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# FULL GUIDANCE ON BRINGING A SOCIAL PROTECTION LENS TO OXFAM'S PROGRAMMES

The pages that follow give a **one-page explanation** of social protection to guide the reader, a page on the **rationale** for this, followed by a **step-by-step guidance** to do this. A 2-page summary of this guidance – or the basic framework and 12 key tips to this 'at a glance' is available [here](#)



**OXFAM**

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

## What is social protection?<sup>1</sup>

The way society protects and supports all individuals within it, particularly the poorest or most vulnerable to prevent poverty and destitution, manage shocks and advance their lives & livelihoods. To be properly protected, you need to be able to know and rely on that support – so it is about predictable interventions – even if it is short term for shocks or periods of your life when you will lack income.

## How is it provided?

Includes transfers (in cash or kind) and access to essential basic needs and social services.

Humanitarian cash or food transfers, or protection support per se are not social protection, because they are typically not predictable.

## Who provides social protection?

Governments must provide this assistance to all in its society as a right,

People depend upon the support they receive from their community, such as through reciprocity networks, kinship relations and in systems such as savings groups, or remittances (‘informal social protection’).

## The Right to social protection

Mandated under the [UN Declaration of Human Rights](#) and the [International Covenant of Economic Social & Cultural rights](#).

## Who is excluded?

- 1. Governments have the duty and scale to respond** to support the long-term impacts of COVID-19. NGOs don’t have the scale.
- 2. It is an inherent part of Oxfam’s humanitarian response** (see the [Humanitarian Social Protection Strategy](#)) and a human right.
- 3. This is an opportunity for governments to become the standard responders to large scale crises:** Oxfam believes this is the right approach where contexts allow and we want to support this, and demonstrate our contribution to this new approach.

## What is the global trend?

As of 23rd May 2020, 190 governments are responding to COVID-19 with over 800 social protection interventions to support their populations, reaching 0.9 billion people with cash alone. (More detail available [here](#)). This far outstrips the scope of the \$7 billion [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#). BUT does not mean this government coverage is adequate – and this is where Oxfam’s interventions come in.

## Note: Incorporating a social protection approach into Oxfam’s programmes

- Social protection is NOT any programme using cash to cover basic needs; but programmes should be thinking about social protection and first asking, *‘Is there existing social protection we can use/improve?’* before any design. The ‘tips’ page and later in this document should help.
- Our humanitarian interventions should lead towards long-term government social protection coverage for all as well as to meet specific needs of some individuals. This links the humanitarian-development nexus.
- This paper explains how country and partner programmes can operationalise this. This is NOT about new interventions, but bringing a social protection lens to our programme decision-making, design and implementation – both immediately and some long term considerations.

<sup>1</sup> Oxfam’s definition of social protection (2019): “Social protection describes reliable public and private initiatives that enable people to deal with risk and vulnerability that provide support to overcome acute and chronic poverty, that help deal with both household level as well as certain widespread shocks, enhance resilience and the social status and rights of marginalised. Social protection covers a wide range of interventions: direct and indirect in cash or kind and provides access to social services”

# LINKING EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS, CASH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

