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PROGRESS REPORT
2015–16
RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

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The Rapid Social Response Program (RSR) is a multidonor program that was established in 2009 to help the world's poorest countries, in partnership with the World Bank, build effective social protection systems. RSR is one of the key instruments for implementing the World Bank's Social Protection and Labor Strategy for Resilience, Equity and Opportunity in countries eligible for International Development Association (IDA) support. RSR has been generously supported by the Russian Federation, Norway, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Sweden.

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ABBREVIATIONS


GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
MIS	management information system
RSR	Rapid Social Response Program
RSRC	RSR Catalyst Trust Fund
RSR-MDTF	RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund
RSR-NS	Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection and Labor RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund
SPL	social protection and labor







Reporting on Progress



This 2015–16 Progress Report of the Rapid Social Response Program (RSR) summarizes the progress made by the program between January 2014 and December 2015, i.e., after the period reported on by the 2014 report. Unless otherwise specified, data and information in tables, figures, and text are as of December 2015 and cumulative since the beginning of RSR operations in December 2009. Key facts about RSR accomplishments are presented in table 1 and elaborated on in subsequent sections of this report.

The RSR Today: Where It Stands and Where It Is Headed

The RSR multidonor program was established in 2009 to help the world's poorest countries, in partnership with the World Bank, to build effective social protection systems. The RSR is supported by the Russian Federation, Norway, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Sweden.

Since its inception in 2009, the RSR—in addition to becoming a widely recognized brand name associated with SP systems building—has undergone several transformations, in line with development needs worldwide. Since Phase 1 (2009–12), launched to assist countries in addressing urgent social needs stemming from crises and helping them build the capacity and institutions to better respond to future crises, the RSR has morphed into Phase 2 (2012 onwards), which supports the agenda of social protection and labor (SPL) systems building. Cross-sectoral by nature, the RSR has also managed to move beyond the core SPL areas to include other priorities that are easily linked to SPL operations, including gender, nutrition, employment, and—more recently—disaster risk management.

Today, the RSR is one of the key instruments for implementing the World Bank's 2012–2022 Social Protection and Labor Strategy for Resilience, Equity and Opportunity, mainly in countries eligible for International Development Association (IDA) support.¹ It does so by providing relatively small—compared to typical IDA/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) operations—but catalytic funding, averaging \$575,457 as of 2015, in support of social protection agendas worldwide. The RSR has demonstrated time and again that the grant amounts, albeit modest, can effectively support countries' efforts in designing or strengthening their social protection systems. The catalytic nature of RSR support helps draw in other resources and partners. By 2015, 79 RSR projects were associated with IDA/IBRD operations, totaling \$46 million. RSR funding has helped leverage \$5.68 billion in IDA financing thus far.

Five years after its operationalization, the contributions made by the RSR are increasingly more visible. Throughout nine selection rounds to date—resulting in 167 projects in 79 countries worldwide—the RSR has been able to support the growing social protection agenda as a whole, either through supporting pilot

¹ For more on IDA eligibility and the list of currently eligible countries, see <http://ida.world-bank.org/about/borrowing-countries>.

Table 1: Key Facts about the RSR

ITEM	2013	2014	2015
Donors	Russian Federation, Norway, United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden	Russian Federation, Norway, United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden	Russian Federation, Norway, United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden, GFDRR
Cumulative programmable resources	\$90,531,791	\$100,135,891	\$101,219,506 ^a
Number of competitive selection rounds	6	8	9
Subprogram channels	Classic	Classic, NS	Classic, NS, DR
Number of proposals received	278	306	349
Number of projects approved	131	140	167
For Africa	59	65	83
Share of resources allocated to Africa	49.5%	50.2%	49.7%
Number of countries that have directly benefited	63	67	79
In Africa	31	34	37
Average RSR project financing	\$571,747	\$561,517	\$575,457
Largest RSR project financing	\$3.2 million	\$3.2 million	\$3.2 million
Number of RSR projects associated with IDA operations	66	72	79
Amount of RSR financing	\$43.4 million	\$45.9 million	\$46.0 million
Number of IDA operations associated with RSR	54	67	81
Amount of IDA financing	\$3.35 billion	\$4.15 billion	\$5.68 billion
IDA/RSR association ratio: project-to-project average	77.1	90.2	124.2
IDA/RSR association ratio: program as a whole	37.0	41.4	52.6
SPL coverage of associated IDA operations	42.1 million	77.3 million	72.4 million
Female	21.0	38.3	36.2 million
Average RSR \$ to catalyze incremental SPL coverage	\$2.15/person	\$1.30/person	\$1.47/person

NOTE: DR = disaster responsive; GFDRR = Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery; IDA = International Development Association; NS = nutrition sensitive; SPL = social protection and labor. "Classic" refers to the Phase 1 funding modality.

a. Cumulative programmable resources in 2015 do not take into account financing provided by the GFDRR, as that is an external financial channel.

programs in countries without prior SPL experience; facilitating new dialogues and partnerships; or supporting knowledge exchanges between countries and globally. Most important, RSR support has helped establish and strengthen the core components of SPL systems through designing new payment modalities; creating new targeting mechanisms; strengthening management information systems (MISs); coordinating ministries, agencies, and subnational governments; and so on.

The role of the RSR in the SPL sphere continues to be recognized, as was recently done at the Ministerial Roundtable meeting during the World Bank–International Monetary Fund spring meetings. The Ministerial Roundtable annually convenes high-level representatives (typically ministers of economy and finance, development agency officials, and senior government representatives) for a dialogue on safety nets.

As new frontiers emerge in the development arena, the role of social protection is also expected to grow—and new social protection programs will need to respond not only to shocks originating within the economy, but also to outside shocks such as climate change, natural disasters, and displacements. While social protection programs are now technically present in every low- and middle-income country worldwide, coverage remains insufficient—particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, which house most of the world’s poor. At the same time, the severity and frequency of natural disasters is increasing, reversing years of development gains. Natural disasters and human-made crises have the potential to create a new layer of transient poor; these usually disproportionately affect the chronic poor, who are less able to respond to such shocks. Against this evolving backdrop, there is an increasing need worldwide to continue building on linkages between social protection, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation measures.

Going forward, the RSR too will need to adapt and take on a greater role in SPL-related developments. While maintaining the core objective of increasing SPL coverage in the poorest and most vulnerable countries, the RSR portfolio will have to include activities that help social protection programs become more adaptive, scalable, and sufficiently flexible to respond to natural disasters and human-made crises.

PHASE 1: CATALYTIC, CRISIS RESPONSE

Originally, from its operationalization in 2009 until 2012, RSR’s main mandate was to help low-income countries cope with major crises such as the food, fuel, and financial crises of 2008–10. Support was earmarked solely for IDA-eligible countries to protect the postcrisis poor populations of the most severely affected countries.

Although the amounts granted from the RSR were nominal in comparison to countries’ needs, this seed money provided critical support in the form of services and in-kind benefits to vulnerable and poor populations. Some of the pilot programs supported by the RSR led to full-fledged IDA operations as in Cameroon, Mozambique, and Rwanda. This initial phase also positioned the RSR high in the social protection agenda, which allowed it to then move into new and more forward-looking spheres. A total of 80 activities were supported during this phase, with \$60.8 million of programmable resources.

PHASE 2: SPL SYSTEMS ORIENTED

Following its successful and effective Phase 1, the RSR evolved into its second phase, with a strong focus on social protection systems building and strengthening. In the fall of 2012, the RSR donors approved a five-year extension of the program from June 2013 to June 2018.² This new mandate—which marked the official inception of the new phase—was a response to the World Bank’s new 2012–2022 Social Protection and Labor Strategy for Resilience, Equity and Opportunity (World Bank 2012), which called for the RSR’s continuous involvement in supporting low-income countries as well as global knowledge sharing on SPL systems through support of South-South learning forums and communities of practice.



The donors agreed on several aspects of the RSR business model and a results framework, while the focus on low-income countries in establishing or strengthening their core social protection systems remained unchanged. RSR support continued to be provided to activities in IDA-eligible countries for new or improved SPL system components, platforms, and architecture for a specific country or countries (Theme 1) and to protect access to basic services in times of crisis for a specific country or countries (Theme 3). However, in contrast to the first phase, the inclusion of IBRD countries was made possible under a new theme, Theme 2, which encourages knowledge sharing across development levels so as to further boost social protection system agendas. In cumulative terms, Phase 2 expanded the RSR portfolio to include 62 countries and 131 total projects altogether (excluding regional activities).

During Phase 2, an important subtheme emerged under Theme 2, with a particular focus on providing nutrition benefits—particularly for young children and pregnant/lactating mothers. A nutrition-sensitive RSR trust fund was therefore established under the RSR umbrella (see discussion under “Special Channels” [later](#) in this report).

Overall, the new programmable resources and new mandate allowed the RSR to boost SPL presence in the broader development agenda and increase the World Bank’s engagement in low-income countries, thereby focusing both the national and international SPL agendas away from stand-alone projects and toward systems building.

² In 2012, Australia and Sweden joined the existing group of RSR donors, comprised of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Norway.

Driven by development frontiers and the ability of social protection to be responsive to various needs, this new phase included both nutrition-sensitive SPL programs as well as, through a partnership with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), disaster-responsive ones (RSR-DR).

The RSR and Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection

Nutrition-sensitive social protection is supported under the Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection and Labor RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund (RSR-NS). In 2014/15, four countries benefited from RSR-NS grants, with projects designed to improve the delivery of nutrition services. The activities addressed nutrition either as part of a cash transfer conditionality, interventions to improve MIS, policy dialogues, or capacity-building initiatives. RSR-NS grants are able to support both the RSR mandate of supporting low-income countries, as nutrition continues to be a major concern for low-income countries and emerging economies; and to aid IBRD-eligible countries as well, through requisite, platforms, where there are interlinkages between safety nets and nutrition. Such support makes sense, as nutrition remains at the core of safety nets, whether delivered as part of in-kind transfers or via training to beneficiaries of cash transfers (see discussion under “Special Channels” [later](#) in this report).

Box 1: The RSR and the GFDRR

The GFDRR is a global program that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to **natural hazards** and adapt to **climate change**. Managed by the World Bank, the GFDRR is supported by 34 countries and 9 international organizations (see <https://www.gfdr.org/donors>). The RSR has been chosen by the GFDRR for the purpose of mainstreaming disaster risk management in SPL; specifically, as a mechanism to reach out to SPL policy makers and practitioners; to call for, evaluate, and select viable proposals for grant financing; and to monitor and supervise grant-supported activities. GFDRR staff members actively participate in all of these steps, and administer the funds that flow through the RSR-DR channel (see discussion under “Special Channels” [later](#) in this report).

The RSR and Disaster-Responsive Social Protection

A new angle in RSR support since 2014 has been disaster-responsive social protection. This new agenda allows for further involvement in IBRD-only countries, through partnership with the GFDRR.

By definition and as previously mentioned, one of SPL’s significant roles is to increase the resilience of poor and vulnerable households to a variety of shocks. While traditionally intended to help cushion the effect of economic shocks, SPL programs and systems will have to become more adaptable to non-economic shocks, including natural disasters, given the potential for social protection programs to be scaled up and protect those most vulnerable from destitution. For such SPL programs and systems to be disaster responsive, it is crucial to have the necessary components in place before disasters hit—and this is where RSR support can play a catalytic role (see discussion under “Special Channels” [later](#) in this report). In light of the new cross-sectoral agendas, the RSR has partnered with the GFDRR (see box 1) to help build disaster readiness in the SPL systems of client countries by channeling \$1.2 million from the GFDRR for activities in Jamaica, the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu), and the Philippines. Additionally, through the RSR-Classic funding channel (i.e., funding provided in the Phase 1 mode), two IDA-eligible countries—Dominica and Grenada—were also able to receive support for their disaster-responsive social protection agendas.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Over the past six years, the RSR has made a lasting imprint on SPL, as well as on broader development agendas, and transformed itself in response to the development trends and needs of countries worldwide. Nevertheless, much work remains to be done.

- **SPL coverage has increased, but is still not high enough, particularly in low-income countries.** While funding from the RSR and its catalytic effect on IDA operations have helped reach over 72 million people worldwide, most poor people still do not have access to social protection—especially in low-income countries. As of 2015, only one in five people receives any SPL benefits in low-income countries. The gap is more acute in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (World Bank 2015).
- **Client interest in adaptive social protection is increasing.** Support from the RSR has helped build and strengthen crucial SPL programs and systems. Many of the activities have long-term goals which will need follow-up, and there are still many countries that could utilize the RSR to leverage IDA financing. Many IBRD countries, too—through collaboration with the GFDRR—would benefit from building or strengthening their adaptive SPL systems.
- **The RSR experience and the momentum created through its operations and partnerships with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ; for knowledge exchange), and the GFDRR (for disaster-responsive safety nets) could open the door to more forward-looking agendas.** As echoed at the Ministerial Roundtable meeting during the World Bank–International Monetary Fund spring meetings in April 2016—and evident from changing dynamics worldwide—there is indeed a need to continue building on linkages between safety nets, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation measures in both low- and middle-income countries by supporting programs as well as knowledge exchange.
- **With new frontiers in the development agenda, there are also new opportunities for SPL and RSR involvement.** The urbanizing world, waves of migration within and across national borders, and fragile and conflict situations are among the challenges that could be turned into opportunities for involvement of the RSR. The new RSR paradigm can be one of charting new development agendas, and new pathways for experimenting and learning.



LESSONS LEARNED

The RSR systems-building agenda has helped develop concrete results, and facilitated tangible country outputs and outcomes. To date, the RSR supports 167 activities in 79 countries worldwide, reaching over 72 million people. RSR catalytic funding has enabled new activities in countries without SPL support before; and for those countries with existing support, it has enabled continued engagement. Nevertheless, there is still much to be learned from ongoing operations. One of the areas where improvement is needed is extension of closing dates for projects. To date, 116 activities have requested an extension of closing dates, with an average of 251 days per project.

The RSR remains influential and continues to serve its catalytic purpose in building and strengthening SPL systems in low-income countries. An increasing number of countries are realizing that the value added of RSR-supported SPL systems can be much greater than had been anticipated in their initial expressions of interest. Several countries in the South Asia region that received RSR support for their SPL activities were able to apply their RSR-supported SPL systems well beyond the intended scope. For instance, Bangladesh piloted a new government-to-person payment mechanism for its public works program; this RSR-supported activity, Improving the Payment and Monitoring System for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest, complemented a \$150 million IDA initiative. Although this was not originally intended, the payment mechanism was then applied to the design of a new conditional cash transfer program, the Income Support Program for the Poorest (see [discussion](#) under Theme 1). Similarly, in Nepal, the RSR-funded social protection pilot program established an MIS and a new payment mechanism which will be utilized by a broader set of social welfare programs, making the value added of the established systems much greater than anticipated. These spillover effects underscore the need for continued RSR support going forward.

Due to RSR support, new dialogues emerged with countries without prior SPL experience. The RSR is overwhelmingly credited with building trust with government counterparts, allowing for international best practices to be shared and implemented, and for SPL programs and systems to eventually be built.

Knowledge sharing has been widely popular and well accepted by government counterparts, increasing the visibility of the RSR in low- and middle-income countries. The most recent South-South Learning Forum held—in partnership with the GIZ—in November 2015 in Beijing, as well as several workshops on coherent pension policy and improved pension delivery in Africa and the establishment of regional communities of practice on cash transfer programs, have made policy makers and practitioners increasingly receptive to building or strengthening SPL systems. Continuous efforts in such knowledge-sharing activities will allow for more IDA and IBRD country exchanges and innovation in SPL programming.

Summary Accomplishments

The RSR continues to be a highly popular and influential program. While staying true to its core purpose of supporting SPL systems building, the RSR has branched out to include nutrition-sensitive social protection, disaster-responsive social protection, and to support the ongoing urban social safety net agenda through knowledge exchange and learning events.

Since becoming operational in December 2009, the RSR has received a total of 349 expressions of interest and approved a total of 167 activities worldwide, amounting to \$88.7 million. During Round 9, a total of \$5.6 million was allocated to 14 activities, including nutrition-sensitive and disaster-responsive social protection. The overall approval rate for expressions of interest submitted is 47.9 percent, with 35.2 percent of the funds requested actually being granted (table 2).

The program is reaching an increasing number of countries every round, with the majority still low-income countries, mainly in the Africa region.

Excluding global and regional projects that encompass more than one country, the RSR has supported technical assistance—as well as small-scale pilot projects—in a total of 79 countries. Table 3 lists the countries that have received RSR support thus far. During calendar year 2015, several new countries were added to the pool of RSR support, including Armenia, Botswana, Ecuador, Fiji, Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Tonga, Uzbekistan, and Vanuatu. Later, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sudan, and Vietnam were added to the list of supported countries.

RSR support has reached most IDA countries. In line with the overarching objective of increasing SPL coverage and supporting IDA-eligible countries in improving or building their SPL systems, the RSR continues to be successful in targeting and assisting IDA countries worldwide. As previously mentioned, the number of countries in the RSR portfolio gives a clear picture of how the RSR has been expanding and how it has kept true to its fundamental objectives. Moreover, IDA eligibility is in fact the necessary criterion for receiving direct assistance from the RSR's original financial instruments—the RSR Catalyst Trust Fund and the RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Middle-income countries that are IBRD eligible can be included under RSR-financed projects whose objectives are

Table 2: Expressions of Interest Submissions and Approvals, Cumulative as of End of Calendar Year

	2013	2014	2015
Number submitted	278	306	349
Total amount requested (\$)	220,621,800	233,645,300	251,723,960
Number approved	131	140	167
Total amount approved (\$)	74,898,847	78,612,347	88,682,307
Approval ratio, number of submissions (%)	47.1	45.8	47.9
Approval ratio, amount requested (%)	33.9	33.6	35.2

Table 3: Countries That Have Received Direct Assistance from the RSR

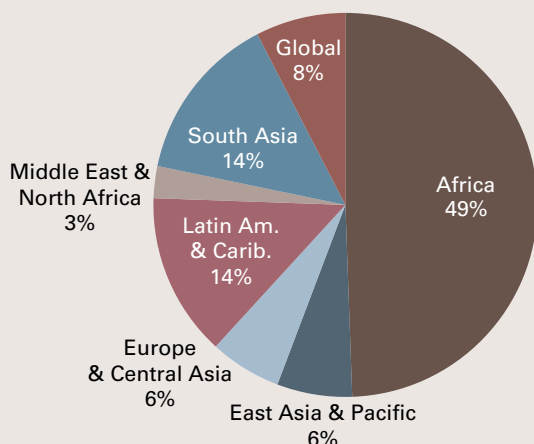
REGION	COUNTRY
Africa: 37 countries	Angola (1), Benin (1), Burkina Faso (1), Botswana (9), Burundi (6), Cameroon (1), Comoros (7), Congo, Dem. Rep. (1), Congo, Rep. (6), Côte d'Ivoire (4), Ethiopia (1), Gambia, The (1), Ghana (1), Guinea (1), Guinea-Bissau (7), Kenya (1), Lesotho (1), Liberia (1), Madagascar (3), Malawi (1), Mali (1), Mauritania (5), Mozambique (2), Niger (3), Nigeria (3), Rwanda (1), São Tomé and Príncipe (6), Senegal (1), Sierra Leone (1), Somalia (9), South Sudan (9), Sudan (7), Tanzania (1), Togo (1), Uganda (1), Zambia (1), Zimbabwe (1)
East Asia and the Pacific: 10 countries	Cambodia (5), Fiji (9), Mongolia (1), Myanmar (5), Papua New Guinea (1), Philippines (9), Timor-Leste (1), Tonga (9), Vanuatu (9), Vietnam (7)
Europe and Central Asia: 5 countries	Albania (1), Armenia (8), Kyrgyz Republic (1), Tajikistan (1), Uzbekistan (8)
Latin America and the Caribbean: 17 countries	Antigua and Barbuda (4), Bolivia (3), Dominica (3), Ecuador (9), El Salvador (3), Grenada (3), Guyana (3), Haiti (1), Honduras (1), Jamaica (9), Mexico (8), Montserrat (4), Nicaragua (2), Peru (1), St. Kitts and Nevis (4), St. Lucia (3), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (3)
Middle East and North Africa: 2 countries	Djibouti (1), Yemen, Rep. (2)
South Asia: 8 countries	Afghanistan (4), Bangladesh (1), Bhutan (5), India (1), Maldives (1), Nepal (1), Pakistan (3), Sri Lanka (1)

NOTE: The numbers in parentheses indicate the first selection round in which RSR assistance was approved for the country. Countries in **blue** are IBRD-only countries, approved through RSR-NS (nutrition-sensitive) or RSR-DR (disaster-responsive) channels. Albania graduated from IDA after receiving RSR assistance. Peru was included in a toolkit/knowledge-sharing project for which IBRD countries are eligible under the RSR-Classic channel.

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primarily South-South learning, communities of practice, and the building and testing of toolkits for analytical or operational purposes. As shown in table 3, RSR funding to date has been extended to 49 IDA-eligible countries.³

Figure 1: RSR Resource Allocations by Region, Cumulative as of December 2015



As of December 2015, only 13 IDA-eligible countries had not received direct assistance from the RSR: Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Kiribati, Kosovo, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

By regional breakdown, Africa continues to be the dominant recipient of RSR support. Given the design parameters of the RSR Catalyst Trust Fund and the RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund, a large share of RSR resources have been directed at Africa—which is where the largest number of IDA-eligible countries are located. As shown in figures 1 and 2, the total resources allocated to the

³ The list of IDA-eligible countries is shrinking; as of April 2016, 30 more countries had graduated from the IDA group.

Africa region by the end of 2015 was roughly 50 percent of all RSR funding; and the number of projects in Africa is by far the largest—77 projects, or 46 percent of the total. This allocation trend has been almost constant since the program’s inception.

Thematic Coverage

Since the Round 5 selection in June 2013, the RSR has used the thematic typology noted in box 2. Expressions of interest approved in earlier selection rounds have been retroactively re-coded to reflect this typology.

Theme 1: New or improved SPL system components, platforms, and architecture for a specific country or countries continues to command

the dominant share of projects, accounting for 74 percent of both the total number of projects as well as of total resources allocated between 2010 and 2015. Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the number of projects supported per theme, as well as resource allocation shares as of December 2015. The breakdown and share of sub-themes within Theme 1 is as follows.

