



Learning from the Evidence on Forced Displacement: Social Protection Responses to Forced Displacement

October 25, 2023

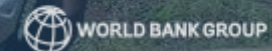


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Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement



Joint Data Center
on Forced Displacement



25th October 2023 training

How can **social protection**
and **humanitarian systems**
work together to meet
the needs of those
affected by
displacement
crises?

Christy Lowe
Research Associate, ODI

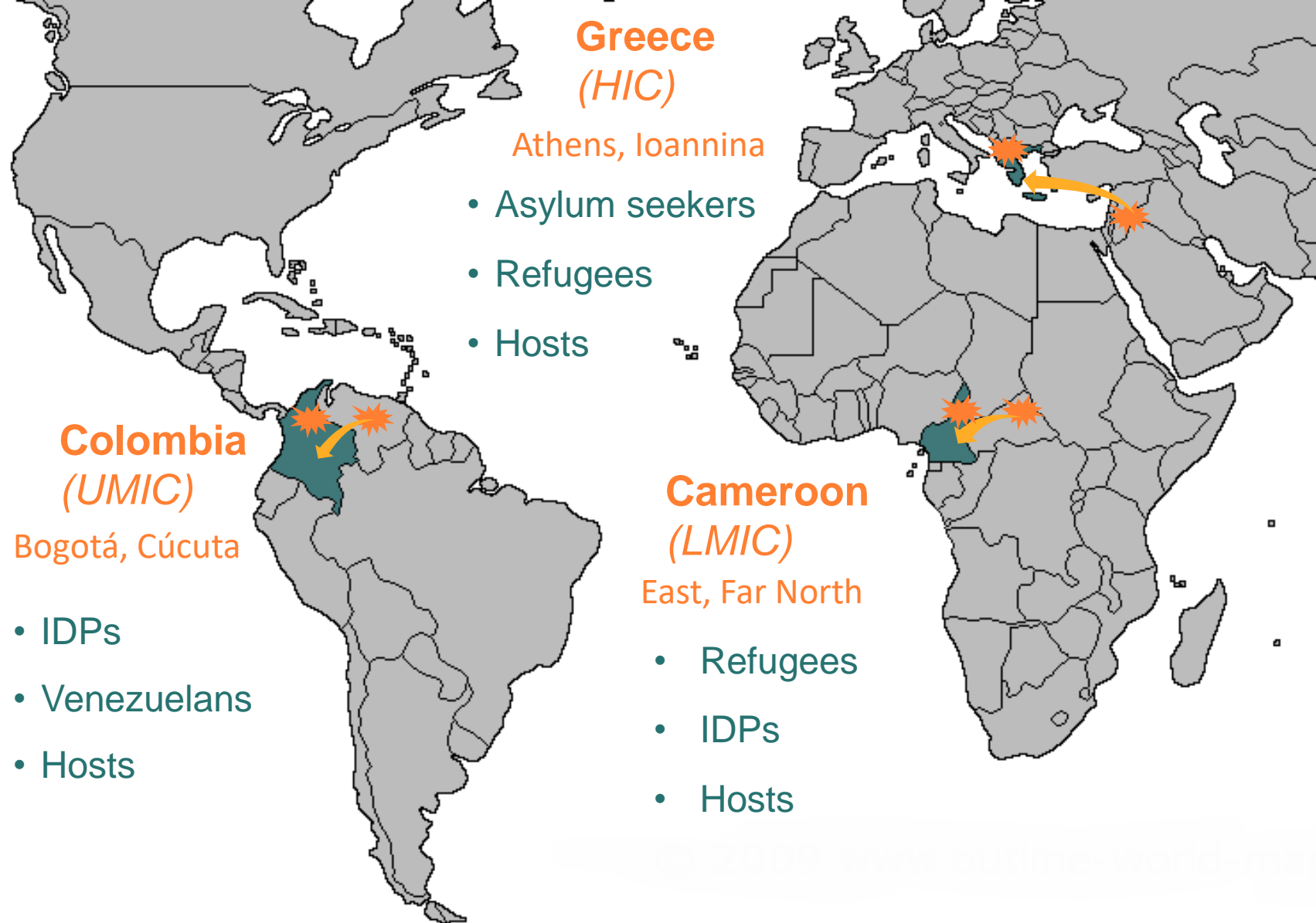
Jessica Hagen-Zanker
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Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement

- **Global evidence review**
- **Global data analysis**
- + *in each case study country:*
- **Survey** of displaced & host community members (1,500 households)
- **Focus group discussions / in-depth interviews** (60-200 displaced & host community members)
- **Key informant interviews** with government, international agencies, civil society (~ 25 respondents)



What is social protection?

True or False?

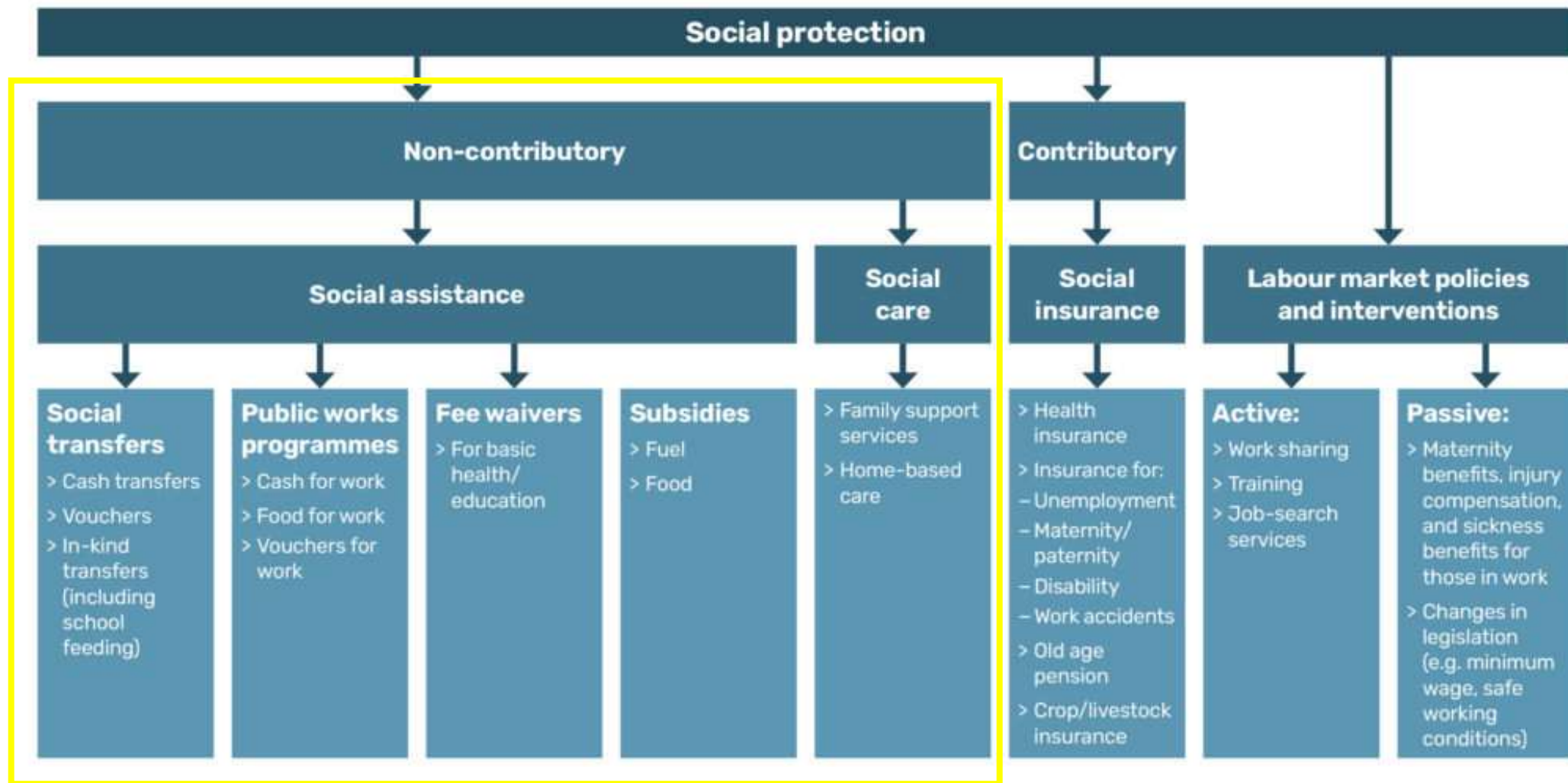
- 1) **Social protection refers to the nationally defined system of policies and programmes that protect people throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being.**
- 2) **Social protection is a universal human right, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various other international conventions, frameworks and standards.**
- 3) **Implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all is an explicit target in the Sustainable Development Goals.**