## SUMMARY OF PILLAR TWO OF OXFAM'S GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Transfers to save lives & meet basic needs	Livelihood recovery	Accountability	Changing the international aid architecture
<p><b>Ensure transfers and access to services to save lives and meet basic needs</b> for (i) Women (female heads of households where appropriate) &amp; (ii) particularly vulnerable groups with specific requirements.</p> <p><b>Advocacy:</b> short term for government to adopt and scale up interventions and longer term that this becomes systematised into flexible ('shock responsive) social assistance interventions for households in crisis, as part of comprehensive social protection provision (the social protection 'floor').</p>	<p><b>Interventions to support recovery and build back better livelihood opportunities.</b> This should be planned from the start. It can be through a variety of interventions from inputs for agricultural producers to market chain support, to training for entrepreneurs, to building enterprise opportunities and networks, particularly focusing on both opportunities for women as well as recognising their care roles and time poverty.</p> <p><b>Advocacy:</b> This links to active labour market interventions in social protection terminology. For long term labour market support, as well as standards and norms and access to benefits for women in both the formal and informal sector and redress pay inequality.</p>	<p><b>Accountability through inclusive feedback systems:</b> supporting, designing and delivering a robust feedback mechanism that encourages participants to feed back on the support they are (or are not) receiving to ensure interventions are reaching the intended recipients and are responsive to their needs.</p> <p><b>Advocacy:</b> for accountable and inclusive feedback mechanisms adopted by govt for its COVID-19 response and these systems are adopted long term, as part of the social contract between world citizen and duty bearer.</p>	<p>There has long been recognition that social protection systems can be designed to scale up in response to shocks. But there has been little incentive for humanitarians to respond to this. It requires institutional commitment and financial resources. Oxfam is calling for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A humanitarian social protection commitment from aid actors to respond with certain social protection-based principles</li> <li>2. A global funding stream to support this for countries to utilise social protection during shocks.</li> </ol>

### Principles for design of Oxfam response to COVID-19 to support basic needs



# GUIDANCE FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES

We will not be able to work with or through government systems in all contexts, and it can take time to build the relationships to do so, but we can ask the questions to see what is possible in our short term programmes. Successful application of this will require the **One Programme Approach**. Humanitarian teams can build on the prior relationships of development colleagues and liaising with influencing colleagues to advocate locally, nationally, and link to our global influencing team.

## Examples of roles Oxfam and partners could play in humanitarian programming to support social protection

Oxfam humanitarian social protection response options (depending upon oxfam/partnercountry team capacity)			
Maturity/capacity of govt SP system	1. Low SP/Cash/EFSVL capacity	2. Medium SP/Cash/EFSVL capacity	3. High SP/Cash/EFSVL capacity
<b>1. Existing SP intervention but lacks full capacity to deliver</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing SP intervention but lacks full capacity to deliver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfers where govt reach is lacking</li> <li>Implement on behalf of govt (if opportunity/requested).</li> <li>Pilot/prove possibility to deliver remotely – to hand over to govt</li> <li>+ Column 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement on behalf of govt (if opportunity/requested).</li> <li>Pilot/prove possibility to deliver remotely – to hand over to govt</li> <li>Coordination: cash working group &amp; sectors, different govt ministries</li> <li>+ Column 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>
<b>2. Existing SP interventions but needs re-design/support to deliver at a distance</b> <i>eg Kenya</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination: cash working group &amp; sectors, different govt ministries</li> <li>Advocacy for inclusive assistance that responds to shocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical assistance to govt for delivering at distance eg support to financial service infrastructure, guidance on delivering at a distance</li> <li>Demonstrate (and document) remote programming potential</li> <li>+ Column 1</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Non-existent or insufficient SP (eg lacks coverage, inability to deliver remotely inadequate MEAL processes);</b> <i>eg CAR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No obvious SP role – basic humanitarian response</li> <li>Coordination: cash working group/ sectors, different govt ministries</li> <li>Advocacy for inclusive shock responsive transfers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and deliver on behalf of govt – in consortium</li> <li>Support access to systems (eg relaxing ID/photo requirements to apply for govt support).</li> <li>+ Column 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to build data-bases and case-management systems for longer-term and future responses</li> <li>Establish accountability mechanism/framework.</li> <li>+ Column 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>
<b>4. Unresponsive/unwilling government, potential role in conflict</b> <i>eg Yemen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver appropriate humanitarian transfers, cash and/or in-kind</li> <li>Contribute to coordination for humanitarian response and basic needs support</li> <li>Advocacy for social protection and accountability towards government/donors</li> <li>If this is the case, we can also think about Oxfam’s framework agreements with electronic transfer companies like Red Rose etc, this may be an important to reference for reaching those with unrecognised citizenship.</li> </ul>		

