



# COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

The United Nations Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD),  
the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,  
cordially invites you to attend a high-level side-event:

## “Social protection to reduce inequalities and enhance social inclusion in countries affected by conflict”

13 February 2019, from 1.15 to 2.30 pm

Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters

**Dr. Timo Voipio**

*Chief Expert*

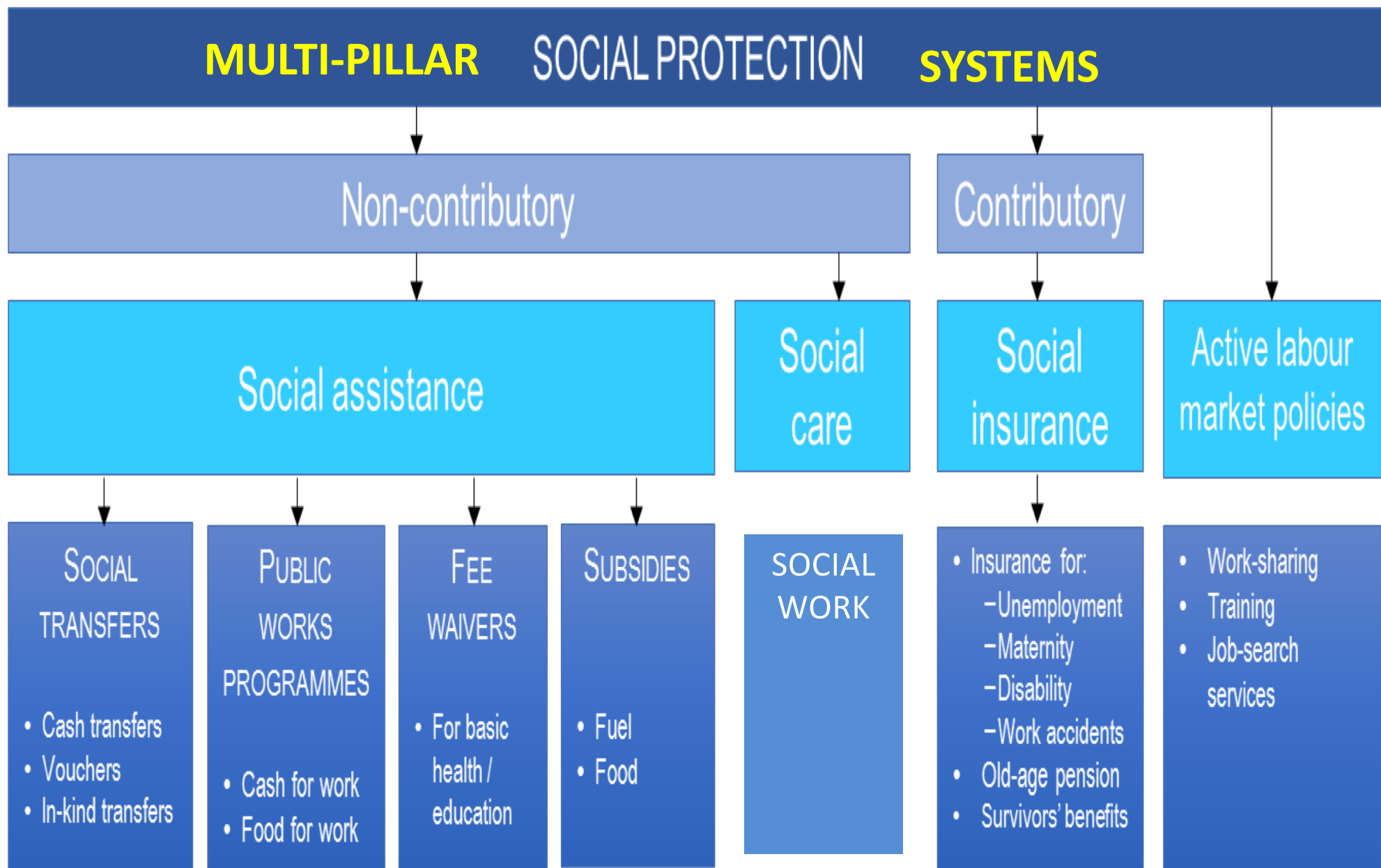
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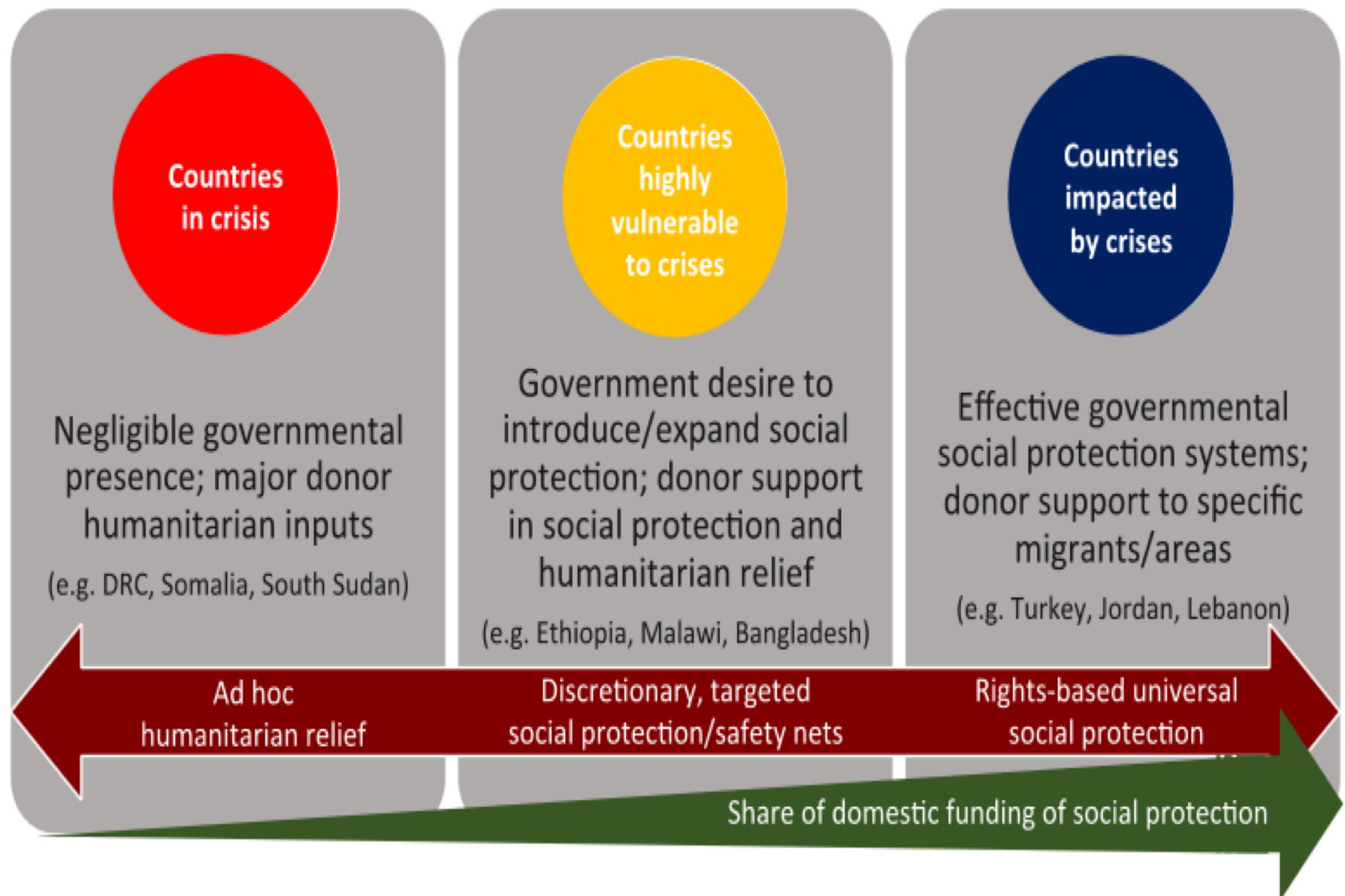


