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.

Politics of Social Assistance in Protracted Crises: E-Discussion Guide

**Date:** Mon 13 – Fri 17 June 2022

*with an Informal Zoom Hangout on Wed 15 June 2022 at 2pm (GMT +1)*

**Facilitators:**

- **Jeremy Lind**, Research Fellow (IDS), Co-Research Director of BASIC Research
- **Becky Carter**, Research Officer (IDS) and member of the BASIC Research team

Join the Discussion forum on socialprotection.org

**Overview of Politics E-Discussion**

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

Social protection policies increasingly exist at national levels. Politics, resource constraints and the attitudes of those shaping policy influence their implementation. Donors and aid agencies meanwhile are committed to improving links between humanitarian cash and social protection, expanding access to social assistance while also strengthening national systems, even in settings characterised by contested public authority, conflict and displacement. Within these commitments, however, better understanding is needed of how politics (and not just technical capacities and limitations) enables and constrains more predictable and routine delivery of social assistance.

Moderators will share a limited number of questions and provocations to prompt discussion, reflection and debate over the week. Further, a one-hour informal webinar (or ‘hangout’) will be held on 15 June at 2pm (GMT +1), hosted by socialprotection.org. This webinar will shift the focus to learning from the experiences of experts working in aid agencies. It will cover both the politics of social assistance as well as issues around accountability – the focus of a BASIC e-discussion the week of 20 June.

Implemented by

Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, University of Wolverhampton, CIDT

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The e-discussion aims to introduce this specific area of BASIC Research, encourage critical reflection around research issues and questions, while also identifying how the positions, attitudes and interests of global stakeholders influence development and humanitarian support to social assistance in protracted crises.

**Key Questions**

This e-discussion will focus on how the political economy of the global aid system and international organisations shapes the design and delivery of social assistance in protracted crises and in particular countries experiencing chronic conflict. As part of this, it will explore how global humanitarian and development actors perceive and engage with domestic politics and governance in the places they are providing support. Overall questions prompting this e-discussion are as follows:

- **What are the politics of social assistance in protracted crises?**
  - What trends/dynamics/factors are driving the push to align humanitarian aid with national social protection systems in protracted crises?
  - What considerations shape how humanitarian and social protection stakeholders, respectively, approach the aim for closer ways of working, coordination and delivery?

- **How can international actors navigate national and sub-national political dynamics to strengthen commitments for more effective and sustainable support to those in need?**

**Key Readings**

**BASIC Research**


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**BETTER ASSISTANCE IN CRISES RESEARCH**


**Other**


**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 post, 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)