# APPLYING A SOCIAL PROTECTION LENS: AN OVERVIEW\*

An overview of the approach (detail of 'how to' do this is provided in the subsequent pages. It requires linking with development and influencing/policy colleagues):

Approach	Key Questions	Purpose of information for designing intervention
<b>FILLING GAPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the existing SP system?</li> <li>Is it being adapted for COVID-19 response?</li> <li>Are interventions suitably flexible for changing circumstances?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are any lives at risk from C-19 impacts not receiving support?</li> <li>Is the support sufficient, timely, delivered safely in a C-19 context?</li> </ul>
<b>USE &amp; SUPPORT EXISTING SYSTEMS OR COLLABORATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any systems we could use to deliver our response faster?</li> <li>Can we support existing systems to provide longer term impact of our engagement</li> <li>If no engagement with government how can we collaborate with others for more aligned, joined up programming?</li> <li>Have we identified links with other Oxfam sectors &amp; teams?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish if we can work with the existing system to deliver faster and better to save lives;</li> <li>Identify if and how we can support what government SP exists to improve the system longer term;</li> <li>Ensure collaboration &amp; working to interoperability with other actors;</li> <li>Identify linkages in Oxfam between sectors and in the One Programme Approach.</li> </ul>
<b>SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL ON EXIT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do people have access to social protection in the longer term? Is this adequate &amp; effective?</li> <li>Is there learning and monitoring to share with government?</li> </ul>	To achieve universal coverage with shock responsive, inclusive, comprehensive social protection, for all people to access as needed.

Key areas of project cycle to consider linkages to social protection:

Project cycle	Purpose
<b>A. Context analysis</b>	Scope govt. interventions
<b>B. Needs assessments</b>	Identify needs & access to SP
<b>C. Targeting</b>	Identify who is excluded & why
<b>A. Transfers/intervention</b>	New/aligned interventions, linked across sectors
<b>E. Accountability</b>	Robustness of feedback & accountability mechanisms
<b>F. Monitoring</b>	Close monitor of parameters to adjust design if needed
<b>A. Learning</b>	Share learning with govt and others
<b>G. Exit</b>	Advocate for access to shock responsive inclusive SP
<b>F. Advocacy &amp; Influencing</b>	Work with and share information with advocacy teams throughout

Overview of entry points for considering social protection in humanitarian work:

Entry points
<p><b>Food security/livelihoods:</b> Work through govt systems where possible, align working groups; liaise across sectors. <b>Formal social protection:</b> Govt SP systems to work through/improve. <b>Informal social protection:</b> Community based systems to support to provide resources. <b>Accountable systems:</b> Scaling up our accountability work to the public service provision. <b>Cash interventions:</b> Work through govt systems where possible; interoperability in cash working groups; multi-sector needs basket. <b>Gender:</b> In assessments, gender or other programming, consider access to and advocacy for women to SP through our interventions and influencing. <b>Improved service provision: WASH, Protection:</b> Explore links in WASH and protection programming to govt services &amp; systems and also in 'multi-purpose' cash. <b>Influencing/Policy: Rights to SP, Fair work, budgeting, taxation:</b> Citizens' engagement, rights &amp; the social contract; public expenditure; shock responsive SP</p>

\* This is not everything we could do, but the basics for working in an emergency context, specifically for COVID-19. The rest of the guidance adds detail to these three tables.

