Setting of eligibility criteria and qualifying conditions ('targeting'):** Paraguay's PROEZA programme targets households already receiving social protection benefits that live near deforestation risk areas, have land, and are willing to apply agroecological practices.
- **Conditionality:** the Proyecto Pobreza, Reforestación, Energía y Cambio Climático (Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change Project) in Paraguay links the basic Tekoporã conditional cash transfer to additional payments if the recipients achieve positive agroforestry production outcomes

Philippines

- **Financing:** A national disaster risk financing framework linked to the expansion of SRSP systems was developed.
- **Governance and coordination:** In the Philippines, the Department of Social Welfare leads five disaster-related social protection programs and the Department of Labor and Employment implements an emergency employment program, all having played a role in addressing the impacts of disasters – especially cyclones – in the country.
- **Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages:** Disaster preparedness trainings are offered for beneficiaries of the 4Ps programs, i.e. layering of climate sensitive Behavioural Change Communications alongside a social protection intervention.

Sahel

- **Setting Intervention Types, Objectives and Linkages:** Across Mali, Mauritania and Niger, 3 million at-risk people, including 1.9 million children, are targeted with an integrated resilience package supported by UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank
- **Information systems and data:** Senegal and Mauritania have [prioritized higher coverage](#) of their social registry in areas that are recurrently vulnerable to shocks. In Senegal, this is operationalized as 'vulnerability quotas' that assess poverty-induced vulnerability and risk-induced vulnerability jointly.

South Africa

- **Legal and policy frameworks:** Social dialogue is essential for a just transition. In South Africa, the framework of the tripartite National Economic Development and Labour Council emphasizes the need for comprehensive social security reform for a just transition of the largest state owned electric public utility

Tajikistan

- **Evidence generation:** In Tajikistan, UNICEF has supported a range of evidence generation initiatives, including developing: a subnational CCRI-DRM assessment , including children’s exposure to hazards; Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC); Child Poverty and Climate Change Risk Analysis, and Equity Analysis. These were complimented with social protection analysis via CODI Assessment, a modelling simulation to analyse the cost of inaction vis-a-vis e.g. floods and child poverty, and; a Disaster Risk Financing Analysis to critically assess pre-agreed financing options.
- **Financing:** UNICEF has developed a parametric insurance solution targeting heatwaves in Tajikistan. However, implementation has been delayed due to lack of funding.

Tanzania

- **Functional and technical capacity:** Government capacity - with a focus on the connections between social policy and disaster risks, including climate change - was assessed by UNICEF using the [CADRI tool](#). The objectives included catalyzing a dialogue on improving coordination of DRR activities across the Government and supporting a more integrated and coherent approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across sectors.

Uganda

- **Financing:** The Green Climate Fund has co-financed investments with social protection components in Uganda (Building resilient communities, wetlands, ecosystems and associated catchments programme)