



EVALUATION OF UNDP SUPPORT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

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Annex 1: Terms of Reference

Evaluation of UNDP Support to Social Protection Terms of Reference

9 March 2022



Introduction

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is conducting an evaluation of UNDP support to social protection, as planned in its multiyear programme of work (2022-2025)¹ approved by the UNDP Executive Board in February 2022.

The evaluation aims to provide evidence to promote organizational learning for improved effectiveness and contribute to enhanced accountability towards the Executive Board and development partners of UNDP. The evaluation will be conducted during 2022 and presented to the UNDP Executive Board at its annual session in June 2023.

It will examine the coherence, efficiency, relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the support of UNDP to social protection in programme countries. In addition, the evaluation aims to assess the extent to which the current UNDP social protection offer, and its on-going interventions remain relevant to the global efforts to meet the SDG target 1.3 “Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable” and to build forward better with the intention to provide actionable recommendations for eventual future adjustments to the strategies and positioning of UNDP on the subject.

There is no unanimity in the definition of social protection, with different agencies and organizations using differing concepts. UNDP defines social protection as “a set of nationally owned policies and instruments, organized around systems that provide income or in-kind support and facilitate access to goods and services to all households and individuals at least at minimally accepted levels, to (i) protect them from multiple deprivations and social and economic exclusion, as a matter of human rights and particularly during shocks or periods of insufficient income, incapacity or inability to work; and (ii) empower them by increasing productive capacities and enhancing capabilities”.² At the operational level, social protection systems are articulated around programmes, platforms and institutions and are organized around contributory or non-contributory forms of income support and around social assistance, social insurance,

¹ [\(DP/2022/6\) Independent Evaluation Office multiyear programme of work \(2022-2025\)](#)

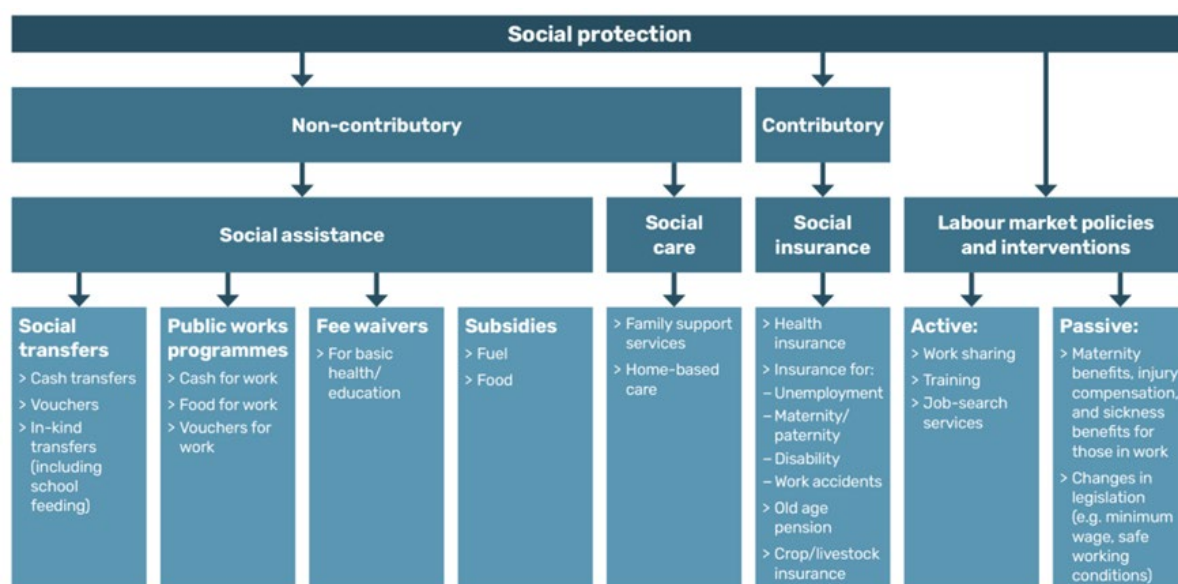
² UNDP, 2021. UNDP’s social protection offer, as adapted from UNDP, 2016. Leaving no one behind: A social protection primer for practitioners

and labour market interventions.³ The evaluation will work with these parameters and if necessary recommend any adjustments to what is currently being used as defined.

Global context and challenges in social protection

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights recognize the right to social security for everyone.⁴ Social security consists of social assistance and social insurance and is a term often used by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other UN bodies interchangeably with social protection,⁵ although the latter has a broader scope. The areas covered by social protection vary by country, but the major components and services are summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Taxonomy and instruments in social protection



Notes: (1) 'Non-contributory' schemes are defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as those that, 'normally require no direct (financial) contribution from beneficiaries or their employers as a condition of entitlement to receive benefits' (ILO, 2017). Public works programmes are usually counted as 'non-contributory' even though the recipient contributes labour. (2) Social transfers may be conditional or unconditional. A conditional transfer requires the recipient to meet certain behaviours (such as ensuring school attendance) to receive the benefit. Source: Adapted from O'Brien et al. (2018: 6).

Source: [Governance and Social Development Resource Centre](#)

The ILO conventions and recommendations define the normative framework and set standards for the establishment and development of social protection systems. In 2009, the UN System's Chief Executive Board for Coordination launched the Social Protection Floor initiative. The succeeding ILO social

³ UNDP, 2021. UNDP's social protection offer

⁴ Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The right to a basic standard of living. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

⁵ [World Social Protection Report 2017-19](#), ILO.

protection floors recommendation, 2012 (No. 202)⁶ provides a strategy for establishing and maintaining comprehensive social security systems through a two-pronged approach.⁷

The delivery of social protection systems and measures for all then appears at the heart of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), which calls for Member States to provide “strong international support” and to “explore coherent funding modalities to mobilize additional resources”.⁸ This commitment was further embedded into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched in September 2015. Most prominently, SDG target 1.3 calling upon countries to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.⁹ However, at the current pace of progress, SDG target 1.3 will only be achieved in 2084. Fragile states will need until 2259 to attain it.¹⁰

Only 47 percent of the global population are effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit, while 4.1 billion people (53 percent) obtain no income security at all from their national social protection system.¹¹ Many countries¹² still face significant challenges in closing social protection gaps and that social protection systems operate in a context of high, and sometimes growing, levels of informality and inequality, marked by limited fiscal space, institutional fragmentation and competing priorities, as well as climate change, digital transformation and demographic shifts. Gaps in the coverage, comprehensiveness and adequacy of social protection systems are associated with significant underinvestment in social protection, particularly in Africa, the Arab States and Asia.

COVID-19 with its triple hit to health, education, and income combined with the environmental crises, led to the regression of the Human Development Index for the first time since it started being calculated in 1990.¹³ COVID-19 shocks and the response demonstrated the value of social protection programmes in buffering and cushioning the negative social impacts on the population. UNDP Administrator pointed out that during the COVID 19 pandemic “social protection measures proven to be a highly cost-efficient and effective way to keep people from falling into poverty”.¹⁴

Ensuring funds for the health sector and for scaling up social protection measures were two of the key components of the fiscal response taken by governments.¹⁵ The Secretary-General’s report on the socio-

⁶ [Recommendation R202 - Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 \(No. 202\)](#)

⁷ States should: (i) establish and maintain a nationally-defined social protection floor that provides essential healthcare and basic income security to all residents and children; and (ii) progressively ensure higher levels of protection as set out in ILO social security standards (i.e. Convention No. 102 and higher standards)

⁸ United Nations, 2015. [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#)

⁹ Social protection is also a crosscutting area with other SDGs as a critical tool to simultaneously achieve progress in many fundamentally interlinked Goals and Targets. Social protection has featured in Goal 3, 5 and 10. In addition, social protection is one of the pillars of decent work and is therefore featured in Goal 8, and more specifically Target 8.5.

¹⁰ [Policy in Focus, Volume 17, Issue No. 2](#), December 2019.

