



SOCIAL PROTECTION, INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS IN THE SYRIA CRISIS

Commission for
Social Development
High-level side-event

New York
13 February 2019



BUSINESS CASE: RATIONALE



- Protracted Displacement:

- UNHCR will deliver a comprehensive protection and solutions strategy which provides: support to host governments/communities; **protection, assistance and self-reliance for refugees**, resettlement and complementary pathways and, when conditions allow, voluntary return.

- Alignment with UN-wide commitments to:

- Global Compact for Refugees – Seeking **sustainable** solutions by **linking national and local humanitarian and development** strategies and investing in *resilience of both communities* to **lessen aid dependency**
 - UN Reforms: ‘new way of working’ **across development and humanitarian** activities, with a focus on **collective outcomes** at the country level
 - 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (1.3): Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all – **‘leave no one behind’**
 - The Grand Bargain - Humanitarian/development approaches and strengthening resilience against shocks
- Diminishing humanitarian resources (OL) and the need to secure more **predictable and sustainable financing** for displaced populations

OPPORTUNITY



- National social protection/safety net systems fragmented, badly targeted, inefficient (only 16% of poorest quintile receive SA) and underfunded.
- With fiscal constraints, many are undergoing reform (NPTP Lebanon; NAF Jordan, MOLSA Iraq)
- **Meanwhile**, humanitarians have implemented **innovative** and impactful assistance programs combining multi-purpose cash integrated with protection services, support to livelihoods and policy changes allowing for work permits etc.

OPPORTUNITY – Humanitarian programs as catalysts for advances towards more inclusive and sustainable social protection

ENTRY POINTS



- Expand use of common platforms – LOUISE, CCF, targeting – for improved **alignment**, coordination and enhanced **efficiency, transparency and accountability**
- Leverage use of new technologies – biometrics, digital delivery systems, blockchain - for greater transparency, efficiency, and data protection
- Joint piloting of tools/schemes with national stakeholders – WFP e-vouchers, IrisScan with MODM - facilitating scale-up
- Investing in shock-responsive social protection – introducing features for rapid response in case of emergencies.

*A common crisis but very unique country contexts:
Different commitment levels to integration of refugees in national
systems*

A WIDE SPECTRUM OF ALIGNMENT OPTIONS



3RP
REGIONAL
REFUGEE &
RESILIENCE
PLAN 2016-2017
IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

