

# Resilience, humanitarian assistance and social protection for children

in Europe and  
Central Asia

Social Protection Regional Issue Brief: 2

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This brief discusses the relationship between resilience<sup>1</sup>, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and social protection for children in the Europe and Central Asia region. Its objective is to provide ideas and suggestions for UNICEF's work to support social protection systems to

better prepare, prevent, respond to and recover from crisis and emergencies affecting children and their families. The brief is intended as a resource for UNICEF staff of the Europe and Central Asia region<sup>2</sup>, and partners.

<sup>1</sup> Resilience is the ability to withstand threats or shocks, or the ability to adapt to new livelihood options, in ways that preserve integrity and that do not deepen vulnerability. The resilience of a household is related to the available resources (e.g. financial, assets, human capital, social resources etc.) and household's ability to use these resources (e.g. access to markets, access to public services and social protection). UNICEF works on resilience building in all the Strategic Plan areas.

<sup>2</sup> The brief was drafted based on a desk review of available documentation, and draws on an earlier document prepared by Veronica Sandu, consultant, that surveyed country work in the region and included interviews with UNICEF staff. The Europe and Central Asia region covers 21 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

# The issue: shocks, children, social protection and humanitarian action in the region

The risks and shocks that affect children and families can generally be divided into: 1) idiosyncratic, i.e. driven by individual circumstances, such as the loss of a breadwinner, loss of the house, protracted illness, divorce, etc.; and 2) covariate, i.e. driven by external circumstances and affecting multiple households and communities, such as climatic (floods, cold spells), geo-physical (earthquakes), economic (austerity, debt crisis, national currency devaluation, declining remittances) and political (conflict, displacement). Within the second category, shocks can be slow-onset shocks (a gradually worsening drought, economic crisis) and predictable (extremely cold weather in winter months), or rapid (floods) and less predictable (earthquake, tsunami).

These aspects, and others such as the duration and location of the shock, are important when considering the most appropriate type of response from both a humanitarian and social protection perspective. This brief focuses on covariate shocks, since idiosyncratic shocks are historically at the centre of social protection, and as such have been discussed extensively in other reports by UNICEF and partners.

Globally, more children than ever are forced to live through natural disasters, socio-economic shocks and conflict. The same trend is observed in the Europe and Central Asia region. The main categories of shocks this brief will address are: natural and climate-related disasters; economic shocks; and conflicts.

Table 1: Types of shocks

Type of Shock	Examples
<b>Natural and climate-related shocks</b> , such as melt-water floods, landslides, earthquakes and droughts	<p>High temperatures and melting snow in July 2015 resulted in <b>mudslides</b> in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) and Rasht Regions of Tajikistan, affecting some 14,000 people, half of them children.</p> <p>In November 2015, southern Kyrgyzstan was hit by an <b>earthquake</b> of 6.4 magnitude on the Richter scale, affecting over 6,000 families, many of whom lost their homes. GBAO also suffered an earthquake in December 2015 which directly affected over 5,000 persons and displaced more than 600 people, including 350 children. Some 140 houses and 15 schools also suffered damage.</p> <p>During 2000/2001, a severe <b>drought</b> ravaged crops across the Caucasus and Central Asia. In Georgia, almost 80 percent of the country's wheat crop was lost while losses to other crops approached 70 percent. Half of the population of Tajikistan (3 million people) faced severe food access problems. In 2007/2008 the winter energy crisis in Central Asia left some 2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, while Central Asia (Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) was hit by droughts again during the 2008/2009 season resulting in considerable drops in food grain production.</p>
<b>Economic shocks</b> , such as exchange rate depreciations; oil price shocks; reductions in remittances	<p>In 2015 the impact of a weaker Russian<sup>3</sup> economy significantly increased vulnerability in the Caucasus and Central Asia, while oil exporting countries in the region witnessed falling revenues throughout 2015 and 2016. Remittances are vital for some Central Asia economies. Falling remittances from migration resulted in substantial reductions in household income among poor households. In Tajikistan (where remittances are about 42 percent of GDP), a decrease in remittances resulted in a 23 percent fall in household incomes of the bottom quintile. Tajikistan was also hard hit by the instability of the national currency and a cold spell in the Northern regions in 2015</p>
<b>Conflicts and displacements</b>	<p>In 2015, <b>war and insecurity</b> in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq resulted in <b>displacement and migration</b> of more than a million people who travelled through Turkey, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia - around one quarter of these were children. At end February 2017, the refugee population in Turkey reached 3.2 million – of which, 2.9 million were Syrian (including some 1.3 million Syrian children).</p> <p>The situation in eastern Ukraine remains volatile, despite the ceasefire agreed in September 2015, with some 3.7 million people, including 580,000 children, affected by the conflict, including an estimated 100,000 children who live near the frontline.</p>