- Subtheme 1.a.1, **Diagnostic, stock-taking and mapping or data collection practices** (including the application of ISPA Tools⁴) represents the largest share in the RSR portfolio, accounting for 89, or 45 percent, of the total themes associated with approved expressions of interest; this is a 36 percent increase over from the last reporting.⁵
- The second highest share is represented by Subtheme 1.b.2, **Improving processes for determination of eligibility**, with 53 projects, or 27 percent of total.
- Subtheme 1.c.2, **Integration of individual programs into coordinated, national systems through harmonization and use of common components, platforms or architecture**, is represented by 49 projects; Subtheme 1.a.2, **Identification or development of effective options**, and Subtheme 1.b.1, **Building systems for robust identification of beneficiaries and development of registries**, are addressed in 47 projects each.

⁴ Inter Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPA) tools were formerly known as SPARCS tools.

⁵ Data are as of December 2015. Theme percentages are calculated as a share of the total of all expressions of interest themes (not as a share of the number of projects, given that several projects could have more than one theme).

Figure 2: RSR Project Count by Region, Cumulative as of December 2015

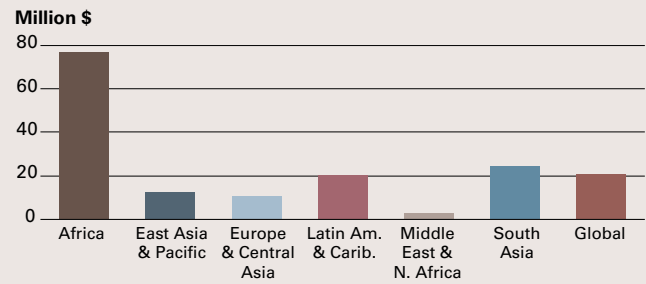


Figure 3: Resource Allocations by Theme, Cumulative as of December 2015

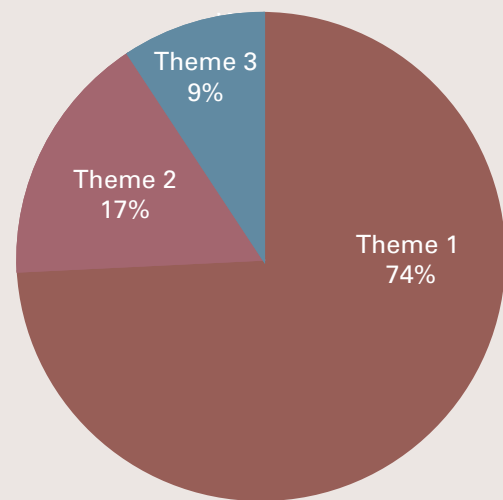
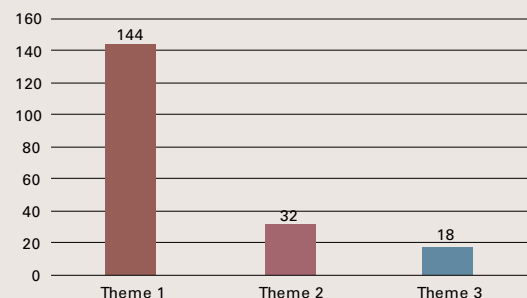


Figure 4: Number of Projects by Theme, Cumulative as of December 2015



Box 2: RSR's Thematic Typology**Theme 1: New or improved SPL system components, platforms and architecture for a specific country or countries**

- a. Systems diagnostics, analysis and stock taking
 1. Diagnostic studies, stock taking notes and mapping of SPL programs, beneficiaries, or data collection practices
 2. Identification or development of effective options by comparing the existing programs, their performance, cost-efficiency with programs in similar circumstances in other countries
- b. Specific elements of system components, platforms and architecture, including:
 1. Building systems for robust identification of beneficiaries and development of registries
 2. Improving processes for determination of eligibility
 3. Developing effective appeals and grievances procedures
 4. Streamlining payment systems to minimize the risk for error fraud and corruption and increase efficiency
 5. Setting up appropriate evaluation arrangements
 6. Establishing practices for communication and outreach
 7. Building information systems for better service management
 8. Improving administrative processes and clarifying rules
- c. Interministerial program harmonization of policies, programs and administrative arrangements
 1. Coordination of legal and policy level frameworks
 2. Integration of individual programs into coordinated, national systems through harmonization and use of common components, platforms, or architecture (from the list b.1–8 above)

Theme 2: Increased cross-national learning and knowledge-sharing for SPL service delivery

- South-South and peer-to-peer learning
- Communities of practice
- Analytical and operational toolkit

Theme 3: Protection of access to basic services in times of crisis for a specific country or countries

- Provision of nutrition benefits—particularly for young children and pregnant/lactating mothers
- Provision of other forms of social assistance benefits—cash transfers (conditional and unconditional), in-kind transfers, public works, waivers for school fees and health costs, protection of particularly vulnerable groups (e.g. protection from gender-based violence) and required administrative support

As of December 2015, the cumulative count of projects and resources allocated for **Theme 2: Increased cross-national learning and knowledge-sharing for SPL service delivery**, were 32 and \$8.1 million, respectively. Since the last progress report, the share of Theme 2 in terms of resources allocated has risen from 8.2 percent to 9.2 percent in the portfolio, while the number of Theme 2 projects increased marginally.

The number of projects and the share of resources dedicated to **Theme 3: Protection of access to basic services in times of crisis for a specific country or countries** did not increase since the last reporting period, remaining at 18 and \$14.6 million, respectively. Theme 3 activities are recipient-executed emergency projects that actually distribute cash/in-kind benefits to poor and vulnerable populations to mitigate the severe impact of major crises. For this reason, expressions of interest that include Theme 3 activities are not approved unless the application of World Bank Operational Policy 8.00, Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies, has been declared for the intended beneficiary country (see further discussion of this point in the [financial section](#)). Because Themes 1 and 2 grew both in terms of project count and resource allocation, the relative size of Theme 3 as a share of all RSR support decreased from 11.5 percent to 9.3 percent, and 19.5 percent to 16.5 percent, respectively.

Association with IDA and Other Financial Products of the World Bank Group

By the end of calendar year 2015, the RSR had received \$101.2 million programmable resources from its five donors—the Russian Federation, Norway, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Sweden (table 4). Of that amount, about \$46 million was associated with large-scale national programs/projects supported by World Bank operations—that is, IBRD loans, IDA credits/grants, or trust funds other than the RSR.

The Bank operations together provided client national governments with \$5.68 billion in IDA credit/grants (\$1.5 billion increase from last reporting), \$50 million in IBRD loans; \$455 million in trust fund resources (\$253 million increase from last reporting). The cumulative total financing from Bank operations reached \$6.18 billion. The client governments mobilized \$6.8 billion in total.

In terms of association ratios, every dollar of programmable RSR resources is associated with \$56.10 of IDA financing. If we only include the RSR financing of those projects that are directly associated with Bank operations, the figure increases to \$123.40. If the total financing through the World Bank Group—as well as national financing—is taken into account in the numerator, the ratio rises to \$283.75 per dollar of RSR financing.

During the calendar years 2014 and 2015, the Bank approved 17 SPL operations for total IDA financing of \$996 million. Associated national government counterpart financing is estimated to be \$622 million (table 5).

Table 4: RSR's Association with IDA and Other Resources

INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
RESOURCES (\$)			
Total programmable RSR resources	90,531,791	100,135,891	101,219,506
Associated with WBG operations	43,460,009	45,983,509	46,036,580
Total amount of WBG operations financing	3,599,000,000	4,398,180,000	6,186,000,000
IDA credits and grants	3,352,500,000	4,146,680,000	5,681,000,000
IBRD loans	50,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000.00
Non-RSR trust funds	196,500,000	201,500,000	455,000,000
Amount of government financing	5,088,230,000	5,710,100,000	6,877,000,000
WBG + government financing	8,687,230,000	10,108,280,000	13,063,000,000
ASSOCIATION RATIOS			
WBG/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	39.8	43.9	61.1
WBG/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	82.8	95.6	134.4
IDA/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	37	41.4	56.1
IDA/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	77.1	90.2	123.4
National budget/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	56.2	57	67.9
National budget/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	117.1	124.2	149.4
Total associated resources/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	96	100.9	129.06
Total associated resources/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	199.9	219.8	283.75

NOTE: WBG = World Bank Group. Note that the IDA figures were dominated by a single country (Bangladesh). IDA is the sole financier for most projects, with the following notable exceptions: IDA provides 18 percent (\$500 million) of the total cost of Bangladesh's Safety Net Systems for the Poorest Project (P132634; July 2013); the rest (\$2.2 billion) comes from the government. IDA provides 75 percent (\$300 million) of support to Nigeria's Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (P126964; March 2013); the remaining \$100 million is provided by the government. And for Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net (P124045; March 2012), is funded by IDA (\$220 million), the government (\$4 million), U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) (\$16 million) and Spain (\$0.9 million).

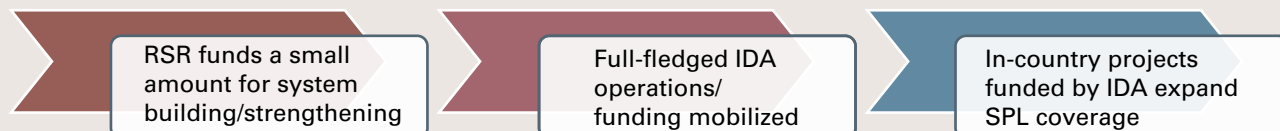
Table 5: World Bank Financing Approved in Calendar Years 2014 and 2015, January–December 2015

REGION	COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	APPROVED	IDA AMOUNT (MILLION \$)	GOVERNMENT AMOUNT (MILLION \$)
Africa	Côte d'Ivoire	Productive Social Safety Net	5/29/2015	50.0	
Africa	Uganda	Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund	5/27/2015	130.0	
Africa	Lesotho	Second Growth and Competitiveness DPC	4/20/2015	16.0	
Africa	Comoros	Social Safety Net Project	3/19/2015	6.0	
South Asia	Bangladesh	Income Support Program for the Poorest	12/16/2014	300.0	3.4
South Asia	Sri Lanka	Skills Development Project	6/20/2014	101.5	560.0
Africa	Ghana	Additional Financing for Ghana Social Opportunities Project	5/27/2014	50.0	
Africa	Senegal	Senegal Safety Net Operation	4/29/2014	30.0	
Africa	Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso Social safety Net Project	4/23/2014	50.0	5.0
Africa	Congo, Dem. Rep.	Human Development Systems Strengthening	4/23/2014	15.0	
Africa	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone Safety Nets Project	3/25/2014	7.0	1.0
Africa	Gambia, The	Maternal and Child Nutrition and Health Results Project	3/21/2014	8.7	
Africa	Rwanda	Rwanda Third Support to the Social Protection System	3/13/2014	70.0	
Africa	Benin	Benin: BJ-Youth Employment	3/11/2014	35.0	35.0
Africa	Madagascar	Emergency, Food Security and Social Protection Project	2/27/2014	65.0	
Africa	Congo, Rep.	LISUNGI Safety Nets Project	1/29/2014	2.0	15.0
East Asia & Pacific	Vietnam	Social Assistance System Strengthening Project	1/22/2014	60.0	2.5

SPL Coverage Catalyzed by the RSR

The RSR results chain is simple and straightforward. First, the RSR provides a small amount of funding to facilitate SPL system building and strengthening of activities in IDA-eligible countries. Then, many of those efforts mobilize and facilitate the preparation of a full-fledged IDA-funded project. Finally, the IDA project provides the needed SPL coverage (figure 5).

Figure 5: The RSR Results Chain



As of December 2015, approximately 72.4 million individuals were estimated to be under the SPL coverage of IDA-funded operations catalyzed by the RSR. Of those, half (36.2 million) are estimated to be women (table 6). These numbers have been obtained from available data from the project appraisal documents (PADs), implementation status and results reports (ISRs) and implementation completion reports (ICRs) of the IDA operations associated with the RSR.

Table 6: SPL Coverage Catalyzed by the RSR in IDA-Supported Projects (millions of individuals)

	2013	2014	2015
Both genders	42.1	77.3	72.4
Female only	21.0	38.3	36.2

Given that the total programmable resources during calendar year 2015 was roughly \$106.5 million, it is probable to postulate that **\$1.47 in additional RSR resources leads to the expansion of SPL coverage for one additional person.** This marginal cost of SPL coverage by the RSR has become more economical compared with the previous estimate—\$2.15 as of December 2013. Note, however,

that in 2015, the total number of social protection beneficiaries supported by IDA projects is lower than the number used in 2013, as it indicates the actual number of beneficiaries as opposed to estimated anticipated beneficiaries.

ASPIRE COVERAGE

ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity) is an ongoing program that aims to improve SPL data quality, comparability, and availability to better inform SPL policies and programs. Its portal (<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/aspire/>) generates harmonized indicators to assess performance of social assistance, social insurance, and labor market programs based on nationally representative household survey data. Most indicators are estimated by program type, for the entire population and by quintiles, of both pre- and post-transfer welfare distribution. ASPIRE coverage has increased significantly. At the end of the reporting period (December 2015), its database contained data for 115 countries (including 216 surveys), compared to 57 in 2013.

On the following pages, we highlight 16 RSR activities implemented in recent years. Most of these are under Themes 1 and 2 (see theme descriptions below); we also discuss some special channel activities. Some grants approved in recent selection rounds support activities that build on previously financed RSR activities and achievements. This is the case for several of the projects profiled in this section.

Theme 1: Support to New and Improved Social Protection and Labor Systems

Coordinated SPL systems bolster people and help economies grow. RSR helps to build critical parts of such systems through policy dialogue and technical assistance, and by providing the analytical work that helps the systems run efficiently and cost-effectively. RSR projects mobilize larger resources from IDA as well as other sources to complete the system-building work and help governments operate the systems to expand social protection coverage.

Theme 2: Increased Learning and Knowledge Sharing for Social Protection Service Delivery

RSR raises awareness on how to increase coverage of social protection in low-income countries through South-South learning initiatives and the development of communities of practice. RSR also helps to create new diagnostic techniques that can benefit individual countries or have a global impact on social safety net systems and poor people's access to basic services.

Theme 3: Protecting Access to Basic Services to the Most Vulnerable in Times of Crisis

As crises hit and threaten livelihoods and human capital, RSR's emergency window for limited-scale delivery of SPL benefits and services can be opened to prevent irreversible harm to the most vulnerable populations. RSR projects help to provide nutrition benefits, particularly to young children and their mothers, waivers for school fees and health services, and the required administrative support for efficient service delivery.







THEME 1:
Support to New and Improved
Social Protection and Labor Systems



AFGHANISTAN: Best Options for Improved Coverage of the Poor and Vulnerable

BANGLADESH: Piloting Safety Net Programs to Reach the Poor and Vulnerable

BENIN: Creating a National Targeting and Registry Platform

CAMBODIA: From a Pilot to an Integrated Social Protection System

REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Using Safety Nets to Promote Non-Oil-Dependent Growth

GHANA: Targeting Safety Nets and Health Insurance Beneficiaries

INDIA: Reaching out to the Informal Sector in Urban India

MYANMAR: Working toward Evidence-Based Policy Making

NIGERIA: Building Blocks for an Effective Social Protection System

TANZANIA: Operationalizing the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net

UGANDA: Toward a Sustainable Social Protection System

ZIMBABWE: Reviving the Safety Net System

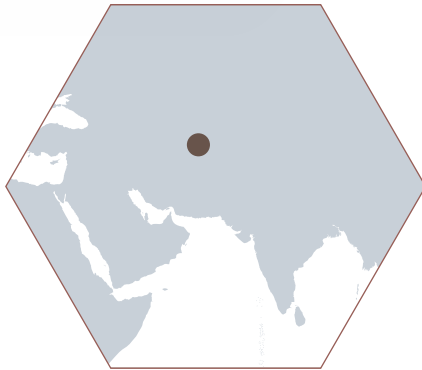


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



AFGHANISTAN

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



BEST OPTIONS FOR IMPROVED COVERAGE OF THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

As Afghanistan experiences growing fragility and vulnerability, the RSR is helping generate evidence-based guidance to support the development of social protection policies that strengthen the safety net and increase the social protection coverage of the poor. By providing an assessment of the feasibility of employment generation programs, as well as options for an affordable mix of safety net programs, policy recommendations will ensure that the current situation of fragmentation and reliance on off-budget programming is improved.

CHALLENGE

More than one-third of the Afghan population is chronically poor, and almost an equal amount is food insecure with a high propensity to external shocks. Job prospects are plagued by vulnerable employment options, and the panorama in both urban and rural settings is expected to worsen. The government has set poverty reduction and employment generation as top priorities within its planning and budgetary frameworks. Still, the social protection system remains fragmented and does not offer adequate protection against poverty and vulnerability.

The transition from primarily humanitarian relief-based interventions to social protection systems is still in its infancy: the country's safety net is composed of a number of time-bound and relatively small schemes, most of which are financed and implemented by development partners and nongovernmental organizations. Combined, these programs only reach up to 25 percent of the chronically poor population. Development partners are revising their priorities and reducing the scope of their programs in light of security constraints, creating another coverage gap in the already fragmented social safety net arena.

APPROACH

Determining the best mix of interventions to support the chronically poor and vulnerable populations in the Afghan context is challenging. Labor-intensive public works, as a scalable safety net option, are adequate given the postconflict

Population:

32.5 million (2015)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$630 (2015)

RSR funding:

\$370,000

context. Public works programs have the potential to mitigate seasonal shocks and strengthen social cohesion. However, there have been concerns regarding organizational capacity at the local level, governance issues, and timing conflicts given the livelihoods calendar in certain regions of Afghanistan.

Responding to the limited information available to inform policy decisions, the RSR supported publication of a policy note. The policy note draws on two assessment reports—one that delves into the potential and feasibility of scalable employment generation programs, and a second that proposes options for an effective mix of safety net programs. The note identifies policy priorities to strengthen the safety net and increase the social protection coverage of the poor.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- Stocktaking on existing evidence on safety nets has been completed, with a special focus on labor-intensive public works and targeted cash transfers. The analysis found that the impacts of public works on consumption, recovery from shocks, and coping mechanisms are mixed. Evidence on the impacts of cash transfers is scant, but positive impacts on household spending patterns has been observed. The findings suggest that focusing on building a targeting system rather than on seeking short-term solutions is more effective and not costly.
- The RSR grant supported the completion of a policy note informed by two assessments. Policy recommendations suggest prioritizing the use of scarce resources and achieving efficient targeting to improve the coverage and resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable, and to introduce a predictable cash transfer that coexists with humanitarian assistance.



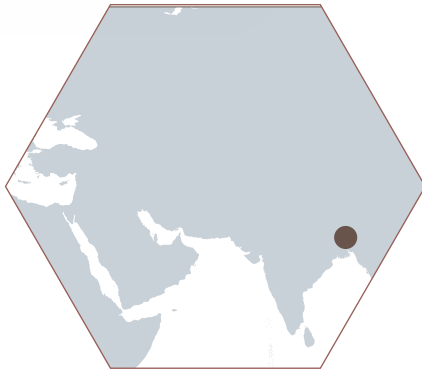


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



BANGLADESH

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



PILOTING SAFETY NET PROGRAMS TO REACH THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

RSR funds are playing a catalytic role in finding alternative and effective ways to reach the poor in both urban and rural areas. Continuous support provided by the RSR through three grants has led to a \$300 million follow-up IDA operation to support improvements in access to health, nutrition, and cognitive development services for poor households. RSR funding has helped showcase international best practices in building social protection instruments, and in assessing the limitations and possibilities of different social protection programs given the local context.

Population:

156.6 million (2013)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$1,010 (2013)

RSR funding:

\$2.8 million (three grants, cumulative total)

Associated IDA project:

Income Support Program for the Poorest Project (\$300 million, World Bank Project ID P146520)

CHALLENGE

Despite a steady decline in poverty rates—from 48.9 percent in 2000 to 40.0 percent in 2005 and 31.5 percent in 2010—almost a quarter of Bangladesh's population remains in extreme poverty. Households are vulnerable to climate change and food price risks, as well as to health shocks. Given the sheer size of the vulnerable population just above the poverty line, any small shock can push more people into poverty and extreme poverty. Bangladesh ranks sixth globally in prevalence of undernutrition; it is also among the countries with the highest prevalence of stunting.

Bangladesh has a long history in implementing safety nets, and many of its cash-for-work and conditional cash transfer programs have improved household incomes, intake of nutritious food, and the social status of women. Over the past five years, the budget allocation to social protection has averaged \$3.6 billion, or 2 percent of gross domestic product. Despite these successes and political will, coverage of existing programs is low, with only 25 percent of households benefiting from a safety net program in 2010. The sector is characterized by fragmentation and overlap, with over 140 programs spread across over 20 ministries.

Local governments implement most safety nets on behalf of various line ministries, but suffer from weak administrative capacity. To improve the delivery of safety net programs and minimize fragmentation across programs, the administrative and implementation capacities of local governments need to be

strengthened, given their direct involvement in program implementation from beneficiary identification to payments and grievance redress.

APPROACH

The government of Bangladesh has shown great commitment to putting efficient, well-targeted safety nets in place, and a willingness to revamp existing structures to improve performance. The government also recognizes that effective implementation of safety nets can help address formidable human development challenges.

Through technical assistance and financing, the RSR grants helped in the design and supervision of the implementation of a pilot conditional cash transfer program. The program tested alternative mechanisms of delivering cash to the poor and vulnerable through peri-urban and rural local governments to improve children's education and nutrition.

The pilot was introduced in an urban municipality not previously covered by the country's safety net programs. Its implementation initiated a new wave of policy dialogue and innovation. RSR funds contributed to the development of a targeting and management information system, and provided support in delivering payments through the Bangladesh postal office cash card—demonstrating an innovative way in which government can modernize existing safety nets.

RSR financing also helped fund a process evaluation, which reviewed the entire pilot cycle to assess administrative issues and constraints. This was an important mechanism to inform design updates and revisions to better meet the needs of beneficiaries and improve program administration and management.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- Through the pilot program, around 14,000 households in the bottom quintile received cash payments. Cash top-ups were delivered to over 15,774 children, conditioned on attendance in primary schools and, for children aged 0–36 months, regular growth monitoring.
- The program evaluation found the following:
 - Total household food consumption increased 11 percent. Food expenditures on proteins increased for all households, and more so for those receiving the nutrition package (Tk 175 versus Tk 120 per month).
 - The percentage of mothers who understood the importance of exclusively breastfeeding children until six months of age increased by 6.5 percent.
 - A positive impact was found regarding underweight children aged 0–1 year from baseline. The incidence of wasting was reduced by 12.5 percentage points.

Associated IDA Project: Income Support Program for the Poorest

Encouraged by the results of the RSR-funded pilot and to further strengthen safety net delivery at the local level, the government of Bangladesh requested IDA support to scale up the pilot in other parts of the country.