¹¹ ILO, 2020. [World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Social protection at the crossroads – in pursuit of a better future](#)

¹² Europe and Central Asia have the highest coverage with at least in social protection benefit (83.9%) followed by Americas with (64%), Asia and the Pacific (44%), Arab States (40%) and Africa (17.4%) (ILO World Social Protection Report 2020-22)

¹³ Human Development Report, 2020. COVID-19 and Human Development: Assessing the Crisis, Envisioning the Recovery

¹⁴ UNDP, 2021. [Administrator Achim Steiner presenting the results of the report Mitigating Poverty](#)

¹⁵ Governments have passed legislation to allow the extraordinary measures required to face the pandemic and its consequences. Support from International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and regional development banks supported countries to mobilize resources swiftly ensuring macroeconomic stability. [Research Report 60: Innovations in COVID 19 social protection response and beyond](#)

economic impact of COVID-19¹⁶ calls for a scale-up of social protection to cushion the knock-on effects on millions of people's lives, including through debt-relief in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other financial institutions. In the same vein, the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review 2020 calls for the UN development system to ensure crucial investments in social protection and decent work during COVID-19.

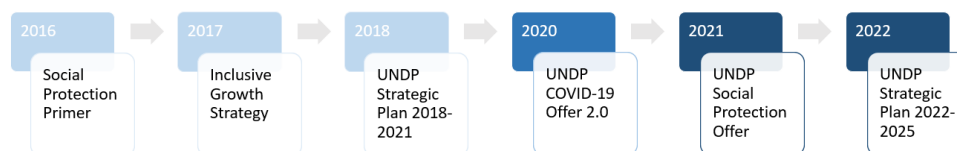
However, the financing gap (the additional spending required to ensure at least minimum social protection for all) has increased by approximately 30 percent since the start of the COVID-19 crisis. To guarantee at least basic social protection coverage, low-income countries would need to invest an additional US\$77.9 billion per year, lower-middle-income countries an additional US\$362.9 billion per year and upper-middle-income countries a further US\$750.8 billion per year. That's equivalent to 15.9, 5.1 and 3.1 per cent of their GDP, respectively.¹⁷

UNDP support to social protection

Evolution of UNDP social protection strategy, 2016-present

The figure below summarizes the evolution of UNDP strategic guiding documents on social protection.

Figure 2. Key strategic documents on social protection in UNDP



Source: Prepared by the IEO

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic - Building on the momentum of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which reconfirmed the member states' commitment to social protection, in 2016 UNDP developed a social protection primer for practitioners¹⁸ to provide the practical solutions to strengthen social protection systems and to address the systemic and interlinked objectives of the SDGs. The primer delineated the approach and guiding principles of social protection: (i) protecting and promoting human rights; (ii) ensuring non-discrimination; (iii) fostering gender equality and women's empowerment; (iv) remaining risk-informed and sensitive to environmental concerns; (v) providing a continuum of protection (lifecycle approach);¹⁹ and (vi) promoting universality.²⁰ The primer continues to be a key document for UNDP in providing advice and technical assistance on social protection to countries.

¹⁶ United Nations, 2020. [Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19](#)

¹⁷ ILO, 2020. [Financing gaps in social protection: Global estimates and strategies for developing countries in light of the COVID-19 crisis and beyond](#)

¹⁸ UNDP, 2016. Leaving no one behind: A social protection primer for practitioners

¹⁹ The lifecycle approach is premised on the notion that individuals face different risks at different stages in life and that social protection interventions can be designed to address these risks at each stage.

²⁰ Universal social protection refers to a nationally defined system of policies and programmes that provide equitable access to all people and protect them throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being.

UNDP further streamlined its programme for social protection in the 2017 Strategy of Inclusive Growth.²¹ Priorities were given to the scaling up of redistributive programmes through development of national strategies, policies and laws on social protection, framework and approach for building social protection systems and floors, gender responsiveness in social protection including the informal sector and support to consumer subsidies for basic goods especially for poor households and other at-risk communities.

In the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021, social protection was defined as the development of capacities for progressive expansion of inclusive social protection systems toward a sustainable coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. The Strategic Plan anchored social protection in UNDP's work to reduce inequality and eradicate poverty and connected it to other thematic areas under its six Signature Solutions, as a means to reduce disasters, enable climate change adaptation and prevent conflict and to drive structural transformation.

UNDP COVID-19 Crisis Response - COVID-19 pandemic has opened opportunities to strengthen social protection systems across countries and to address important gaps in social protection coverage, systems and shock responsiveness. UNDP's COVID-19 crisis response "Beyond Recovery: Towards 2030"/Offer 2.0 aims to help decision-makers look beyond recovery and manage complex and uncertain choices focused on the Agenda 2030.²² Social protection has been a key area of the UNDP COVID-19 response/offer, to uproot the inequalities that permeated societies before the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes cash transfers, universal health coverage and access to other basic services as well as addressing gender inequality, discrimination and bias.²³ UNDP has also promoted temporary universal basic income as part of the COVID-19 response.²⁴

UNDP Social Protection Offer and the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 - Building on the social protection component of UNDP's COVID-19 response and the learning from its implementation, the UNDP Social Protection Offer (2021)²⁵ adopted an integrated vision and a systems approach to tackle three connected set of issues: gaps in social protection, weak governance systems and shock-unresponsiveness. UNDP's approach to social protection aims to achieve protection and preventions by decreasing vulnerabilities; empowerment and promotion by increasing productive capacities and new capabilities of vulnerable households; and transformation in order to build a more just society based on fairness by addressing structural drivers of poverty, inequality and vulnerability.

The offer identified three thematic areas where UNDP has strong expertise, to serve as entry points to its social protection support: (1) responsible and accountable governance, (2) resilience, and (3) environmental sustainability, and mapped out 12 social protection solutions with the aim of supporting 120 countries by 2024. Crosscutting principles and enablers for the social protection offer include gender equality and human rights (principles), and fiscal space, digitalization, data and evidence (enablers).

²¹ UNDP Inclusive Growth Strategy 2017

²² UNDP, 2020. [Beyond recovery: Towards 2030](#)

²³ UNDP 2.0 offer COVID response and recovery

²⁴ UNDP, 2020. Temporary Basic Income: Protecting Poor and Vulnerable People in Developing Countries; UNDP, 2021. Mitigating Poverty: Global estimate of the impact of income support during the pandemic

²⁵ UNDP's Social Protection Offer, February 2021

Figure 3. Thematic areas and solutions of the UNDP Social Protection Offer



Source: UNDP's Social Protection Offer (2021)

The new UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 highlights the rights-based approach to human agency and human development, where social protection contributes to an equitable access to opportunities. The Strategic Plan aims to increase social protection coverage through stronger social protection services and systems across sectors with increased investment, including policy measures and institutional capacities to access social protection and better quality and type of social protection services.

Currently within UNDP the social protection portfolio is coordinated by the BPPS Inclusive Growth stream and includes a network of social protection specialists in the regions. The headquarter and regional social protection specialists support and work closely with country office programme staff.

Overview of UNDP interventions for social protection

The following table provides a snapshot of the self-reported project data tagged to SDG Target 1.3 "Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable".²⁶ The financial tagging is performed at project output level, which often includes a social protection component embedded in the broader thematic interventions for environment, resilience, poverty reduction, inclusive growth and governance. A project output can be tagged simultaneously to multiple SDG goals and targets to which it contributes.

²⁶ UNDP Transparency Portal provides up-to-date data on all UNDP interventions across the globe. The projects are tagged to different SDG goals and targets, as well as the signature solutions to allow the organization to determine its level of financial commitments to each of the goals or themes of interests.

Table 1: Budget and expenditure related to SDG Target 1.3, in million USD

Year	Budget	Expenditure	Number of projects
2016	224.56	189.44	155
2017	253.97	212.51	158
2018	71.17	63.09	192
2019	56.34	42.24	164
2020	97.22	78.51	169
2021	237.17	174.84	168

Source: UNDP Transparency Portal (<https://open.undp.org/>), data downloaded in January 2022

The UNDP's COVID-19 monitoring dashboard recorded a total of 77 offices that have implemented activities related to social protection as part of the COVID-19 response.