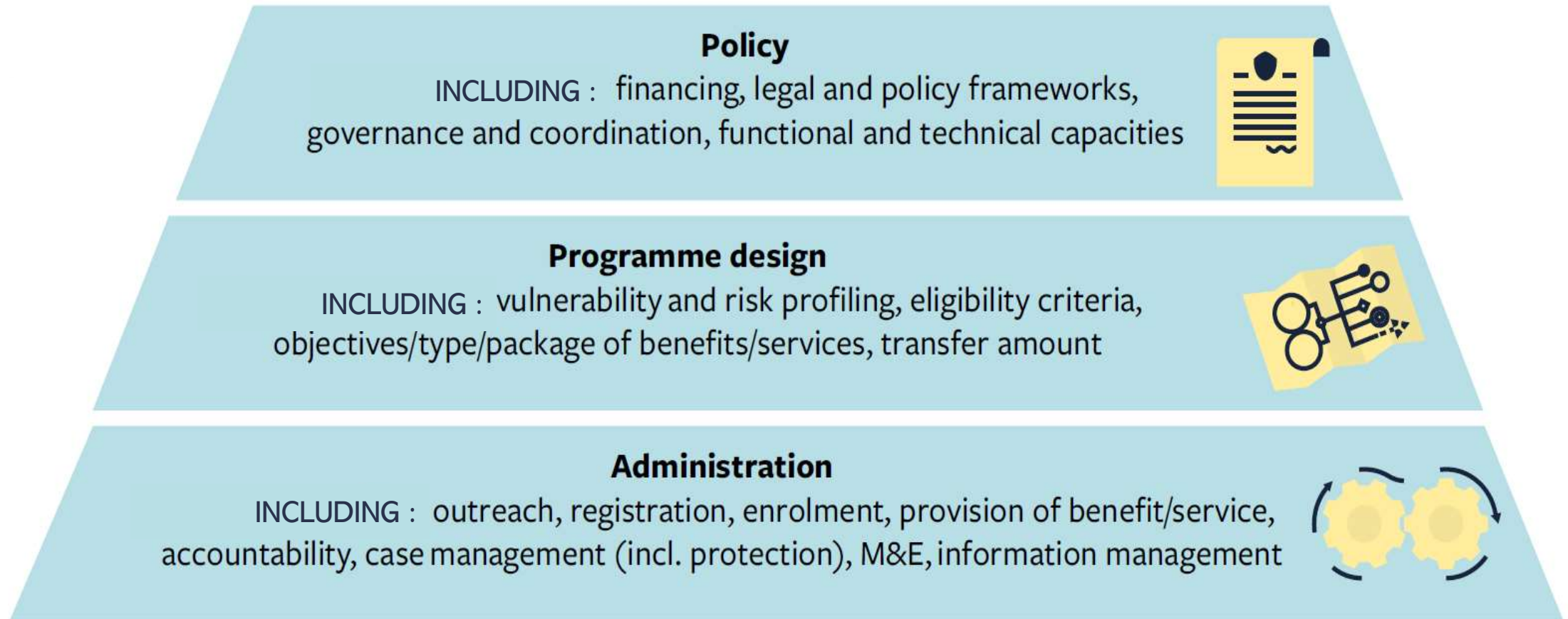
Which of these are examples of social protection?

- 1) Cash transfers
- 2) Family support services
- 3) Statutory maternity leave
- 4) School feeding programmes
- 5) Subsidized health insurance
- 6) Public works programmes





The components of a social protection system can be grouped into three main levels



Why is there interest in linking with social protection systems in displacement responses?

Interest in linking with social protection systems is growing because...

The traditional humanitarian model has struggled to respond to the current displacement challenge

Over 100 million people are displaced

Often on a protracted basis

Increasingly living among host communities, often in urban areas

Compared to humanitarian assistance, it is hoped that a social protection response might be more...

Cost-efficient

Sustainable

Equitable between host and displaced communities

And that working more closely with state systems could help...

Strengthen national social protection capacity

Enhance host government relations with displaced

Support humanitarian-development-peace nexus

How can humanitarian assistance link with social protection systems in displacement settings?

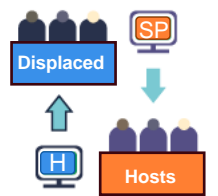
There are a range of options for linking humanitarian assistance with social protection

No link between humanitarian assistance & social protection system



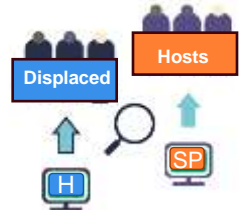
Humanitarian assistance fully integrated into the state's system

PARALLEL



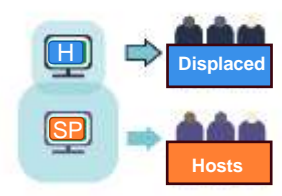
Humanitarian-led, not linked to state social protection

ALIGNING



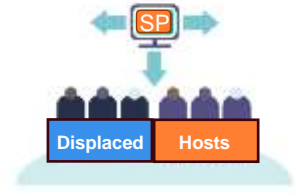
Humanitarian-led, using state social protection as a reference point