This resulted in a \$300 million follow-up project, the Income Support Program for the Poorest, which will be implemented in 42 *upazilas* across the country and is expected to benefit 600,000 of Bangladesh's poorest mothers. The program has been expanded to cover pregnant women and children up to the age of five years, and will focus on improving nutrition and cognitive development outcomes. The program is expected to commence in the field in late 2016.



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



BENIN

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS

**Population:**

10.3 million (2013)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$790 (2013)

RSR funding:

\$275,000

Partners:Belgian Technical Cooperation,
UNICEF**Associated IDA projects:**Decentralized Community Driven
Services (\$76 million, World Bank
Project ID P117764)Health System Performance Project
(\$43.8 million, World Bank Project
ID P113202)

CREATING A NATIONAL TARGETING AND REGISTRY PLATFORM

RSR support was instrumental in establishing common targeting and registry platforms, which serve as the foundation of Benin's emerging national social protection system. The platforms are already being used by two IDA operations and a Belgian social protection project, with other social protection programs exploring their use as well. The RSR has helped put Benin on a positive trajectory toward creating a sound system—and, in the process, harmonized interministerial coordination and raised the overall profile of safety nets in the country.

CHALLENGE

Social protection in Benin has historically been underfunded, fragmented, and limited in scope. In the five years prior to the food, fuel, and financial crises, government spending on social protection and social safety nets was only 0.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP); this is significantly lower than the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 2.3 percent of GDP. Without proper programs or systems in place, Benin faces the risk of not responding to shocks or crises in an appropriate and timely manner—thereby exposing the poor and vulnerable to even more hardship.

APPROACH

Following the recent food, fuel, and financial crises, the government of Benin redirected its attention toward more social protection programs, recognizing the difficulty in mounting an effective response to crises without a coherent or efficient system in place.

In Africa, Benin already serves as an example of a successful transition from a social fund to a more comprehensive local development program. This transition began in 2004, as the country's National Community Driven Development Support Program (Projet national de développement conduit par les communautés—PNDCC), with World Bank assistance, successfully involved over 1,500 communities in small-scale, village-level activities in partnership with local governments.

Associated IDA Project: Decentralized Community-Driven Services

- Seven hundred community infrastructure projects have been approved.
- Grassroots management training has been provided to 3,445 community leaders and 148,613 people on how to target the poorest and implement community public works projects in selected communities.
- Monthly cash transfers have been provided to 12,925 beneficiary households.
- Additional financing of \$30 million was approved in 2014.

Associated IDA Project: Health System Performance Project

This project aims to contribute to increasing the coverage of quality maternal and neonatal services in eight health districts—roughly a quarter of the population.

The mainstreaming of the community-driven development approach in Benin continues to have strong government buy-in and is supported by the ongoing IDA-financed Decentralized Community Driven Services Project (Projet de services décentralisés conduits par les communautés—PSDCC) in another 1,000 communities.

Today, the two most prominent programs at the core of the country's social protection agenda are a safety net pilot program, backed by the PSDCC, which combines a cash transfer with a labor-intensive public works program; and the results-based national health care program, which aims to subsidize health care for the poorest. In order to reduce fragmentation, promote economies of scale, and exploit synergies between programs, the government—with support from the World Bank—aims to join its two social protection programs and harmonize their targeting and registry systems.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- The RSR supported the design and roll-out of a multisectoral targeting system that builds on the community-driven approach used in the PNDCC and the PSDCC. Data has thus far been collected on more than 16,000 potential beneficiaries of the PSDCC safety net program, 4,000 potential beneficiaries of a regional Belgian Technical Cooperation program, and another 60,000 potential beneficiaries of the national health program.
- Partner efforts in the social protection sphere were harmonized, and collaboration facilitated between the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Decentralization, UNICEF, bilateral donors, and the National Social Protection Coordination Committee. This coordinative process ensured that the systems would be used across multiple sectors, programs, and donors, and mitigated against fragmentation going forward.
- Operational and training materials for the targeting and registry system were developed for community-based staff, and rules and procedures clarified. This included strengthening local and national capacity through several training workshops, learning events, and forums to help safety net project and committee members gain a better understanding of international best practices.
- Smart phones were introduced as the data collection tool for the targeting process, enabling data to be fed into a single database (or registry) of beneficiaries. The registry is now housed under the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, and is utilized by three programs. RSR support was crucial in managing what information would be collected and where the database would be housed, as well as in providing the necessary technical know-how.
- Institutional capacity has been built and knowledge sharing promoted by supporting key officials' participation in regional forums and training events.
- The design and roll-out of a grievance redress mechanism has been launched.



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



CAMBODIA

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



FROM A PILOT TO AN INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Given the country's limited capacity for a systemic approach, the RSR is helping establish foundational elements of a social protection system in Cambodia. These will not only complement existing efforts but also be responsive to decisions of expanding programs currently being piloted. Support of these elements ensures the comprehensive and sustainable development of a social protection system in the long run.

CHALLENGE

Cambodia has enjoyed stable economic growth and impressive reductions in poverty headcounts in recent years. This, however, has not translated into equitable improvement in living conditions for all Cambodians. Households that have moved out of poverty remain vulnerable to health and other shocks; assistance for these households is not currently available. Existing government programs are limited to scholarships and modest payments for the elderly, orphans, and veterans. Donor-funded programs include some fee-waiver programs for health services, scholarships for secondary school children, and food transfers. Coverage of social protection programs only includes a small portion—less than 2 percent—of the poorest quintile of the population. Thus, prioritizing a response to the needs of vulnerable and poor households has been a priority for Cambodia's National Social Protection Strategy adopted in 2011.

The Social Protection Coordination Unit has made progress in operationalizing the National Social Protection Strategy. It prepared a financial assessment and a monitoring strategy; and, in coordination with development partners, it is piloting two social safety net programs—a maternal health and child nutrition cash transfer and a public works program. An innovative beneficiary interface, a Single Window Service, is being tested alongside the pilots. But the limited capacity for program implementation and coordination has correspondingly limited the possibility of building a comprehensive social protection system.

Population:

15.6 million (2015)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$1,070 (2015)

RSR funding:

\$250,000

Partner:

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)



APPROACH

Focusing only on the success of a pilot program is not enough to ensure long-term sustainability and scalability. In line with the government's strategy, the RSR is providing support for those elements of social protection systems that allow increasing coverage to potentially reach all vulnerable populations.

A variety of elements need to be set up, and tested or strengthened during pilot implementation. RSR funds are supporting technical assistance to accompany the cash transfer pilot funded by AusAID. These elements include guidance on innovative implementation approaches, information management systems, and updates to registration systems. Lessons for a wider selection of programs (not limited to cash transfers) and initial data on delivery performance will be available through an RSR-funded monitoring and evaluation system. This information will be used to inform policy discussion to improve donor coordination.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- The Cambodia Cash Transfer Pilot for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, funded by AusAID, provided a total of seven rounds of payment, covering a period of 14 months.
- Through RSR funding, consistent inputs and feedback at the request of the implementing agency to address all steps of the cash transfer pilot were provided, including MIS design, grievance redress mechanisms, institutional delivery mechanisms, and monitoring and evaluation. Extensive inputs were made into the training content for project participants, with the collaboration of other teams. It comprised modules on maternal and child health, nutrition, and water and sanitation.
- A midterm review was completed in September 2015, which provided a thorough review of the project, including improvements in communications, institutional arrangements, the MIS, monitoring and evaluation processes, payment systems, and targeting.



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS

**Population:**

4.5 million (2013)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$660 (2014)

RSR funding:

\$350,000

Partner:

French Development Agency (AFD)

Associated IDA project:LISUNGI Safety Nets Project
(\$17.0 million; World Bank Project
ID P145263)

USING SAFETY NETS TO PROMOTE NON-OIL-DEPENDENT GROWTH

A grant from the RSR is helping build the foundation for an effective safety net system in the Republic of Congo, thereby improving access for the poor and for vulnerable households. Financing from the RSR will also help evaluate the effectiveness of the existing cash transfer program.

CHALLENGE

As a resource-rich economy attempting to reach a higher-middle-income status, the Republic of Congo faces the challenge of stimulating a more non-oil-based growth, while oil revenues can be used to tackle the country's high poverty rate, high unemployment, and large inequalities. The latest estimates cite 46.5 percent of the population as living in poverty, despite stable economic growth in the past five years.

The existing social safety net programs, as in many West and Central African countries, remain inadequate and insufficiently developed to respond to the needs of the vulnerable. In 2012, only 0.2 percent of gross domestic product was allocated for safety net programs. Further, proper instruments are not in place to determine appropriate program eligibilities and benefit amounts.

APPROACH

The government of the Republic of Congo has developed a new social protection strategy, demonstrating its commitment to moving away from ineffective and fragmented programs and toward a harmonized system, and to bringing social safety nets to the forefront of poverty reduction.

Funds from the RSR will help the government establish a common platform for enrollment in the safety net system by creating a Social Registry Information System. This comprehensive system will contain a database in which to store all applicant information in a secure manner, and will include an MIS that will support the monitoring, reporting, and coordination of selected programs. Developed in parallel with the cash transfer pilot program, the system will make it possible

Associated IDA Project: LISUNGI Safety Nets Project

This project targets approximately 5,000 extremely poor and vulnerable households countrywide, and 1,000 elderly people with cash transfers. It is expected to benefit 20,000 household members, including young children and pregnant and lactating mothers.

It aims to establish the key building blocks of a sustainable national safety net program and enhance local capacity to coordinate, implement, and monitor the system. The project supports the development and implementation of a cash transfer program, which will ultimately facilitate access to and use of social services, such as education and health care.

For more information, see <http://www.lisungi-sfs.org/> and <https://youtu.be/qH5c-spxyEWs>.

for other programs to quickly identify potential program beneficiaries. Once fully functional, the social registry will be able to link individuals to other interventions, thereby limiting duplication and inefficiencies. RSR financing will also help set up an MIS for enhanced efficiency of the cash transfer program.

Additionally, the RSR is supporting several capacity-building initiatives for the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Solidarity to help it in the design and implementation of the safety net projects. Most importantly, through capacity building and operationalization of processes, the RSR helped jumpstart the IDA-operated LISUNGI Safety Nets Project in July 2015. A first wave of 3,060 households received cash transfers as a result of this project, indirectly covering 5,677 children under age 14, and 2,822 individuals aged 60 or older.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- RSR funding supported creation of the Social Registry Inclusion System, which serves as the gateway to social safety net interventions and other sectoral programs in the country, by consolidating and harmonizing information on all potential beneficiaries. To date, 9,633 families have been enrolled in the system. Coverage of the system is currently being expanded, in collaboration with the Health Sector Project.
- The Program Management Information System (PM-IS) for the cash transfer pilot is working both online and offline. Modules under the PM-IS—including beneficiary selection, payments, and compliance of cash transfer conditions—have been completed. The payments module has also been integrated with the Banque Postale du Congo, which is the project payment agency. The PM-IS allows generation of reports on program performance; its modularity means it can be expanded to other programs that would be delivered using LISUNGI.
- Extensive technical guidance has been provided on formulating an evaluation of the cash transfer pilot program, along with a strategy for rolling out the impact evaluation. As a result, an impact evaluation strategy and baseline data collection were concluded; the National Statistical Office is currently finalizing the baseline report.

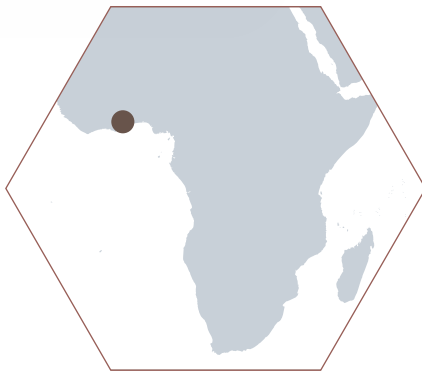


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



GHANA

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



TARGETING SAFETY NETS AND HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES

The RSR is helping Ghana improve its social protection system. An earlier grant helped introduce and test the proxy means targeting mechanism—the first ever used on the continent—and lay the foundation for a social protection system. The current grant takes this support further, offering technical assistance and capacity building to roll out the National Targeting System, which will support the country’s main safety net program—the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) cash transfer program—as well as the National Health Insurance Scheme.

CHALLENGE

As in many African nations, fiscal pressures are compelling Ghana to reduce its fuel and electricity subsidies. In 2013, the equivalent of almost \$1 billion was spent on untargeted subsidies, or around 2.4 percent of gross domestic product. To cushion the effect of the price hikes that will occur with reduced subsidies, social protection programs will take on a bigger role.

The 2012 National Social Protection Strategy set a goal of consolidating the wide range of national programs and projects into a coherent framework to effectively tackle extreme poverty and vulnerability as well as promote employment and productivity. This strategic direction aims at putting in place a system of accessible, quality social services.

At present, however, many of Ghana’s social protection programs have no systematic registries of beneficiaries, making monitoring as well as identification of potential beneficiaries difficult. Moreover, most of the targeting mechanisms used are not clearly defined, and many beneficiaries are not integrated across programs.

To reach more households through the LEAP cash transfer and other programs, a fully functional common targeting system is needed. And to improve the identification of beneficiaries, this system will need to be linked to a national biometric identification system.

Population:

27.4 million (2015)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$1,480 (2015)

RSR funding:

\$450,000

Partners:

U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF

Associated IDA project:

Additional Financing for Ghana Social Opportunities Project (\$50 million, World Bank Project ID P146923)



APPROACH

Technical assistance provided through the RSR grant is helping the Ghanaian government meet its commitment to gradually remove energy subsidies and create a solid, flexible, and well-targeted social protection system.

Development of common administrative mechanisms is therefore critical. To this end, RSR funding is supporting the roll-out of the National Targeting System, named the Ghana National Household Registry (GNHR), which is built on the proxy means methodology established under the

previous RSR grant. The GNHR will be linked to national ID cards and will provide a platform for a harmonized, flexible, and responsive social protection structure.

RSR funds are supporting adjustments to the existing MIS and the creation of an appeal and grievance mechanism to improve targeting accuracy and enhance transparency and accountability. Capacity will also be built within the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for monitoring and coordination. RSR funds enabled government officials to visit the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C., in order to learn from international experiences on how to strengthen social protection policies and implementation.

Finally, RSR funds helped prepare the roll-out of the new IDA operation, Additional Financing for the Ghana Social Opportunities Project, with a focus on strengthening social protection systems and scaling up the existing safety net programs to cover more beneficiaries.

Associated IDA Project: Additional Financing for Ghana Social Opportunities Project

The project formulated a social protection policy that scales up the existing Labor Intensive Public Works (LIPW) and LEAP programs, rolls out the Ghana National Household Registry for social protection programs, and builds capacity for LIPW and LEAP implementation in existing and new districts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- The GNHR project operations manual was completed, which details the processes and procedures for household registry operations and administrative policies (a database containing socioeconomic information on households). It includes innovative features such as an accompanying public information campaign, a biometric mechanism, and an update to the proxy means test household assessment mechanism; and implements computer-assisted interviewing. Mobile targeting centers will be used for information collection.
- A strategic alliance was developed with the National Identification Authority to integrate the GNHR to the civil registry to allow a biometric mechanism to ensure effective identification.
- Institutional capacity building was conducted to develop the organizational structure of the unit in charge of implementing the GNHR; this included hiring and training staff, the official launch of the GNHR, and sensitization of high-level officials.
- An operational manual was designed along with training guidelines for case management and information updates to ensure that claims and complaints from citizens are heard, recorded, and resolved.



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



INDIA

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



REACHING OUT TO THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN URBAN INDIA

As the rural population moves to large urban areas, the design and delivery of social protection needs to be adapted to meet the needs of migrant households and workers in Indian cities. RSR funding is being used to assess the implementation of urban programs, specifically how beneficiaries are identified and targeted, and to pilot mechanisms to enhance social protection coverage of informal urban workers.

CHALLENGE

India has 53 cities each with a population of over 1 million, as well as some of the largest cities in the world. Around 429 million people—or nearly 33 percent of the total population—lived in urban India in 2015. Over the next 20 years, cities are expected to create 70 percent of all new jobs, and the urban population is expected to increase to 590 million by 2035.

Urban social protection has remained fairly neglected in India. Most national social programs are designed for a static and rural population, with limited policy and program attention devoted to adapting appropriate design and delivery mechanisms for identification, enrollment, and benefit transfers to more densely clustered, dynamic, and mobile populations in urban centers.

The urban poor are not a homogeneous group and are characterized by a greater degree of unpredictability of income and livelihood. Some informal urban jobs may be cyclical in nature and thus not tie workers to a particular place, which makes targeting of and outreach to this population extremely difficult.

APPROACH

The Pension Fund Regulatory Authority of India and the Ministry of Labor and Employment are attempting to strengthen social protection systems and delivery mechanisms for informal workers and other mobile populations in urban areas. In coordination with state governments, they administer a number of pension programs, whose performance has been constrained by ill-defined implementation

Population:

1.3 billion (2015)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$1,590 (2015)

RSR funding:

\$250,000

procedures, coverage lags, and unintentional limits to program entry, as well as many challenges impeding service delivery. The ministry is particularly interested in strengthening existing operational tools and broadening coverage of its Worker Welfare Funds and the National Pension Scheme. At present, Worker Welfare Funds are used to target and provide social protection to workers in the informal economy, but the extent of their performance—and the impact on the welfare of informal workers—is unknown. These funds are financed through a general tax on industries in which informal workers operate. The boards of these funds then register beneficiaries and bring them under cover for pensions and health insurance, and scholarships for children.

The RSR is helping assess social protection delivery to informal workers across the urban spectrum. This assessment will provide benchmarks on performance and tools currently in use by the Worker Welfare Funds, and determine the specific needs and vulnerabilities of the urban population these are intended to assist. The assessment will inform the design of future urban policies, as well as program reforms. To ensure that proposed administrative reforms are sustainable, replicable, and scalable, proposed identification, registration, and application processes, as well as payment delivery systems, are being piloted.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- A systematic analysis has been completed, which identifies bottlenecks faced by potential beneficiaries as they try to access available social protection platforms. Findings show high transaction costs for an informal worker, as there is a cumbersome application process and paperwork requirements. Such impediments may be excluding the most vulnerable and poorest populations.
- The analytic work suggests that the performance of the Worker Welfare boards has been poor. Currently, a large share of the funds remain unused; in 2013, 87 percent of funds were not utilized.
- An assessment of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of populations in Delhi, urban Himachal Pradesh, and urban Odisha is under way. Data collection will be completed later this year.
- The implementation arrangements used by the pension schemes have been reviewed, and various areas identified for increased coordination and cooperation between the Pension Fund Regulatory Authority and other pension sector stakeholders.
- Initial reports on benchmarking business processes have been completed. The findings highlight recommendations to improve enrollment procedures; these are being field tested in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Odisha. The series of pilots is meant to identify a replicable strategy for voluntary coverage among specific categories of unorganized workers.
- Pilots and concurrent evaluations are ongoing and are expected to provide the necessary confidence in the proposed strategy to improve coverage. Reports and results will be available in early 2017.

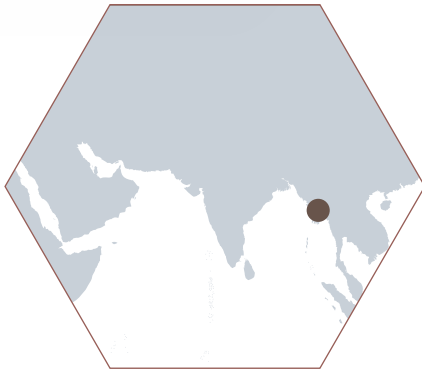


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



MYANMAR

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



WORKING TOWARD EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

As Myanmar emerges from decades of isolation, the RSR is helping generate evidence-based guidance and decision making in the social protection sphere, as well as weave new relationships with development partners. An RSR-supported policy dialogue has led both to a new social protection strategy and to needed improvements in implementing capacity to carry out reform.

CHALLENGE

Myanmar is in a vortex of economic, political, and social transformation. It is moving from a military regime to democratic rule, from armed conflict to peace, from an isolated economy to an open market system. This mix of reforms is paving the way for poverty-alleviating policies—but with decades of limited exposure to the international arena, the government has insufficient capacity to implement such reforms.

Additionally, detailed information is lacking on the nature and scope of the country's social protection needs. Limited evidence indicates that a large proportion of the population is poor and food insecure, that poverty is widespread, and that the majority of the poor—about 76 percent—live in rural areas. More than 25 percent of the population is estimated to live under the national poverty line, and Myanmar was ranked 150 out of 187 countries in the 2013 Human Development Index.

Though social protection is not a new concept in Myanmar, the sector is comprised of very small, underdeveloped programs. While studies indicate that Myanmar households are vulnerable to both economic and natural disaster risks, proper programs for coping with these risks are lacking. Nearly all poor households are excluded from social protection coverage, and rely on community-based coping mechanisms and fragmented donor assistance. Spending on social protection also remains very low, at 0.57 percent of gross domestic product (GDP); and social assistance expenditures only account for 0.02 percent of GDP—well below the 1–2 percent average in much of East and South Asia, and even in poorer Sub-Saharan African countries. Meanwhile, civil service pensions and social security, which mainly benefit the more privileged segments of the

Population:

51.5 million (2014)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$1,126 (2014)

RSR funding:

\$450,000

Partners:

International Labour Organization (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP), and several nongovernmental organizations

population, account for 0.55 percent of GDP. Developing the necessary building blocks of a social protection system in Myanmar requires gradual strengthening of institutional capacity while ensuring fiscal sustainability.

APPROACH

The government of Myanmar has laid out an ambitious reform agenda and called for an inclusive and comprehensive social protection system. The recently approved Rural Development Strategic Framework and the Social Protection Strategic Plan have helped put social protection and social assistance on the poverty agenda. RSR support is aimed at smoothing the transition from sporadic and fragmented donor programs to a more government-led approach and system. Building on the new reform momentum, RSR funds will help the government generate more and better information and an evidence base to drive policies and develop appropriate mechanisms of reaching the poor and vulnerable.

Through a social protection assessment, RSR technical assistance and analytical work have established a comprehensive understanding of the nature of social protection. The assessment identified existing social protection schemes, gaps in programs and coverage, and the actors involved; it also helped in formulating a strategic direction for the sector as a whole. Further, the assessment found that the best way to target beneficiaries was in phases, as capacity for implementation could then be developed simultaneously. The assessment identified community-driven development platforms as a viable vehicle for social protection delivery.