Table 2: Budget and expenditure related to social protection for COVID-19 response, in million USD

Region	2020		2021	
	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure
Latin America and the Caribbean	19.9	14.9	45.5	38.5
Africa	18.7	16.7	26.4	22.1
Arab States	15.3	13.2	19.6	14.3
Asia and the Pacific	12.7	10.6	13.6	11.2
Europe and Central Asia	10.9	8.9	9.2	6.8
Total	77.6	64.4	114.5	93.1

Source: UNDP COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

Advocacy and Partnerships - UNDP engages in global and regional level discussions and initiatives on social protection. UNDP is a core UN agency for implementing the Social Protection Floor Initiative established by the UN Chief Executive Board in 2009 to promote social protection floor in countries, and together with ILO, UNICEF and UNHCR forms the Social Protection Floor Policy Group.²⁷ UNDP is also a member of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), an inter-agency coordination mechanism whose primary purpose is to harmonize donor support on social protection at the national level and to facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices between countries.²⁸ Social protection is a key topic in UNDP's inter-agency frameworks for cooperation. For instance, social protection is identified as one of the seven priority areas of cooperation in the UNDP-ILO Framework for Action (2020).

UNDP is a programme and implementation partner of joint programmes under the Joint SDG Fund window for "Leaving No One Behind – Social Protection", having partnered with sister agencies to support social protection projects in 18 countries.²⁹

UNDP works in knowledge generation and exchange on social protection related topics as well. The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG)³⁰ a partnership between UNDP the Brazilian

²⁷ [Joint Fund Window for Social Protection Floors: Terms of Reference.](#)

²⁸ SPIAC-B is co-led by the ILO and World Bank and supported by 29 international development organizations, bilateral development agencies and civil society organizations.

²⁹ UNDP 2021. UNDP's social protection offer

³⁰ <https://ipcig.org/>

Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) conducts studies, policy analysis and other knowledge products on social protection and hosts the *socialprotection.org* platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building, of which UNDP is also a partner.³¹

Evaluation objectives

The purpose of the evaluation is to provide an assessment of the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNDP's approaches and contributions to social protection in programme countries. In addition, the evaluation aims to assess the extent to which the current social protection offer of UNDP and its on-going interventions remain relevant to the global efforts to meet the SDG target 1.3 and to build forward better.

The evaluation will have a two-fold accountability and learning purpose: while it will assess results of UNDP's past work against its goals as stated in strategic documents, the evaluation will also be forward looking and provide recommendations to inform the strategic direction of UNDP's work on social protection in the new strategic plan cycle (2022-25).

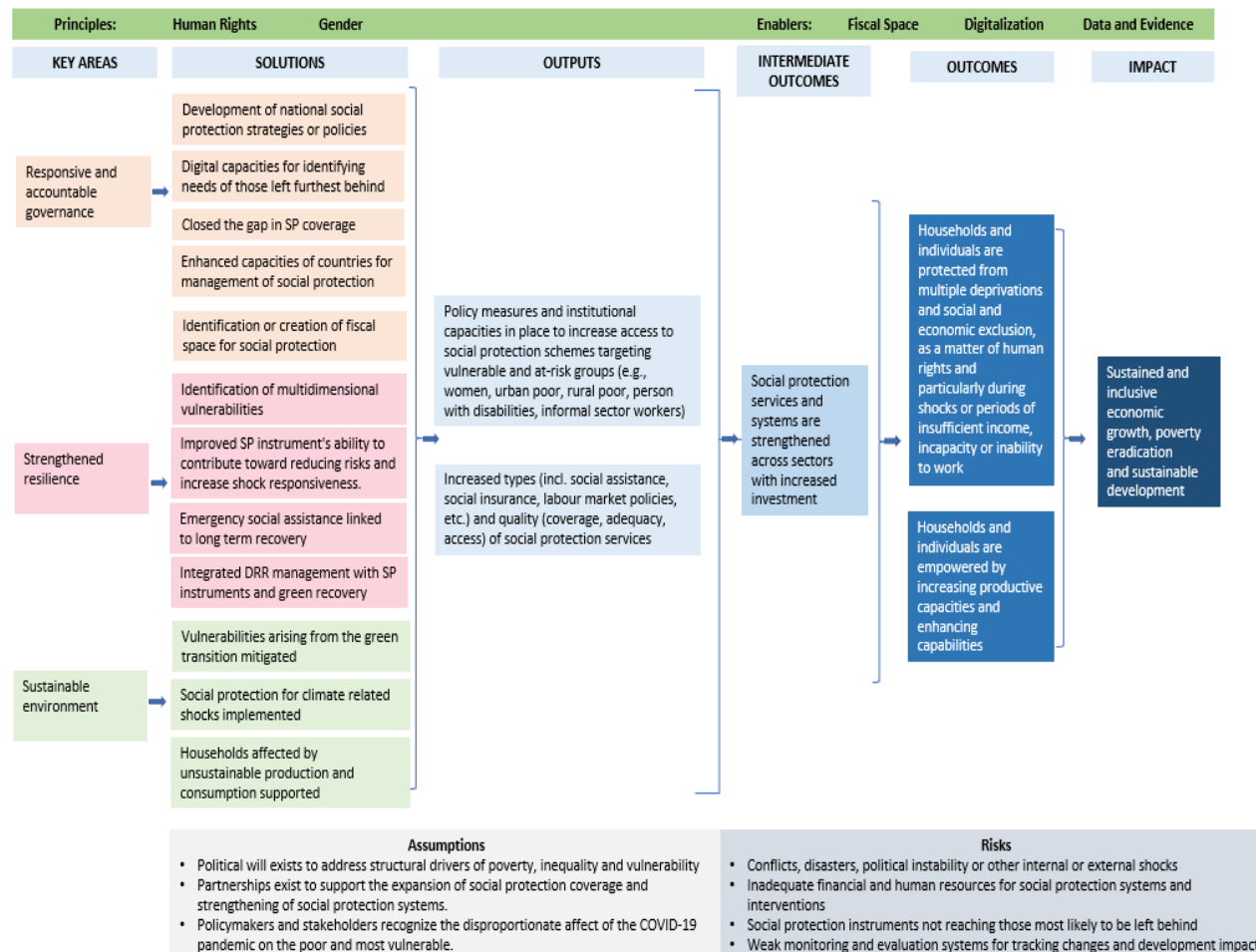
Scope and key evaluation questions

The evaluation will adopt UNDP's definition of social protection and consider UNDP support to social protection over the period of 2016 to 2021, including pre-pandemic social protection support since the launch of the SDGs and the UNDP social protection primer in 2016, support delivered under the strategic plan period 2018-21, support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as support delivered/envisaged under the 2021 social protection offer and the new strategic plan 2022-25.

The evaluation will assess UNDP support to social protection at global, regional, and country level. Dedicated social protection projects and initiatives to promote resilience, responsible and accountable governance - environmental sustainability as an integrated approach to social protection will be analyzed. Specific attention will be paid to UNDP support to social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic, including UNDP offer 2.0, UNDP contribution to the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plans and the new UNDP offer for social protection. Partnerships and collaborations to promote more integrated approach, both within the United Nations System and with other actors (regional and bilateral partners, civil society and private sector, in particular), will be considered. To the extent possible the evaluation will assess the integration of Human Rights approach, disability inclusion and Gender Equality dimensions in UNDP social protection interventions and look into other crosscutting issues and enablers, such as financing/fiscal space, innovation, digitalization, and data and evidence.

³¹ <https://socialprotection.org> facilitated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ).

Figure 4: Abridged Theory of Change



Source: Developed by IEO

The Evaluation will use the OECD/ DAC framework (relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability) to answer the following key evaluation questions:

- **RELEVANCE.** To what extent has UNDP support been relevant for partner countries' needs for social protection through a lifecycle approach, including emerging needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for women and girls, persons with disability and those most likely to be left behind, to achieve the SDGs and to build forward better?
- **COHERENCE.** To what extent have approaches, tools, and partnerships for social protection programming and implementation been adequately developed and coherently used?
- **EFFICIENCY.** To what extent has UNDP efficiently used its human and financial resources to support partner countries in strengthening social protection systems?
- **EFFECTIVENESS.** To what extent has UNDP social protection support been effective in assisting partner countries in protecting at-risk groups, especially women and girls, persons with disability and those most likely to be left behind, from multiple deprivations and social and economic exclusion, as a

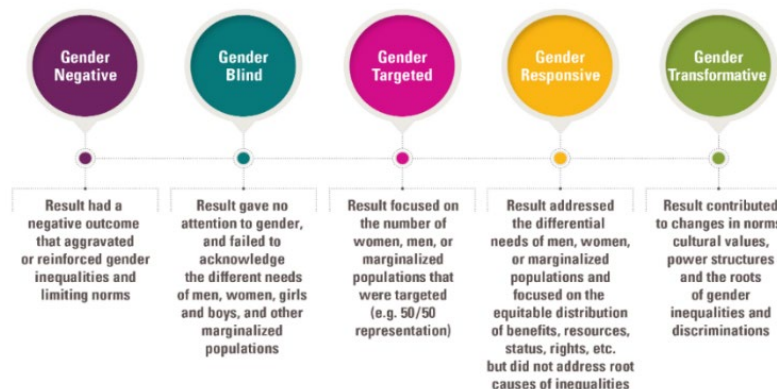
matter of human rights and particularly during shocks or periods of insufficient income, incapacity or inability to work; and in empowering those groups by increasing productive capacities and enhancing capabilities?