Children in the region are at increased risk during disasters. Poor children, in particular, are at greater risk of infectious disease outbreaks (such as polio and measles), inadequate access to safe water and challenges related to child development and protection. Crises also heighten existing structural vulnerabilities such as social exclusion of specific groups of children and high youth unemployment. Poor children, families and communities already have limited coping mechanisms, so that the effects on the poorest can be devastating: coping mechanisms are more quickly exhausted, deepening inequalities, plunging them into extreme poverty and threatening their survival in some cases.

**Humanitarian assistance** is generally accepted to mean the aid and action designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of man-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations<sup>4</sup>.

**UNICEF's humanitarian action**<sup>5</sup> encompasses both interventions focused on preparedness for response to save lives and protect rights as defined in the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) in line with international standards and guided by humanitarian principles, as well as UNICEF contributions to address underlying causes of vulnerability to disasters, fragility and conflict through both its support in response to humanitarian crises, as well as through its regular programmes.

UNICEF recognized that while disaster risk poses a significant threat to a child's rights and development, a holistic approach to support the capacities of children, communities and governments to deal with multiple shocks and stresses is required. Therefore, UNICEF globally has called for 'resilient development'<sup>6</sup> which implies a need to address underlying drivers of multiple risks.

**Resilience** is understood by UNICEF as the ability of children, households, communities and systems to anticipate, prevent, withstand, manage and overcome cumulative stresses and shocks in ways which advance the rights of every child, with special attention to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. Supporting resilient development therefore means promoting risk informed programming which includes development of nationally led common risk assessments, DRR<sup>7</sup>, climate change adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. UNICEF and partners can build resilience and reduce vulnerability by supporting the capacities of local systems and structures to address these systematically by integrating risk factors such as climate change into public services planning and delivery.

3 Russia was also a major source of remittances. The fall in Ruble against the dollar and in the price of oil affected remittances to the Central Asia countries

4 Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative, <http://www.ghdinitiative.org/ghd/gns/principles-good-practice-of-ghd/principles-good-practice-ghd.html>

5 UNICEF in emergencies and humanitarian action, [http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/index\\_68712.html](http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/index_68712.html)

6 Technical Note on Resilient Development, UNICEF DRP, May 2016

7 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a systematic approach to identifying, assessing, and reducing that risk, and is achieved by preventing new and reducing existing risks, while managing for possible residual risk through preparedness

**Social protection** systems exist and are being further developed in the region, as a means to tackle poverty, deprivation, inequity and fragility, thereby improving the resilience of individuals and families to all types of shocks. The main instruments of the social protection system include cash, vouchers, social support services, and fee waivers. In emergency and humanitarian situations, cash-based social assistance programmes are increasingly recognized as quicker, easier to administer and more empowering compared to delivering in-kind aid such as food or supplies. As countries in the region reform their social protection systems to become more effective and sensitive to children, there is a tremendous opportunity to make these systems more agile, flexible, dynamic and innovative to quickly respond to the rapidly changing circumstances that affect the lives of children. In other words, in order to be truly effective in protecting and promoting vulnerable children, social protection systems in the region must be better prepared for the possibility of shock and crisis.

A '**shock-responsive social protection system**'<sup>8</sup> is one that can respond flexibly in the event of an emergency, especially covariate shocks that affect large numbers of people and/or communities at once. In these situations, a key challenge is that social protection needs may increase exponentially while the shock may at the same time limit the capacity of the system to deliver. A functioning shock-responsive social protection system should be able to balance between mitigating the impact of a shock on households, including through the implementation of disaster-risk reduction policies or systems for early warning and preparedness for shocks, and ensuring that resources are made available in a timely manner if ex-post assistance is required.

'**Adaptive Social Protection**' has also been developed, by the Institute of Development Studies<sup>9</sup>, as an approach that combines social protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as a means to increase the livelihoods resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable people. It aims to simultaneously tackle unsafe living conditions, counter the underlying causes of vulnerability, and promote people's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Drawing on elements included in the above mentioned frameworks, with a specific attention to the rights and perspective of children, Table 2 gives examples of measures that could enhance the capacities of social protection systems in the region to prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from shocks.