RSR funding supported the participation of several government officials in learning events and workshops. Exposure to international best practices will help build capacity as well as foster greater interaction and more engagement with development partners on the ground.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- RSR support created new and essential knowledge through a comprehensive social protection assessment documented in a series of technical notes. These, together with several technical workshops, have helped shape the government's new social protection strategic plan, and have informed reform of the social security and pension systems as well as implementation of the Rural Development Strategic Framework.
- Knowledge sharing has been facilitated between the World Bank and the ILO, an initiative that also led to increased agency coordination and less duplication of effort.
- Partnership and cooperation among the ILO, the WFP, and other nongovernmental organizations on the ground have been strengthened. The resulting technical discussions and joint collaboration helped inform the national dialogue.
- These efforts have helped prepare for the IDA Emergency Safety Nets Project.

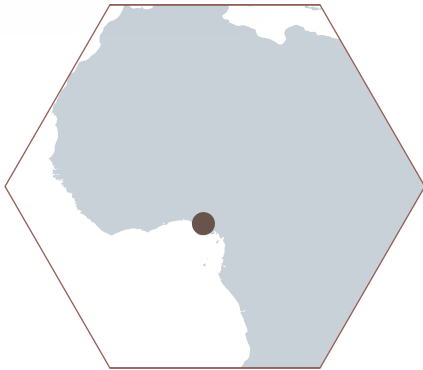


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



NIGERIA

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS

**Population:**

182 million (2015)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$2,820 (2015)

RSR funding:

\$350,000

Partners:

U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF

Associated IDA project:

Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (\$300 million, World Bank Project ID P126964)

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR AN EFFECTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

The RSR is helping Nigeria establish the building blocks for an effective social protection platform. Specifically, the grant supports development of a National Registry of Poor and Vulnerable Households, guidance tools, and a framework for a monitoring and evaluation system—all crucial components of systems building.

CHALLENGE

Nigeria has enjoyed significant growth over the last 20 years. Yet strong growth has not translated into reductions in poverty levels, and a large portion of the population still lives in extreme poverty. Nigeria is one of the biggest oil exporting countries in Africa. Despite diversification in its economy, it remains vulnerable to fluctuations in the price of oil. The grim economic outlook and plummeting oil prices have motivated the government to continue investment in social protection to help mitigate the effects of the economic slowdown on poor and vulnerable households.

During 2004–05, the federal government of Nigeria prepared a Social Protection Policy Note that proposed the introduction of several demand-side interventions. Most of these interventions were unsuccessful in producing significant decreases in poverty levels, mainly because of systemic weaknesses: poor targeting; and lack of coordination, an effective monitoring and evaluation system, and government ownership. As it stands, there are safety net programs spread around different ministries, departments, and agencies. Social protection in Nigeria is currently very fragmented and unable to face the challenge.

APPROACH

Recognizing program fragmentation and lack of harmony in the social protection systems at both federal and state levels, the Nigerian federal government has set out to harmonize social safety net interventions and develop an effective and coordinated system.



Associated IDA Project: Youth Employment and Social Support Operation

The Youth Employment and Social Support Operation is increasing access of youth from poor and vulnerable backgrounds to employment opportunities and social services, and strengthening the safety net system in support of the RSR grant. To date, eight participating states have completed the second round of data collection for the single registry, and three of the states are already conducting a third round. There are about 75,000 households and 260,000 individuals in the single registry.

The RSR grant will contribute to the overall effort to increase the coverage and improve the effectiveness of the various social safety net interventions. Through provision of technical assistance, the grant currently supports the development of (1) the National Registry of Poor and Vulnerable Households; (2) guidance tools for administrative tasks such as eligibility criteria, communications, and payments; and (3) a framework and tools for a monitoring and evaluation system.

Because Nigeria is one of the largest economies in Africa, implementation of planned support can serve as a springboard for increased cross-learning and validation of developed tools. RSR funds will also support a South-South learning event.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- A manual on community-based targeting was created with the support of the RSR and the IDA's Youth Employment and Social Support Operation. It has been published and adopted, and has informed two rounds of the data collection needed for registry development.
- The RSR supported the development of a single social registry of poor and vulnerable households in Nigeria, registering 10 states and consolidated at the federal level.
- The RSR grant has funded capacity-building efforts for transformation of the registry.
- The RSR supported study visits by selected government officials at the state and federal levels to programs in Tanzania, Pakistan, and Beijing. In-country cross-learning in partnership with DFID, UNICEF, and the presidency was also organized for sharing learning from the study visits and international as well as local experience on social protection programs.

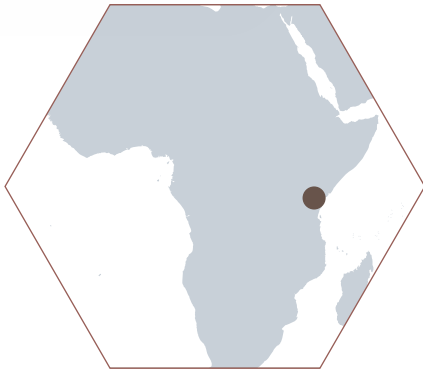


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



TANZANIA

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



OPERATIONALIZING THE TANZANIA PRODUCTIVE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

The RSR has played a fundamental role in achieving operationalization and massive expansion of Tanzania's safety net system, the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN). It now reaches around 6 million people. Lessons learned during this process and the good performance since have made the PSSN exemplary in cross-country learning.

CHALLENGE

Despite solid economic growth over the last decade, about a third of Tanzania's population remains poor and highly vulnerable. Poverty incidence remains very high, with about 47 percent of the population living on less than \$1.90 per day, and around 30 percent of population living under the national poverty line. Food insecurity is high and exacerbated by shocks, which reduce households' consumption, deplete their assets, and diminish their investments in human capital.

In 2014, the government of Tanzania decided to scale up the PSSN to support the entire population living in vulnerable to extreme poverty with the objective of reducing extreme poverty by half. The timeline for such a massive expansion was set to only two years. The scale-up plan identified that the program would need to be able to capture, manage, monitor, and maintain high-quality information about all the population living below the food poverty line. The program's administrative system would also have to be primed to gather and process the increased information on beneficiary compliance of conditionalities or effective participation in public works, along with a payments delivery system with the reach and infrastructure to guarantee bimonthly cash benefits on time and in a transparent manner. The expected risks inherent with rapid expansion also meant that the government of Tanzania would have to revamp its information and grievance systems.

APPROACH

The RSR contributed to developing, testing, and implementing the operational tools necessary to sustain the expansion of the PSSN to reach 1.2 million

Population:

53.5 million (2015)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$910 (2015)

RSR funding:

\$410,000

Associated IDA project:

Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net (\$220 million, World Bank Project ID P124045)

households. A comprehensive assessment was carried out after an initial round of household identification to inform the rest of the scale-up. This was followed by laying out a strategy for the use of information, communications, and technology (ICT) in the Tanzanian context.

The grant also allowed for enhancement of key operational tools, including the MIS, the single registry of beneficiaries, and a formal payment system. Such enhancements ensured that, among other considerations, the MIS collects timely information on beneficiary compliance. One of the biggest challenges the government faced in the PSSN expansion was collecting information for targeting and the registry. Technical assistance played a pivotal role in the design of a new targeting mechanism that uses a proxy means test. Lastly, a plan for a payment system that uses electronic payments in the form of mobile money, smart cards, or electronic funds transfer, was supported to guarantee that beneficiaries receive the intended payments.

Associated IDA Project: Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net

The Tanzania Productive Safety Net implemented by the TASAF is designed to protect the poorest and most exposed to shocks against destitution through complementary safety net interventions. By June 2016, it completed successfully the roll-out to 1.1 million households (close to 6 million people). A rigorous evaluation of the program has been completed. It shows that the project is reaching the people most in need, confirming the project is targeting the right beneficiaries. With support of donor partners, an electronic payment mechanism is being piloted.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- The initial assessment of the first 100,000 households identified limited ICT capacity, including connectivity, at the local authority level. An alternative strategy for centralized data collection was thus adopted, which proved effective. The RSR supported technical assistance for development and implementation of an ICT action plan that included improvements to the existing MIS and quality of data collection.
- Support was granted to the government in revising and implementing a well-performing targeting mechanism that relies on updated systematic tools, as well in developing a strategy to manage and update the beneficiary data entered into the registry.
- The benefit structure was revised to align it with the profile of beneficiaries—for example, by addressing the particular needs of older children who face higher opportunity costs in attending school.
- A grievance redress mechanism was established to ensure any grievances are properly categorized and channeled for resolution.
- An enhanced payment system was rolled out. The system is capable of delivering electronic payments to the community level with systematic spot checks, which provides evidence of minimal risks with no significant funds leakage or fraud.
- Due in part to RSR support, the PSSN successfully rolled out nationwide using high-quality, rigorous operational processes, while keeping pace with the tight time horizon. Because of the successful operationalization of these tools and systems and the transparency that they brought, PSSN was able to mobilize additional resources from donor partners and the World Bank



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



UGANDA

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

The RSR is helping Uganda strengthen implementation of social protection programs, while setting a path toward developing a sustainable social protection system. The funds supported the review of the Uganda Social Protection Policy, which lays out an implementation framework to ensure increased efficiency and coordination among different agencies.

CHALLENGE

Uganda has enjoyed two decades of strong economic growth and fiscal prudence, against which poverty rates have decreased significantly. However, stagnant inequality and the aftermath of conflict have kept large sectors of society vulnerable and in poverty. Social protection in Uganda has, until recently, been dominated by donor-funded programs that largely consist of food aid. Thus, there are gaps in coverage, duplication of efforts, and limited coordination among implementing agencies.

The Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) took the initiative to assess these issues by drafting a social protection policy. However, the evidence base to guide its implementation was thin. No previous comprehensive analysis had been carried out in the country on the design, implementation, or impact of potential or existing social protection programs.

Uganda’s National Development Plan 2010–2015 emphasizes the need for social protection for those unable to work or who lack basic resources. Nevertheless, without identifying best practices or lessons for the sector, implementing the policy runs the risk of expanding fragmented programs instead of catalyzing a cohesive social protection system.

APPROACH

Experience from a range of countries in Africa has demonstrated the vital role a comprehensive social protection review can play in setting the foundation for an

Population:

39 million (2015)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):

\$670 (2014)

RSR funding:

\$258,800

Partners:

U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF



effective social protection system. Such an assessment can lay out a strategic approach to implementing social protection policy by informing decisions on the mix of programs, their implementation modalities, as well as target groups.

With help from the RSR, the Uganda Social Protection Policy draft provides, for the first time, a clear framework for the sector. It was developed to ensure the effective coordination and implementation of interventions in the two pillars of social protection in Uganda: social security, and

social care and support services. An evidence-based roadmap for building the country's social protection system would inform implementation of this policy.

The Uganda Social Protection Sector review, overseen by a committee chaired by the MGLSD and stakeholders, aims to provide a broad perspective on the sector as well as in-depth analysis of specific areas. The review identifies policy and programmatic gaps, as well as areas to improve coordination, consolidation, and expansion as a basis for building a social protection system. Additionally, it includes considerations for labor programs and the role of social security and their potential interactions and linkages to existing programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- The sector review played a critical role in bringing together various sector stakeholders and developing a good working relationship. It also set forth explicit recommendations on enhancements needed for achieving a cohesive social protection system.
- The RSR-funded review allowed the government of Uganda to play a leading role in the process. The government published the Uganda Social Protection Sector Review, which informed the National Social Protection Policy launched in March 2016.
- Drawing on the sector review, the National Social Protection Policy will be operationalized through the Program Plan of Interventions. It articulates priority programs over the next five years and was submitted for approval alongside the National Social Protection Policy.



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



ZIMBABWE

SUPPORT TO NEW AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEMS



REVIVING THE SAFETY NET SYSTEM

The RSR grant aimed to help revive Zimbabwe’s social protection system, while bringing efficiency and international best practices to the sector. RSR funds also support a policy dialogue between the World Bank and Zimbabwe in the area of social protection, and better prepare both sides for a stronger reengagement going forward.

CHALLENGE

As a postconflict country looking to reengage with the international community, Zimbabwe has embarked on a series of reforms to revive its economy and tackle poverty. The challenges it faces today are the legacy of the long-standing economic and political turmoil that crippled the Zimbabwean economy for much of the past two decades. During that time, gross domestic product (GDP) declined by more than 90 percent, hyperinflation soared, and critical services—including health care and social services—deteriorated. Almost a quarter of the population (22 percent) suffered extreme poverty. Despite a strong economic rebound between 2009 to 2012 as the country and its institutions stabilized, the Zimbabwean economy recently experienced a drastic slowdown. Political instability, weather shocks, and trade deterioration resulted in a drop in growth rates, from an average of 8.7 percent during the 2009–12 period to 3.2 percent in 2014.

The social protection system remains heavily fragmented, with low implementation capacity. Data on social protection spending, coverage, and beneficiaries are scant. The latest available data indicate that 0.4 percent of GDP is allocated to safety net spending.

Years of isolation from the international community have led to limited aid availability, a lack of exposure to international best practices, and a damaging build-up of arrears with multilateral organizations. Nevertheless, with its vast natural resources and existing public infrastructure, the country has the potential to sustain growth and reduce poverty; realizing this potential will require a revival of its institutions, critical improvements in service delivery, and meaningful economic reforms.

Population:
14.2 million (2013)

GNI per capita, Atlas method (current \$):
\$860 (2014)

RSR funding:
\$250,000

Partner:
UNICEF



APPROACH

The government of Zimbabwe has shown a strong commitment to developing a national social protection strategy—and, through that, to improve and redesign its social protection system. To date, it has completed several policy frameworks to guide the design and implementation of such a system. But building a robust and sustainable one out of existing programs requires a harmonized and reliable targeting mechanism to identify the poorest and those most in need.

Technical assistance offered through RSR funding is supporting the government in the revival of its social protection system. Notably, it is buoying government efforts to develop a social protection strategy and create a harmonized targeting system and beneficiary registry for the country's main social safety net programs. These initiatives will lead to a more effective safety net system by eliminating duplication and ensuring a higher optimization of benefits to the poorest.

The RSR will also help introduce international best practices to the social protection arena in Zimbabwe, and help the government make the best decisions for programs and systems going forward.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- RSR funds helped prepare a National Social Protection Policy Framework, which will serve as the backbone for the upcoming social protection strategy and help bring coherence to the sector. The framework note will provide guidance to targeting and program harmonization, as well as to overall systems building.
- Financing from the RSR helped the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare review the existing targeting mechanism in place for the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) and align it with the Harmonized Cash Transfer Program in order to improve effectiveness. An operations manual for BEAM has been finalized.
- The RSR is supporting the government in improving and integrating its MISs and beneficiary database, so as to harmonize programs under one umbrella system.



THEME 2:
Increased Learning and Knowledge Sharing for
Social Protection Service Delivery



AFRICA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: Fostering Knowledge Exchange on Cash Transfers in Francophone Africa

RSR AND SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



AFRICA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

INCREASED LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICE DELIVERY



FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON CASH TRANSFERS IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

The RSR is supporting increased knowledge exchange among francophone countries in Africa through a community of practice (CoP), in order to generate more information on the implementation or scale-up of cash transfer programs. Practitioners from countries that have recently set up cash transfer programs can learn crucial lessons from established programs in countries that share a similar context.

CHALLENGE

The Africa CoP on Cash and Conditional Cash Transfers is an exchange platform to debate issues related to program design and implementation. It was launched in December 2011 to share in-depth technical information as well as knowledge drawn from lessons and experiences during the preparation and implementation of cash transfer programs.

The CoP has successfully provided cross-country horizontal cooperation. It has been deemed a valuable tool among country members, who were able to adapt and apply knowledge gained through the CoP in their own countries. It has also stimulated internal dialogue within countries on intersectoral aspects such as linkages of cash transfers to human development and productive income generation.

Although fruitful exchanges have already contributed to promoting discussions on key policy and operational challenges in creating social protection systems, in order to unlock the full potential of the learning space, the forum's scope needed to be widened to specifically include experiences in francophone contexts.

APPROACH

Following requests from several countries in West and Central Africa for an exchange platform in French, a francophone group was launched with support from the RSR by mid-2013. Since then, more countries have expressed an

RSR funding:
\$340,000

Countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo



interest in joining the group; the addition of Burundi and Comoros brings the current total to 18 member countries.

The RSR grant provides continuing support to the francophone Sub-Saharan Africa CoP on cash transfer and conditional cash transfer programs. During this second phase, the grant will allow access to a wider range of tools and literature in French to fill a wide information gap identified during the first year of the CoP. It will also allow for increased face-to-face events, as well as bilateral interactions for in-depth technical and operation-specific discussions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- The CoP has been accommodating new countries, and membership has increased from 11 countries to 18.
- Six videoconferences, two bilateral meetings, and seven face-to-face meetings have been held—the most recent in May 2016 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.
- The platform is continuously populated to facilitate country knowledge sharing of experiences.
- A few videos have been developed explaining how the CoP works and the benefits of joining, gathering experiences from a face-to-face meeting in Niger. A forthcoming video, developed during the latest meeting in the Republic of Congo, shows examples of rich discussions on intersectoral aspects.



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING

INCREASED LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICE DELIVERY



THE RSR AND SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING

In November 2015, the RSR supported the 6th South-South Learning Forum, Emerging Social Protection Systems in an Urbanizing World, in Beijing. The forum was a landmark event, convening more than 250 policy makers from 75 countries to discuss, share, and learn from emerging knowledge and practical innovations in the as-yet underexplored area of social protection in urban areas.

CHALLENGE

Today, worldwide, roughly 54 percent of the population lives in urban areas. Urbanization is a growing phenomenon, and developing at a growing rate, which brings forth both opportunities and challenges for development—in particular, protection of the poorest. While it is true that global poverty is declining, with the new urbanization trend, poverty challenges may be increasing in urbanized areas.

Having more than 180,000 people move to urban areas globally requires shifts in thinking and policy making. Such demographic swings test social protection systems—even more so in disaster-prone areas. While cities can provide more opportunities for human development, such influxes can strain existing systems (higher demand for jobs, housing, and services). Against this backdrop, social protection systems—and social safety nets in particular—can play a crucial, strategic role in identifying and supporting the urban poor. These provide a much-needed platform to reach those most in need, as well as linking them to jobs and services. The new urban agenda will also serve as an important pillar in activities related to fragility and disaster risk management.

APPROACH

The South-South Learning Forum was co-hosted by the World Bank Group and the government of China, specifically the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Beijing municipal government. Crucial support was provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the GIZ.



Why China?

- China represents the world's largest developing country with 1.3 billion people. Much of the world's population growth will occur here—as will most of the world's poverty.
- Unlike other experiences in SPL worldwide, China scaled up from urban to rural.
- Despite its enormous size, China has managed to develop a comprehensive social protection system for urban dwellers, including a minimum living wage guarantee; support for the extreme poor; postdisaster assistance; and medical, education, housing, and employment support. Seventy million people are covered by a range of such SPL instruments, countrywide.
- China has made great progress in delivering safety nets to the poorest in urban areas in a rapidly transforming context. As such, it was the perfect location for learning how to design and implement such SPL systems, with a particular focus on the Dibao Safety Net Program.

This forum provided a much-needed platform to share cross-country experiences and expand the dialogue on how to effectively deliver SPL services in a rapidly urbanizing context. Special emphasis was placed on operationalizing safety net programs and adapting them to these evolving issues. The mix of countries attending the event represented an array across the development spectrum—with diverse urbanization contexts and different state capacities—allowing for practical, real-world exchanges.

The format of the event allowed for a range of learning opportunities. It included plenary presentations centered on implementation and operational issues. These included urban institutional and financing arrangements, ways to connect social

safety nets to urban labor markets, basic social services, as well as urban development agendas. Interactive sessions provided participants with the opportunity to learn in a more informal manner, and helped foster strong networks and communities of practice beyond the event.

The forum included a one-day field trip to several locations within the Beijing municipality, which were served under China's urban Dibao program and other social assistance programs.





Thoughts on the Forum from Participating Ministers

- “This forum is very timely, with a topic that will affect everyone going forward, even though our poverty is concentrated in rural areas. The Benazir Income Support Program in Pakistan built a well-known ID system, and we hope this experience can be transferred to the countries we collaborated with during this event, and that their urbanized experiences can help us in our efforts, too.” —Marvi Memon, Minister of State and Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program, Pakistan
- “China’s experience is very interesting, as they scaled up in the opposite manner from most of us—from urban to rural. There is much to be learned, as our country continues to tailor programs to the urban agenda with a strong focus on resilience.” —Mekuria Haile Teklemariam, Minister of Urban Development and Housing, Ethiopia
- “This forum highlighted the dire challenges of urbanization, and we all have better ideas on how to prepare going forward. Lesotho has benefited from many other country experiences in shaping our social protection agenda, and now we’re also able to give advice thanks to this forum.” —Molahlahi Letlotlo, Minister of Social Development, Lesotho
- “Ideas, strategic decisions, what worked and what hasn’t, were all explored. As Nigeria is trying to put all social safety nets on one platform, the forum has helped us understand that the urban context needs to be part of the system as well going forward. It will help us the make right decisions.” —Maryam Uwais, Adviser to the Vice President, Nigeria
- “Social politics tends to be challenging regardless of the level of development. As we all experience new global urban challenges, it’s important to share experiences. We have different cultural, economic, and historical platforms, but the challenges are similar.” —David Sergeenko, Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Georgia





SPECIAL CHANNELS



GLOBAL: Disaster-Responsive Social Protection

GLOBAL: Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection

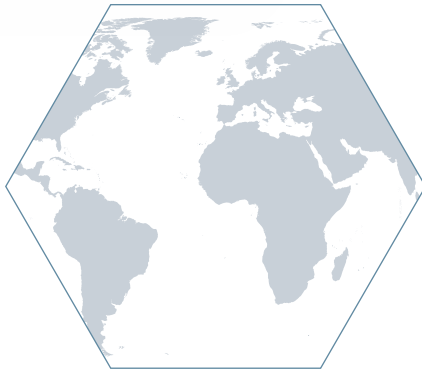


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



DISASTER-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Sometimes overlooked, their potential underestimated or misunderstood, social protection programs and systems can be adapted to help the vulnerable better weather natural disasters, directly intervening to assist those affected in recovering from their impacts.