- **SUSTAINABILITY.** To what extent have UNDP social protection interventions promoted national ownership, diversified resources, and built solid partnerships to ensure sustainability of results? What factors contributed to, or hindered, the sustainability of UNDP contributions to social protection in all its dimensions?

Evaluation methodology

The evaluation will use a theory-based approach, using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. The evaluation will undertake literature review, detailed portfolio analysis, meta-analysis of independent and quality decentralized evaluations, social network mapping, conduct online stakeholder surveys and key informant semi-structured interviews and select country case studies to respond to the key evaluation questions. The evaluation will also explore and analyze data from other development partners, for example ILO (World Social Protection Data Dashboards)³², and World Bank (Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity - ASPIRE)³³ related to social protection coverage, services, and expenditures. The evaluation will take an iterative approach and gather various perspectives, relying on triangulation of data collected from multiple sources. It will adhere to the UNEG norms and standards for evaluation, paying particular attention to integrating Human Rights, disability inclusion and Gender Equality dimensions in the evaluation. In the case of the gender analysis, the evaluation will use the gender marker-related data and the IEO gender results effectiveness scale (GRES, see Figure 5).

Figure 5: IEO Gender Results Effectiveness Scale



Source: Developed by IEO

The evaluation will include a multi-stakeholder consultation process, including development actors at Headquarters, regional and country level. The evaluation will pay particular attention to those groups that are most likely to be left behind, including the marginalized and at-risk communities, including women and girls, youth, people with disability, people living with HIV (PLHIV), informal workers, and etc. Protocols

³² <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=19>

³³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/datatopics/aspire>

will be developed for each method used to ensure rigor in data collection and analysis as well as ensure audience suitability and adherence to the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation.³⁴ The methodology will be further refined based on the results of the desk review and assessment of data availability during the scoping and inception phases of the evaluation.

Systems-focused approach: The evaluation will assess UNDP support through a system lens, approaching its contribution to the ‘operating system’ for social protection mechanisms. This will be used as the conceptual framing for understanding the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of UNDP support, alongside that of other stakeholders, and to understand the remaining gaps and barriers to achieving SDG 1.3. The evaluation will also consider how social protection mechanisms interact with other systems in a country, such as the employment market, other public services, socio-cultural norms and barriers, and the environmental and infrastructure systems, as relevant.

Realist inquiry: The evaluation will consider opportunities to use the realist evaluation approach and techniques where data is available, and they may offer specific lessons to address common issues in social protection systems and/or the key barriers to the achievement of SDG 1.3. Areas of focus will be further explored during the inception phase of the evaluation for a more in-depth feasibility assessment.

The evaluation methods will include:

a. **Desk review and analysis of available documentation and data:**

- Literature review of research, studies, databases and publications from development partners and the academia
- UNDP strategic and programmatic documents, including at country level.
- Programme and financial data from UNDP Result-Based Management system and ATLAS and the IEO data mart
- Sample of planning and monitoring reports of projects that are exclusively/partially focused on social protection³⁵
- Information available on UNDP website and knowledge platforms (e.g. Yammer, SparkBlue).
- Stakeholder mapping looking at UNDP/ UN approaches and partners, broader social protection system support from UN agencies and other development partners.

b. **Meta-analysis** of evidence from previous corporate evaluations, Independent Country Programme Evaluations, and Reflection papers conducted by the IEO, as well as decentralized project and outcome evaluations in the area of social protection commissioned by UNDP country offices and bureaux. The evaluation will make use of the IEO data platforms, such as AIDA and ERC.

c. **Interviews/focus group discussions** with:

³⁴ United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), 2020. Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation

³⁵ The sample will be selected based on a number of criteria, including budget size, focus and type of activities, country’s income and fragility context, and regional balance.

- UNDP social protection specialists and focal points in headquarters, Regional Bureaux/Hubs and country offices.
 - UNDP staff in other relevant departments/units in headquarters, regional, and country level, as relevant (e.g. in the areas of innovation, digitalization, development financing, etc.)
 - Representatives of United Nations programmes, funds and agencies as well as other bilateral and international development partners (headquarters, regional and/or country-level, as relevant)
 - Government counterparts (including Ministries of Planning, Interior, Economy, Labor, among others) that UNDP supported through its programmes and projects
 - Private sector organizations representatives
 - Representatives of civil society organizations and the academia
 - Beneficiaries
- d. **Stakeholder online survey** of UNDP staff, development partners and key national stakeholders on UNDP activities to collect feedback on social protection interventions.
- e. **Social network analysis** of UNDP social protection interventions to determine and understand the nature of social interactions between stakeholders (as individuals and as groups), using a systems focused approach to visualize connectivity and relationships of UNDP with key stakeholders in social protection and in other relevant sectors, and to assess the adequacy of partnerships and identify bottlenecks and missed opportunities.
- f. **Country case studies** will provide detailed analysis of UNDP social protection support to a sample of countries through the application of selected evaluation techniques where relevant/feasible, such as contribution analysis, beneficiary assessment, among others. They will be used to verify and substantiate the Theory of Change through detailed analysis of how a specific type of UNDP intervention contributes to the changes in social protection systems at the national level, the key factors which facilitate or hinder the change and its sustainability. Country case studies will also be used to verify the assumptions and to what extent risks identified in the Theory of Change were adequately mitigated, as well as validate the preliminary findings and hypothesis from other triangulated data sources such as the meta-analysis and the stakeholder survey. Country case studies will also bring in the perspectives of the community-level stakeholders and beneficiaries. They will also identify good practices, lessons learned and challenges from selected countries, where possible. Country cases selection will include the following considerations:
- Countries where work on social protection was on going prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Countries that were able to advance social protection support during the pandemic through the SERPs and/or other national/international initiatives
 - Consideration of different country typologies, based on income, HDI, fragility, regional balance, among others.

Timeline

The evaluation will be presented to the annual session of the Executive Board in May/June 2023. This requires that the report is completed by February 2023, to comply with Executive Board Secretariat's deadlines. A draft report will be shared with UNDP Management and programme units by December 2022 for comments and the preparation of the management response.

The timeframe and responsibilities for the evaluation process are tentatively detailed as follows: ³⁶

Table 3: Tentative evaluation timeframe

Activity	Responsible Party	Proposed Timeframe
Phase 1. Preparatory work		
Scoping meetings and preparation of the ToR	IEO	February 2022
Selection and contracting of consultants and data analyst	IEO	February/March 2022
Portfolio data analysis and documentation collection	IEO/Consultants	March 2022
Phase 2. Desk analysis		
Literature review	IEO/Consultants	March - April 2022
Desk review and meta-analysis	IEO/Consultants	April - mid-May 2022
Stakeholder mapping and preparation of data collection tools	IEO/Consultants	April - mid-May 2022
Phase 3. Data collection		
Stakeholders' survey	IEO/Consultants	May 2022
Interviews and focus group discussions at HQ, regional and country level	IEO/Consultants	Mid-May - July 2022
Country case studies analysis	IEO/Consultants	July - August 2022
Phase 4. Analysis, report writing and quality review		
Draft analysis papers	IEO/Consultants	August 2022
Synthesis and drafting evaluation report	IEO/Consultants	September – October 2022
IEO internal review and external expert panel review	IEO/Consultants	November - December 2022
Phase 5. UNDP Management review and Board Presentation		
First draft sent for review to UNDP Management	IEO/UNDP Management	Late December 2022
Share revised final evaluation report with UNDP Management for management response	IEO/UNDP Management	January 2023
Preparation of Board Paper	IEO	January 2023
Editing and formatting of report	IEO/Secretariat of the Board	January - March 2023

³⁶ The timeframe, indicative of process and deadlines, does not imply full-time engagement of evaluation team during the period.