INCENTIVES FOR GOVERNMENTS



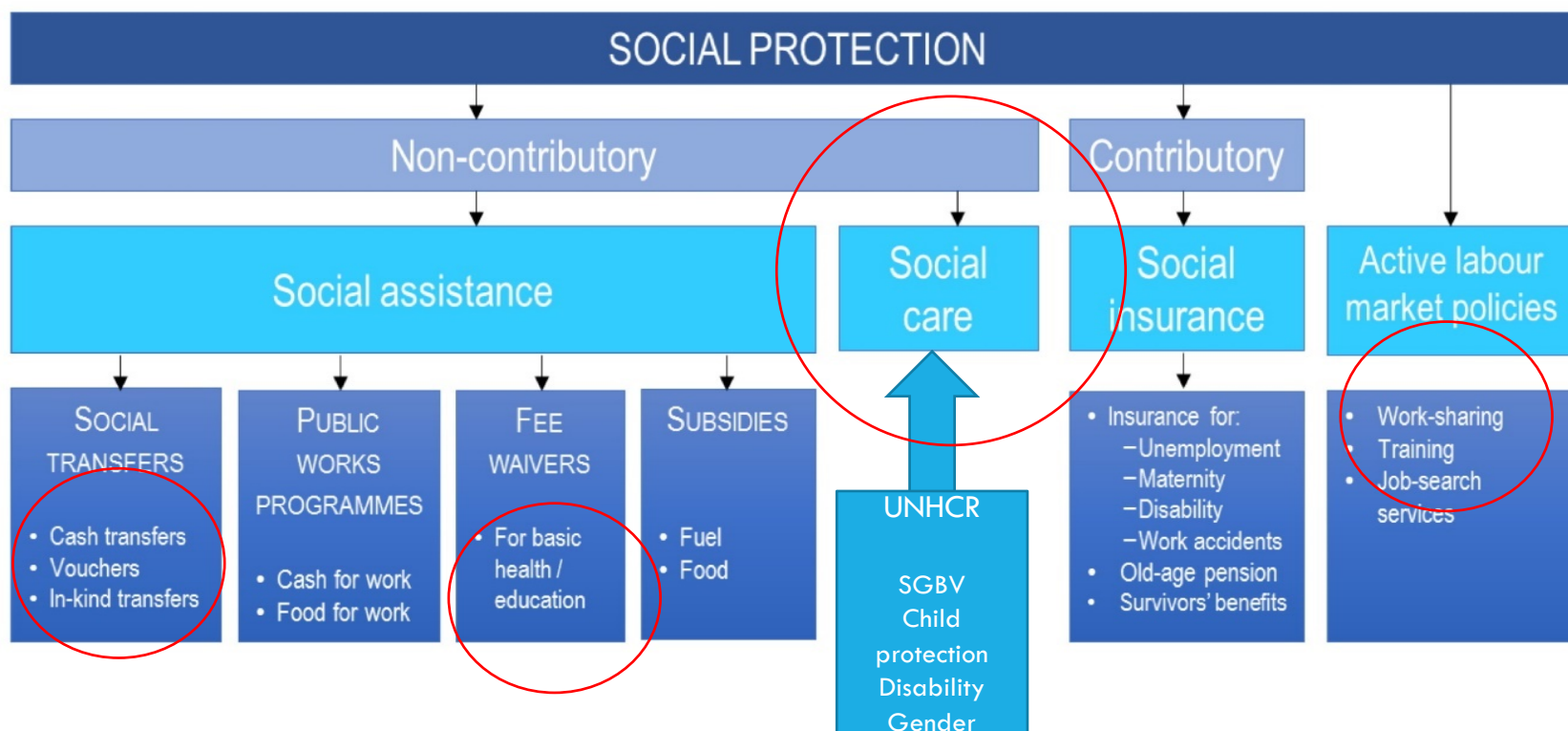
- Benefit from tested and innovative tools and mechanisms that contribute to improved performance – reduce leakages, enhance transparency and accountability (biometrics, cash cards).
- Improve efficiencies and reduce cost and fiscal burden (eg. use of the CCF)
- Knowledge transfer and capacity building - social workers, referral systems, quality standards
- Expand access to development financing for own population

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DONORS



- Interest in reforming humanitarian system:
 - The Grand Bargain – humanitarian-development nexus; transparency; efficiency; multi-year financing.
- Greater focus on protracted displacement and long term solutions
- Commitment to 2030 Agenda and SDGs – joint outcomes and ‘no one left behind’
- Improved targeting towards the most vulnerable, avoid duplication, and enhanced performance and efficiency of national systems
- Attention to prevention and risk preparedness
- Potential reduction in overhead costs due to scale
- Bias towards cash (dignity, boosting local markets, cheaper delivery)

THE BROADER PROTECTION ECO-SYSTEM



THE BROADER PROTECTION ECO-SYSTEM: EXAMPLES OF HUMANITARIAN/NATIONAL ALIGNMENT



- **Health Care:** Subsidizing PHC and tertiary services, health insurance. Use of common third-party monitoring for government and UN subsidized referrals (Lebanon)
- **Education:** MAKANI - Access to integrated social protection services for all (Jordan)
- **School Feeding Programs:** WFP Public primary school snack programs (benefiting Lebanese and Syrians)
- **Community centers and referrals to specialized service centers (psycho-social, SGBV).** Use of UNHCR E-Card (Lebanon)
- **Access to labor markets/livelihoods** — mainstreaming refugees in existing national/donor funded programs (Jordan – Joint ILO/UNHCR/World Bank engagement under the Compact)

FINANCING OPTIONS



- Development financing for UN technical support to national institutions
 - Training social workers/expanding outreach (Iraq); strengthening social centers (Lebanon)
- Pooling resources through Regional/National Social Assistance Multi-Donor Trust Funds (national/refugee windows)
 - Potential use of GCFF or existing MDTFs
- Channeling funds through one bank (multiple fund managers based on comparative advantage)
 - Remove overhead cost /fund managers cost based on cost