TRENDS IN NATURAL DISASTERS

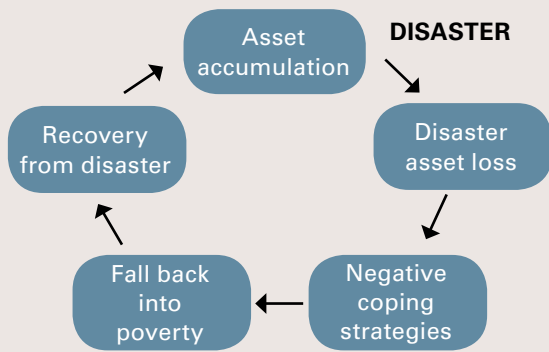
Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and severe, and they are affecting more people. When natural disasters strike, they ruin lives. In rapid-onset, sudden disasters like super-typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines in 2013 or the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, a person’s house, livelihood, and assets may be washed away or crumble in an instant. These tragic events often scar people psychologically through bereavement and shock, and can leave others physically disabled. They can fracture and displace entire communities, severing social and familial bonds and reversing years of investment in community facilities, infrastructure, schools, and hospitals. Slow-onset, creeping disasters like the 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa can be just as ruinous, making food scarce in countries where many may already be food poor and leading—in the worst instances—to famine and starvation. There has been a pronounced global trend toward more frequent and severe disasters of these sorts during the last two decades, and they are affecting more and more people (figure T3-1). This trend will only increase under the influence of climate change, making the need for increased resilience among vulnerable people more acute than it has ever been.

Figure T3-1: Number of Disasters and People Affected, 1980–2010



SOURCE: EM-DAT: The CRED/OFDA International Disaster Database; www.emdat.be.

Figure T3-2: Cycle of Poverty and Vulnerability Resulting from Disasters

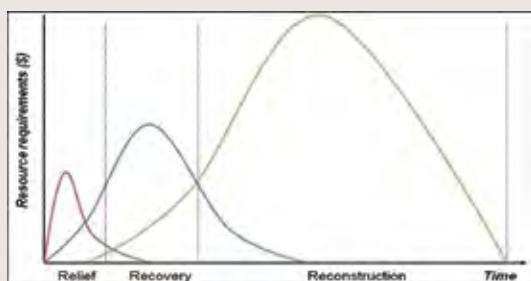


Disasters can undo years of development gains, with poor households typically the most vulnerable to their impacts. While natural disasters do not discriminate, poor and near-poor households are often more exposed to and disproportionately affected by their impacts. Limited savings and access to finance inhibit poor households' ability to respond to and recover from disasters. Moreover, traditional coping mechanisms provided by the family or the community may be overwhelmed by large, covariate shocks such as natural disasters. In such circumstances, poor households may be compelled to employ harmful strategies to cope with loss: they might take out high-interest loans that cannot be repaid, sell what productive assets they have left for immediate liquidity, or remove children from school so they can work for additional household income. Such shortsighted strategies can have a lasting and scarring effect on individuals, households, society, and the economy as a whole (figure T3-2).

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN DISASTER RESPONSE

Social protection can play a prominent role in helping people recover from rapid-onset disasters. After a typhoon, flash flood, or earthquake hits, first responders and humanitarians are on the scene to provide immediate, life-saving relief. The reconstruction period after a disaster is often similarly well covered, with a number of institutions—including the World Bank—working with governments to rebuild lost infrastructure a year or two after the event. However, between relief and reconstruction, there is often a lull in activity, during which the chronic needs of affected people are not well met. This recovery period marks a point in time where people's immediate life-saving needs (food, shelter, etc.) have largely been met after relief operations wind down, even though true reconstruction and a return to normality may be months or years away (figure T3-3).

Figure T3-3: Resource Requirements during the Relief, Recovery, and Reconstruction Phases Postdisaster



At this juncture, social protection can help meet the needs of affected people through myriad interventions that center on income and consumption support, psycho-social care, livelihood restoration and diversification, and community rehabilitation. Currently, the delivery of such services in response to disasters is characterized by ad hoc programs hastily established after a disaster. Implemented in this fashion, such programs can take time to be delivered, be lacking in transparency, and struggle for coordinated delivery. However, implementing similar interventions through pre-established social protection systems can increase their timeliness, coordination, efficiency, transparency, and accountability—all to the ultimate benefit of those who have been affected.

DISASTER-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION: THE RSR-GFDRR PARTNERSHIP

A review of existing social protection–disaster risk management (DRM) programs worldwide reveals a common thread of design and implementation parameters that ought to be established to make social protection more disaster responsive, including the following:

- Programs should have sufficient footprint, flexible design, and comprehensive service delivery systems in place ex ante.
- Appropriate and credible information (on livelihoods, meteorological data, etc.) should be available to determine the needed response, prepare adequately, and influence timely decision making.
- Established disaster risk financing arrangements should exist that govern disaster response.
- Institutional coordination and capacity should be in place to carry out disaster-responsive social protection programs.

To ensure these parameters are built into disaster readiness of SPL systems of client countries, the RSR has partnered with the GFDRR and, as of December 2015, channeled \$1.2 million from it to support activities in Jamaica; the Pacific Islands of Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu; and the Philippines. Two IDA-eligible countries—Dominica and Grenada—were also targeted to receive support for their disaster-responsive social protection agendas. The partnership has helped support a variety of activities in countries with varying degrees of SPL systems maturity, including the following (also see box T3-1).

- **Initiating a new dialogue on integrating SPL with DRM.** In Vanuatu, the RSR is helping initiate a new dialogue with the government on policy options for integrating SPL and DRM, given the country’s high levels of vulnerability.
- **Establishing the foundation of a merger between SPL and DRM through building blocks.** In Dominica and Grenada, the RSR-DR grant is helping the countries fortify their existing SPL systems and, at the same time, making them more responsive to disasters by strengthening core building blocks. Through analytics, capacity-building initiatives, and technical assistance (in conjunction with existing IDA programs), both countries will have the tools needed to strengthen their SPL systems and make them more responsive and efficient.
- **Strengthening government capacity for disaster preparedness and response through SPL.** In Fiji and Tonga,

Box T3-1: Strengthening Social Protection Systems to Manage Disaster and Climate Risk in Asia and the Pacific

The government of the Philippines and the World Bank hosted the first-ever global forum on Strengthening Social Protection Systems to Manage Disaster and Climate Risk in Asia and Pacific in November 2014 to capture lessons on how countries could better respond to natural disasters through robust social protection systems. The event, supported by the GFDRR and the RSR, convened experts and policy makers from 17 countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia and the Pacific.

The event was held in Manila, as countries in this region are among the most prone to disaster and climate risks, with devastating impacts on lives and livelihoods—especially for the poorest and most vulnerable. The Philippines has one of the most well-developed safety net programs in the world, which serve as a platform to quickly deliver assistance to the affected and vulnerable.

The message from the conference was clear: countries can respond to natural disasters better and assist victims faster if robust social protection systems are in place. Social protection systems have a big role to play in addressing the human side of disaster and climate risks. Having them in place before disaster strikes is critical to addressing livelihood losses with disaster.

the RSR-DR grant is helping the governments design SPL programs that are better able to help the poor and vulnerable postdisaster. With varying levels of maturity in their SPL systems, neither Fiji nor Tonga are currently utilizing their SPL systems in response to disaster. With RSR help, both countries will have more detailed analyses on financing options as well as support in program implementation.

In Jamaica, a similar grant will help make the existing Program for Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) program more disaster responsive. The flagship conditional cash transfer program's service delivery mechanisms have been used to provide cash and in-kind support to poor and vulnerable households postdisaster. To make service delivery even more effective and to be able to reach a larger number of affected people, the RSR-DR grant will help the government of Jamaica improve the design of delivery mechanisms and provide the necessary training for staff and beneficiaries.

- **Promoting stronger integration of risk financing and SPL.** In the Philippines, the RSR-DR project is centered on strengthening the government's ability to better protect poor and vulnerable households postdisaster. The social protection and welfare programs in the Philippines—delivered through the Department of Social Welfare and Development—have been at the frontline of disaster response, as witnessed after Typhoon Yolanda in 2013. Nevertheless, the potential for social protection to better assist those most in need during the response period after a crisis occurs has much potential for improvement. The grant will help assess the potential for introducing a scalable emergency cash transfer in the Philippines (which will replace some of the in-kind assistance) as well as an MIS to support such an important postdisaster program.

GOING FORWARD

SPL programs have the potential to build resilience among the population postdisaster. Key elements of SPL programs—including targeting and enrollment, financing, payments, and so on—have the potential to incorporate ex ante mechanisms that can lower the vulnerability of already poor households (or those that may become poor after disasters strike), minimize the costs of delivering systematic response to those most in need, and even prevent more protracted social and economic crises.

The RSR-GFDRR partnership has fortified the new collaboration between SPL and DRM—an agenda that is attracting much attention in development frontiers. The RSR itself, originally conceived as a crisis response program, is well aligned to continue its engagements in disaster-responsive SPL. Indeed, through its partnership with the GFDRR, the RSR can help take this agenda forward through catalytic investment in disaster-responsive social protection systems. Specifically, it can engage in this agenda through knowledge products that help expand the growing but still limited body of knowledge on disaster-responsive SPL, as well as through technical assistance on systems development and adaptation in line with the four parameters outlined above.

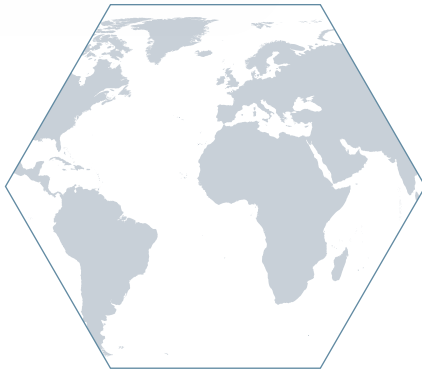


RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



NUTRITION-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Nutrition-sensitive RSR grants can support work in middle-income countries, and aim to influence nutrition through improvements to SPL systems. NS-RSR grants can fund stand-alone activities or work that adds a nutrition-sensitive lens to World Bank Group SPL country projects.

IMPLICATIONS OF NUTRITION FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

An estimated 45 percent of deaths of children under age 5 are linked to malnutrition (Black and others 2013), and globally almost 2 billion people suffer from some form of malnutrition (IFPRI 2016). While poorer countries may exhibit greater rates of undernutrition (too little food and nutrients), malnutrition as a whole affects countries all over the world (as noted, for example, in the executive summaries of both IFPRI 2016 and Shrimpton and Rokx 2012), and can affect the health and labor profiles of middle- and high-income countries. Whether undernutrition or overnutrition (too much of the wrong food), the impacts can range from poor physical and cognitive development among vulnerable children, to reduced capacity to work and increased health care costs for individuals. When both under- and overnutrition are present in a country—which is not unusual (see IFPRI 2014, chapter 4), the economy may feel the impacts of the “double burden of malnutrition,” and governments will have to tame a two-headed beast that starts as a health concern but can affect labor, safety nets, government services, and national expenditures. In short, malnutrition is a human capital challenge that cuts across all economies and layers of the population.

EMERGING THEMES IN NUTRITION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Working across sectors does not come naturally. The NS-RSR window supports critical connections between nutrition and other disciplines in a way that can lead to meaningful policy change. The current suite of grants (table T3-1) provides a window into the shared needs across countries that are revealed once a team applies a nutrition-sensitive lens.

Multisectoral collaboration. Four of the NS-RSR teams find common ground by involving multiple ministries and institutions in policy planning and

Table T3-1: Current NS-RSR Grant Portfolio

YEAR	GRANT	OBJECTIVES	BUDGET (\$)
FY16	Enhancing Public Food Delivery Systems as a Safety Net	(1) Review the role of public food distribution systems (PFDS) as part of the national safety net; (2) understand factors that affect the design of PFDS programs across studied countries and their reforms over time; (3) document selected aspects of current design and implementation.	350,000
FY16	Support the Strengthening of the Mexico SP System and its Focus on Wellbeing, Nutritional Status, and Food Security	(1) Inform policy reforms that can increase the coverage and effectiveness of the social protection system in Mexico; (2) document important results and lessons from Mexico to inform other policy dialogues.	380,000
FY16	Armenia Social Inclusion and Activation	Improve the targeting of social safety nets and enhance the contribution of the social assistance system in identifying and reducing malnutrition.	380,000
FY17	Strengthening the Social Protection System in Botswana to Contribute to the Eradication of Food Poverty	Support the development of a nutrition-sensitive social protection system through development of key reforms and tools.	340,000
FY17	Improving Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection in Ecuador	Support the government of Ecuador to increase the impact of the social protection system on reducing chronic malnutrition through (1) enhancing the coordination of programs and benefits, and (2) strengthening coordination with the health sector.	302,250
	Maharashtra State, India	Forthcoming	Forthcoming

implementation. For instance, a project in Armenia was able to bring the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to consensus around three shared priorities that bridge nutrition and social protection: (1) gathering evidence on multisectoral program impacts, (2) training social workers to identify malnutrition, and (3) establishing monitoring and evaluation methods that assess social protection program impact on nutrition outcomes. In Ecuador, the NS-RSR grant supports the Ministry of Economic and Social Development in fulfilling a presidential mandate to redesign and improve the country’s nutrition strategy, which also involves the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, among others. Whether providing a new space for dialogue or supporting a pre-existing mandate to build multisectoral capacity, the NS-RSR window allows key policy players to come together.

South-South exchange. NS-RSR grants offer a means to take advantage of shared experience in several ways. For example, the team in Armenia is building on a learning visit by the Ministry of Labor to Brazil to hear about its Zero Hunger program, and Ecuador is looking to translate policy elements that contributed to

Peru’s dramatic reduction in stunting among children into useful approaches in its own context.

In addition to these country-country examples, the NS-RSR window is supporting a global knowledge-sharing effort—Enhancing Public Distribution Systems as a Safety Net grant—that highlights lessons in public food distribution systems across the world. Working with authors from India, Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and the United States, this NS-RSR team is scanning nations of all income levels and nutrition situations to directly compare and contrast decisions made around in-kind food support to vulnerable families. The project will result in a book that is the first of its kind in terms of scope. Early workshops are showing how many poverty programs have evolved incrementally to take on food and nutrition components—essentially becoming public food distribution systems over time.

Governance. Nutrition-sensitive approaches are more likely to stick if they become owned and monitored by governments. Mexico is using an NS-RSR grant to contribute to a culture of evidence-based policy making, and pilot ways to establish causality among complex multisectoral programming. The World Bank team is drawing on both international and national experts to accomplish this work, together building a system that can be taken over by government officers as they oversee massive national programs such as PROSPERA and the National Crusade Against Hunger (Crusada Nacional Contra el Hambre). In Botswana, the NS-RSR is helping the Ministry of Local Governance and Rural Development understand how national policies can incorporate both nutrition and social protection programs as complementary services, and help drive the country’s Vision Beyond 2016. With an eye toward improving return on investment for social safety net spending, the grant in Botswana supports the ministry in identifying program coherence and justifying its budget decisions.

INTEGRATED APPROACHES

Good programs of any kind require both individual demand and quality supply in order to be effective. In several cases, NS-RSR teams are making these critical links for nutrition-sensitive initiatives and ensuring an integrated approach. In Ecuador, experience from the recently completed *Cresciendo con Nuestra Guaguas* program shows it is possible to achieve a suite of multisectoral successes: increase awareness of the importance of child growth through social protection programs, improve nutrition counseling techniques, and promote higher-quality monitoring and evaluation tools for those services. Now, an NS-RSR grant is supporting scale-up of the *Cresciendo* experience, looking to expand improvements in the provision of nutrition services and inform budget allocations at the national level. In Armenia, an NS-RSR team began with a plan to address demand for growth monitoring services, but quickly found that supply—that is, the quality of the services provided—was the more critical issue. It has since pivoted to reduce the administrative load on social workers and train them as touch points for nutrition education, while simultaneously looking at the quality of

cooking demonstrations, growth monitoring, and other key services overseen by the Ministry of Health.

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Social protection as a sector stands out for its focus on targeting pro-poor services toward vulnerable populations, as well as using social registries to track access, use, and impact. NS-RSR grants are taking advantage of these strengths by upgrading hardware and moving toward registries that track use of government services across both social protection and nutrition. In Armenia, the government is reviewing its methods to identify who receives social safety net benefits, looking to target the most vulnerable households that are at greater risk of malnutrition. The NS-RSR team is supporting these efforts by providing a suite of policy options based on household data and new surveys and facilitating an informed choice of what works in the Armenian context. In Botswana, the Ministry of Local Governance and Rural Development is upgrading its social registry database in order to track not only social safety net use, but also the use of food supplementation programs that target nutritionally vulnerable women and children. The upgrades require coming to multisectoral consensus on which programs should be tracked, what type of information to include, and even the hardware and software that is a best fit for Botswana. At a more individual level, Ecuador is exploring the use of nutrition-focused text messages that both educate and drive demand for services promoted through the NS-RSR grant.

COMING TO COHERENCE

What stands out across all NS-RSR grants is the act of taking critical steps toward coherence—aligning separate programs, policies, people, and technology. In an era when budgets are tight at all levels, whether in IDA or IBRD countries, finding common ground and leveraging (for example) sophisticated safety net targeting formulas to help identify those in need of growth monitoring and nutritional counseling is the type of effort that makes good fiscal sense. NS-RSR teams such as that in Armenia find that sitting down with government counterparts and describing the areas of overlap between the sectors is a significant step in itself, and often allows them to consider more holistic approaches to human capital, good health, and good nutrition across generations.

WHAT'S NEXT

The NS-RSR is allowing World Bank teams to support the nutrition-sensitive social protection agenda. There is still more ground to cover, and the NS-RSR mechanism is positioned well to respond. The following themes are likely areas of entry for new projects.

- **1000 Days.** This rallying cry of the public health nutrition world is likely to continue being integrated with social protection targeting systems. Sources

such as the 2013 *Lancet* series on maternal and child nutrition point to the period from the first day of pregnancy to a child's second birthday as a critical time for development (*Lancet* 2013), when human capital may become locked in for the rest of a child's life.

- **Measuring impact on nutrition.** Part of the work in the Mexico NS-RSR grant is to establish a system able to tease out the independent effects of different policies and programs on nutrition. This is a complicated task from a monitoring and evaluation perspective, and future grants can continue to support the development of appropriate methods and indicators to assess multisectoral impact.
- **Maintaining collaboration.** In cases such as Armenia, NS-RSR grants may be allowing a country to work on nutrition across ministries for the first time. These interactions provide the building blocks for multisectoral and nutrition-sensitive work, but represent a significant shift in approach and even mind-set toward collaboration. Future rounds of grants can build on such groundwork, and will require continued investment to establish nutrition sensitivity as a norm.
- **Behavior change communication (BCC).** Nutrition and social protection find a programmatic intersection around BCC. Conditional cash transfers can encourage use of government services such as growth monitoring, or find ways to include individual or small-group counseling approaches that address nutrition knowledge, attitudes, and practices. BCC is a common challenge in improving nutrition and an area that can be included in NS-RSR grants.

These and other themes will continue to drive the NS-RSR as a mechanism that brings a nutrition-sensitive lens into the SPL arena. The cohort of grantees will make for a natural knowledge network to further South-South exchange, and together create a supportive grant system that will grow even more effective over time.





**RSR Project Portfolio and
Associated IDA Projects, 2010–15**

RSR Project Portfolio (as of December 31, 2015)

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
AFRICA				
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Angola: Systemic Support to Social Protection in Angola. Contributes to strengthening the social protection system by enhancing the government's capacity to design and implement social protection programs, strengthening coordination and institutional linkages among the multiple government institutions, and designing a graduation model	450,000	Sept 15– March 17	Active
	Benin: Building a Common National Targeting and Registry System for Cash Transfers, Public Works, and Other Safety Net Interventions. Supported the government of Benin in developing a national beneficiary targeting and registry system that can be used across multiple social protection and health programs	275,000	August 2013– June 2015	Closed
	Burkina Faso: Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises. Supported the development and implementation of a cash transfer program and a feasibility study of a public works program to support the poor and vulnerable	500,000	April 2010– June 2015	Closed
	Burundi: Supporting Evolution toward a Coordinated Social Protection System. Assisted a gradual move from fragmented social protection programs to a coordinated system through feasibility assessments, support to program implementation, and South-South learning	400,000	August 2014– August 2015	Closed
	Cameroon: Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises. Supported an inventory and analysis of the country's social safety nets, and piloted a cash transfer program	550,000	March 2010– December 2013	Closed
	Cameroon: Support to Building Productive Safety Nets. Supported the development of a productive social protection system in Cameroon including strengthening the design of safety net programs and including approaches to linking program beneficiaries to the labor market and to productive activities	250,000	April 2014– November 2015	Closed
	Comoros: Strengthening Social Protection in Comoros. Supported the government in improving social protection policy coordination and safety net program implementation	410,000	February 2015– October 2016	Closed
	Congo–Brazzaville: LISUNGI–Safety Nets System. Supported building blocks of a consolidated national safety nets system and an impact evaluation of the LISUNGI cash transfer pilot program	350,000	January 2014– November 2015	Closed
	Cash Transfers: Design for Scaling Up in Sub-Saharan Africa. Provided technical assistance to improve and scale-up existing cash transfer programs in Angola, Benin, Lesotho, Mali, Tanzania, and Zambia	391,874	May 2012– June 2013	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Côte d'Ivoire: Assessing the Impact of Crises on Human Capital and Laying the Foundations for an Effective Social Safety Net System. Provided technical assistance to investigating the aggregate and distributional impact of recent crises on the country's human capital, and made specific policy recommendations to better respond to future crises	300,000	November 2011–December 2013	Closed
	Democratic Republic of Congo: Support to Establishing a National Social Protection System. Strengthened the framework for social protection and the establishment of a national social protection system through capacity building of social protection actors and mapping of SPL interventions	350,000	April 2014–March 2016	Closed
	Ghana: Building a Common Targeting Registry for Ghana's Social Protection System. Building on previous support from RSR, this grant supported the government of Ghana in establishing a national common targeting system to scale up Ghana's main safety net program (Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty—LEAP) and the National Health Insurance Scheme	450,000	February 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Ghana: Cash-Transfers Designed and Brought to Scale. Helped to upgrade the design of the country's cash transfer programs with a view to develop a common targeting mechanism for all safety net programs in the country	181,322	April 2010–June 2012	Closed
	Guinea: Strengthening Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises. Provided technical assistance, including a feasibility study and capacity building to help create a safety net system that can respond effectively to crises	400,000	July 2011–September 2014	Closed
	Guinea Social Protection Safety Nets Strategy. Supported the government's request to elaborate a national social protection policy and strategy document	400,000	March 2015–September 2016	Closed
	Guinea-Bissau: Laying the Foundations for a Social Protection System. Supported the government in laying the foundations of a social protection system capable of effectively responding to current crises and future shocks	383,500	February 2015–October 2016	Closed
	Kenya: Developing and Strengthening the Kenya Social Protection System. Helped the government enhance the single registry for social protection, develop common program targeting mechanisms, and design program graduation mechanisms	415,250	August 2013–May 2015	Closed
	Kenya: Social Protection Interventions. Supported the government of Kenya in its effort to bring about a systemic change of the social protection system, and deliver more tangible and sustainable results for vulnerable people	144,891	March 2010–December 2012	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Kenya: Support to the Government for Social Protection Programming. Supported the government in strengthening its response to the recent crisis through increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of ongoing social protection interventions	1,147,853	July 2010–September 2013	Closed
	Kenya: Support to the Internship Program of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance. Supported the IDA Youth Empowerment Project in its efforts to increase access to youth-targeted temporary employment programs and to improve youth employability	585,000	September–December 2012	Closed
	Lesotho: Developing the Strategy and Building Blocks for a Social Protection System. Supports the government in developing a social protection strategy and laying some of the fundamental building blocks of a social protection system, such as targeting, beneficiary registry, and coordination among programs	250,000	May 2014–November 2015	Active
	Lesotho: Social Safety Net Review. Improved the existing safety net to better protect the poor and vulnerable under crisis by analyzing the efficiency of current social safety net programs in reaching out to the most vulnerable, and developing policy reform options and guidance	137,123	November 2011–May 2013	Closed
	Liberia: Development of a Crisis Response Social Protection Strategy and Capacity. Funded a Social Protection Diagnostic Report, which was a critical first step in the development of a coordinated and comprehensive social protection strategy that forms an integrated part of the human development pillar of the country's poverty reduction strategy	288,275	November 2010–March 2012	Closed
	Liberia: Improving Employment of Vulnerable Youth. Provided an analysis and technical assistance to the government on how to prioritize and sequence employment programs targeting vulnerable youth	239,566	November 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Liberia: Developing National Social Protection Delivery Systems. Supports the government in establishing key building blocks for a basic national safety system and strengthening coordination and administrative processes	450,000	August 2015–April 2017	Active
	Madagascar: Developing Madagascar's Safety Net System. Helps to advance the social protection policy dialogue and develop innovative safety net approaches to address the needs of the poorest population	441,000	February 2014–November 2015	Active
	Mauritania: Improving Safety Nets Programs. Helps the government improve targeting, prepare a single registry for safety nets programs, and develop a feasibility assessment for a national cash transfer	150,000	September 2013–June 2015	Active