Executive Board Informal Debriefing	IEO/Secretariat of the Board	March - April 2023
Final edited report uploaded	IEO/Secretariat of the Board	April - May 2023
Executive Board formal presentation of conclusions and recommendations	IEO	19 May 2023
Knowledge management and dissemination activities	IEO	June 2023 onwards

Dissemination strategy and knowledge management

The IEO will ensure that the findings, conclusions, recommendations, and lessons learned from the evaluation are disseminated and shared with a wide audience, including social protection practitioners in a manner that is informative, engaging, and accessible. The stakeholder mapping will be used to develop a communication plan to guide the dissemination of the report, in collaboration with the IEO Knowledge and Data Management section.

The Evaluation team will organize a virtual workshop at the end of the evaluation process, with relevant UNDP personnel as well as with other potential users of the evaluation results. Other presentations could be organized at regional level to share regional specific findings and conclusions, in collaboration with the UNDP Inclusive Growth team. The team will also identify external conferences on social protection to promote the findings and make use of the IEO social media platforms to reach a wider audience.

Annex 2: Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation criteria/questions	Evaluation sub-questions	How to assess (approach, methods and factors to consider)	Sources of information
1. RELEVANCE: To what extent has UNDP support been relevant for partner countries' needs for social protection through a lifecycle approach, including emerging needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for women and girls, persons with disability and others most likely to be left behind, to achieve the SDGs and to build forward better?	<p>1.1. To what extent and how has UNDP support addressed gaps related to existing social protection systems and aligned with national strategies/priorities?</p> <p>1.2. How have UNDP strategy and approaches evolved over time and adapted to changes in national context, environmental and socio-economic stressors of shocks, and crises response including the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>1.3. How has UNDP social protection approach and programme been aligned with the SDGs and other UN strategies and initiatives?</p> <p>1.4. To what extent have UNDP interventions incorporated the needs and risks facing groups in different vulnerable situations – those most likely to be left behind (such as women, youth, persons with disability, PLHIV, LGBTIQ+, informal workers, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, etc.)?</p> <p>1.5. To what extent do UNDP interventions reflect its comparative advantages?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the rising prices of food and fuel as well as the potential debt crisis on national social protection system. - Assess the adequacy of UNDP choice of intervention types for social protection (i.e. social assistance, social insurance, labor market interventions) - Review the objectives and design of UNDP interventions and assess the match between the type and extent of UNDP's 1) Technical and 2) Financial support and identified weaknesses in national systems - Review the CPDs to see if social protection is present in the country strategy and to what extent it responds to the (existing and emerging) needs identified in the national strategies/priorities and UN strategic priorities (UNDAFs/UNSDCFs, SERPs) - Analyze the type of support from UNDP (substantive vs procurement/financial support) - Assess the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in COVID and shock-response social protection initiatives. - Assess UNDP support vis-à-vis the international commitments (ILO conventions and recommendations, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review on social protection systems and gaps - Trend analysis of existing data on national social protection systems - Desk review of UNDAFs/UNSDCFs, CCAs, SERPs and other relevant UNCT documents - Desk review of UNDP strategic documents, regional programme documents, CPDs, programme data (portfolio) analysis and project documents - Meta-synthesis of existing UNDP evaluations - Primary data collection via survey, interviews, case studies and others

		<p>SDGs, Paris agreement, Sendai framework, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check if UNDP has conducted any needs assessment and if so how the results of the assessment informed the design of UNDP social protection interventions. Check if the groups in vulnerable and at-risk situations are consulted during design and implementation. Assess the extent to which UNDP intervention design is risk-informed and also proactively anticipate the life-cycle risks - Analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of UNDP in the social protection area. 	
<p>2. COHERENCE: To what extent have UNDP's approaches, tools and partnerships for social protection programming and implementation been adequately developed and coherently used?</p>	<p>2.1. To what extent is the UNDP proposed Theory of Change adequate and realistic? To what extent does the portfolio composition adequately reflect the Theory of Change?</p> <p>2.2. To what extent does UNDP portfolio demonstrate synergy among its interventions across thematic areas?</p> <p>2.3. What tools has UNDP developed to guide the design and implementation of social protection interventions? Are they adequate (both technically and addressing the needs)? How does UNDP ensure their proper application and knowledge sharing at global, regional and country levels?</p> <p>2.4. To what extent is UNDP's social protection offer designed, and interventions delivered, in synergy with initiatives of Governments and other development partners?</p> <p>2.5. To what extent do UNDP approach and interventions optimize its strategic positioning at the global, regional and country (national/subnational) levels?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the TOC at the regional and project levels and see the extent to which these TOC reflect UNDP integrated social protection offer. - Analyze the extent of collaboration across UNDP thematic portfolio in social protection programming. - Review UNDAFs/UNSDCFs, Regional programme documents, and CPDs to assess the planned synergies (internally with other sectors: e.g. governance, environment) and externally (Other UN agencies, major donors). - Review the RCO and RC reports to assess synergies with UN agencies - Assess the integration of upstream and downstream support in UNDP social protection approach. - Assess the level of joint programming and collaboration under the SDG funding window for social protection as well as joint resource mobilization for social protection initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature review of government and development partners approach and intervention in social protection - Desk review of UNDP strategic documents, programme data (portfolio) analysis and project documents - Meta-synthesis of existing UNDP evaluations - Primary data collection via survey, interviews, case studies and others

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For synergies with donors and other development actors, beside UNDP own reporting (ROARs and project reports), this can be assessed through interviews with Governments, donors, and other development actors and any strategic documents (government development plans and reports, SDG reporting, donors funding strategies, ODA analysis) available. - Review reports on different social protection network and global/regional initiatives (Social protection floor initiatives, universal social protection initiative, LNOB and social protection integration initiative, SPIAC-B, etc.) - Assess UNDP role in facilitating consultation with development actors, other national and subnational stakeholders, private sector, civil society, communities and beneficiaries for social protection 	
3. EFFICIENCY: To what extent has UNDP efficiently used its human and financial resources to support partner countries in strengthening social protection systems?	<p>3.1. To what extent has UNDP implementation strategy optimized cost-effectiveness (for example by building on synergies, mobilizing additional resources, allocating resources efficiently, etc.)?</p> <p>3.2. To what extent does the M&E system used by UNDP ensure adequate monitoring and learning for programme management?</p> <p>3.3. To what extent does UNDP have adequate human resources in terms of thematic expertise, programme management and M&E capacities to design and implement social protection interventions?</p> <p>3.4. What is the mechanism UNDP deploys for coordination of social protection support at</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze UNDP strategy for resource mobilization for social protection. How UNDP regular resources are used for social protection including during covid responses and how UNDP mobilizes additional resources. Here it is important to distinguish between technical and procurement support, as well as procurement in regular time and in crisis time. - Analyze the delivery ratio, any delays, cost per beneficiary (if data available and reliable) - Analyze the implementation modality and if the modality is connected to any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review of UNDP strategic documents, programme data (portfolio) analysis and project documents, audit reports, change management reports (on HR) - Organizational analysis of UNDP social protection human resources, M&E systems and team structure

