

SOCIAL PROTECTION, CVA & CLIMATE CHANGE CoP WEBINAR

AUDIENCE and PANELIST Q&A

PRESENTATION

Question: Could you provide examples of conflict resulting from additional costs on the poor from government climate programs?

If we look at subsidy reduction - which is sometimes used as a climate change mitigation policy, where this has been introduced without adequate compensation there was civil unrest in Angola and Senegal last year as recent examples.

This paper from WIDER explores the relationship between fuel subsidies and fuel riots

<https://www.wider.unu.edu/sites/default/files/Publications/Working-paper/PDF/wp2021-159-exploration-association-between-fuel-subsidies-fuel-riots.pdf> (Anna McCord)

Question: Would you say that using schools and the education sector at large as an ecosystem that lends itself to be fantastic entry points for a variety of interventions to address such linkages between development and humanitarian support, rather than each working in silos - thereby be more cost effective?

The issue of encouraging a multisectoral response to climate change is key if programmes are to be effective and also efficient, as we face a constrained funding environment, domestically and in terms of ODA. I can't comment on the potential role of the education sector to facilitate this - perhaps you can share your own thoughts and insights with the group. (Anna McCord)

Question: Are we confusing the use of the term social protection with safety nets or basic cash-based programming? Given the broader considerations of social protection in terms of basic service access and availability where individual cash transfers are not going to address under provision? Should we be looking further at (for example) FAO thinking on productive safety nets where localisation and collective action can be used to break cyclical crises?

I think this is a very important clarification that needs to be made: Social protection is much more than a safety net or cash assistance. As Anna presented, it can and is playing many more roles than acting as safety nets to people who are falling into poverty. Matthew's examples will show how SP is supporting in all these functions. But I also want to highlight that with the Nepal project I presented, in the next phase, in addition to cash assistance, the national stakeholders have been considering the use of other instruments like public works for taking anticipatory action (e.g. early harvesting before floods, removal of livestock). This is quite driven by the local communities and their specific needs. (Sayanti Sengupta)

That is a really interesting potential use of PWP Sayanti and innovative. I did a review of PWP in Nepal some years back but we did not have that kind of experience then (2013) this is really innovative.

<https://odi.org/en/publications/politics-of-a-national-employment-guarantee-scheme-in-nepal-an-initial-assessment-of-feasibility/> (Anna McCord)

Question: What are the speakers' thoughts on the potential of large lumpsum cash transfers (with 'plus' components where appropriate) in sustainably and cost-effectively addressing adaptation/resilience to climate change?

I think this can have a temporary impact, but depending on the structural determinants of poverty and the nature of the climate stressors being faced, it is unlikely that this will have a sustained impact on resilience, particularly if we are looking at shocks and stressors in the medium term, heat stress, reduced productivity, limits to adaptation etc. (Anna McCord)

There are several recent papers that show the evidence on effectiveness of cash plus approaches in general, for improving food security outcomes, nutitions, child marriage etc. Particularly, a paper that I wrote on 5 cash programs showed that programs that have the plus components were showing evidence in building adaptive capacity (one of the components of resilience).

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1943815X.2023.2218472>. But I am not convinced that a one-time lumpsum could be enough given the range of climate challenges we are expecting. (Sayanti Sengupta)

Question: What measures are being taken to avoid anticipatory action involving CVA becoming an entitlement? This has happened with the famine fund program in India. It would seem that short term humanitarian interventions need to be paired with long term development efforts to address the root causes of disasters. If not, it is possible that the humanitarian action becomes a regular part of household adaptation. This would be contrary to the short-term focus of humanitarian assistance, runs the risk that humanitarian assistance won't be available when needed and create the perverse result that short term assistance increases long term vulnerability. It would be useful to look at the climate-based CVA history in India. The Famine Funds were not expected to be an entitlement (an initially designed to be very limited in scope of who was affected), but social and political conditions led to a change in the nature of the programs. Humanitarian history is full of these unintended consequences, and I suggest they are worth reviewing.

Given that anticipatory action is based on a well-designed climate forecast based trigger, it is hardly possible for it to be regarded as entitlement. But indeed, development programs, education and health infrastructure, and in general investing in human capital needs to happen in parlance with anticipatory action, be it through social protection or otherwise. The risks of intra generational vulnerability are otherwise too great for social protection to alone address. (Sayanti Sengupta)

The key issue is to ensure that basic income security is maintained - as long as people are in need, it will not necessarily remain useful in the future to maintain a humanitarian/social protection distinction. Income security and social security ARE entitlements, the key challenge is how we ensure they are met in the most effective way. Critically, social protection can not address the root causes of disasters - these are beyond the scope of SP or CVA. Root causes are linked into the structure of the global economy. (Anna McCord)