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Mozambique: Developing the Building Blocks for Effective Crisis Response. Supported the development of labor-intensive public works in 10 arid and semi-arid rural and 2 urban areas to address the country-specific dynamics of poverty and improve food insecurity; helped set the direction of the new national public works program by developing and testing criteria for selecting beneficiaries, determining the level of transfers, and ascertaining the types of eligible public works	1,554,074	March 2012–December 2012	Closed
	Mozambique: Building Gender-Sensitive Social Protection and Labor Systems through Soft Public Works. Supports and expands the emerging social protection system by piloting a gender-sensitive, inclusive safety nets mechanism that provides temporary income support to extremely poor individuals, mainly women, while delivering social and community services to vulnerable groups in underserved rural and urban areas	1,000,000	March 2015–May 2017	Active
	Nigeria: Strengthening Social Safety Net. Provided technical assistance to improve the design of the IDA-supported Social Safety Net program	399,686	July 2011–December 2012	Closed
	Nigeria: Developing National Social Protection Platform. Supported the development of a comprehensive national platform for an effective safety net program, including a common targeting system, harmonized eligibility criteria, guidelines for a payment system, and a monitoring and evaluation system	430,000	February 2015–October 2016	Closed
	Regional: Support to Coherent Pension Policy and Improved Pension Delivery in Africa. Provides policy makers with the information and international experience required to formulate more equitable old age income security policies as well as with tools to allow program administrators to improve delivery of pensions	310,000	January 2014–November 2015	Active
	Regional: Building and Sharing Knowledge to Support Identification Systems in Africa. Aims to produce and share public goods and knowledge that will help countries in Africa in their efforts to build robust identification and birth registration systems leading to an increased share of the population possessing robust legal identity	410,000	September 2015–April 2017	Active
	Regional: Support to Africa SP System Development	300,000	January 2014–June 2015	Closed
	Social Protection and Labor Systems in Rwanda: Operationalizing the Vision. Supported the government of Rwanda to improve effectiveness of its social protection system by moving from a focus on policy formulation to the design and implementation of key service delivery systems	450,000	May 2014–November 2015	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Rwanda: Technical Assistance for Stronger Social Safety Nets. Provided technical assistance to improve existing social protection programs' ability to protect vulnerable households in times of crisis, and boosted the programs' capacity to scale-up interventions and absorb more funds when the need arises	2,086,048	April 2010–December 2013	Closed
	São Tomé and Príncipe: Building Blocks for Social Protection System. Created the basic blocks for a social protection system by enhancing the government's understanding of vulnerability and risk vis-à-vis the existing supply of safety net interventions, and developing key operational tools to reach the poorest with selected safety net programs	325,000	April 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Senegal: Developing a Unified and Effective Safety Net. Supported the development of a comprehensive and efficient social protection system including a unified set of design parameters such as targeting mechanisms, a registry system, payment methods, and a management information system	217,563	September 2010–June 2014	Closed
	Senegal: Developing Senegal Safety Net System. Supported the design of a responsive safety net system in connection with the government's launch of the Food Security Program (Programme de bourse de sécurité alimentaire)	300,000	December 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Senegal: Developing National Social Protection Delivery Systems. Aims to carry out an assessment of public works programs and develop a time-bound action plan to design and implement new programs, and strengthen the SPL system and coordination through active engagement of government institutions and other stakeholders	75,000	August 2015–April 2017	Active
	Sierra Leone: Developing Sierra Leone's Social Protection System through Common Targeting Mechanisms. Supported the establishment of a common targeting system, a critical step in the consolidation of the country's social programs into a robust social protection system	300,000	January 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Sierra Leone: Social Safety Net Support. Provided a diagnostic of sources of poverty and vulnerability and made recommendations to improve the design, effectiveness, and sustainability of the major safety net interventions, with a view to move from an ad hoc emergency focus to a longer-term programmatic focus on national systems	299,985	July 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Social Protection Design and Implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Supported the development of cash transfer programs; depending on the country situation, areas for support included design for scaling up, specifics of targeting, design of enrollment and identification of beneficiaries, payment systems, control and accountability mechanisms, monitoring system, and management information systems	95,827	April 2010–April 2012	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Sudan: Strengthening Safety Net Programs. Strengthens the effectiveness and responsiveness of social protection interventions by improving the implementation and coordination of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security’s Social Support Program, builds the foundations for a common targeting system, and develops cash for work for poor and conflict-affected regions	400,000	February 2015– October 2016	Active
	Tanzania: Enhancing Crisis Response for the Most Vulnerable Children and Elderly Poor. Worked to improve household practices and engender sustainability of livelihoods of the current Community-Based Conditional Cash Transfer beneficiaries; following some implementation issues, part of the grant was canceled	626,136	July 2011– September 2012	Closed
	Tanzania: A Systems-Based Approach for Operationalizing the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net. Developed a strategy for using information and communication technology for expanded outreach and greater impact as well as enhancing key operational tools including the management information system, the single registry of beneficiaries, and the formal payment system	410,000	April 2014– November 2015	Closed
	Togo: Promoting Innovative Crisis-Response Social Protection. Financed a rigorous impact evaluation of the new public works project and provided technical assistance to the government in implementing and monitoring the national social protection strategy	283,806	November 2010– September 2012	Closed
	Togo: Support to Social Safety Net Development. Helped the country move toward an integrated national system for social protection by providing technical assistance to the development of a cash transfer program and improving the design of existing programs	220,000	November 2011– December 2013	Closed
	Uganda Social Protection Sector Review. Supported the development of a social protection system through an analysis of poverty, risk, and vulnerability as well as a detailed analysis of existing social safety programs	258,800	December 2013– December 2014	Closed
	Youth Employment in Africa: The Skill Development-Labor Demand Conundrum. Identified and analyzed programs that improve employability and earnings among youth and reduce their vulnerability and risky behavior—knowledge that improves the design of labor-market interventions	93,719	March 2010– April 2012	Closed
	Zambia: Development of Integrated Management Information System and Single Registry of Beneficiaries. Supported the government in strengthening its social protection system by developing a policy framework and building management information systems and a single registry to allow robust identification of beneficiaries	1,400,000	December 2013– December 2015	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Zimbabwe Productive Safety Net: Pilot Public Works Project. Helped the government of Zimbabwe to improve its national public works program to bolster the resilience of vulnerable families and communities	1,084,868	March 2011–February 2013	Closed
	Zimbabwe: Revival of Social Protection System. Assisted the government in the development of a social protection strategy and creation of a harmonized targeting system and beneficiary registry for the main social safety net programs in the country	250,000	February 2014–February 2016	Closed
SHARING KNOWLEDGE	Cash Transfers and Conditional Cash Transfers in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Community of Practitioners. This community of practice brought together officials and practitioners from Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Niger to exchange experiences, resources, and learning on conditional cash transfers	449,805	June 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Community of Practice of Cash Transfers and Conditional Cash Transfers to Support Countries in the Consolidation of Social Protection and Labor Systems. Supported participating countries in their process of launching or scaling-up unconditional and conditional cash transfer programs as a core pillar in the consolidation of SPL systems	450,000	August 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Experience of Cash-for-Work in Liberia and Togo. This activity built on the experience of the Liberia Cash for Work Project and assisted Togo's government in identifying key issues and success factors for a new public works intervention	88,699	April 2010–February 2012	Closed
	Informal Safety Nets in Eastern and Southern Africa. Supported the preparation of three case studies in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Côte d'Ivoire to elucidate the interplay between formal and informal safety nets	118,116	February 2010–April 2012	Closed
	Africa Community of Practice on Cash Transfer for Francophone Countries in the Region. Broadened and deepened the results of the francophone Sub-Saharan Africa Community of Practice on cash transfer programs in member countries	340,000	January 2015–October 2016	Closed
	Social Safety Nets System: Administrative Toolkit Development and Regional Workshop. Supports the improvement of SPL systems through the development and application of: (1) tools for measuring and evaluating current systems, (2) SPL-specific questionnaires to improve household survey indicators, and (3) sharing knowledge within the region	450,000	October 2014–June 2015	Active
	Benin and Malawi: Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Design, Implement, and Monitor Nutrition Security Programs. Worked to enhance the two countries' ability to respond to—and mitigate—the nutritional impact of economic and climate-related shocks	375,770	July 2011–June 2013	Closed
PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES				

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Ethiopia: Strengthening the Early Warning System. Provided technical support to the development and implementation of an early warning system for malnutrition; the project complemented the IDA-supported Nutrition Project	1,014,091	January 2011–December 2013	Closed
	The Gambia: Rapid Response Nutrition Security Improvement Project. Strengthened the capacity of the National Nutrition Agency to develop a community-driven approach to nutrition, and provided technical assistance to the development of an updated nutrition policy and strategic plan for implementation	3,150,623	January 2011–July 2013	Closed
	Lesotho: Estimating the Impact of Economic Crises on Education and Skills Development. Collected and analyzed data to help the government better target education and labor market policies to help youth and vulnerable groups during economic crises	229,442	April 2010–December 2012	Closed
	Madagascar: Assessing Negative Effects of the Political Crisis and Protecting Access to Essential Health and Nutrition Services. Provided technical assistance to ensure continuous and effective health and nutrition service delivery in stable times and when crises hit	397,900	June 2011–September 2012	Closed
	Madagascar: Development of Tools to Monitor and Mitigate the Effect of Crises on Out-of-School Children. Supported a diagnosis of the effects of economic and political crises on children and devised appropriate mechanisms to protect vulnerable children's access to basic education	449,770	November 2011–March 2013	Closed
	Malawi: Protecting Early Childhood Development. Supported the government in the design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to increase access to—and the quality of—9,000 community-based child care centers across the country	2,182,341	April 2011–November 2012	Closed
	Mali: Piloting Effective Early Childhood Development Services. Assisted in the government's crisis response by developing cost-effective early childhood development services for vulnerable children in rural areas	1,976,234	October 2010–December 2013	Closed
	Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo: Operations and Capacity Development for Nutrition. Strengthened awareness of the need to improve capacity to implement nutrition interventions at scale	50,617	February 2010–April 2012	Closed
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC				
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Assessing Myanmar's Social Protection and Labor System and Designing Policy and Program Options for the Future. Used the Social Protection Assessment of Results and Country Systems (SPARCS) framework to identify strategic direction and appropriate instruments to build resilience and promote equity and opportunity; the grant also focuses on building the capacity of government to develop SPL policies, design appropriate programs, and build an effective system for delivery	450,000	February 2014–September 2015	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Cambodia: Developing the Components of a National Social Protection System. Puts in place elements of a social protection system through technical assistance for the implementation of a cash transfer program; these elements can then be scaled-up to help develop a comprehensive social protection system	250,000	November 2014–December 2016	Active
	Making Social Protection Systems Responsive to Natural Disasters in East Asia and the Pacific. Strengthened the capacity of governments across the region to adapt social protection programs and systems to mitigate disaster risks ex ante, improve coping strategies, and better respond to natural disasters and extreme climate conditions	450,000	December 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Mongolia: Building a More Efficient Social Protection System. Improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's social assistance system by recommending strategies to consolidate the country's fragmented social assistance system and by building an integrated information technology system that can serve as an information platform to manage all categorical and proxy-means tested social assistance programs in the country	265,000	June 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Monitoring and Evaluation for Mongolia Social Welfare Programs. Helped to develop an alternative to the current social security scheme and developed a savings program for herders and others involved in the informal sector, as well as a social security reserve fund	67,787	February 2010–February 2012	Closed
	Papua New Guinea: Ensuring Effective Monitoring and Evaluation and Social Accountability for the Urban Youth Employment Project. Strengthened the government's capacity to implement and evaluate the impacts of an IDA-supported youth employment project that aims to increase the aspirations and future earnings of 17,500 urban disadvantaged youth	296,590	January 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Timor-Leste: Strengthening Social Safety Nets Institutions. Strengthened the delivery of social assistance through a diagnosis of existing payment systems and options for alternative systems, and helped establish a management information system in the Ministry of Social Solidarity to facilitate monitoring and evaluation	87,811	January 2010–October 2014	Closed
	Timor-Leste Social Protection Administration Project. Supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity in building a standardized information management system that integrates beneficiary information across different database systems and identifies beneficiaries uniquely and strengthening the government's capacity to improve delivery of cash transfer programs	2,205,721	March 2011–October 2014	Closed
	Vietnam: Strengthening the Social Protection System. Supported the government in strengthening the social protection system through consolidation of overlapping programs and modernization of management and delivery systems, in addition to building the capacity of government to develop more effective social assistance and social insurance systems	450,000	February 2015–November 2016	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
SHARING KNOWLEDGE	Implementing Social Protection Programs: Asia Learning Forum. The event took place in Bangalore, India, in September 2012 with the participation of social policy practitioners from 19 countries and focused on the administration and implementation aspects of social protection programs	436,711	November 2011– May 2013	Closed
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA				
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Albania: A Functional Review of the Administrative Processes of Nhdima Ekonomike. A stocktaking of the country's main poverty program's administrative architecture and its operational aspects, functional responsibilities, and institutional capacity	49,846	December 2009– December 2012	Closed
	Rapid Assistance to Improve Social Safety Nets in Kyrgyzstan in the Face of Energy Tariff Reforms. Supported the Agency for Social Protection in reforming its social safety nets so that vulnerable families with children have better access to programs and are less harmed by increases in energy prices	59,660	March 2010– February 2012	Closed
	Kyrgyz Republic: Roadmap for Improving Social Safety Net Administration and System Building. Supported the efforts of the Ministry of Social Development to design and implement a roadmap for social protection; the grant catalyzes the switch from isolated social assistance interventions toward a system approach by providing critical analytical inputs and helping stakeholders to make informed choices	370,000	October 2013– June 2015	Closed
	Kyrgyzstan: Enhancement of Targeted Social Assistance. Supported the modernization of the cash transfer program directed to families with children, and the development of a social protection strategy for the country	259,413	June 2011– January 2013	Closed
	Tajikistan: Targeting and Payment of Social Assistance to the Poor. Supported the building blocks of a more efficient system to deliver aid to the poorest households, so that the government and donors will have an effective way to intervene in ordinary times and during crises	2,283,190	May 2010– December 2013	Closed
	Uzbekistan: Integrated Single Window Office for the Social Assistance and Employment Services. Developing a concept for an integrated single-window office for provision of services to the population by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection; designing a detailed blueprint for implementation and roll-out of national reform of social assistance and employment program administration, including high-level design of the management information system and a registry of beneficiaries	550,000	August 2015– June 2017	Active
SHARING KNOWLEDGE	Regional: ECA Learning Forum—Management Information Systems for Modernization of Social Protection Programs. Shared lessons and experiences on the benefits of using new technologies in systematic ways to operate existing and new social protection interventions	330,000	March 2014– June 2015	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Tajikistan: Protecting and Promoting Access to Maternal and Neonatal Health Services. Provided technical assistance to assess the feasibility of a conditional cash transfer to protect access for the poor to basic maternal and child health and nutrition services in selected <i>rayons</i> (districts) of the Sogd <i>oblast</i> (region) in Tajikistan	396,291	November 2011–April 2013	Closed
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN				
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Bolivia: Strengthening Access to Social Services among Women and Indigenous Groups. Filled information gaps about dimensions of access to social services among women and indigenous groups in Bolivia with the goal of promoting more equitable access to social services, social protection, and economic opportunities	90,000	September 2014–September 2015	Closed
	Strengthening Haiti's National Social Protection System. Helped the government improve its capacity to coordinate and target social initiatives and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending in the area of social protection	450,000	April 2014–April 2016	Closed
	Honduras Strengthening Social Protection. Strengthened the government's safety net programs by helping redesign the conditional cash transfer program and enhance targeting of social safety net interventions	72,566	January 2010–June 2012	Closed
	Nicaragua: Expansion of the Family and Community-Based Social Welfare Model with Cash Transfers. Provided technical assistance to the expansion of a model program for family and community-based social welfare and cash transfers	2,548,570	February 2012–April 2013	Closed
	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): Enhanced Crisis Resilience Project. Strengthened the OECS Secretariat's capacity to support and guide national crisis responses on social protection	475,118	November 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Transforming Social Protection in St. Lucia. Supported implementation of a social safety net reform through: (1) analyzing and improving key operational elements of St. Lucia's flagship Public Assistance Program, (2) harmonizing the architecture of social assistance programs, and (3) improving the Ministry of Social Transformation's capacity to implement the social safety net reform	300,000	February 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Regional (Bolivia, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines): Building Evidence on Program's Performance to Strengthen Social Protection and Labor Systems in Low-Capacity LAC Countries	150,000	April 2014–May 2016	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
SHARING KNOWLEDGE	Listening to LAC: Mobile Phones as Instruments for Rigorous Surveys. Developed and piloted the use of a low-cost, quick method of gathering data via mobile phone technology to give timely information on the effects of crises on poor and vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean	239,106	April 2010–June 2012	Closed
	Regional: Improving Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Countries Responses to Protect the Nutritional Status of the Poorest and Most Vulnerable. Supported the development of a toolkit that offers policy makers and program administrators in the region cost-effective tools	256,000	July 2011–February 2013	Closed
PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Haiti: Household Development Agent Pilot. Improved family health and nutrition practices by enhancing the quality and coordination of social services and introducing household development agents	3,202,317	April 2010–December 2014	Closed
	Haiti Nutrition Security and Social Safety Nets. Improved the capacity and effectiveness of nutrition-related safety net programs to address acute and chronic malnutrition	90,345	November 2010–June 2012	Closed
	Gender-Based Violence in Post-Earthquake Haiti. A community-based organization received support from RSR to improve delivery of services to survivors of gender-based violence and to enhance the growing public dialogue around the issue	580,951	January 2011–September 2012	Closed
	Honduras: Improving Nutritional Monitoring and Targeted Response to the Global Crisis. Helped to offset the negative effects of the global food crisis on the most vulnerable children by strengthening monitoring systems and providing technical assistance to the expansion of the nutritional services in the most affected areas of the country	1,054,662	July 2012–December 2013	Closed
	Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti: Education Sector Rapid Response and Protection of Youth Vulnerable to Violence and Conflict. Provided support to policy development and strategic planning to protect children and youth from violence made worse by crises	378,250	December 2011–March 2013	Closed
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA				
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Djibouti: Employment for the Poor Project. Piloted an integrated safety net mechanism that combines a workfare program with social assistance for nutrition, using community-driven and participatory approaches as well as targeted capacity-building interventions	173,593	January 2010–April 2012	Closed
SHARING KNOWLEDGE	Lessons from Successful Education Administration under Difficult Circumstances. Captured lessons from the success of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, which provided education to Palestinian students in the Middle East	398,720	October 2010–November 2012	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Yemen: Targeted Delivery of Early Childhood Nutrition Interventions. Supported a short household survey to monitor the economic and social impact of instability, including food insecurity; the pilot project was canceled due to prevailing security concerns in Yemen	201,146	November 2010–December 2012	Closed
SOUTH ASIA				
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Afghanistan: Results-Oriented Approach in the Pro-Poor Program Design of Implementation. Aimed to strengthen the institutional capacity to monitor and evaluate government programs and mechanisms delivering benefits	200,000	November 2011–June 2014	Closed
	Afghanistan: Assessing the Potential and Feasibility of Scalable Public Works. Explores options for increasing the social protection coverage of the poor by assessing the potential and feasibility of scalable short-term employment generation programs	370,000	June 2014–April 2016	Closed
	Bangladesh: Improving the Payment and Monitoring System for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest. Provided technical assistance to make beneficiary payment and recordkeeping mechanisms for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest more efficient	605,706	June 2011–June 2014	Closed
	Bangladesh: Piloting Conditional Cash Transfers for Human Development through Local Governments. Piloted the mechanisms for delivering conditional cash transfers through local governments to improve children's nutrition and education	2,619,345	September 2010–December 2013	Closed
	Bangladesh: Assessment of Identification Systems for Social Protection. Aims to strengthen the SPL system by enhancing government's capacity to improve ID systems, develop options for how ID systems can be more effective and efficient, set up an action plan to operationalize the most preferred policy options, strengthen coordination among the government institutions involved in SPL programs, and understand the operational foundations of public food distribution systems	120,000	June 2015–March 2017	Active
	Bhutan: Supporting the Development of a Social Protection Strategy. Supported the development of an evidence-based social protection strategy	300,000	April 2014–June 2015	Closed
	India: Broadening the Urban Safety Net Dialogue. Provided support to streamlining and improving the effectiveness of urban safety nets in New Delhi and improving the monitoring and delivery of benefit programs using integrated information technology platforms, databases, and smart cards	99,048	March 2010–February 2012	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	India: Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Bihar. Evaluated the impact of providing a financial education program focused on long-term savings for low-income households in Bihar, India, and their take-up rate of a New Government Pension Scheme (NPS Lite) designed for individuals working in the informal sector who are not covered by any formal old age social security program	450,000	October 2013–June 2015	Closed
	India: Improving Design and Delivery of Social Safety Net Program in Urban Locations. Supports improvements in the design and delivery of social safety net programs in urban locations	250,000	April 2016–April 2017	Active
	Maldives: Building a Common Platform for Identification of the Poor. Assisted the government in designing and implementing a common platform for identification of the poor	124,295	March 2011–August 2012	Closed
	Strengthening Safety Nets in Nepal: Piloting Targeted Conditional Cash Transfers. Improved the delivery of cash-based safety nets in pilot districts through technical assistance and capacity building to the Ministry of Local Development	1,535,882	January 2011–September 2014	Closed
	Nepal: Safety Net System Building Technical Assistance. Supported the government in strengthening the basic architecture of its administrative systems, with an emphasis on the payment system, the management information system, and the ministry’s internal institutional arrangement for social protection policy coordination and service delivery	450,000	November 2014–October 2016	Closed
	Pakistan: Financial Inclusion and Literacy Outcomes of Cash Transfers through the Banking System. An assessment to improve the design and implementation of the payment side of cash transfer programs in Pakistan and how different technologies work for the poor; also established ways to make cash grants more sustainable through financial inclusion (e.g., savings) and literacy	802,254	June 2011–May 2013	Closed
	Sri Lanka: Skills Development for Unemployed Youth. Examined the impact of the economic crisis on vulnerable groups in the formal and informal labor markets, and supported an analysis of critical policy issues on skills development, employment creation, and economic growth	238,800	June 2011–September 2012	Closed
	Sri Lanka: Strengthening Targeting, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Safety Nets. Supported an assessment of the beneficiaries of the largest social safety net program with a view to make the program more efficient in helping the poor become more productive	167,760	July 2010–June 2013	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Bangladesh: Supporting Nutrition-Sensitive Safety Nets through Strengthened Local Government Administration. Supports streamlined social protection services at the local level, with a focus on implementation of nutrition-sensitive safety nets in Bangladesh by strengthening local-level institutional arrangements for safety net administration, developing innovative tools for promotion of nutrition among the poorest through income support and beneficiary engagement	320,000	August 2015–April 2017	Active
	India: Critical Analysis of the Institutional Arrangements for Improving Nutrition Outcomes. An analysis of existing institutional arrangements for organizing, coordinating, and delivering nutrition services in India and recommendations for how service delivery could be strengthened	99,640	February 2010–May 2012	Closed
	Maldives: Technical Assistance to the National Social Protection Agency on the National Health Insurance Scheme. Strengthened the capacity of the National Social Protection Agency to improve the design of the Madhana, the country's nascent social health insurance system, and helped build a robust monitoring and evaluation system that enhances the system's efficiency and effectiveness	58,098	June 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Pakistan: Protecting Pakistan's Poor Against Health Shocks. Provided technical assistance to the development of a diagnostic and a review of the health sector's policy options to increase the population's resilience to health shocks caused by natural disasters	363,992	December 2011–March 2013	Closed
GLOBAL				
BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	Assessing Social Protection Systems. Supported countries in building effective SPL systems by providing clear, cross-country guidance for assessing and monitoring system performance; supported Social Protection Assessment of Results and Country Systems (SPARCS) in developing and applying common instruments to assess the structure of SPL systems and guide their development, and Atlas of Social Protection–Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) in collecting, harmonizing, and sharing comparable indicators of program performance based on household and administrative data	450,000	September 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Social Registries and Management Information Systems in Social Protection and Labor: Framework, Assessment Tool, and Country Cases. Develop guidance notes and accompanying social information system assessment tools to support clients' efforts in developing streamlined and harmonized information management systems; pilot the assessment tool in selected AFR, LAC and MENA countries	450,000	February 2015–November 2016	Active
	Development of a Management Information System for Social Protection. Developed a high-quality, reliable client registry system for efficient delivery of social protection systems	348,057	December 2011–August 2013	Closed