LEVERAGING



Humanitarian-led, involving the state

STATE-LED

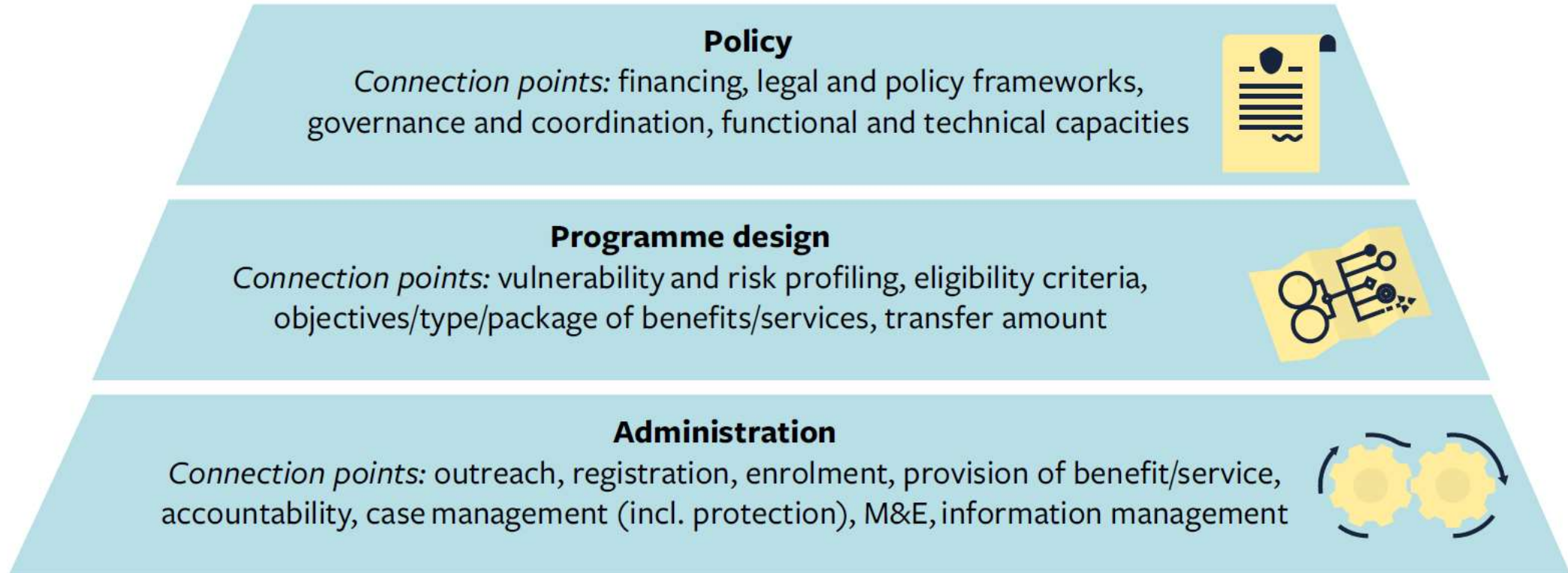


National social protection system

System for assisting the displaced is...



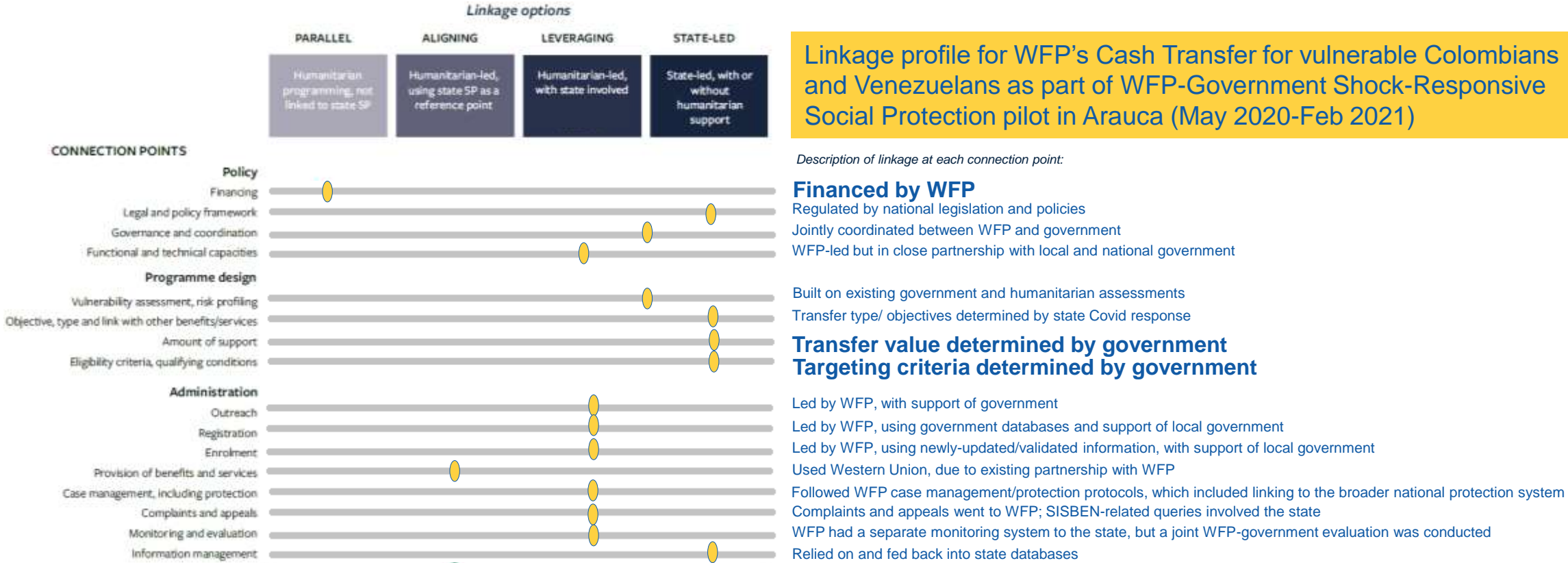
Assistance can be linked to different degrees at different points in the social protection system



This means there are many possible approaches for linking with the SP system

The details of the linkage approach can be illustrated through a 'linkage profile', showing the linkage option adopted at each connection point

Linkage profile for WFP's Cash Transfer for vulnerable Colombians and Venezuelans as part of WFP-Government Shock-Responsive Social Protection pilot in Arauca (May 2020-Feb 2021)



The linkage approach will depend on the factors and actors that are present in a specific context



Initial context

Nature of displacement

Host context:

- structural features, state of existing SP & humanitarian systems
- laws, institutions, norms governing government and international response

Wider government and international humanitarian response strategies



Determining factors and actors



FACTORS

ACTORS

Actors involved and their:

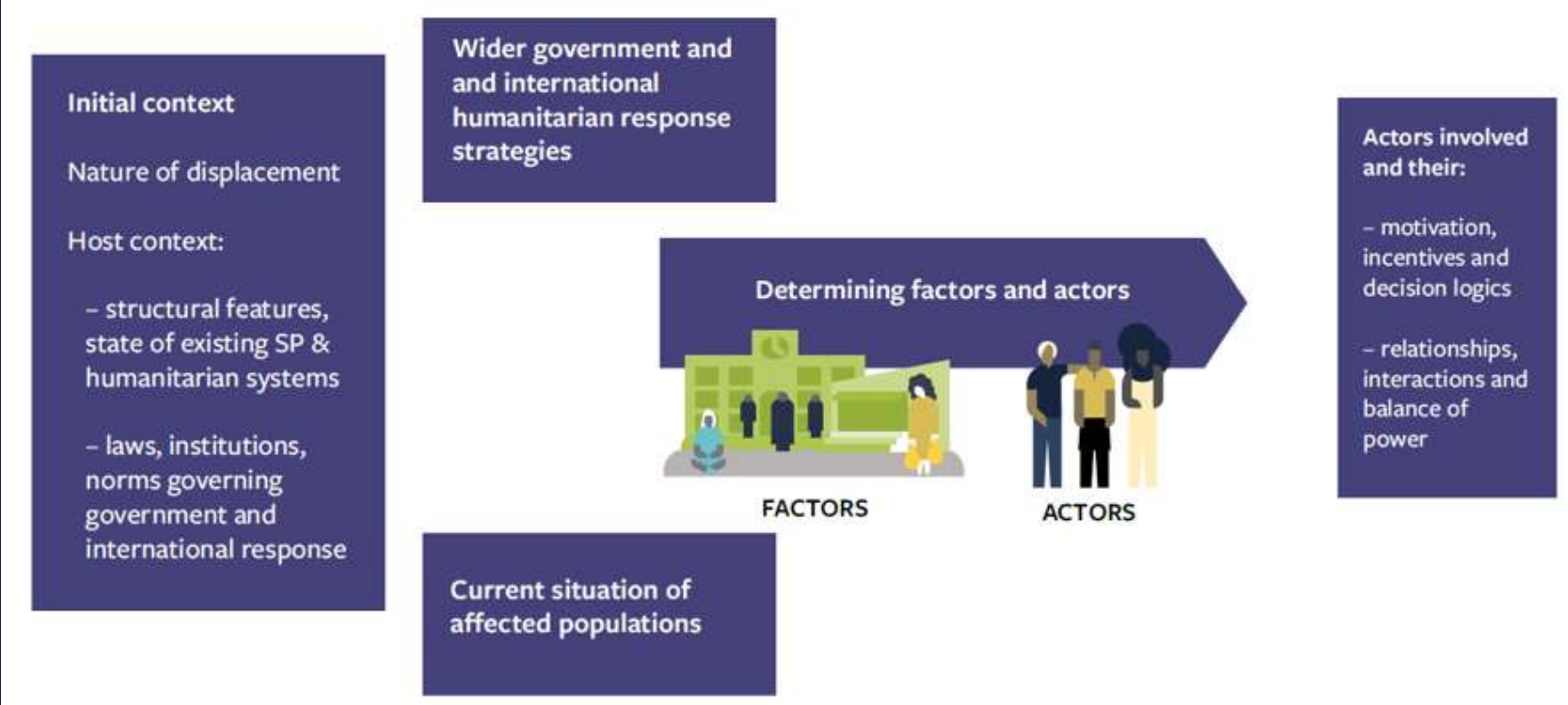
- motivation, incentives and decision logics
- relationships, interactions and balance of power

Current situation of affected populations



Exercise

Thinking of a displacement context that you know, what immediately stands out as a key factor or actors that would influence the approach to linking assistance with the social protection system?





UNHCR's 'Thinking on Linking'

Mattia Polvanesi - Senior Social Protection Officer

What are the key overarching lessons for linking with social protection systems in displacement responses?


1 Displaced populations often have distinct needs

THEY WILL DO SO **FOR A LONG TIME** AFTER HAVING BEEN DISPLACED.


ADAPTATIONS TO PROGRAMME DESIGN and DELIVERY, as well as additional support, are needed to effectively serve displaced people through social protection systems.



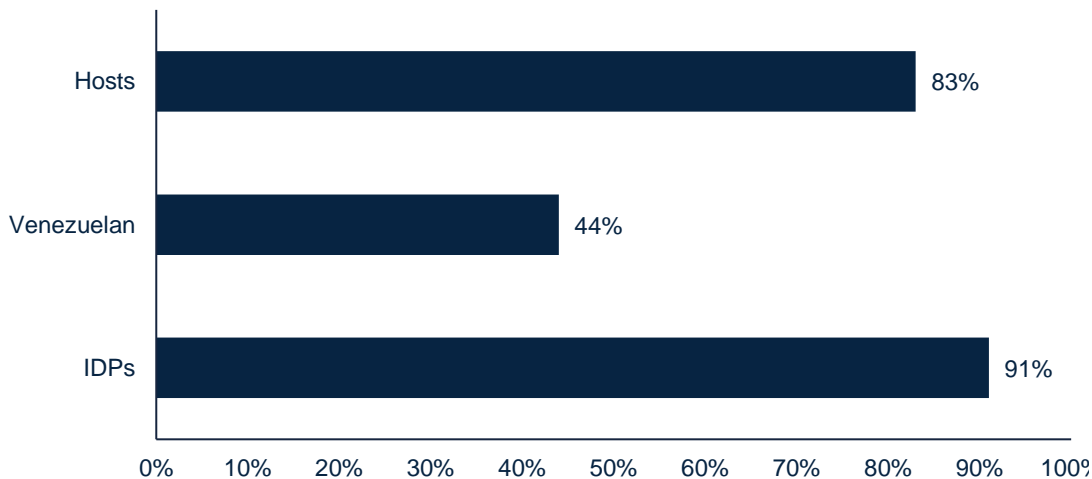


Displaced people's basic needs may be neglected, and their wellbeing jeopardized, if assistance for them tries to align with social protection **transfer amounts, type, or targeting criteria** without considering the unique nature and higher level of their needs. 

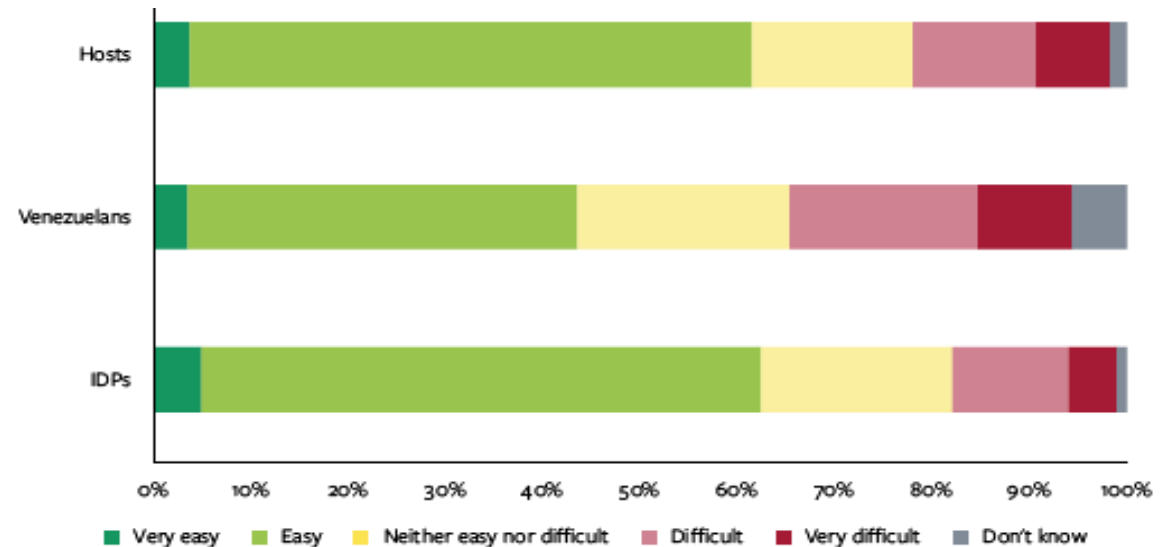


Adjustments are likely to be needed to social protection **outreach, registration, eligibility determination, benefit/service provision and accountability mechanisms** to support displaced people effectively. 