8 Oxford Policy Management 2016, Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems Literature review, available at [http://www.opml.co.uk/sites/default/files/Shock\\_responsive\\_social\\_protection\\_Literature%20review\\_EN.pdf](http://www.opml.co.uk/sites/default/files/Shock_responsive_social_protection_Literature%20review_EN.pdf)

9 <http://www.ids.ac.uk/project/adaptive-social-protection>

# Examples of measures to strengthen the links between **social protection and humanitarian assistance and building resilience of social protection systems**

Drawing on elements included in the above mentioned frameworks, with a specific attention to the rights and perspective of children, Table 2 gives examples of

measures that could enhance the capacities of social protection systems in the region to prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from shocks.

**Table 2: Making Disaster Risk Management (DRM) mechanisms and Social Protection (SP) systems more responsive**

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Phase	Potential adjustments to DRM mechanisms	Potential adjustments to social protection systems
<b>Prevention/ Mitigation</b>	Linking public works programmes provided by others to build disaster-proof infrastructure (e.g. disaster-proof infrastructure, building dikes, earthquake proof schools and hospitals, etc.) or to improve management of natural resources for climate adaptation, with social protection registries targeting the poorest households in the areas at risk. This would serve the double objective of providing critical and reliable income to poor and vulnerable families and building more resilient infrastructure and sustainable environment.	Expanding coverage, improving targeting accuracy, focusing on reaching the most vulnerable children and improving adequacy of benefits and services could more effectively contribute to reducing socio-economic vulnerability and equipping households with children with assets and support systems before a shock.
<b>Preparedness</b>	Early warning systems and established criteria for different levels of alert could be formally linked to social protection programmes. This is likely to be most relevant in the region in the case of economic shocks.	A social assistance programme could be linked to a consumer price index (or a subset of prices related to the items and services that children use). When the index reaches above an agreed threshold, regulations could mandate an automatic adjustment to the value of the benefits.
	Risk assessments, hazard risk mapping, vulnerability assessments and related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning at all levels, should ideally include all sectors, and thus also social protection (see manual for local level DRR plans developed by UNICEF in the region <sup>10</sup> ).	Social protection systems could be supported to undertake regular risk and vulnerability analysis, and enhance capacities for data management and reporting on risks and vulnerabilities.  A registry of vulnerable households with children could also be developed at national and local levels, distinguishing between chronically poor and those likely to suffer from transitory poverty due to shocks.
	Contingency plans and sectoral preparedness plans could incorporate planned social protection emergency interventions.	Social protection systems could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run an analysis of their preparedness level, capacity and options to respond to emergencies.</li> <li>• Define roles and responsibilities of SP staff, SOPs for acting in emergency situations and develop response plans with possible interventions including cash and services.</li> <li>• Develop inventories of possible payment networks for quickly scaling-up cash benefits.</li> <li>• Adopt flexible and open payment platforms, easily scalable as needed, and stand-by partnership with private sector payment providers.</li> <li>• Develop indicators and analytical capacities within relevant agencies to monitor increases in demand for social support services and protocols to trigger decisions and actions.</li> <li>• Develop systems for rapid assessments and data collection which can enable prompt situation analysis in the SP area at the onset of emergencies.</li> </ul>