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
SHARING KNOWLEDGE	Public Works Learning Forum: Social Protection South-South Learning Forum 2010. A South-South forum was held in June 2010, in Arusha, Tanzania. The forum provided opportunities to more than 220 delegates from 40 low- and middle-income countries to exchange knowledge and take part in cross-country learning on the design and implementation of public works programs as safety net interventions as well as the development of an ongoing community of practice	515,134	February 2010–December 2011	Closed
	The South-South Learning Forum: Building Resilient Safety Nets in Low Income Countries and Fragile States. This forum, which was carried out in June 2011, focused on promoting resilient safety nets following the recent wave of food, fuel, and financial crises and natural disasters	350,000	November 2010–November 2012	Closed
	South-South Learning Forum: Designing Social Protection Systems. Promoted global knowledge sharing among social protection practitioners on the development of social protection systems, notably in low-income countries and fragile states; forum brought together approximately 200 practitioners and experts from 50 countries in Rio, Brazil	450,000	January–December 2014	Closed
	South-South Learning Forum: Labor Market Policy Response to the Global Jobs Crisis. Organized in Hyderabad in November 2012 to stimulate a discussion and exchange on the experiences of labor and social protection policies during the recent economic crisis and how to bolster effective policy making on labor markets and social protection in response to future crises	447,859	December 2011–January 2013	Closed
	South-South Learning Forum 2015: Urban Social Protection Systems. Aims to foster global knowledge sharing among social protection practitioners on the development of social protection systems in urban areas	450,000	Pipeline	Active
	Resilience in the Face of Crisis: Multisector Actions to Achieve Nutrition Results. Developed and disseminated tools for a multisectoral approach to planning and implementation of actions that protect and improve nutrition outcomes for the poorest	250,000	February 2011–February 2014	Closed
	Development of the ADePT Crisis Module. Supported the development of a crisis module for the ADePT software platform, which produces simulations to help policy makers understand the distributional effects of macro-shocks and structural reforms	249,263	April 2011–September 2012	Closed
	PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Development of a Global Action Plan for Scaling-up Nutrition. Provided analytical work, consultations, and policy guidance on how to scale-up nutrition investments and encourage multisectoral actions to achieve nutrition results	39,690	February–December 2010

	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING ^a (\$)	TIMELINE	STATUS
PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Food Crisis Monitoring System. Developed a framework that defines, identifies, and monitors food security crises at the national level caused by shocks and factors that are not attributed to a given country; the framework categorizes each IDA country's exposure to shocks and its capacity to respond	74,339	November 2011–November 2012	Closed
	Monitoring the Health Outcomes and Financial Vulnerability of the Poorest. Built the capacity of policy makers and researchers to carry out analysis of financial protection and equity, using ADePT Health software, and produced country-specific reports on financial protection, vulnerability, and equity in the health sector	160,535	April 2010–September 2011	Closed
	Policy Levers to Protect Health and Enhance Financial Protection. Improved the capacity of governments and the international community to monitor the health outcomes of the poor after the food, fuel, and financial crises; also helped design health systems and policies more effectively to provide protection to future crises	443,947	July 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Preparing Social Protection Systems for Natural Disasters and Climate Change. Supported the development of a series of case studies and recommendations from five countries to enhance the capacity of safety net programs to respond more effectively to natural disasters and the impact of climate change	370,094	July 2011–July 2013	Closed
	Impact of Financial Crises on Children and Youth: Protecting Human Capital of Future Generations. RSR supported rapport, and accompanying policy notes, to show how the right policies and targeted interventions for children and youth can yield important returns in human capital, and that even small, strategically applied resources can go a long way to protect and promote human development in crises and in stable times	241,127	January 2011–June 2012	Closed
	The Health Sector and the Poor in a Financial Crisis: Identifying and Managing Risks. A stocktaking of the health sectors in the European region and their preparedness and operational responses to the economic shock of 2008/09 with a view to generate lessons and encourage stakeholder dialogue	435,611	December 2011–June 2013	Closed

a. Grant amounts reflect allocated funds against approved proposals, as of December 31, 2015; however, these amounts may change slightly by time of grant closure to reflect actual disbursements against activities covered by the grant. Excess funds from closed grants will be reused and reallocated against new activities. See the Development Partner Center website for an updated list of the RSR project portfolio.

Associated IDA Projects

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
AFRICA							
Angola, Benin, Lesotho, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe	Cash Transfers— Design for Scaling Up in Sub-Saharan Africa	0.39	46	P117764	Benin: Decentralized Community Driven Services	Approved (5/12)	Improve access to decentralized basic social services and mainstream the community-driven development approach for such services
			70	P127328	Mali: Emergency Safety Nets Project	Approved (4/13)	Establish sustainable social safety net system and scale-up programs that increase income and consumption of poor and vulnerable households through cash transfers and short-term employment
			220	P124045	Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net	Approved (3/12)	Increase income and consumption and improve ability to cope with shocks among targeted vulnerable population groups, while enhancing and protecting the human capital of their children
Benin and Malawi	Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Design, Implement, and Monitor Nutrition Security Programs	0.39	28	P143652	Benin Multi-sectoral Food Health Nutrition Project	Approved (12/13)	Increase the coverage and utilization of community-based child growth and nutrition interventions in selected areas in the recipient’s territory
			80	P125237	Malawi Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Project	Approved (3/12)	Increase access to, and utilization of, selected services known to contribute to the reduction of child stunting, maternal and child anemia, and the prevention of HIV and AIDS in children and sexually active adults
Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone	Youth Employment in Africa— The Skills Development-Labor Demand Conundrum	0.09	35	P132667	Benin: BJ-Youth Employment	Approved (3/14)	Improve access to employment skills and employment opportunities for underemployed youth in Benin
			50	P130735	Burkina Faso: Youth Employment and Skills Development	Approved (5/13)	Increase access to temporary employment and skills development opportunities for out-of-school youth
			60	P132248	Ghana Youth Employment Project	Pipeline FY14	Expand and enhance opportunities for youth employment, with a particular focus on at-risk youth
			20	P121052	Sierra Leone Youth Employment Support	Approved (6/10)	Increase short-term employment opportunities and improve employability and incomes of targeted youth; program seeks to address constraints on the demand and supply sides of the labor market

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
Benin	Building a Common National Targeting and Registry System for Cash Transfers, Public Works and Other Safety Net Interventions	0.28	a	P117764	Benin: Decentralized Community Driven Services	Approved (5/12)	Improve access to decentralized basic social services and mainstream the community-driven development approach for services
			22.8	P113202	Benin: Health System Performance Project	Approved (5/10)	Contribute to increasing the coverage of quality maternal and neonatal services in eight health districts (roughly a quarter of the population)
Burkina Faso	Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises	0.50	50	P124015	Burkina Faso Social Safety Net Project	Approved (4/14)	Provide income support to poor and vulnerable groups and lay the foundations for a basic safety net system
Cameroon	Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises	0.55	50	P128534	Cameroon Social Safety Nets	Approved (3/13)	Support the establishment of a basic national safety net system including piloting targeted cash transfers and public works programs for the poorest and most vulnerable people
	Support to Building Productive Safety Nets	0.25					
Comoros	Strengthening Social Protection	0.41	6	P150754	Comoros Social Safety Net Project	Approved (3/15)	Increase poor communities' access to safety net and nutrition services
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Support to Establishing a National SP System	0.35	15	P145965	Human Development Systems Strengthening	Approved (1/14)	Strengthen select management systems for education and health services in targeted geographic areas
Congo, Rep.	Congo Brazzaville: LISUNGI— Safety Net Systems	0.35	2	P145263	LISUNGI Safety Nets Project	Approved (1/14)	Establish the key building blocks of a national safety net program and pilot a cash transfer program to improve access to health and education services of poorest households in participating areas
Côte d'Ivoire	Assessing the Impact of Crisis on Human Capital and Laying the Foundations for an Effective SSN System	0.30	50	P143332	Productive Social Safety Net	Approved (5/15)	Set the foundations of an effective and productive type of safety net system capable of responding to the country's needs both in normal times and during times of crisis
Ethiopia	Strengthening the Nutrition Information and Early Warning System in Ethiopia	1.02	30	P106228	Ethiopia Nutrition	Approved (4/08)	Improve child and maternal care behavior and increase utilization of key micronutrients in order to contribute to nutritional status of vulnerable groups
Gambia, The	Rapid Response Nutrition Security Improvement Project	3.16	3.68	P143650	Maternal and Child Nutrition and Health Results Project	Approved (3/14)	Increase the coverage of community-based nutrition and primary health care services

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		(MILLION \$)					
Ghana	Cash Transfers Designed and Brought to Scale	0.18	89	P115247	Social Opportunities Project	Approved (5/10)	Improve targeting in social protection spending, increase access to conditional cash transfers nationwide, increase access to employment and cash-earning opportunities for the rural poor during the agricultural off-season, and improve economic and social infrastructure in target districts
	Building a Common Targeting Registry for Ghana's Social Protection System	0.45	50	P146923	Additional Financing for Ghana Social Opportunities Project	Approved (5/14)	Improve targeting of social protection programs and provide income support to poor households through LEAP (Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty) targeted districts
Guinea	Strengthening Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises	0.42	25	P123900	Productive Social Safety Net Project	Approved (6/12)	Provide income support to vulnerable groups and to lay the foundations of a social safety net strategy by testing some of the building blocks necessary for a larger system
	Guinea Social Protection: Social Safety Nets Strategy	0.40					
Guinea-Bissau	Social Safety Net Systems Support	0.38	15	P151443	Additional Financing to Rural Community-Driven Development Project	Approved (5/16)	Increase access to priority basic social and economic infrastructures and services in participating communities in at least two regions of Guinea-Bissau
Kenya	Social Protection Interventions	0.15	250	P131305	National Integrated Safety Net Program (P4R)	Approved (5/13)	Establish an effective national safety net for poor and vulnerable households
	Developing and Strengthening the Kenya Social Protection System	0.42					
	Support to the Government for Social Protection Programming	1.29	50	P111545	Kenya Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children	Approved (3/09)	Increase social safety net access for extremely poor orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) households through an effective and efficient expansion of the CT-OVC Program
	Support to the Internship Program of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance	0.98	60	P111546	Youth Empowerment Project	Approved (5/10)	Support the government's efforts to increase access to youth-targeted temporary employment programs and to improve youth employability
Lesotho	Developing the Strategy and Building Blocks for a Social Protection System in Lesotho	0.25	16	P146534	Lesotho: Second Growth and Competitiveness DPC	Approved (4/14)	Assist the government in implementing a reform program aimed at promoting growth, competitiveness, and public sector efficiency
	Lesotho Social Safety Net Review	0.14					

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
Liberia	Improving Employment of Vulnerable Youth	0.24	6	P121686	Youth, Employment, Skills Project	Approved (6/10)	Expand access of poor and young Liberians to temporary employment programs and improve youth employability
	Development of a Crisis Response Social Protection Strategy and Capacity	0.29	10	P127317	Poverty Reduction Strategy Credit I	Approved (6/13)	Support the broadening of reforms to include economic transformation and human development in the context of the implementation of the government's second Poverty Reduction Strategy
	RSR Grant on Developing Liberia's National Social Protection Delivery System	0.45					
	Vulnerable Youth: Enhancing Economic and Social Resilience	0.24					
Madagascar	Assessing Negative Effects of the Political Crisis and Protecting Access to Essential Health and Nutrition Services	0.40	65	P131945	Emergency Support to Critical Education, Health and Nutrition Services Project	Approved (11/12)	Preserve critical education, health, and nutrition service delivery in targeted vulnerable areas in the recipient's territory
	Development of Tools to Monitor and Mitigate the Effect of Crises on Out-of-School Children	0.45					
	Developing Madagascar's Safety Net System	0.44	65	P147514	Emergency, Food Security and Social Protection Project	Approved (2/14)	Strengthen the country's immediate capacity to respond effectively to the food security and locust crises
Mozambique	Developing the Building Blocks for Effective Crisis Response	2.16	50	P129524	Social Safety Net Project	Approved (3/13)	Provide temporary income support to extremely poor households and put in place the building blocks of a social safety net system
	Building Gender Sensitive SPL Systems through Soft-Public Works	1.00					

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE	
		(MILLION \$)						
Nigeria	Strengthening Social Safety Net	0.40	300	P126964	Youth Employment and Social Support Operation	Approved (3/13)	Increase access of the poor to youth employment opportunities, social services, and strengthened safety net systems in participating states	
		0.43	500	P151488	Social Protection Project	Approved (6/16)	Establish building blocks of a national social safety net system for effectively targeting and delivering cash transfers to extreme poor and vulnerable households	
Rwanda	Technical Assistance for Stronger Social Safety Nets	0.07	40	P126877	Support to Social Protection System	Approved (3/12)	Support government's efforts to consolidate, enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and expand coverage of its social protection system	
	Technical Assistance and Capacity Building to the Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP)	2.12	6	P122157	Third Community Living Standards Grant	Approved (3/11)	Support government's social protection and health reforms designed to reduce extreme poverty	
	SPL Systems in Rwanda: Operationalizing the Vision	0.45	50	P131666	Rwanda Second Support to Social Protection System	Approved (3/13)	Support government's efforts to consolidate, enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and expand coverage of its social protection system	
	Support for Strengthening Rwandan Social Safety Nets	0.06						
				70	P146452	Rwanda Third Support to the Social Protection System	Approved (3/14)	Support government's efforts to enhance effectiveness and expand the coverage of its social protection system
				70	P151279	Social Protection System Support	Approved (1/15)	Support government of Rwanda to improve the efficiency, accountability and coverage of its social protection system
			95	P155024	Second Social Protection System DPO (SPS-2) (P155024)	Approved (12/15)	Second in a series of three development policy operations whose program development objective is to support the government of Rwanda to improve the efficiency, accountability and coverage of its social protection system	
Senegal	Developing a Unified and Effective Safety Net	0.29	30	P133597	Senegal Safety Net Operation	Approved (4/14)	Assist government in developing building blocks of an efficient safety net system	
	Developing Senegal Safety Net System	0.30	20	P129472	Senegal Health and Social Financing	Approved (12/13)	Increase utilization and quality of maternal, neonatal, and child health care and nutritional services, especially among the poorest households in targeted areas of Senegal	

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
Sierra Leone	Social Safety Net Support	0.30	7	P143588	Sierra Leone Safety Nets Project	Approved (3/14)	Create a comprehensive, efficient, well-targeted productive safety net system for the poor and vulnerable
	Developing Sierra Leone's Social Protection System through Common Targeting Mechanisms	0.30					
Tanzania	Enhancing Crisis Response for the Most Vulnerable Children and Elderly Poor	0.63	a	P124045	Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net	Approved (3/12)	Create a comprehensive, efficient, well-targeted productive social safety net system for the poor and vulnerable section of the Tanzanian population
	A Systems-Based Approach for Operationalizing the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net	0.41	200	P151838	Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net Additional Financing	Approved (6/16)	
Togo	Experience of Cash for Work Program in Liberia for Togo	0.09	8.7	P121067	Togo Community Development Project Additional Financing	Approved (6/10)	Provide selected poor communities with improved basic socioeconomic infrastructures, income-generating and labor-intensive activities, and access to food
	Support to SSN Development in Togo	0.22	14	P127200	Community Development and Safety Nets	Approved (3/12)	Provide poor communities with greater access to basic socioeconomic infrastructures and social safety nets
	Promoting Innovative Crisis Response Social Protection Measures	0.28					
Uganda	Uganda Social Protection Sector Review	0.26	130	P149965	Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund	Approved (5/15)	Provide effective income support to and build the resilience of poor and vulnerable households in Northern Uganda
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC							
Mongolia	M&E for Mongolia Social Welfare Programs	0.07	12	P119825	Mongolia Multi-Sectoral Technical Assistance Project	Approved (6/10)	Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor to improve the efficacy of social expenditure by designing and implementing a targeted poverty benefit
	Building a More Efficient SP System in Mongolia	0.27					
Papua New Guinea	Ensuring Effective M&E and Social Accountability for the Urban Youth Employment Project	0.30	16	P114042	Urban Youth Employment Project	Approved (1/11)	Provide urban youth with income from temporary employment opportunities and increase their employability

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
Vietnam	Strengthening the Social Protection System	0.45	60	P123960	Social Assistance System Strengthening Project	Approved (1/14)	Support government of Vietnam in strengthening social assistance system by developing innovations in management and service delivery nationwide, and by piloting these innovations in four project provinces
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA							
Albania	Albania Social Safety Nets TA	0.05	50	P122233	Social Assistance Modernization Project	Approved (4/12)	Support Albania's implementation of reforms to improve the equity and efficiency of its social assistance programs
			25	P116937	Social Sector Reform Development Policy Loan	Approved (4/11)	Support policy changes to improve the effectiveness of social safety nets
Kyrgyz Republic	Rapid Assistance to Improve Social Safety Nets in the Face of Energy Tariff Reforms	0.06	30	P125425	Economic Recovery Support Operation	Approved (8/11)	Safeguard social assistance to the poor and to conflict-affected families in the face of fiscal pressures and improve targeting
	Enhancement of Targeted Social Assistance	0.26	16.5	P126278	Second Health and Social Protection Project	Approved (4/13)	Improve health outcomes in four health priority areas in support of the National Health Reform Program 2012/16; and enable the government's efforts to enhance effectiveness and targeting performance of social assistance and services
Tajikistan	Targeting and Payment of Social Assistance to the Poor	2.72	3	P122039	Social Safety Net Strengthening Project	Approved (6/11)	Improve the capacity of the government to plan, monitor, and manage social assistance for the poor through the development of a national registry of social protection and the provision of training, equipment, and related items for improving said capacity
	Protecting and Promoting Access to Maternal and Neonatal Health Services	0.40	15	P126130	Tajikistan Health Services Improvement Project	Approved (7/13)	Contribute to the improvement of the coverage and quality of basic primary health care services in rural health facilities in selected regions