# FILLING GAPS IN EXISTING (GOVERNMENT) PROVISION

## Assessment/pre-design phase

Objective	Specific question	Intervention options
<p><b>1. Government social protection provision quick overview</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Gain overview of the government’s social protection interventions to a) understand if govt is responding to C-19 through social protection b) if there is any part of an existing system that our interventions can support/can help us deliver faster &amp; better</p>	<p><b>A.</b> How is govt responding to C-19 through social protection interventions? Consider direct transfers (food, cash, pensions), indirect transfers (eg food/fuel subsidies, fee waivers for services- healthcare, utilities); contributory payments (eg insurance schemes for health, livelihoods, assets), labour market opportunities (eg job creation – job services, employment subsidies, training schemes), See here for country-by-country initial list.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Who, where, how frequently and how much is the coverage? Are different vulnerable groups covered and are the transfers appropriate for them?</p> <p><b>C.</b> How are transfers delivered? Are these COVID-19 appropriate?</p> <p><b>D.</b> Do government and service providers have sufficient capacity?</p> <p><b>E.</b> Is there an existing database through which to identify/register people?</p> <p><b>F.</b> Which groups may be excluded from the data base?</p> <p><b>G.</b> How adequate is the accountability and case management?</p> <p><b>H.</b> Are there COVID19 prevention measures in place to deliver interventions?</p> <p><b>I.</b> Are govt’s objectives aligned with planned humanitarian intervention?</p>	<p><b>Identify ‘gaps’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Lack of provision:</b> People not ‘targeted’: direct Oxfam delivery to the area/types of people to meet their basic needs (see targeting section below)</li> <li>■ <b>Lack of access:</b> People lack ID/information to access SP support: help with registration, documentation etc. to improve access to system for missing households.</li> <li>■ <b>Insufficient transfers/support to meet basic needs:</b> Can we provide top-ups to existing govt SP?</li> <li>■ <b>Safe delivery in a C-19 context:</b> Can we demonstrate safe delivery (eg contactless cash?)</li> <li>■ <b>Advocacy/influencing:</b> for the above with appropriate authorities: local to national level</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples:</b> Oxfam Kenya provide support to those not covered by formal social protection or top up those that are to 50% of the minimum expenditure basket</p>
<p><b>2. Needs assessment: of potential recipients</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> identify what formal/informal support people receive already</p>	<p><b>A.</b> What government support do people receive</p> <p><b>B.</b> Is the support appropriate? (timing, frequency, amount, modality)</p> <p><b>C.</b> Are there any barriers to access? (e.g. legal documents/status...)</p> <p><b>D.</b> What informal support do households receive – and has this changed/ likely to change during COVID-19?</p> <p><b>E.</b> In addition, identify as per usual, along side food/livelihoods needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Other basic expenditure and service needs: water, hygiene, rent, health, education, clothing, telecommunications, utilities</li> <li>■ Basic service needs: health, education, water, sanitation, protection and other social services; which services are already paid for?</li> <li>■ Modality and delivery preferences</li> </ul>	<p><b>Incorporate questions into different assessments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ensure questions included in rapid needs, gender, KAP &amp; other assessments</li> <li>■ Include some basic questions in monitoring framework, to check govt support is ongoing, where due</li> <li>■ Adapt questions according to context and scope of assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Linkages:</b> EFSVL, WASH, community engagement, cash, gender, protection</p>

<p><b>3. Identify govt partners &amp; other collaborators</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> identify counterparts, risks, stakeholders, collaborators</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Which ministries, departments or units are responsible for implementation?</p> <p><b>B.</b> Is this at national, regional, local level? And who are the key people to engage with in each?</p> <p><b>C.</b> Who is the responsible govt agency, what are the rivalries between ministries for this programme, if any?</p> <p><b>D.</b> Is the programme secure, government owned? Or donor funded? Is it a safe programme to engage with? Which groups engage with the programmes (eg donor working groups, social protection group, etc?)</p>	<p><b>Identify:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Who</b> we may need to coordinate with? E.g. sector advisory groups, technical working groups, cluster coordinating mechanisms, inter-government agencies, cash working group.</li> <li>■ <b>What</b> we need to do to enable this? Are there groups (eg cash working groups to bring government to, or social protection groups to join? What relationships do we need to build?)</li> <li>■ <b>How</b> will Oxfam engage at the different levels? (which staff?) Can development and influencing/advocacy teams support?</li> </ul> <p><b>Linkages:</b> local humanitarian leadership</p>
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### Intervention design