Proportion of respondents who reported that their household was registered in the SISBEN (Colombia's social registry)



Reported ease of registration in the SISBEN (Colombia's social registry), among registered hosts, Venezuelans and IDPs in survey sample

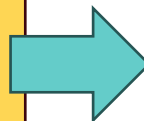


2 Hosts often also lack access to effective assistance

Those concerned with **SOCIAL COHESION** should focus on improving **ADEQUACY OF PROVISION FOR HOSTS**, rather than on reducing or aligning provisions for displaced people.



Where tensions exist around assistance to displaced people, they are rarely caused by the assistance itself. They are typically a **symptom of existing social discontent** within the host community, related to perceived institutional neglect of their needs

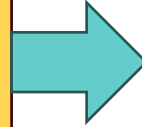


Focus on promoting better attention to hosts' socio-economic concerns, rather than producing inadequate support for host and displaced communities alike

| | AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENT: "VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS OF THE [OTHER] COMMUNITY SHOULD RECEIVE SOME SUPPORT." | | | | | AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENT: "VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS OF THE [OTHER] COMMUNITY ARE RECEIVING MORE SUPPORT THAN VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS OF MY [OWN] COMMUNITY." | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | All | Host respondents regarding Refugees | Host respondents regarding IDPs | Refugee respondents regarding Hosts | IDP respondents regarding Hosts | All | Host respondents regarding Refugees | Host respondents regarding IDPs | Refugee respondents regarding Hosts | IDP respondents regarding Hosts |
| Respondent receives assistance | -0.184 (0.244) | -0.341 (0.645) | 0.946 (0.757) | -0.0709 (0.292) | 0.198 (0.636) | -0.401** (0.177) | 1.093 (0.803) | -0.571 (0.637) | -0.612** (0.302) | -0.276 (0.357) |
| Status of the respondent = 1, Host (Base) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Status of the respondent = 2, Refugee | -0.695** (0.340) | | | | | -3.203*** (0.297) | | | | |
| Status of the respondent = 3, IDP | 1.813*** (0.433) | | | | | -0.783** (0.328) | | | | |
| Constant | 1.669*** (0.584) | 0.943 (0.873) | 1.061 (1.167) | 1.203 (0.851) | 1.603 (2.866) | 1.575*** (0.423) | 1.385* (0.731) | 1.019 (1.228) | -1.263** (0.612) | -1.745 (1.613) |
| Observations | 1,454 | 476 | 229 | 677 | 189 | 1,458 | 482 | 243 | 707 | 266 |

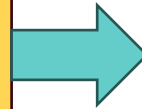
Robust standard errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Where tensions exist around assistance to displaced people, they are rarely caused by the assistance itself. They are typically a **symptom of existing social discontent** within the host community, related to perceived institutional neglect of their needs



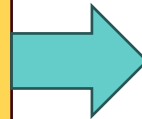
Focus on promoting better attention to hosts' socio-economic concerns, rather than producing inadequate support for host and displaced communities alike

Social tensions *may well* be exacerbated if assistance to displaced people is perceived to be **directly diverting state resources** away from vulnerable citizens



Additional financing from the international community is key, in line with commitments to global responsibility-sharing for displacement challenges

Perceptions about assistance provision often differ from the actual assistance arrangements

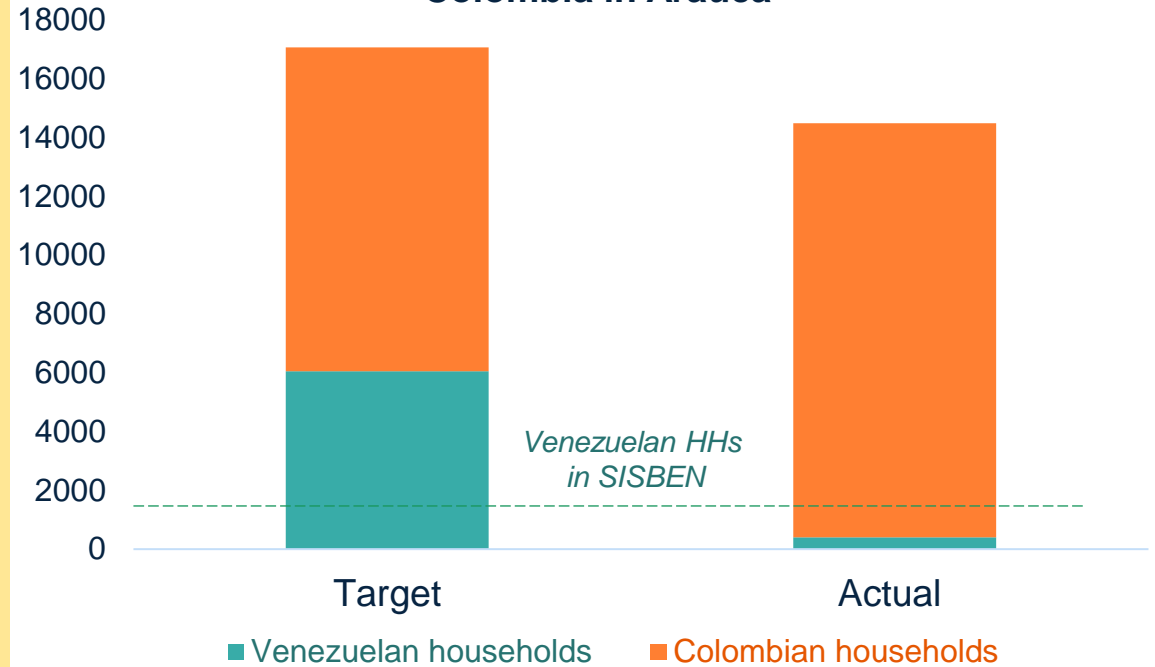


Clear and coherent communication is crucial

3 Consider linkages in terms of effects on outcomes

Link humanitarian assistance with social protection **WHEN IT SUPPORTS MEETING THE NEEDS** of displaced people. Where feasible, linkages should be made in a way that helps advance strategic objectives to **BUILD STATE SYSTEMS.**

COL  Recipients of WFP Shock-Responsive Social Protection cash transfer pilot, with Government of Colombia in Arauca



Post-pilot: From Jan-Jun 2022, WFP supported Colombian government to register > **500,000** people for the SISBEN social registry