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Phase	Potential adjustments to DRM mechanisms	Potential adjustments to social protection systems
<b>Preparedness</b>	Public information and awareness raising emergency communication systems could incorporate information about social protection programmes available and how to access them during shocks and emergencies.	Social protection awareness campaigns, and social workers could inform beneficiaries about potential risks affecting them, and ensure their situation is included in local risk assessments and plans.  Ensure that other actors in the DRR planning and response (at national and sub-national levels) have information on who are the most vulnerable from the social protection perspective and are recognised in local risk assessments and plans.
	DRM financing mechanisms, disaster and contingency funds, resource mobilisation systems and insurance mechanisms, could explicitly include the funding of social protection interventions.	Social protection budgets could include a set percentage of reserve funds to be used flexibly to address shocks, and adopt a 'crisis modifier' that stipulates the circumstances under which the reserve funds are unblocked, or the system turns into an emergency mode.  Social protection systems could explore innovative weather/ disaster-related risk management policies and instruments. Several approaches are feasible, including local government, central government and regional/sub-regional risk pooling arrangements.
	Develop good coordination mechanisms linking social protection agencies, DRR and humanitarian agencies and other state institutions and ministries, as well as civil society and international organisations.	
<b>Response</b>	<p>Provision of emergency in-kind support and supplies could be linked or take due account of other forms of interventions e.g. cash transfers and social work interventions.</p> <p>Provision of in-kind support could rely on registries of vulnerable households from the social protection system.</p>	<p>Social protection programmes can be scaled up in response to a shock<sup>11</sup>, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjusting the transfer amounts so that they are sufficient to meet critical expenditure gaps and prevent harmful coping strategies in a context where other resources and networks of support may not be available anymore.</li> <li>• Introducing ad hoc/extraordinary payments (e.g. in winter months for clothing or heating).</li> <li>• Expanding the number of beneficiaries through ad hoc/extraordinary enrolment campaigns, or modifying/relaxing the criteria for enrolment (e.g. all children in a region affected by floods receive a child benefit - not only the poorest). Where benefits to children are linked to "conditions" and compliance has become untenable, temporarily relax conditions as appropriate.</li> <li>• Support children to access education, health and other services (e.g. via free transport, vouchers, fee waivers, deployment of social workers/mediators, etc.).</li> <li>• Use the SP administrative system to run a separate/parallel shock-response programme (e.g. hiring temporary social workers that will work for a limited period in a shock affected area only).</li> <li>• Where resources are really limited, refocus the entire SP system and budget to prioritize assistance to the children most affected by the shock.</li> <li>• Where scale-up of existing systems is not possible, a parallel SP intervention could be developed ensuring the best alignment with the existing system.</li> </ul>
<b>Recovery</b>	<p>Post-disaster needs assessments can collect information that could be used to target social protection programmes to the most affected children.</p> <p>Resettlements programmes could include social protection interventions to ensure access of children to education, health and other interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social protection cash transfers could be used for targeted regions or vulnerable populations which were the most affected by an emergency to boost the recovery phase.</li> <li>• Re-evaluate the SP system and incorporate lessons learnt at various levels in the system.</li> <li>• In areas that are shock prone and impacts (e.g. on livelihoods) are known, the SP system could promote reskilling/retraining and livelihood diversification interventions for family members.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Framework</b>	DRM and social protection legal, policy and institutional frameworks (platforms, agencies) could be more explicitly linked and address respective roles and value added, including through the establishment and functioning of inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination structures.	

<sup>11</sup> When considering the use of national social protection programmes as 'humanitarian action', the principle that assistance must be given to all on the basis of need alone should be at the fore-front. In some contexts, it cannot be assumed that a state will be capable and willing to deliver social protection aid to all, targeting purely on need, especially when the state in question is a party to the conflict – a good example is the conflict in Ukraine. The appropriateness of social protection interventions fully replacing other types of humanitarian aid needs to be evaluated in each case, also taking into account the capacity of the system. A humanitarian response could be an opportunity to strengthen the social protection system, but it could also further overburden already weak institutions, leading to failures in the response and in the regular social protection programmes.

# Experiences in the Europe and Central Asia region

## Mitigation, Prevention and Preparedness

### Moldova: Assessment of Resilience of Social Assistance System

UNICEF Moldova commissioned a study with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in 2014-2016 to assess how the social protection system in Moldova can be improved to increase the resilience of households facing idiosyncratic shocks. The social protection system in Moldova includes a long-term poverty alleviation social assistance programmes and one-off cash assistance measures in emergency situations. The study found some households, such as those with multiple children, have higher exposure to risk and lower resilience in the face of shocks. The coping mechanisms that households or individuals use to offset the negative economic impacts of shocks does not significantly vary. Most respondents reported seeking social assistance as a way to cope with a shock, most did not consider social assistance to be an effective coping method because of low benefit amounts and the lag between the time of need and the receipt of social assistance. The study recommended to improve communication about different social assistance programmes, to strengthen local-level programme administration, remove administrative barriers to application, and revise programme design.

