UNHCR
An introduction to Social Protection

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What we will cover ….

- What is social protection.
- Relevance of social protection to UNHCR.
- Overview of social protection systems across the region.
- Inclusion of PoC in social protection systems.
What is Social Protection?

- Set of policies and programmes aimed at preventing or protecting people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout their life-course, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups.
- Mix of non-contributory interventions (social assistance) and contributory schemes (social insurance and active labour market policies).
- Ideally follows a life cycle approach.
- Inclusion of PoC in SP systems, where possible and appropriate, often serves the overall protection and solutions mandate of UNHCR and has a long-established legal footing.
Typology of Social Protection?

- Social assistance
  - Social transfers
    - Cash transfers
    - Vouchers
    - In-kind transfers (incl. school feeding)
  - Public works programmes
    - Cash for work
    - Food for work
  - Fee waivers
    - For basic health/education
  - Subsidies
    - Fuel
    - Food

- Social care

- Social insurance
  - Insurance for:
    - Unemployment
    - Maternity
    - Disability
    - Work accidents
    - Old-age pension
    - Crop/livestock insurance

- Active labour market policies
  - Work-sharing
  - Training
  - Job-search services
Inclusion to social protection systems must serve protection and solutions strategies.
Social Protection Coverage

Population receiving at least one social protection benefit (SDG 1.3)

- Europe & Central Asia: 84%
- Americas: 68%
- Asia & the Pacific: 39%
- Africa: 18%

Social protection coverage (SDG 1.3) by population groups

- Child and family benefits: 35%
  - 1.3 billion children remain uncovered
- Maternity benefits: 41%
  - 83 million mothers with newborns do not receive maternity benefits
- Unemployment benefits: 22%
  - 152 million unemployed workers are not covered
- Disability benefits: 28%
  - The majority of persons with disabilities is not protected
- Old-age pensions: 68%
  - 196 million older persons do not receive old-age pensions

Why are we talking about social protection?

- Protracted displacement - Distinction between short-term emergencies & long-term development blurred – IGAD region average 11 years+.
- In several refugee situations, UNHCR assistance has been performing the same role as social safety nets for decades and using similar tools.
- Area based approach - host & refugee communities & strengthen government capacity.
- Operationalising aspirations of the GCR, SDG ‘Leave No-One Behind’ principle and SDG-specific objectives.
- The growing coverage of SP systems.
Social Protection across the region

- Systems are largely nascent or in development
- Safety nets are the common entry points
- Rural focus
- First priority to serve own population

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## Refugee inclusion in government social protection programmes

### Pathway: development of a comprehensive social protection system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway: inclusion into government programmes (actual or planned)</th>
<th>Nascent system</th>
<th>System in development</th>
<th>Well-developed system</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modest or no inclusion</td>
<td>Burkina Faso, Somalia, Niger, Tanzania</td>
<td>Malawi, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uganda</td>
<td>Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan, Malaysia</td>
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<td>Partial inclusion</td>
<td>Cameroon, Djibouti, Sudan, Burundi</td>
<td>Ethiopia, Ghana Kenya, Rwanda</td>
<td>Colombia, Mexico, Jordan, Iran, Ecuador, Paraguay, India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generous inclusion</td>
<td>Mauritania, RoC, Chad, DRC</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>South Africa, Brazil, Turkey, EU countries</td>
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**Legal framework in place, to be reinforced**  
**Health insurance subsidised by UNHCR**
Inclusion Enabling Factors

- Protection policy environment & recognition of socio-economic rights provides a gateway to govt SP.
- International financing underwriting costs of inclusion.
- Government capacity central and local levels.
- Enrolment in social registries.
- Ability to meet eligibility criteria for enrolment.
- Accompanying & monitoring inclusion.
Inclusion – Examples from this Region

**Djibouti**
- Refugees for the first time included in the PSNF through the IDA 18 RSW SSN project.
- 1000 urban refugee households biometrically enrolled to the government social registry to access COVID-19 vouchers.
- Inclusion in health services, education and urban infrastructure.

**Kenya**
- NHIF urban (22,500), planned expansion to camps, child protection.
- Exploring inclusion of refugee data in the ESR and urban refugee pension pilot.

**Rwanda**
- Urban refugees in Kigali are supported by the Community-Based Health Initiative (CBHI).
- Plan to expand CBHI to refugee camps in the future.
Inclusion – Examples outside region

Republic of the Congo – WB IDA RSW additional financing Lisungi social safety net project. Roll out to remote rural Likouala where more refugees are located and cities of Brazaville and Pointe Noire. Enrolment of eligible refugees & hosts into social registry.

South Africa – Refugees Act grants rights to employment & access social services. Recognized refugees can access social grants as nationals (child support, disability, elderly, social relief in distress) through the South Africa Social Security Agency.

Cameroon - WB IDA18 RSW access for refugees from CAR to SSN (CTs, shock responsive cash, public works, IGA support) & RSW health, education & community development infrastructure.
What is UNHCR’s role in social protection?

UNHCR is not mandated to build government social protection systems, but we can collaboratively support refugee-hosting governments to develop social protection policy frameworks that are inclusive of refugees and asylum seekers through:

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Helping governments and development actors open windows of inclusion</td>
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<td>Progressively align UNCHR assistance to these and set up referral</td>
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<td>Ensure coherent action by all actors across the humanitarian-develop</td>
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<td>Support scalable shock responsive mechanisms that are inclusive of</td>
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<td>refugees and preparing an exit strategy for this assistance.</td>
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<td>Exceptionally directly assist the government to operate social pro</td>
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UNHCR Social Protection EHAGL

01 Engaging country programmes & SP training
02 Mapping – policies, programmes, stakeholders
03 Identifying existing inclusion of UNHCR PoC in SP
04 Identifying opportunities for inclusion of PoC
05 Developing a regional strategy for social protection
Thank you

Questions & Discussion