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN							
Bolivia, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Building Evidence on Program's Performance to Strengthen SPL Systems in Low Capacity LAC Countries	0.15	5	P123128	Grenada Safety Net Advance- ment Project	Approved (7/11)	Strengthen the basic architecture of the consolidated conditional cash transfer program and the capacity of the Ministry of Social Development to implement it, improve coverage of poor households receiving cash transfers, and improve educational outcomes of poor children and health monitoring of vulnerable households
			20	P121779	Nicaragua Social Pro- tection	Approved (2/11)	Improve basic conditions of welfare and social well-being of extremely poor beneficiary families with children in selected localities, strengthen capacity of MIFAN to implement the family and community-based social welfare model, and promote preschool and primary school attendance through the provision of school lunches
			17	P101084	Bolivia: Investing in Children and Youth	Approved (3/08)	Strengthen the effectiveness of social protection system by supporting the design, financing, and implementation of two flagship interventions of the social protection network strategy, while enhancing its capacity to coordinate and monitor programs that are part of the social protection network
			40	P115592	Honduras Social Pro- tection	Approved (6/10)	Improve institutional capacity of recipient's institutions to manage the conditional cash transfer program, provide income support to eligible beneficiaries, increase use of preventive health services and school attendance in grades 1-6 among beneficiaries in rural areas, and improve recipient's capacity to respond to an eligible emergency
			70	P123706	Haiti: Improving Maternal and Child Health through Integrated Social Ser- vices	Approved (5/13)	Increase the access and use of maternal and child health, nutrition, and other social services
				P143995	Improving Employ- ability and Labor Income of Youth Project	Approved (5/14)	Improve employability and labor income of poor youth by supporting the expansion of the Skills Development Programs in Selected Cities

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		(MILLION \$)					
Bolivia	Strengthening Access to Social Security among Women and Indigenous Groups	0.09	51	P101336	Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Informational Base for Evidence-Based Planning	Approved (1/11)	Strengthen the statistical capacity and improve the informational base of the recipient in order to provide quality information, as defined by its reliability, timeliness, accuracy, and representativeness with the level of disaggregation necessary to support systems for planning, designing, monitoring, and evaluating public programs and policies
Haiti	Household Development Agent Pilot	3.38	a	P123706	Improving Maternal and Child Health through Integrated Social Services	Approved (4/13)	Increase the access and use of maternal and child health, nutrition, and other social services
	Strengthening Haiti's National Social Protection System	0.45					
Honduras	Strengthening Social Protection	0.07	a	P115592	Honduras Social Protection	Approved (6/10)	Support the government's efforts to build an improved social protection system mainly by strengthening institutional capacity to design and implement a new conditional cash transfer program, the Bono 10,000 Program
			12.3	P144928	Honduras Additional Financing for SP Project	Approved (8/13)	Improve institutional capacity to manage the conditional cash transfer program by strengthening transparency and targeting, monitoring compliance with program co-responsibilities, and making payments to beneficiaries; provide income support to eligible beneficiaries; increase use of preventive health services and school attendance in grades 1–6 among beneficiaries in rural areas; and improve recipient's capacity to respond effectively to an eligible emergency
	Improving Nutritional Monitoring and Targeted Response to Global Crisis Project	1.20	23.6	P126158	Additional Finance for Nutrition and Social Protection	Approved (6/11)	Improve Honduras's social safety net for children and youth by strengthening the country's capacity to administer social assistance programs, improving nutritional and health status of young children, and increasing employability of at-risk youth by piloting an employment program
Nicaragua	Expansion of the Family and Community Based Social Welfare Model with Cash Transfers	2.75	19.5	P121779	Nicaragua Social Protection	Approved (2/11)	Improve the basic welfare of extremely poor beneficiary families with children, strengthen the capacity of MIFAN to implement the family and community-based social welfare model, and promote preschool and primary school attendance through the provision of school lunches

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA							
Djibouti	Employment for the Poor Project	0.17	5	P130328	Crisis Response— Social Safety Net Project	Approved (6/12)	Support the provision of short-term employment opportunities in community-based labor-intensive works for the poor and vulnerable, and support the improvement of nutrition practices among participating households
SOUTH ASIA							
Afghanistan	Afghanistan: Results-Oriented Approach in the Pro-Poor Program Design and Implementation	0.20	8	P113421	Afghanistan Pension Administration and Safety Net Project	Approved (10/09)	Improve the administration of the public pension schemes, and pilot a modest social safety net program as a first step to developing a sustainable approach to safety nets in the country
Bangladesh	Piloting Conditional Cash Transfers for Human Development through Local Governments	2.99	500	P132634	Bangladesh Safety Net Systems for the Poorest Project	Approved (7/13)	Improve the equity, efficiency, and transparency of key social safety net programs and finance short-term employment to enable the poorest households to better cope with poverty and vulnerability
	Improving the Payment and Monitoring System for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest	1.10	150	P118701	Employment Generation Program for the Poorest	Approved (11/10)	Provide short-term employment on community subprojects to enable households to better cope with vulnerability, while strengthening program implementation
	Supporting Nutrition-Sensitive Safety Nets through Strengthened Local Government Administration	0.32	300	P146520	Income Support Program for the Poorest	Approved (12/14)	Provide income support to the poorest mothers in selected Upazilas, while (i) increasing the mothers' use of child nutrition and cognitive development services, and (ii) enhancing local level government capacity to deliver safety nets
	Government Administration	0.12	195	P121528	Bangladesh Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA)	Approved (12/14)	Provide income support to the poorest mothers in selected Upazilas, while (i) increasing the mothers' use of child nutrition and cognitive development services, and (ii) enhancing local level government capacity to deliver safety nets
India	Critical Analysis of Institutional Arrangements for Nutrition	0.10	106	P121731	Integrated Child Development Services— Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Program	Approved (9/12)	Improve nutritional outcomes of children in India; strengthen the policy framework, systems, and capacities, and facilitate community engagement; and ensure greater focus on children under three

COUNTRY	GRANT NAME	RSR	IDA	PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT OBJECTIVE
		(MILLION \$)					
India	Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Bihar	0.45	84	P118826	Bihar Integrated Social Protection Strengthening Project	Approved (12/13)	Strengthen institutional capacity of the Department of Social Welfare and the Rural Development Department to deliver social protection programs and services and expand outreach of social care services for poor and vulnerable households, persons with disabilities, older persons, and widows
			63	P090764	Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project—JEEViKA	Approved (6/07)	Enhance social and economic empowerment of the rural poor in Bihar through community institution development, community investment, and technical assistance
			100	P130546	Bihar Rural Livelihood Project Additional Financing	Approved (5/12)	
Maldives	Building a Common Platform for Identification of the Poor	0.19	12	P125700	Pension and Social Protection Additional Financing	Approved (6/11)	Support the implementation of the National Pension Act, to strengthen institutional capacity of key agencies responsible for implementing the National Pension Act, and to develop the processes and platforms required for the delivery of social protection programs
	TA to the National AP Agency on National Health Insurance Scheme	0.06					
Nepal	Safety Net System Building Technical Assistance	0.45	150	P154548	Strengthening Systems for Social Protection Project	Approved (12/16)	Improve the efficiency of MOFALD's social protection programs and civil registration
Pakistan	Protecting Pakistan's Poor against Health Shocks	0.40	100	P123394	Punjab Health Sector Reform Project	Approved (5/13)	Support implementation of Health Sector Strategy by focusing on improving coverage and utilizing quality essential health services, particularly in the low-performing districts of Punjab
	Financial Inclusion and Literacy Outcomes of Cash Transfers through the Banking System	0.81	60	P103160	Social Safety Net TA	Approved (6/09)	Support expansion and strengthen administration and performance of country's safety net with particular focus on Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) as the national safety net platform
			150	P125793	Social Safety Net Project—Additional Financing	Approved (3/12)	The additional financing will support the evolution of Pakistan's BISP through the expansion of program coverage and broadening of objectives to promote access to educational services
Sri Lanka	Skills Development for Unemployed Youth	0.24	102	P132698	Skills Development Project	Approved (6/14)	Support the government of Sri Lanka to improve the quality and relevance of the skills development sector
TOTAL IDA		46.04	5,681				

NOTE: Grant amounts reflect allocated funds against approved proposals; however, these amounts may change slightly by time of grant closure to reflect actual disbursements against activities covered by the grant. Excess funds from closed grants will be reused and reallocated against new activities.

a. IDA amount for this project included in regional project.





Financial Report

Status of Contributions and Total Cash Received

In December 2014, the size of the RSR Trust Fund Program expanded, with the activation of the Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection and Labor RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund (RSR-NS). The Russian Federation is the sole contributor to this trust fund under the RSR Trust Fund Program umbrella, with a total contribution amount of \$3.30 million. All World Bank client countries (IDA only, IDA, and IBRD) are eligible for RSR-NS financing for the purpose of nutrition-sensitive SPL system building and strengthening. Consequently, as of December 31, 2016, the RSR Trust Fund portfolio had grown to include the following:

- The RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund (RSR-MDTF)
- The RSR Catalyst Trust Fund (RSRC), which closed on June 30, 2012
- The Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection and Labor Trust Fund (RSR-NS)

The Russian Federation remains the largest funder to the RSR Trust Fund Program, followed by in descending order the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, and Australia. In 2013, the United Kingdom joined the RSR-MDTF with a total contribution of £15 million. As of August 2016, donor contributions to the RSR totaled about \$108.42 million. Table F-1 shows the breakdown of contributions by donor; these contributions represent the total amounts specified in the counter-signed administrative agreements between the donors, IBRD, and IDA.

The United Kingdom via the Department for International Development was the sole contributor to the RSRC. A total contribution of £2 million (about \$3.24 million) was received against the trust fund program. These funds supported the preparation of key analytical work in 30 countries focused on assessing existing programs, technical assistance to improve components of existing systems, and building the capacity of implementing teams.

Table F-1: Status of Paid and Unpaid Contributions by Donor, as of August 18, 2016

DONOR	CONTRIBUTIONS IN CURRENCY RECEIVED	CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT (MILLION \$)	CONTRIBUTIONS PAID (MILLION \$)	UNPAID INSTALLMENTS (MILLION \$)	TOTAL (MILLION \$)
Russian Federation	million \$	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Norway	million Nkr	130.00	21.62	0.00	21.62
Australia	million \$A	2.90	2.97	0.00	2.97
Sweden	million SKr	70.00	10.43	0.00	10.43
United Kingdom	million £	15.00	20.51	2.88	23.39
Total paid and unpaid contributions			105.54	2.88	108.42 ^a

SOURCE: SAP (Bank internal system).

a. Installments paid in currencies of contributions are valued at the exchange rates in effect at the time the funds are received and the date they are converted to U.S. dollars. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Table F-2 presents the financial summary for the three trust funds, including information on the status of donor contributions, investment income, grant commitments and disbursements, approved proposals without allocation, and funds available for allocation against future calls for proposals.

Table F-2: RSR-MDTF, RSRC, and RSR-NS Contributions Paid in and Financial Summary, as of August 30, 2016 (million \$)

	RSR-MDTF	RSRC	RSR-NS	TOTAL
a. Receipts				
Cash contribution ^a	105.54	3.24	3.30	112.08
Investment income ^b	1.37	0.02	0.02	1.41
Other income ^c	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.18
TOTAL RECEIPTS	107.09	3.25	3.32	113.66
b. Grant amount/allocation^d	79.16	3.01	1.92	84.10
c. Nonproject disbursements				
Refunds ^e	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.07
Administrative fee ^f	1.06	0.16	0.07	1.28
Approved proposals without allocation ^g	3.91	0.00	0.45	4.36
AVAILABLE BALANCE^h	22.95	0.01	0.89	23.85
d. Activity disbursements and commitments				
Disbursements ⁱ	68.76	2.99	0.75	72.50
Commitments ^j	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.78
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS	69.54	2.99	0.75	73.28

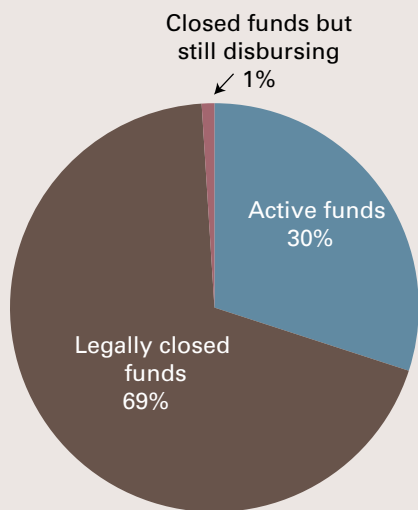
SOURCE: SAP (Bank internal system).

NOTE: In accordance with the Trust Fund Administrative Agreement, “the World Bank shall furnish to the Donor current financial information relating to receipts, disbursements and fund balance with respect to the Contributions via the World Bank’s Trust Funds Donor Center secure website. The Bank shall provide to the Donors an annual single audit reporting, within 6 months following the end of the each Bank fiscal year, which starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year.” Additional information on accounting and financial reporting is included in the Administrative Agreement, Annex 2, paragraph 6. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- a. Any portion of a contribution made in form of cash.
- b. Returns on cash and investments allocated to the Trust Fund and earned between November 2009 and August 30, 2016, on the undisbursed balance of the RSR-MDTF.
- c. Ineligible expenses returned from one of the recipient-executed grants that has closed. Funds will be reallocated against new approved proposals.
- d. The setting aside of funds for specific agreed activities/projects in accordance with the decision-making process specified in the administrative agreement.
- e. Unspent funds from the RSRC were automatically transferred to the donor bank account.
- f. The cost of administration and other expenses, which are in accordance with the terms of the administrative agreement.
- g. Proposals that have been approved by the selection committee but for which funding is not yet allocated in the Bank internal system.
- h. Funds available for new allocation after subtracting total grant amount, administrative fee, and approved proposal without allocation. Future unpaid contributions will be allocated against new rounds of calls for proposals in FY17.
- i. Cash payment to a recipient or vendor based on a commitment by the Bank. The Bank provides oversight and supervision over implementation.
- j. Obligations of the Trust Fund to provide funds. They are recorded in full amounts in the system, pending disbursement against the allocated goods and services.

The RSR-MDTF, the RSRC, and the RSR-NS have earned investment income on the undisbursed balance accumulated since the inception of the three trust fund programs. The income is used for the same purposes as the contribution funds, as specified in the trust fund administrative agreements. At present, the RSR-MDTF is valued at \$107.09 million (\$105.54 million in donor deposits, plus \$1.37 million in investment income, in addition to \$0.18 million in returned funds). The administrative fee for the three trust fund programs represents the cost of administration and other expenses, which are in accordance with the terms of the administrative agreements.

Figure F-1: RSR-MDTF Program Status as of August 30, 2016

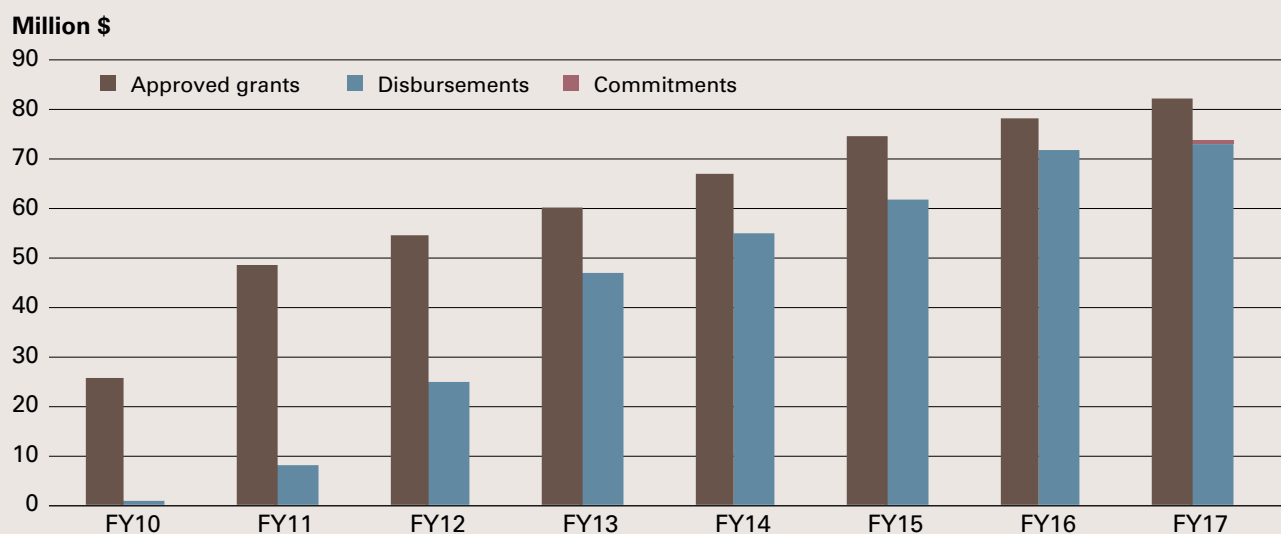


SOURCE: SAP (Bank internal system).

Since the inception of the RSR-MDTF in late 2009, 9 rounds of calls for proposals have been launched so far, supporting different sectors, and regional and global activities. Figure F-1 shows the current status of RSR-MDTF program activities. All activities under the RSRC are now legally closed. Disbursements under the RSR-MDTF have increased significantly since December 2009, as shown in figure F-2.

To date, about 89 percent of the funds allocated to RSR and RSR-NS activities have been disbursed, and another 1 percent is contractually committed. New rounds of calls for proposals are planned to be launched in FY 2017 to allocate the unused resources.

Figure F-2: RSR-MDTF Program Cumulative Grant Approvals and Disbursements as of August 30, 2016

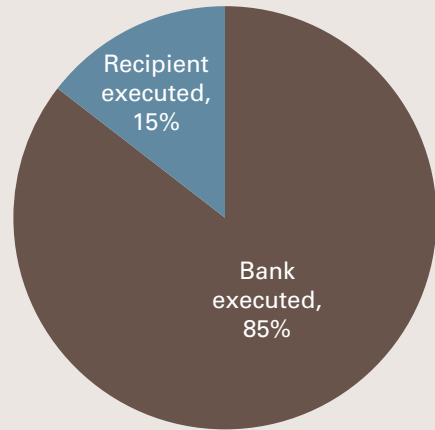


SOURCE: SAP (Bank internal system).

NOTE: Approved grant amounts represent the grants that were activated and recorded by fiscal year in SAP.

The RSR-MDTF and RSRC fund two main types of grants, as shown in figure F-3. Recipient-Executed Trust Funds (RETFs) are funds that the Bank passes onto a recipient, whose projects are prepared and supervised by the Bank. Bank-Executed Trust Funds (BETFs) finance activities such as capacity building, technical assistance, and supervision and preparation of RETF-funded projects. BETFs are implemented by the Bank.

Figure F-3: RSR Program Grant Allocation by Trust Fund Type



SOURCE: SAP (Bank internal system).





RSR Results Framework and Indicators

		INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
IMPACT	More poor people covered by social protection systems	Social protection coverage in IDA-supported projects (both genders)	42.1 million	77.3 million	72.4 million
		Social protection coverage in IDA-supported projects (female only)	21.0 million	38.7 million	36.2 million
OUTCOME	Enhanced capacity of social protection systems to protect poor and vulnerable people	Increased resource allocation to social protection through IDA	\$3.27 billion	\$3.73 billion	\$5.68 billion
		Increased resource allocation to social protection overall budget, domestic and other funding	\$5.09 billion	\$5.71 billion	\$6.88 billion
		Global data accessible (number of new countries in ASPIRE/SPARCS)	57	112	115
OUTPUT 1: NEW OR IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SYSTEM COMPONENTS AND ARCHITECTURE	1.1 System diagnostic and stocktaking				
	1.1(a) Diagnostic, stocktaking, and mapping	Number	71	76	89
		Number of countries	45	48	60
		Amount	\$11,944,594	\$12,311,284	\$13,769,410
	1.1(b) Identification or development of effective options	Number	31	36	47
		Number of countries	37	40	51
		Amount	\$6,372,750	\$6,739,440	\$7,840,899
	1.2 Component design and development				
	1.2(a) Building systems for robust identification of beneficiaries and development of registries	Number	27	34	47
		Number of countries	21	27	43
		Amount	\$2,537,607	\$3,047,631	\$3,931,792
	1.2(b) Improving processes for determination of eligibility	Number	35	40	53
		Number of countries	29	33	47
		Amount	\$5,358,345	\$5,701,583	\$6,581,494
	1.2(c) Developing effective appeals and grievance procedures	Number	9	11	15
		Number of countries	7	9	15
		Amount	\$618,230	\$775,516	\$988,135
	1.2(d) Streamlining payment systems	Number	12	18	26
		Number of countries	14	20	31
		Amount	\$2,359,261	\$2,804,999	\$3,324,702

		INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
	1.2(e) Setting up appropriate evaluation arrangements	Number	26	29	33
		Number of countries	21	24	29
		Amount	\$6,245,840	\$6,474,792	\$6,858,125
	1.2(f) Establishing practices for communication and outreach	Number	17	20	27
		Number of countries	13	16	23
		Amount	\$2,470,868	\$2,651,821	\$3,192,237
	1.2(g) Building information systems for better service management	Number	33	38	43
		Number of countries	28	32	38
		Amount	\$5,943,983	\$6,291,721	\$6,589,340
	1.2(h) Improving administrative processes and clarifying rules	Number	24	26	37
		Number of countries	29	31	38
		Amount	\$4,860,691	\$4,974,977	\$5,597,179
	1.3 Interagency program harmonization				
	1.3(a) Coordination of legal and policy-level frameworks	Number	17	18	22
		Number of countries	18	19	24
		Amount	\$1,529,183	\$1,662,516	\$1,994,391
	1.3(b) Integration of programs	Number	33	34	49
		Number of countries	28	29	43
Amount		\$3,855,916	\$3,905,916	\$5,151,119	
1.4 Customer feedback	Number of client government officials interviewed	6	15	20	
	Rate of satisfaction	80%	80%	95%	
OUTPUT 2: INCREASED LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR SERVICE DELIVERY	2.1 South-South and peer-to-peer learning	Number of events	11	13	20
		Amount	\$2,703,224	\$2,880,843	\$3,627,510
		Number of participants	856	1,017	1,398
		Number of countries represented	70	70	75
		Rate of satisfaction	82.1%	82.1%	95.0%
	2.2 Communities of practice	Number	3	4	5
		Amount	\$698,997	\$812,331	\$1,277,331
		Number of participants	141	200	280
		Number of countries represented	25	35	47
		Satisfaction rating	Very high	Very high	Very high

		INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
	2.3 Analytical and operational toolkits	Number	15	17	19
		Amount	\$2,776,875	\$2,954,494	\$3,091,160
		Number of downloads	—	—	—
		Number of training participants	—	—	—
OUTPUT 3: PROTECTION OF ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES IN TIMES OF CRISIS	3.1 Projects to provide benefits	Number	18	18	18
		Number of countries	12	12	12
		Amount	\$14,622,483	\$14,622,483	\$14,622,483
		Number of beneficiaries (both genders)	86,000	86,000	86,000
		Number of beneficiaries (female only)	43,000	43,000	43,000

NOTE: — = not available. All indicators are cumulative from the inception of the RSR to the end of the reporting year unless otherwise stated.

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