Objective	Key questions	Options of information for design/implementation
<p><b>Targeting</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Identify who already receives govt support, targeting criteria, who needs support</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is included in existing SP interventions (if any), what is the criteria for inclusion?</li> <li>2. What are the different vulnerable groups in the target area: explore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Different groups of women – female headed households, women with a high ratio of care responsibilities, informal workers, formal workers, women at risk –</li> <li>■ Other categories of vulnerable people: elderly persons, households living with disability, child-headed households, chronically sick, immuno-compromised) – and other groups relevant to the context</li> <li>■ Low-income groups, including rural subsistence and small holder farmers, informal workers, those who are least equipped to cope with impact of COVID-19</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Strongly consider blanket targeting</b> (ie targeting all within a geographic area), if this will be fastest and most inclusive way to save lives and livelihoods. Advocate to donors.</li> <li>■ Can we utilise existing government lists – databases, registries – used/adapted/expanded for targeting?</li> <li>■ Can women’s and youth groups contribute to verification?</li> <li>■ Can we help establish/improve systems (MIS)</li> <li>■ <b>Principle of alignment:</b> Can we collaborate/link with govt/ others on targeting criteria and methodology?</li> <li>■ Link to advocacy teams to advocate for inclusion of these groups within current and future social assistance (and then insurance and labour market opportunities in recovery).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Registration</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can existing lists be used &amp; verified – How is this stored (safely)?</li> <li>2. What are the application requirements or barriers to receive govt assistance and can we help assist/relax the requirements?</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can we include women and youth groups in the processes</li> <li>2. Who is missing from the registration</li> <li>3. Is there an existing database – or can we improve it?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Share knowledge of remote registration with govt/others.</li> <li>■ Use existing lists, or improve if either are possible</li> <li>■ Collaborate with others on registration system – work towards interoperability between govt, UN &amp; NGOs</li> <li>■ Link to advocacy for SP schemes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data management &amp; MIS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Is there an existing database? And where does it sit?</li> <li>■ Is there an option for NGOs to access the system?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Consider Oxfam legacy: where Oxfam systems could be basis for/improve a govt system</li> <li>■ Work towards interoperability between the govt, UN and NGOs</li> </ul>

## Design (modality, frequency, value, delivery)

Objective	Questions	Options
<p><b>Modality</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> what is the preferred modality? What best supports different groups</p>	<p>How does the government deliver funds, is this the same everywhere?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is appropriate Oxfam response for different locations and differing needs of different people?</li> <li>Can government or our modality type shift, if necessary</li> <li>Advocacy: If current conditions, advocate for restrictions to be lifted during C-19.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider principle of alignment with govt approach, in cash working group/other humanitarian forum.</li> <li>Consider different options that best benefit women, eg subsidies – so is subsidising shop owners feasible/useful particularly if govt is resistant to cash.</li> <li>Plan flexibility in modality, to switch based on context</li> <li>NOTE: all unconditional cash is ‘multi-purpose’ and should be designed as such.</li> </ul> <p><b>Linkages:</b> WASH, protection, gender, EFSVL, cash</p>
<p><b>Frequency</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the frequency of the government transfer?</li> <li>Can/should we provide similar frequency? (who does this benefit/disadvantage)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer size based on humanitarian needs: principle of collaboration</li> <li>Principle of alignment: can this apply?</li> <li>Budget for a contingency in transfer value</li> </ul>
<p><b>Value</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is the government cash transfer calculated and is it relevant to the C-19 context?</li> <li>Consider top-ups to meet % of a covid-19 relevant expenditure basket.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer size based on humanitarian needs: principle of collaboration</li> <li>Principle of alignment: can this apply?</li> <li>Budget for a contingency in transfer value</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery &amp; design as per GHT cash guidance</li> <li>Delivery: in accordance with COVID-19 recommendations; note remote cash is not be feasible in all contexts. Moreover, direct distributions to some households (such as food, for those that cannot access markets) may be necessary. See EFSVL guidance</li> <li>Specific needs of particular vulnerable groups will need to be considered separately (eg elderly, chronic ill, PLWDisability, chronically ill, child headed households).</li> <li>Who? How best to reach needs of women?: whether deliver to female head of household or not</li> <li>Beyond household transfers: to support households to preserve assets, consider cash injections to social reciprocity networks such as savings groups (also known as ‘informal social protection’). Can particularly focus on women’s groups, and remittance flows.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate delivery is possible at speed/remotely. show lessons, and then hand over to govt to take on.</li> <li>Where no govt social assistance, consider collaboration with other NGOs to ‘deliver’ a ‘social assistance’ model which we could apply for funding from large donors.</li> <li>Consider Cash+ activities: the benefits of cash (and the social protection benefits) are greatest when there is a Cash+ (ie cash + other activities/interventions). Plan for this in initial design – access to other services, livelihoods support, particularly planning for a shift towards a recovery phase.</li> <li>Beyond direct transfers, consider support to remittance flows (if these are still operating), such as paying transaction costs. And other informal SP</li> <li>If we cannot deliver – what referrals can we consider?</li> </ul>