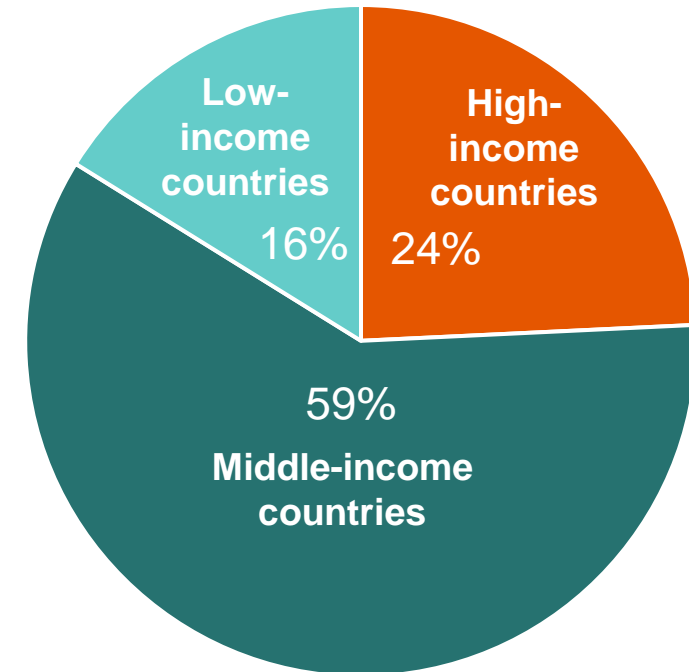
4 International funding will generally still be required

even when displaced people are included in state social protection systems.

CONVENTION
AND
PROTOCOL
RELATING TO THE
STATUS OF
REFUGEES



Where are refugees hosted?

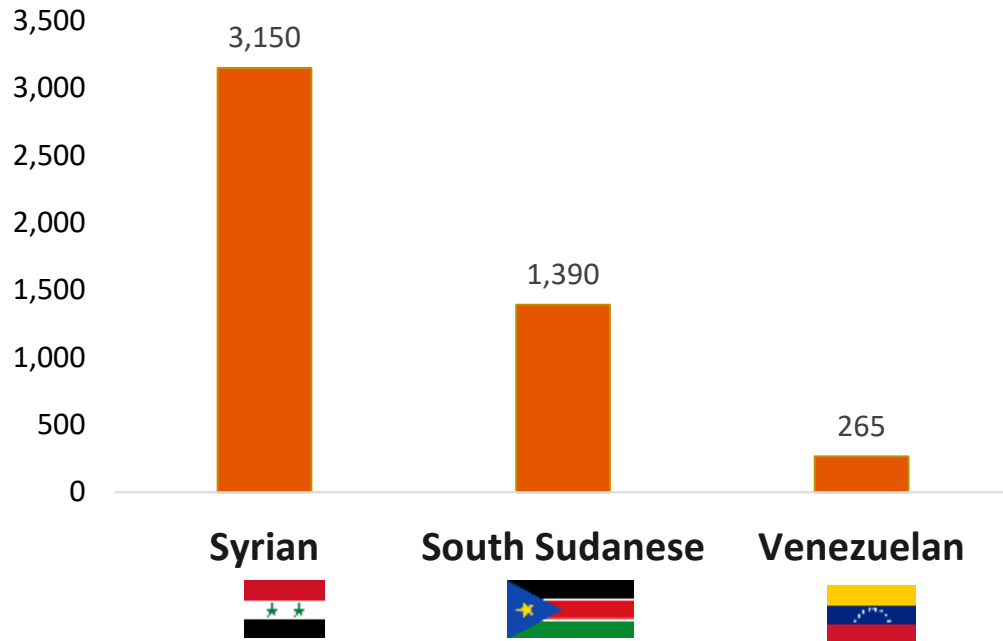


Source: Data from UNHCR (2023)

Colombia received relatively little initial support for its progressive Venezuelan response, creating challenges given existing gaps in citizens' social protection coverage

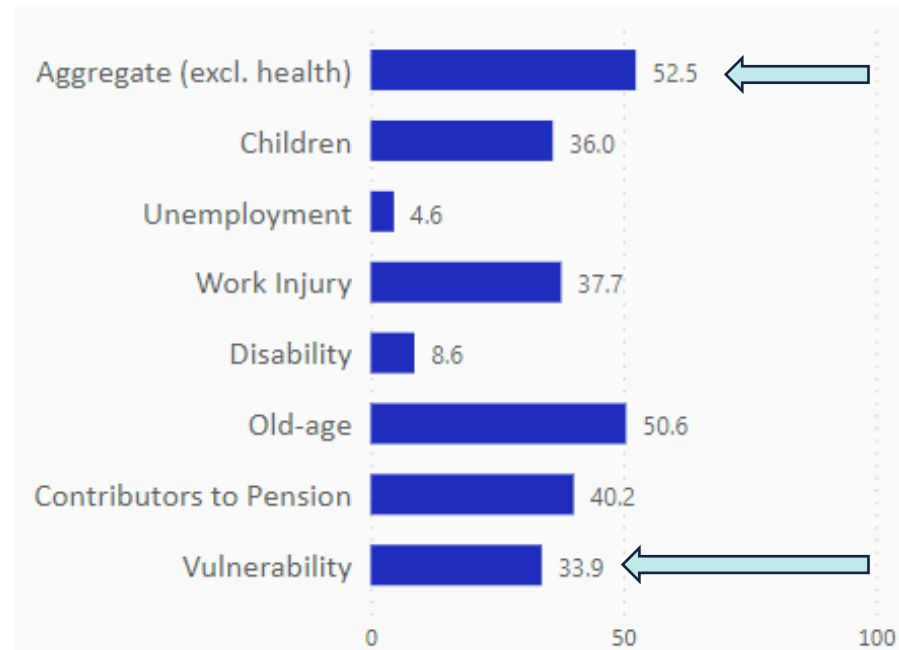


International funding per refugee in 2020 (USD \$)



Source: Data from Bahar and Dooley (2021)

Colombia: Effective coverage of social protection system, by function (% of population)



Source: ILO (2021)