### Armenia: The Assessment of Needs for Strengthening Resilience of Social Protection System

The study was commissioned by UNICEF in 2015 recognising that the population, economy, and environment of Armenia are highly vulnerable to natural hazards. The social protection system in Armenia was assessed as not sufficiently focused on building resilience of vulnerable groups and communities and recommendations were provided to all relevant actors - to clearly articulate roles and responsibilities of the social protection ministry in DRR and ensure that all policy and budget submissions include a brief DRR assessment component while resilience building elements should be applied to existing and new policies and programmes; to establish integrated social protection system and invest into capacity building of social workers/case managers to streamline resilience and prevention in case managers work and develop resilience building measures specific to different vulnerable groups. UNICEF and the national DRR institution should help to raise awareness on the importance of resilience building and prevention and through strengthening ministerial capacities in mainstreaming DRR in social protection systems.

## Response

### Bosnia-Herzegovina: Scaling Up Social Services in Response to Floods

In May 2014, extreme flooding affected about 60,000 children and their families in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who lost their homes and livelihoods. UNICEF reacted by providing supplies to the Centres for Social Work (CSW) at the community level. Support was also provided

for data collection, outreach work and burn-out prevention of social workers. The May 2014 events revealed that no instructions, procedures or codes of conduct were available for the intervention of the social protection sector neither for the immediate emergency phase nor the post emergency. UNICEF in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided assistance to develop a practical toolkit that defines the role and actions of the CSW in emergency situations, based on the evidence and experiences of immediate reaction and mitigation of the consequences of the floods. The manual was then used to train the social workers in the country. UNICEF advocated for the expansion of social services for children and assisted the affected municipalities to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into the local social protection plans. Similar guides have been developed in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

### Moldova: Expanding Social Protection Coverage in Response to Cold Weather

In 2010, an increase in energy prices left many families unable to afford heating, electricity and gas in the coldest months of the year. The timely intervention<sup>12</sup> of UNICEF Moldova with the Parliament and leverage from international partners ensured that a winter support index was added to calculations of social aid transfers, beginning in January 2011. This allowed a greater number of families with children to receive compensation during winter.

### Kyrgyzstan: Introducing a Post Conflict Cash Benefit

In 2010, in the aftermath of ethnic violence, the Kyrgyz Government, with technical assistance from UNICEF, introduced a 'post-conflict' monthly cash benefit for families that lost their breadwinner or victims who became disabled. The value of the benefit was ten times the level of the Guaranteed Minimum Income. In November 2010, 2,383 beneficiaries were registered. The children of families with persons reported missing received a temporary stipend of KGS 1,000 per month (limited to six months).<sup>13</sup> A total of 300 social protection staff in the South of the country were trained and coached, and 26 additional social workers were deployed. 25,000 leaflets/brochures in Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Russian were shared to increase awareness of affected families with children on additional social assistance and regular benefits.

### Turkey: Winterization Package Through Cash Transfers

In the context of the response to the Syria crisis, UNICEF Turkey has delivered a winterization package through cash transfers. The first distribution modality was by topping-up WFP cash cards for 6,700 families with children. The second modality was distribution of one-off e-vouchers (worth \$200) to 12,091 vulnerable families supporting them to cope with the increased basic needs and consumptions over winter months.

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/LL\\_Knowledge\\_in\\_Action\\_Vol2\\_8Mar12low-resmco.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/LL_Knowledge_in_Action_Vol2_8Mar12low-resmco.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/iwp\\_2011\\_5.pdf](https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/iwp_2011_5.pdf)



A number of partners are also engaging in social protection activities related to disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance in the region. In Tajikistan<sup>14</sup>, the World Bank rolled out the “Listening to Tajikistan” survey in 2015 to monitor the impact of emerging trends throughout the country at high frequency. The survey which is an example of a “real time” monitoring approach, rapidly clarifies the severity of the economic downturn, the evolution of vulnerabilities, and household responses to risk and deprivation over time. It enables a focus on poorer and more vulnerable households, and generates evidence for targeted policy-making. Since July 2016 UNICEF has partnered with the World Bank to include child related indicators into the survey.

World Food Programme in Ukraine<sup>15</sup> provides support to IDPs, returnees and people who are suffering as a result of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Many of them have not only lost homes, but also access to land to grow food. WFP provides monthly food parcels and cash-based transfers (CBTs) to vulnerable populations to ensure they have access to sufficient food. The type of assistance depends on local conditions such as availability of food at local markets and whether financial institutions are functioning. 180,000 people assisted with cash-based transfers (cash or vouchers) are provided with UAH 550 (approximately USD 20 per month), calculated to cover the food needs of one person for one month.