<p>Question: How can we ensure sustainable financing for social protection systems that are responsive to Climate Shocks?</p>
<p><i>There can be some options like tapping into climate funds, disaster risk financing, domestic reallocations, increasing contributions to social security (with the caveat that political economy in nations make many of these actions challenging). (Sayanti Sengupta)</i></p>
<p>Question: For the case study of Nepal, what are the criteria that the government agreed upon to trigger the AA response?</p>
<p><i>The AA pilot was done in two provinces in Nepal by the Red Cross partners, in close collaboration with the National disaster management agency in the country. The trigger was developed together, and this trigger when reached, was used to activate the Early action protocol of the Nepalese Red Cross, which allowed DREF funding to come into the country and be channelled through SSA bank accounts. The trigger was based on historical forecasts of rainfall. (Sayanti Sengupta)</i></p>
<p>Question: While we have many successful social protection instruments are available, limited as in the Productive SafetyNet Program (PSNP) in Ethiopia, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in India and the juntos Conditional Cash Transfer program in Peru. How do we scale up, pathways? And how to reach an adequate integration in State government?</p>
<p><i>The programs you mentioned, PSNP and NREGA, have both been scaled up and are being extended. Scale up of programs can look different for different countries and based on objectives, but one of the most crucial thing to keep in mind is having an updated social registry with information on the people so that we know who needs support and where the scale up is most relevant. Indeed, for the case of India, due to the federal structure, there is quite a bit of fragmentation between national and state programs. Even more importantly, over the last years, the government spending on social protection has consistently declined and the amount coming to state governments for social protection has also been reduced, so this makes integration even harder. (Sayanti Sengupta)</i></p>
<p>Question: Where may we find the large-scale use of Public Works programmes for Co2 mitigation?</p>
<p><i>These examples and a summary of the existing academic evidence on this in our recent report on the role of social protection in climate adaptation and mitigation: https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/86341d16-96b8-4c6e-9479-5dd3248e09ff (Matthew Walsham)</i></p>
<p>Question: What are the examples of environmentally conditional cash transfer?</p>
<p><i>The specific example I gave is the PROEZA programme in Paraguay, financed by GCF - here is the project page: https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp062</i></p>

Please also see our recent report for some more discussion of this <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/86341d16-96b8-4c6e-9479-5dd3248e09ff>
 And more generally there is an overlap between these programmes and 'Payment for Environmental Services' schemes which may combine social protection and environmental objectives - see this report from ILO that explores this issue in some detail: https://www.social-protection.org/qimi/qess/ShowResource.action;jsessionid=I14qFBKpmlAi_hWq7mSWOMI_nrnGvtwo_cBbi420o_DvSxk0GOK2y!145745630?id=53645 (Matthew Walsham)

Question: Would also like to read more about the SCF big project in Mozambique if possible.

This is the link to the project page for the new project:
<https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/sap042>
 The approved project proposal has not yet been uploaded since it's only just been approved, but an earlier version of the Concept Note (from 2022) is available that gives a sense of the approach:
<https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/linking-climate-adaptation-and-social-protection-through-decentralized-planning-mozambique> (Matthew Walsham)

PANEL DISCUSSION

Question: Why are your team still 'going to the field' in Dominican Republic where are we with data collection systems and the transfer of skills to reinforce people's engagement in the very systems that are supposedly theirs's?

First of all, let me describe what we do. SIUBEN is a social registry, and we are also part of the Dominican adaptive social protection system. One of our responsibilities described in the Emergency cash transfer protocol is to collect precise information about damages and personal injuries at the households' level post a declared emergency so that households can receive a cash transfer that is proportional to the damage inflicted by the emergency. In this sense local enumerators in coordination with local authorities collect information with a questionnaire that is called FIBE (Ficha basica de emergencia = basic emergency sheet). These data are then analyzed and prioritized according to different predefined criteria and according to the budget available. We are now putting in place a system where people can report their damage but for auditing and monitoring reasons an external party always checks the damage and makes sure that the households is in the area affected. This reduces the possibility of frauds. (Annalisa Staffa)

Question: When to stop social protection support? There are some IDP settlements where CT in one and or another form is provided over decades, and this is a serious pull factor & creating dependency.

For this question it is really important to think about social protection as a system rather than just one programme. Ensuring that IDPs have access to national schemes (e.g., child benefits, (social) pensions, health protection, etc) rather than creating specific programmes targeted at only for them can help to avoid this pull factor you mention. This also highlights the importance of thinking of social protection beyond just cash transfers targeted at the poor and vulnerable. Most studies find little evidence of social protection creating dependency. But it also has to be recognised that social protection alone cannot ensure people can be connected to the labour market. This is why layering income support with activation policies, skills development, support to entrepreneurship, etc is important. (Jana Bischler)

Question: Please explain role of humanitarian agencies in mitigating CO2 emission?

In terms of role across humanitarian actors, they should contribute to reducing carbon footprint regarding ambitious target which is net zero at global stage. The frequency and intensity has been significantly increased because of climate change. Therefore, its not only humanitarian agencies` role but also every one on it by collaborating with diverse stakeholders. At least, humanitarian actors should be less carbon footprint from your projects and programmes. (Batbayar Sainzaya)

Comment: Social protection programmes are working in Isolation. Normally they are also not connected with the country level cash working groups. Considering the case of Pakistan at least. I think that next research study should be conducted in Pakistan to record the challenges and issues being faced by the organizations working here. Also, there is no participation of ILO in the local cash working groups as well.

This has been the case historically, since SP systems are supposed to be routine programs for lifecycle risks, whereas humanitarian systems were meant for emergency response. Now more and more, in a changing climate, we realise how working together makes more sense. I am currently working on a project with KfW/GIZ and BISP for Pakistan, to expand and make it scalable, and contribute to resilience building, happy to raise this point that there needs to be more coordination with the country level cash working group. It takes some time to set these coordination platforms up, but I think the CWG in the country can also be proactive to invite and include social protection agencies in countries to work together and explore synergies. (Sayanti Sengupta)

Question: Which countries do DFAT partnered? Is Pakistan part of it?

Australia has a bilateral relationship with Pakistan, please find more information here: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pakistan/development-assistance-in-pakistan> It includes a focus on humanitarian assistance, livelihoods and gender equality. (Inge Stokkel)