## Other programme components

Objective	Questions	Options
<p><b>Accountability</b></p> <p>(of govt system, but could mirror our own tried and tested accountability methods)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there a robust accountability processes? For govt interventions?</li> <li>2. What grievance mechanisms are already in place – hotlines, community committees, drop in centres?</li> <li>3. What are the most common complaints about the intervention? &amp; who manages the grievance mechanism</li> <li>4. How do communities learn about SP systems and services</li> <li>5. How is information about the SP scheme or programme changes communicated with communities</li> </ol>	<p>If not, is this something that Oxfam could provide – not just for our own work, but to the government COVID-19 response. We could deliver this as a third party for government, by adapting a ‘Your Word Counts’ model to confirm people’s needs are being met, refer to appropriate services, help people advocate for their rights, build trust in a government process. In SP terms this is building the social contract.</p> <p><b>Linkages:</b> accountability, your work counts&lt; CPT, community engagement</p>
<p><b>Monitoring &amp; learning</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there any government monitoring to adapt their SP interventions?</li> <li>2. Regular monitoring of context changes (prices, availability, needs)</li> <li>3. Market monitoring is essential to identify changes to transfer As per GHT EFSVL and cash guidance</li> <li>4. Disagreegate by Sex and age</li> <li>5. As per GHT MEAL guidance</li> <li>6. Document learning options from start</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Any useful alignment with government system or establish a collaborative monitoring system with others to assess the evolving situation</li> <li>■ Useful learning about monitoring remotely that can be shared with government?</li> <li>■ Share information with government and others where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exit strategy</b></p>	<p>Advocacy for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The chronically vulnerable households we support to be included in government social assistance and services</li> <li>■ Social assistance interventions to scale in response to shocks. Imperative of sustainable finances for a scalable and shock responsive social assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Exit strategy should be planned from start, with the aim of linking households into the/a social protection system</li> <li>■ Consider messaging required to communities to provide information on linkages to SP</li> <li>■ Link to influencing team</li> <li>■ Link to development team</li> </ul>

## Sector specific considerations

Objective	Questions	Social protection options
Livelihoods	Are there government livelihoods/asset building, job-creation activities as part of the social protection system (and beyond)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to women's saving groups to prevent asset losses</li> <li>Link with development teams</li> <li>Link with influencing teams on labour opportunities</li> </ul>

