climate resilience and social assistance in protracted crises: e-discussion guide

Date: Wed 29 June – Fri 1 July 2022
with an Informal Zoom Hangout on Wed 29 June 2022 at 2pm (GMT +1)

Facilitators:
- Lars Otto Naess, Research Fellow (IDS), BASIC Researcher
- Jan Selby, Professor of Politics and International Relations (University of Sheffield)

Join the Discussion forum on socialprotection.org

Overview of Climate E-Discussion

Join us for an interactive online discussion about social assistance and climate resilience in protracted crises, where we seek to bring together practitioners, policymakers and researchers interested in the interface between humanitarian aid and social protection.

Climate change poses increasing, and changing, risks to people and livelihoods under protracted crises. Over recent years, social assistance – such as cash transfers and voucher programmes – has been seen as a way of reducing the impacts of climate-related shocks and stressors, and of increasing the resilience of recipient households and communities. It has also been seen as a mechanism for delivering adaptation funding, showing promise in tackling short-term shocks as well as longer-term adaptation to climate change. Yet a number of gaps remain in understanding the linkages, potentials, and challenges of applying social assistance to support climate resilience.

The aim of the e-discussion is to encourage the sharing of ideas, experiences, and examples to understand these challenges and address the gaps. By doing so, we aim to promote a realistic
and forward-looking research and policy agenda for targeting social assistance in acute and protracted crises situations – through BASIC Research and beyond.

The e-discussion will be structured and moderated around three topic areas (outlined below), with scope to follow other debates that emerge. The asynchronous online discussion will be held from Wednesday to Friday, with the live, informal hangout taking place on Wednesday.

**Key Questions**

**Topic 1. What do we know about vulnerability–social assistance linkages in contexts of protracted crises?**
- What are the historical and recent drivers of vulnerabilities among populations exposed to conflict and displacement?
- To what extent have social assistance programmes been addressing drivers of vulnerability, including factors of social difference (e.g. political identity and affiliation, age, gender, attributes of social networks and institutions through which people access knowledge, resources and support)?

**Topic 2: How can social assistance help making livelihood pathways climate-resilient?**
- How are livelihood pathways perceived by different social groups, and what is the role of climate related shocks and stressors?
- To what extent are social assistance programmes helping or hindering efforts to build climate-resilient pathways?

**Topic 3: What are the programmatic and financial challenges?**
- What are the programmatic and financial challenges for social assistance to strengthen resilience to climate change?
- How may these challenges be overcome?

**Key Readings**


Other materials:
Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) Research (funded by UKAid) aims to inform policy and programming on how to help poor and vulnerable people cope better with crises and meet their basic needs through more effective social assistance. All costs related to BASIC Research are covered by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.


Registration Instructions

1. Log in to the socialprotection.org platform. If you are not a member yet, please create an account first;
2. While logged into your account, access the Social Protection in Crisis Contexts online community;
3. To participate in the discussions, click here to access the Discussion Forum area.

How to comment, edit and reply in a thread?

- Click on the 'Discussions' area of the community and select a discussion topic to comment on.
- To reply to a post, scroll down and click ‘Add new comment’;
- To edit your comment, simply click the 'Edit' button below your post;
- Note that when uploading a document, you must wait for the document to load. You can add multiple documents if you wish. Supported formats: txt, pdf, doc, docx;
- Click 'Send' to post your comment.

Kind reminder: Discussion content must comply with socialprotection.org Terms of Use: spam, disrespect for other members or offensive language is not tolerated.

Key Contact: t.nelis@ids.ac.uk (Tina Nelis, Moderator)