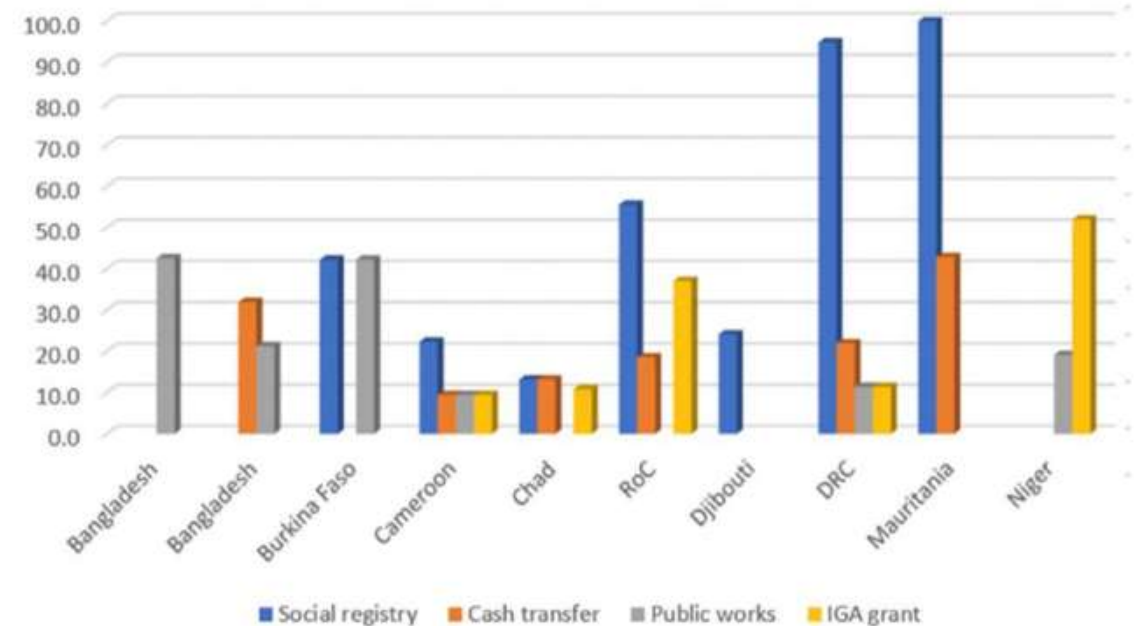
4 International funding will generally still be required

even when displaced people are included in state social protection systems.

WELL-DESIGNED INTERNATIONAL FUNDING can also help **INCENTIVISE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION** between social protection and humanitarian actors.

In countries benefiting from World Bank IDA-18 Sub-window for Refugees and Host Communities:

Proportion of refugee population projected to benefit from social protection as of 2020 (%)



Source: UNHCR (2021)

5 Everyone needs to work together more

regardless of the linkages between the systems.

More **TRANSPARENCY AND COLLABORATION** are needed, both **WITHIN AND BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION** systems, to make sure that both displaced and host communities get the assistance they need.





Cash and Voucher Projects:

27

Actors

44

Projects

Actors

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|--------------------|--------------|-----|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| ADRA | APROSPEN | ASOPV | CARITAS K... | CBC | CRC | CRS | DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL DRC |
| EFA | H4BF | IFRC | INTERSOS | IRC | IYEC | LUMEF | MINEPAT |
| NRC | PFS | PROMISE URGENCY PU | REO | SI | SUDAFSER | UNFPA | UNHCR |
| UNWOMEN | WACAMER... | WFP | | | | | |

MINATD (Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization)

Humanitarian affairs, sub-national activities

MINREX (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Refugee affairs

Humanitarian Programming in Cameroon

- 224 Operational partners
- 327 Projects



Government



Refugee Response:

12

Actors

18

Projects

Actors

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| actalliance | BAHO | OMAM |
| DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL | International Medical Corps | IRVIZU |
| JRS | Kaspa | WFP |
| unicef | UNHCR | World Food Programme |

MINEPAT – Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development

World Bank

Social safety net project

MINAS – Ministry of Social Affairs

UNICEF / ILO etc

Social assistance/ action for vulnerable groups

MINTSS –

Ministry of Labour and Social Security

Social security



Lessons from Colombia's experience

Luz Stella Rodriguez – Senior Social Protection
Specialist, World Bank

To find out more

- Visit our project page:

<https://odi.org/en/about/our-work/social-protection-responses-to-forced-displacement/>

- Or contact us:

c.lowe@odi.org.uk

j.hagen-zanker@odi.org.uk

Tell us your feedback!

<https://forms.office.com/r/d2GjNXaaaW>

Resources from today's session:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2023/10/25/social-protection-responses-to-forced-displacement-module-5>

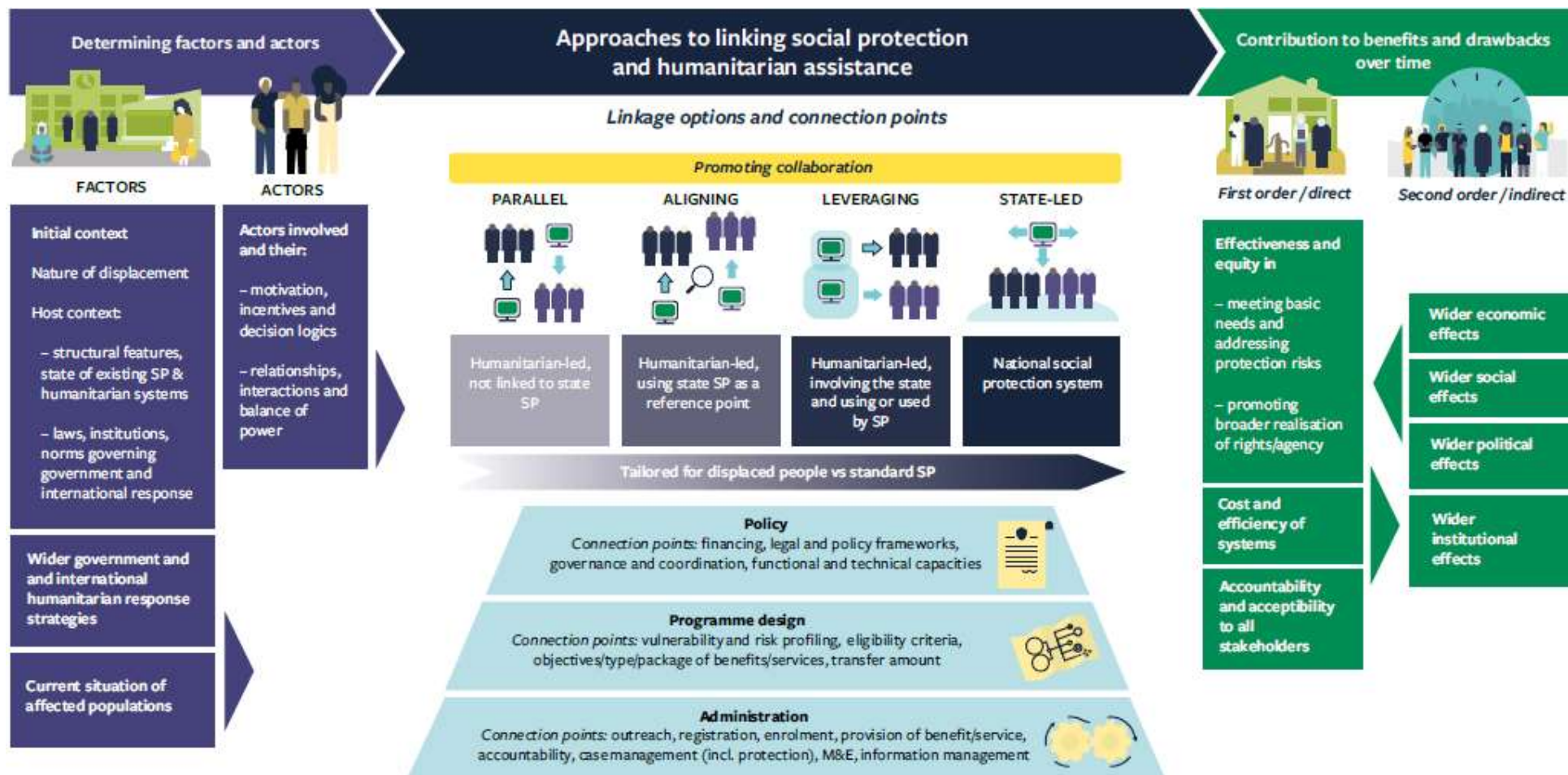
See you at the next module!