Objective	Social protection options
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>On transfers:</b> share evidence and advocate to govt &amp; the international donor community for social assistance to scale up to reach those in need, during similar shocks.</li> <li><b>On accountability:</b> that this is an essential part of an effective intervention to demonstrate that needs are being met, to enable changes to design and build trust in the process so that social distancing and other rules are obeyed by the public.</li> <li><b>On re-building livelihoods:</b> this links to active labour market interventions in govt social protection. Alongside livelihood recovery interventions, we should advocate for fair standards and benefits for women and informal sector and support to training programmes to re-build small enterprises.</li> </ul>
Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore local system and practices for supporting vulnerable households through informal social protection, such as reciprocity groups. See recent Oxfam research here</li> <li>There will be considerable face to face contact – mainly through women supporting others in the community. Messaging for them to protect themselves, and opportunities for them to feed back information, monitor situation.</li> <li>Opportunities for youth engagement, to feedback information (collate from carers, for example), support remote verification</li> </ul>
WASH & protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember that all unconditional cash is 'multi-sectoral' and can be used for multiple needs, not a sectoral one</li> <li>Liaise with other teams, before considering a sector-specific transfer, and consider how it can be effectively monitored and measured.</li> <li>Explore opportunities to link to government WASH and protection ('social') services – in design type, exit approach, and legacy of intervention.</li> </ul>
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social protection by definition is about inclusion: ensuring women receive government support should be embedded in our SP advocacy work</li> <li>Teams must liaise between social protection/cash/EFSVL and gender to discuss this at the start of a response</li> </ul>
Localisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using government and informal/community social protection systems is engaging directly with localisation</li> <li>Red lines will be needed as to when and where engagement with govt will stop if humanitarian principles are compromised.</li> </ul>

## Distinction between protection and social protection

Protection refers to protecting individuals from abuse and harm; social protection refers to the interventions from society that protect individuals from destitution and gives them opportunities to advance. Social care is one aspect of social protection and would likely incorporate protection concerns into its services,

- **Protection:** the safety and physical protection of affected populations – keeping people safe, whether from violence and coercion or from being deprived of the assistance they need: personal safety, responsibility of any duty bearer

- **Social protection:** interventions, services and policies to compensate for drop in income or well-being: welfare and economic and social risk: Ensuring people have a certain level of economic and social assets & services to ensure they have a viable life – ie it's about economic and social well-being.
- **Overlaps:** social services such as women's refuges, GBV support; IDP camps.

**Over some services, they can overlap too:** Government social services which protect the most socially vulnerable as part of a wider welfare system (which includes transfers, and social insurance and other mechanisms). Protection services are concerned with protecting individuals at risk from particular harm.

### Example: Administering a cash transfer

**Protection concerns:** the physical safety of women in delivering and collecting transfers – to ensure women are safe when they get it.

**Social protection concerns:** to ensure the intervention is of maximum benefit to the household and causes no harm

**Overlaps:** Both are interested in the ways that we implement – eg in a cash for work project that women are safe while carrying out the work, that people don't have to walk too far – which are all part of good workfare/public works programming under social protection

## Terminology: Recap on social protection interventions and its role in COVID-19 response

Confused by the terminology, or want to use 'social protection' terms to appeal to more development donors?

Potential role in COVID-19 response	Social protection mechanism
Unconditional cash transfers	Social assistance
Contributory cash transfers (to preserve assets and build resilience to shocks)	Social insurance
Livelihood interventions	Active labour market policies
Multi-sector cash transfers	All cash transfers are 'multi-sector' as recipient can choose how to spend (except for commodity vouchers)
A basic 'package' of government intervention to support individuals throughout their lives	Social protection floor
Government SP interventions that can scale up/out to improve coverage/support during a large crisis	Shock responsive social protection
Community-based reciprocity groups and networks	Informal social protection: eg informal savings and loans groups, burial societies, remittances

# OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS



# FURTHER INFORMATION

## Useful social protection links

- [Oxfam Confederation Humanitarian Social Protection Strategy \(full and abridged\)](#)
- [Oxfam's social protection work in fragile contexts](#)
- [15 years of Oxfam's work in humanitarian social protection](#)
- [CaLP: Linkages between CVA and social protection – tipsheet for cash working groups and clusters](#)
- [Oxfam's social protection policy compendium](#)

## Useful COVID-19 links

- [Oxfam guidance for programming in COVID-19](#)
- [Trends in Social Protection in COVID-19](#)
- [Linkages to social protection in COVID-19 advocacy & practices](#)
- [Grand bargain advocacy on linking social protection and CVA in COVID-19](#)
- [SPACE compilation of social protection and humanitarian response resources for COVID-19](#)
- [SPACE Practical Options for Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection in the COVID-19 Response](#)



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