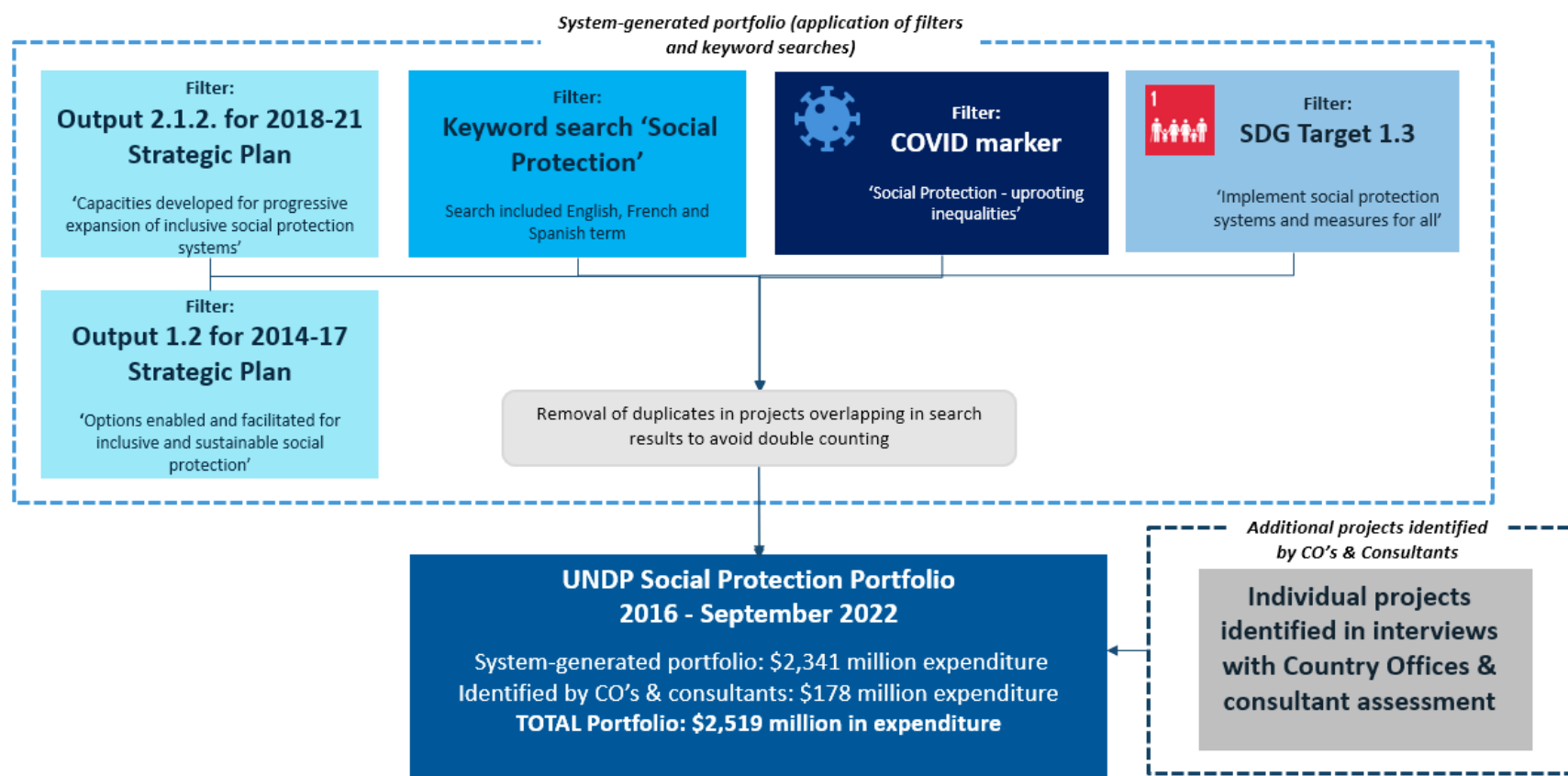
	global, regional and country levels? How well is it working?	<p>implementation issues (delays, reaching the final beneficiaries, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the functioning and coordination of UNDP social protection teams that consist of the HQ team at BPPS, regional specialists, country office specialists. Also their interaction with Global Policy Network, Accelerators Labs and other innovation facilities, Sustainable Finance Hub, Private Sector Hub, etc. - Assess the extent to which UNDP has collected sufficient data and evidence on its social protection intervention to track its results and contributions. - Assess knowledge management and communication of results and good practices/lessons. - Review the project staff and consultant list for the in-depth reviewed projects to assess the adequacy and efficient use of human resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial analysis of UNDP programme data - Meta-synthesis of existing UNDP evaluations - Primary data collection via survey, interviews, case studies and others
4. EFFECTIVENESS: To what extent has UNDP social protection support been effective in assisting partner countries in protecting at-risk groups, especially women and girls , persons with disability and those most likely to be left behind, from multiple deprivations and social and economic exclusion, as a matter of human rights and particularly during	<p>4.1. To what extent have UNDP interventions contributed to policy measures, institutional capacities and systems to expand types and quality (coverage, adequacy, access) of social protection services (including social assistance, social insurance, labor market policies and interventions)?</p> <p>4.2. To what extent and how has UNDP increased the adaptiveness of national social protection systems and programmes vis-à-vis environmental, health and socio-economic shocks and crises, including with regard to any current proactive efforts to address the rising price of food and fuels and an impending debt crisis?</p> <p>4.3. How successful have UNDP interventions been in extending social protection floors against</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the effectiveness of UNDP interventions by social protection service types (social assistance, social insurance and labor market interventions) and their sub-categories. - Assess UNDP contribution to the improvement in social protection system quality (coverage, adequacy, access), and financing. - Assess UNDP contribution to social registry/beneficiary registration system. - Analyze how the changes/contributions to social protection systems take place through the three entry points of governance, resilience and environmental sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review of UNDP strategic documents, programme data (portfolio) analysis and project documents - Meta-synthesis of existing UNDP evaluations - Primary data collection via survey, interviews, case studies and others

shocks or periods of insufficient income, incapacity or inability to work; and in empowering those groups by increasing productive capacities and enhancing capabilities	contingencies and addressing life cycle risks of people in vulnerable situations, especially women, youth, persons with disability and those most likely to be left behind, from multiple deprivations and social and economic exclusion, and ensure their rights? 4.4. To what extent have UNDP social protection interventions contributed to empower households and individuals in vulnerable situations (such as capacity development and overcoming structural barriers) to increase their resilience to natural and socio-economic disasters and shocks?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the use of adaptive social protection approaches and its results in shock response and in addressing the stressors, as well as in supporting the protective, promotive, preventive and transformative social protection agenda. - Make efforts to distinguish UNDP's specific contributions, particularly in projects/programmes where the Governments and/or other development partners are (also) the main contributors. - Analyse how UNDP social protection interventions empower households and individuals in productive capacities, community resilience, and political participation, etc. - Using the GRES (Gender results effectiveness scale) to assess UNDP's contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment through its social protection interventions - Assess the extent to which households and individuals in vulnerable situations benefit from UNDP interventions. - Assess the extent to which innovations and digitalization contribute to the results - Identify the factors which facilitate or hinder the success of social protection initiatives, both for long-term social protection system strengthening and shock-response social protection interventions. - Assess the extent to which UNDP contributes to global knowledge on social protection. 	
5. SUSTAINABILITY: To what extent	5.1. To what extent has UNDP helped to develop capacities, transfer knowledge/technologies,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the uptake of UNDP initiatives in the national social protection system and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government's policy changing

<p>have UNDP social protection interventions promoted national ownership, diversified resources, and built appropriate partnerships to ensure sustainability of results? What factors contributed to, or hindered, the sustainability of UNDP contributions to social protection in all its dimensions?</p>	<p>secure financing and national commitment required to sustain the systems and tools introduced and to ensure continuous delivery of benefits to social protection users?</p> <p>5.2. How does UNDP facilitate upscaling of social protection interventions? Is there any evidence of scaling-up?</p>	<p>the extent to which benefits continue to be delivered after the end of UNDP interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the contribution to national capacities strengthening to sustain the functioning of the systems - Assess UNDP support to secure financing for social protection. Assess financial commitments and change in government's priorities with focus on social protection following UNDP support. In countries with UNDP support to Integrated National Financing Frameworks, assess the extent to which the social protection is incorporated into this initiative. - Through project reports and interviews with government and partners, identify any evidence of scaling up. Pay specific attention to pilot initiatives and innovative tools (for example the temporary basic income, payment for ecosystem services, etc.). What have been the challenges for scaling up? 	<p>documents and necessary directives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review of UNDP strategic documents, programme data (portfolio) analysis and project documents - Meta-synthesis of existing UNDP evaluations - Primary data collection via survey, interviews, case studies and others
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Annex 3: Process for identifying UNDP's Social Protection portfolio

All project data was extracted from the UNDP PowerBi Project Finance dataset, upon which the dataset is filed to identify project outputs that are linked to Output 2.1.2 “Capacities developed for progressive expansion of inclusive social protection systems” for 2018-21 Strategic Plan and Output 1.2 “Options enabled and facilitated for inclusive and sustainable social protection” for 2014-17 Strategic Plan, as well as those linked to the COVID marker “Social protection – uprooting inequalities” and the SDG Target 1.3 “Implement social protection systems and measures for all”. Further, a keyword search for “social protection” was performed in the project titles to identify any missing activities from the filters.