**EU Social Protection Systems Programme**



*Source: Oxford Policy Management, 2018*

# Social protection in humanitarian contexts



Source: Towards the development of a common ECHO-DEVCO guidance package, Phase 1 Report

# EU Council conclusions (2017) on operationalising the Humanitarian Development Nexus

- Poverty, conflict, fragility, and forced displacement are “*deeply inter-linked and must be addressed in a coherent and comprehensive way.*” It is important to:
  - invest in risk reduction and prevention
  - address the underlying root causes of vulnerability, fragility and conflict
  - foster self-reliance so that vulnerable communities can withstand future crises.
  - develop a common vision,
  - mainstream a gender perspective and recognise the role of women as actors of change as well as their heightened vulnerability in crises
  - enhance coordination internally within the EU institutions as well as externally with other actors.
  - **invest in social protection systems.**
  - **strengthen democratic national and local ownership, governments’ leadership and governance capabilities...**

## During the past 10 years there has been...

- **an unprecedented investment in social protection systems** in LICs and MICs: from 72 to every developing country (WB 2017)
- **a growth of cash (and vouchers) in humanitarian aid** including in situations of conflict, fragility and forced displacement. In 2016 over half of the EC's humanitarian food assistance was provided in the form of cash assistance (ECHO, 2018).
- an increasing investment into the delivery of basic services and social protection as a means of **addressing some of the drivers of violent conflict and unrest** (O'Brien, et al. 2018).
- A growing interest in the role that social protection might play in influencing **decisions to migrate in crisis contexts**: by increasing household income, building capacity to cope with life-cycle risks and large-scale shocks, and potentially enhancing the legitimacy of the state, the provision of social protection in source countries may impact on some of the multiple factors which contribute to driving migration.

# **Bringing together social protection and humanitarian response in crisis contexts can maximise efficiencies, e.g. (O'Brien et. al. 2018a). :**

- 1. Reducing response times:*** working with existing SP systems, e.g. beneficiary lists or payment mechanisms can allow for a faster response that is better able to meet the priority needs of affected populations.
- 2. Avoiding duplications:*** working with existing programmes avoids the need to establish parallel administrative systems and potentially reduces the overlap between agencies responding to a crisis.

**Bringing together social protection and humanitarian response in crisis contexts can maximise efficiencies, e.g.:**

- 3. *Strengthening national systems:*** Humanitarian work implemented through national systems can e.g. help build capacities of staff who deliver the regular social protection programmes and update and strengthen household registers etc. MISs
- 4. *Offering choice and dignity:*** those directly affected by conflict, disaster and displacement are best placed to decide what they need. People can derive a sense of dignity and control over their situation through the provision of support through established, systematised (often cash-based) channels.

## **Bringing together social protection and humanitarian response in crisis contexts can maximise efficiencies, e.g.:**

- 5. *Supporting local economies:*** regular, predictable cash transfers can support local markets, jobs and incomes, extending economic benefits beyond the direct recipients to wider populations including host communities.
- 6. *Offering humanitarian transfer and exit strategies:*** working with SP systems can enable a smoother transition between normal SP and crisis support. Allowing national governments to take responsibility for meeting the needs of citizens and refugees is a medium term exit strategy for humanitarian aid.
- 7. *Enhancing Value for Money:*** Combining investments into capacities in humanitarian aid, preparedness, social protection and risk management can promote greater value for money and provide an opportunity for substantial later savings in humanitarian responses.



# **WHAT DOES GOOD SUPPORT TO SP IN CRISIS CONTEXTS LOOK LIKE?**

- **There is no 'one-size-fits-all' in terms of a SP response to crises**
- **But, having a SP system in place *ex ante* increases the probability that people affected by a crisis will continue to access regular, predictable support, regardless of the crisis type.**
- **The aim is to develop a means of sequencing all responses - from nationally-owned systems through to international support systems - which can be mobilised at relatively short notice and meet immediate needs without compromising long-term development.**

# WHAT DOES GOOD SUPPORT TO SP IN CRISIS CONTEXTS LOOK LIKE?

- In all crisis contexts, it is important that the international system recognises the national systems in place and builds capacity for what is already there rather than introducing fragmented parallel systems.
- This is not currently the case - in 2015, 97% of humanitarian resources were channelled through more and less fragmented international systems, often with high transaction costs.
- Only 3% of humanitarian resources were channelled through national government systems, and only 2% of international humanitarian assistance was delivered to local and national partners (ALNAP 2015).

# USP-2030: Inter-governmental and inter-agency processes

## *Mandate*

UN-ECOSOC /  
HLPF

UN-CSW

UN-  
CSoCD

UN-CPD

193 governments, regional  
organizations and  
International organizations

Global  
Forum  
For  
USP  
= All  
women  
and  
men

~10 governments +  
~15 international  
organizations

SPIAC-B  
Assembly

## *Facilitation*

StCom

Secretariat

WG1  
Gender

WG 2  
Capacity  
Devt

SP.  
ORG

ISPA