| Session | Topic | Date |
|----------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | Socio-economic data and its application to forced displacement | Sept 27, 2023 |
| 2 | The Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement | Oct 4, 2023 |
| 3 | Improving Program Impacts in the Context of the Forcibly Displaced (Impact Evaluation) | Oct 11, 2023 |
| 4 | Forced Displacement Evidence in the Health Sector | Oct 18, 2023 |
| 5 | Social Protection Responses to Forced Displacement | Oct 25, 2023 |
| 6 | Forced Displacement Evidence in the Education Sector | Nov 1, 2023 |
| 7 | Forced Displacement and Social Cohesion | Nov 8, 2023 |
| 8 | Forced Displacement and Jobs | Nov 15, 2023 |

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Overview of project outputs

Analytical framework



Background research

Working paper

Social protection and forcibly displaced people: a literature review

Amanda Gray Meral and Nathalie Both
December 2021

Key messages

There is a long way to go to meet commitments made in the Global Compact on Refugees to 'enhance refugee self-reliance' and the Sustainable Development Goals to 'leave no-one behind'.

The evidence from the literature reviewed, from countries hosting the largest numbers of protracted forcibly displaced populations, where international humanitarian and development actors have been engaged in the response, suggests that IDPs and refugees often lack *de facto* access to state social protection.

- There is very little discussion in the publicly available literature of refugees' inclusion in state social protection programmes. Only in IDA/8 Refugee Sub-Window-funded countries – where inclusion of refugees in state social protection was a specific component of that support – did we find literature about the inclusion of refugees.
- Access to the formal labour market for refugees varies considerably across contexts. This exacerbates the exclusion of refugees in regard to state social insurance schemes.
- There is some evidence of inclusion of IDPs in state social assistance programmes, but limited literature was found on their *de facto* inclusion in social insurance programmes.

There is some evidence of alignment/integration between state social protection systems and humanitarian cash programmes.

- Out of the 46 countries reviewed, we found around a dozen explicit references to interventions aligned or integrated with state social protection systems and programmes.
- This suggests a tendency still to establish humanitarian systems largely parallel to state systems.
- Some states are coordinating with and learning from the humanitarian sector on social assistance programme management and delivery. This is particularly evident in the Syrian regional response.




What can existing microdata tell us about transfer receipt among host and displaced populations?

Heiner Sakon and Jessica Hagen-Zanker

October 2022

Key messages

- Microdata for displacement-affected contexts is more readily available through such initiatives as the Fast Data Centre, covering most displacement crises globally.
- While the surveys often only cover certain areas, refugee camps or only the host population near the camp, it is often representative for the population covered.
- Household surveys have a transfer module or transfer receipt, covering social protection and/or humanitarian assistance. These can be used to calculate effective coverage of displacement-affected coverage.
- Given that transfer variables are often included in limited detail, and asked in different ways, comparability of coverage rates is limited. This means that while microdata can be used to calculate coverage rates, the findings are not fully reliable or comparable.
- Standardisation of transfer modules and questions will improve the feasibility of using existing microdata to calculate effective coverage of displacement-affected populations.



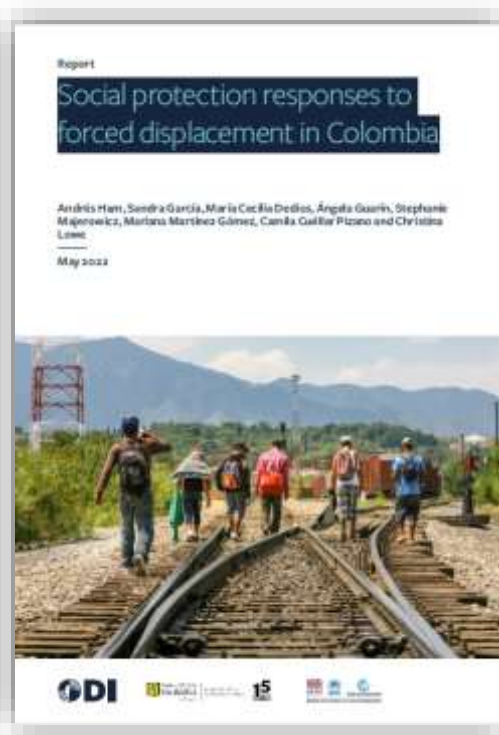
- Global evidence review – evidence on linkages between HA and SP, decision-making processes and effects

- Methodological paper on feasibility of using existing microdata to determine effective coverage of displacement-affected populations

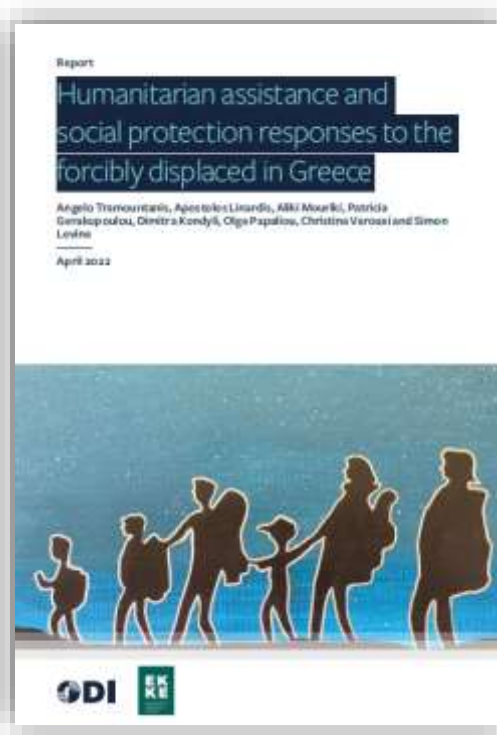
Three country case studies



[Cameroon](#)



[Colombia](#)



[Greece](#)

- **Overview of SP and HA assistance provision**
- **Current linkages and factors that led to this approach**
- **Outcomes of assistance approach**
- **Benefits and drawbacks for stakeholders**

Thematic papers



[Social cohesion](#)



[Basic needs and wellbeing](#)



[Operational delivery](#)

- Synthesize the evidence from country case studies
- Further in-depth analysis of survey and qualitative data to provide more detailed insights
- Specific insights on potential effects of linking HA more closely with SP system

Four toolkits



- **General guidance on assistance provision in displacement affected contexts**
- **More specific guidance for those wondering how – or whether – to link humanitarian assistance with social protection systems**
- **Four topics:**
 - **Social cohesion**
 - **Basic needs and wellbeing**
 - **Operational delivery**
 - **Factors and actors that determine an optimal approach**