Annex 4: Categorization of social protection programmes and UNDP support

Categorization of Social Protection Programmes

The evaluation adopted the three major forms of social protection programmes to typologize UNDP's support: Social Insurance, Social Assistance and Labor Market Programmes:

I. Social Insurance

Social Insurance has three major subprograms. These are Pensions, Health Insurance and Passive Labor Market Programs. Such Programs are often contributory in nature, and, therefore, usually confined to formal-sector workers and their families. For pensions, for example, workers accept regular deductions from their salaries, which can accumulate over time as a fund to finance monthly pension payments when they retire. Deductions from salaries could also be made to finance workers' access (and that of their families) to health facilities. Such mechanisms are usually only practical for paid employment in the Government or sizeable formal-sector enterprises. As such, the overall number of beneficiaries of pensions can be relatively small, though the monthly payments to retirees often represent the largest percentage of all Social Protection expenditures in many countries.

Health insurance often strives to reach both the families of formal-sector employees and the families of workers in informal-sector employment. General Taxation can be utilized, to some degree, to pay for the health coverage of the latter group, though such recipients can frequently be called upon to make payments for particular health services. Sometimes, the families of informal-sector workers are provided with low-cost or free access at least to Primary Health Care.

Health assistance (a form of Social Assistance) can be provided to certain segments of the population (such as the Poor and Vulnerable) or for certain forms of health coverage (such as vaccinations for COVID-19 or primary health care). For this reason, the evaluation categorizes UNDP's response to the COVID-19 Epidemic as a form of Health Assistance, not Health Insurance.

Hence, it should be recognized that the character and the scale of Health Insurance/Health Assistance can vary significantly across countries.

II. Labor Market Programs

As their name suggests, Active Labor Market Programs involve the active participation of Beneficiaries. This participation usually takes two major forms: 1) short-term paid employment on Public Works and 2) Participation in programs of Skill Development and Training, which are usually designed to enhance workers' prospects for more regular and higher-paid employment.

However, an additional concern is that some analysts stress the importance of skill development for workers likely to be displaced by the technologies projected to be part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

(e.g., automation and robotics). This is a longer-term, more strategic concern, which would involve the retraining of a large cohort of workers.

Passive Labor Market Programs encompass, for example, programs such as unemployment insurance, maternity leave and accident and injury Insurance. The beneficiaries of such programs are usually formally employed by the Government or sizeable Formal-Sector Enterprises. So, the number of beneficiaries of such programs is usually relatively small in developing economies. Though passive labour market programs can be a form of social insurance, for the purposes of our Evaluation of Social Protection, we group them with Active Labor Market Programs (ALMPs) under the general heading of Labor Market Programs.

III. Social Assistance

The most prevalent forms of Social Assistance are cash transfers and transfers of non-cash items, such as food. Such benefits are clearly designed to reach the poor and the vulnerable. Such transfers can be 'conditional' or 'unconditional'—namely whether or not they require recipients to engage in certain activities in order to qualify for such benefits.

Certain organizations also categorize 'food subsidies' as a form of Social Assistance. Such Subsidies could lower the price of certain commonly consumed food items, though are not necessarily targeted at the poor and vulnerable. In other words, the supply of cheaper food could potentially benefit a large cohort of a country's population. Thus, this evaluation does not plan to assess the prevalence of such programs.

Non-cash benefits can also be an additional form of social protection, such as goods or services provided to certain population groups. A common prime example would be the provision of free school supplies, such as books, for all children in primary school.

Since many people are not enrolled in any formal-sector Pension Scheme, a number of Governments (i.e., particularly those that have the requisite 'fiscal space') have also provided "Social Pensions" to a significant number of the poor elderly.

Health assistance has also become a prominent component of Social Assistance, especially since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020.

Social Services

The evaluation included UNDP support for Social Services as a component of Social Assistance. An important subcomponent of Social Services is Social Care Services, which can cover, for instance, a range of social and psychological assistance, such as for women subjected to violence; people suffering physical disabilities, learning difficulties or mental health problems; reintegration of refugees; children with disabilities or special needs that require specialist schools; and people needing prosthetic and orthopedic equipment. Free transportation and free medicines may also be offered to vulnerable groups. The need for such Social Services becomes more notable as a population ages, and social services include those specifically designed for the elderly.

Classification of UNDP's social protection support:

General distinction: The evaluation reviewed all projects classed by UNDP as social protection support in Atlas.³⁷ From this universe, and from additional interventions found during the data collection, the evaluation covered all forms of UNDP support that:

- 1) Intended to directly improve components of a country-owned³⁸ social protection instrument.
- 2) Intended to strengthen capacities that are relevant to a country-owned social protection instrument, but which may or may not have been used for social protection purposes.
- 3) Provided a form of social protection to participants in programmes primarily designed to achieve non-social protection outcomes.

The evaluation included interventions where UNDP had a discernible role in the implementation of the support. Projects where UNDP provided only a financial management/procurement service were excluded.

Gradation of support: The evaluation graded how directly UNDP supported country-owned social protection systems. A three-tier classification was used to distinguish between support to the “core” functions of country-owned social protection instruments and activities that may “supplement” the social protection system or the usage of social protection by its recipients. The third category were considered “peripheral” to country-owned instruments because they provide their own form of assistance on their own terms and capacities. The peripheral support was included in the evaluation to demonstrate where there may be current or future connections with country-owned instruments.

“Core” – Activities that seek to **directly improve components** of one or more country-owned social protection instrument. The evaluation used the IPSA classifications to break down the broad category of “social protection instruments” into three categories of components:

1. System - Social Protection Policies, Frameworks, Regulations, Governance and coordination mechanisms, Finance
2. Programme - Interventions under Social Assistance, Social Insurance, and Labour and employment market, and Social Care (see next section)
3. Delivery Mechanisms - Beneficiary registration and management systems, Payment modalities.

UNDP support that directly targeted any of component under the three categories above was classed as Core social protection support.

Core activities include support for both formal and informal social protection instruments.³⁹ Core support also includes regional and global activities (such as evidence and advocacy initiatives) where directly focused on social protection, as these are ultimately intended to improve country-owned social protection systems.

³⁷ See Annex X for detail on the methodology used to identify projects classified as social protection in UNDP databases.

³⁸ “Country owned” is used rather than “national” as sub-national social-protection initiatives down to the community level were included.

³⁹ The evaluation used O'Brien et al (2018) categorization of community level social protection instruments: funeral insurance services, rotating credit groups, community-based health insurance and village grain banks

“Supplementary” – Activities intended to strengthen capacities or conditions that are relevant to a country-owned social protection instruments, but which may or may not have been used for social protection purposes. The capacities may relate to the functioning of social protection instruments or the usage of social protection by its recipients. Examples include:

- Support for strengthening public institutions, governance and/or administration.
- Evidence generation, awareness raising, and capacity building on topics related to social protection, such as shocks, neglected groups, and social issues.
- Promoting civic space, through, for example, social contract discussions or strengthening civil society advocacy.

“Peripheral” – Interventions with a non-social protection primary objective but which have a component providing some form of short-term assistance to participants, usually as a form of payment for their contribution toward the primary objective. eg. Environmental programmes where a form of cash assistance is provided for tree planting, or reconstruction programmes where participants provide their labour to clear debris and rehabilitate infrastructure. The assistance may be provided as compensation for a loss of livelihood associated with the programme (eg. for fishermen in newly protected areas or charcoal producers after the introduction of prohibitive legislation). Although these programmes can target the poor and vulnerable using similar criteria as a country owned social protection instrument, they are not obliged to. Furthermore, the conditionality for receiving the payment/compensation may be unattainable for poorer groups, eg. the provision of crop insurance for farmers who convert a certain hectare of their land to climate smart agriculture.