Save the Children<sup>16</sup> is also providing cash and in-kind support in Ukraine. They provided 6,000 cash grants to help families get through the harsh winter and buy food, warm clothes, medicine and pay rent. Cash grants enable people to choose the support they need in a dignified way. In summer 2015, 775 households received flexible grants to cover shelter repairs, rent or utilities, and 800 households received unconditional cash grants. Through the cash for work programme they engaged more than 670 people in repairs and the reconstruction of social infrastructure such as schools and kindergartens.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) also provided cash grants to residents affected by an earthquake in Osh oblast in 2015. Cash grants were focused on the most vulnerable families, including households headed by single parents, those with a member with disability and families of five or more children. The one-off grants were provided to enable affected households to purchase staple food and essential non-food items for two months<sup>17</sup>.

## Supporting the development of social protection for preparedness and resilience

The following are ways in which UNICEF and partners can support the development of social protection systems that are more effective at preventing and responding to the negative impacts of shocks on children and families.

### Advocacy

Advocate for national governments to initiate processes which would make their SP systems more resilient and responsive to shocks and able to address child vulnerabilities.

14 <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/brief/listening2tajikistan>

15 <http://www.wfp.org/countries/ukraine>, [http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ep/wfp274962.pdf?\\_ga=1.48995118.983331755.1478600075](http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ep/wfp274962.pdf?_ga=1.48995118.983331755.1478600075)

16 <https://www.savethechildren.net/our-humanitarian-programme-ukraine>

17 <http://www.unocha.org/rocca/top-stories/why-coordination-crisis-matters>

## 8 Policy dialogue and advice & capacity development of professionals and organisations

Provide technical assistance and capacity development to countries to strengthen the linkages between DRM and SP systems, and to make social protection systems more responsive, flexible and resilient, in line with the possibilities outlined in Table 2.

### Knowledge generation and Child Rights Monitoring

Assess current systems of social protection in terms of their ability to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from the impact of shocks on children, either by conducting new research, by including these aspects in situation analyses, or by using existing evidence by other actors where available.

When conducting situation analyses or any types of studies, consider which areas or social groups are particularly affected by potential shocks in each country and explore whether/how their resilience could be improved through social protection.

Conduct real time monitoring exercises<sup>18</sup> to monitor the impact of shocks on children, including through the use of communication technologies.

Conduct research on the impact of more comprehensive social protection systems in disasters to assess whether people receiving regular and adequate social protection benefits and services are better able to cope with the consequences of shocks. Improved evidence may help to make the case for investing in reducing the social and economic vulnerability of certain groups as a form of sustainable disaster risk reduction.

## Horizontal Cooperation beyond borders

Support governments, civil society and other actors from countries in the region to exchange experiences and learn from countries that have already better integrated DRM and social protection.

### Convening partnerships and leveraging resources for children

Ensure analytical efforts on DRR or social protection include the other dimension as well, are child-responsive and include the impact on children and children's perspectives.

Ensure grants, budget support and loans related to social protection include specific provisions related to child responsive DRM, and that work on DRM includes, where possible, social protection interventions that reach children.

Convene partnerships between ministries and institutions, including representatives of civil society and children, to promote the linkages, and enhance coordination between social protection systems and DRM and humanitarian response systems, and roles and responsibilities at institutional and operational level in all phases of DRM.

### Modelling and testing innovations

Conduct feasibility studies and, where necessary, support (financially and with technical assistance) the introduction of emergency cash transfer programmes, emergency psycho-social support programmes and other innovative social protection responses to a humanitarian crisis.

## Key readings

Davis, M. and Leavy, J. 2010, Connecting social protection and climate change adaptation, available at [http://www.eldis.org/go/home&id=56017&type=Document#.V0Mbj\\_196As](http://www.eldis.org/go/home&id=56017&type=Document#.V0Mbj_196As)

Oxford Policy Management 2016, Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems Literature review, available at [http://www.opml.co.uk/sites/default/files/Shock\\_responsive\\_social\\_protection\\_Literature%20review\\_EN.pdf](http://www.opml.co.uk/sites/default/files/Shock_responsive_social_protection_Literature%20review_EN.pdf)

World Bank 2013, Building resilience to disaster and climate change through social protection, available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/05/18019809/building-resilience-disaster-climate-change-through-social-protection>



<sup>18</sup> See a compendium of UNICEF practices from 2013 at <http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/real-time-monitoring-for-the-most-vulnerable>

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