Activities that provide a form of financial or in-kind safety-net (such as cash-for-work) were considered peripheral if they contained no objective to improve a country-owned social protection system. However, they were included as “Supplementary” where they intended to improve a country-owned instrument (even as small-scale pilots or innovations) and “Core” in contexts where there was no viable social protection system to deliver the equivalent support, such as in a small number of crisis contexts. The evaluation used the same distinction to categorize UNDP’s support during COVID19.

Table one provides examples of key components within the Core, Supplementary and Peripheral grades, and areas where UNDP has provided support.

Table 1: Grades for classifying UNDP's social protection support, with example activity areas.

	Core	Supplementary	Peripheral
System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social protection policies, frameworks and regulations; • Governance of social protection institutions • Integration of social protection mechanisms across ministries / levels • Coordination mechanisms for development partners • Finance for SP instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, economic development, and sectoral policies, evidence, norms, coordination, and finance (without connection to or incorporation of social protection component) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectoral policies, coordination and finance of relevance to the below programmes (without connection to or incorporation of social protection component)
Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Assistance Cash / non-cash transfers and health assistance (including COVID19) and social services, clearly designed to reach the Poor and the Vulnerable. • Social Insurance Pensions, Health Insurance and Passive Labor Market Programs. • Labour and employment market 1) Short-term paid employment; 2) Skill development designed for employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public institution strengthening / governance programmes • Disaster risk reduction, climate preparedness • Economic growth, livelihood and market support • Civic space/engagement initiatives • Support for education systems • Access to energy initiatives • Social inclusion / LNOB initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental management • Infrastructure development • Post-crisis reconstruction / rehabilitation
Delivery mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary identification / management systems • Payment systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities of the above programmes • Civic registration / ID systems • Banking services • Saving schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme-specific transfer modality (not using country owned modality)

← The evaluation sought evidence that Supplementary and Peripheral support was being used to improve Core social protection instruments.

Linking Supplementary and Peripheral support to Core social protection: The Supplementary and Peripheral activities found in UNDP projects can be delivered in ways that have no immediate relation to a country-owned social protection instrument. For example, support to improve the digitalization of government services can be used to improve the beneficiary management of social protection instruments, but equally it can be directed towards general administrative functions or sectoral interventions in agriculture, energy, education etc. Providing crop insurance to farmers in an environmental programme can act as a pilot for a national social protection scheme, though can be used merely as a form of compensation. As such, the evaluation sought to identify evidence that the support was being used to improve a country-owned social protection instrument between 2016-2022. The evaluation acknowledges that UNDP's demonstration of general capacities such as digitalization may become useful for social protection instruments in the future, if not immediately applied in this way.

Excluding projects

The grading system led to fewer projects being fully excluded from the evaluation's analysis. The evaluation criteria below was used to justify those that were.

Exclusion criteria	Keyword
<p>The project has no conceivable link to social protection, because it meets one or more of the below criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides no direct or supplementary capacities that could conceivably be used in support of a country-owned social protection instrument. e.g. support for prison reforms; access to justice initiatives, social cohesion support, emission reduction support.⁴⁰• Only provides direct interventions for beneficiaries, with no intention to act as a safety net – e.g. livelihoods support, market interventions, energy technology, business guidance.• Only targets populations that are not typically included in social protection support.• Provides a financial transfer, but on terms that in no way could be used as a safety net – e.g. payment for educational achievement or a lottery-systems.	No link found
UNDP provides only a financial management/procurement service and has no discernible role in the implementation of the support.	No substantial UNDP support

⁴⁰ Climate adaptation and resilience support should be included: in **Core** if it directly support or use a country owned social protection instrument, including at the community level with saving groups; **Supplementary** where they provide assessments, evidence, policies, coordination, finance that could be relevant to the social protection systems in the future; **Peripheral** where they provide their own form of relief support for shocks and stressors, without the intention of incorporating the support as an improvement to a country owned system; and **Excluded** where they only provide direct support to beneficiaries – through, for example, climate services, livelihood support, disaster planning and/or infrastructure – with no relief mechanism and no attempt to influence a county owned social protection mechanism.

Annex 5: Sampling Criteria

The Evaluation Team reviewed all countries in which UNDP has had social protection initiatives since 2016 through a desk review of internally reported results and project evaluations (where present). It initially selected 42 countries for greater focus using the criteria and guidance in Table 2 overleaf. In these countries the evaluation will collect primary data and further secondary information, as described in the 'Treatment' column.

For each of the five UNDP operating regions,⁴¹ and for the Shock Responsive Social Protection focus area, the team selected:

1. Two contrasting countries for case study assessment (1 based on largest expenditure and 1 based on most significant learning of success, failure or innovation for UNDP or the context).
2. Four contrasting countries for in-depth review (2 based on second and third largest expenditures and 2 based on second and third most significant learning of success, failure or innovation for UNDP or the context)
3. One country where there is a significant need for social protection but which currently receives low levels of support from donors and UNDP.

In discussion with UNDP, four countries were removed as they yielded limited opportunity to learning from UNDP social protection support. Each of the 38 remaining countries was mapped against the core components of UNDP's global social protection offer:

1. Whether the country has experienced a **co-variate shock** since 2016
2. **Area** of UNDP support (eg: Social Assistance; Social Insurance; Labour market intervention)
3. **Thematic** area of the Global Social Protection Offer (Governance, Resilience, Environmental Sustainability)
4. **Principles** of the Global Social Protection Offer (Gender; Human Rights)
5. **Enablers** of the Global Social Protection Offer (Fiscal Space; Digitalization; Data and Evidence)

The evaluation team reviewed the full list to avoid gaps and limit clustering in the areas six areas above. Several selected countries presented practical challenges for collecting data via in-person interviews and were replaced by virtual data collection.

In addition to the country focus, the evaluation covered the regional and headquarters social protection initiatives of UNDP and comparator organizations through key informant interviews and document reviews.

⁴¹ Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Arab States, and Latin America and the Caribbean

Table 2: Sampling criteria and guidance

Treatment	Guidance	Criteria	#
Country case study: KIs with multiple UNDP CO and RB staff, project partners and non-project actor + review of UNDP secondary data and national social protection sources + inclusion in research institution survey	Select 2 countries which best demonstrate how UNDP social protection is delivered and they integrate with other UNDP initiatives in country.	UNDP largest SP expenditure over 2016-2022 (adjusted to remove expenditure accrued via procurement services)	1
	Select cases that provide enough evidence to answer the majority of evaluation questions (see Matrix).	Potential for significant learning (considering the suggestions from BPPS)	2
	Select countries that offer contrast in geography, type of SP system, economic status and type of UNDP support.		
In-depth review Telephone interviews with UNDP project staff and project partners + secondary data review + inclusion in research institution survey	Select 4 countries which deepen the evaluation's understanding of how UNDP social protection initiatives work and add to or fill gaps in Evaluation Questions not covered in the Country Case Studies Find contrast in your in-depth review selections, and from the two countries selected for the Country Case Study	UNDP second largest SP expenditure over 2016-2022 (adjusted to remove expenditure accrued via procurement services)	3
		UNDP third largest SP expenditure over 2016-2022 (adjusted to remove expenditure accrued via procurement services)	4
		Second example of significant learning (different learning area from Country Case Study)	5
		Third example of significant learning (different from previous selection)	6
Interviews with Deputy Resident Representatives and Regional Social Protection specialists	Select one country in the area / region where there is the greatest need for social protection, and which receives the least support from donors and UNDP	Country with weak social protection system / coverage and limited UNDP activity on social protection (social assistance: low number of beneficiaries; high number of excluded vulnerable groups; low expenditure or other weaknesses)	7

Countries selected for primary data collection

Region	Tier 1: Country case study	Tier 2: In-depth review	Note
RBA	Mauritius		
	Senegal		
	Botswana		Shock/Adaptive
		Chad	
		Togo	
		DRC	
		Kenya	
		Nigeria	Shock/Adaptive
RBAP	Sri Lanka		
	Cambodia		
		Malaysia	
		Vietnam	
		Bangladesh	
		Samoa	
		Indonesia	Shock/Adaptive
		Iran	
RBLAC	Dominican Republic		
	Uruguay		
		Panama	
		Peru	
		Honduras	
		Chile	
		Barbados and Eastern Caribbean States	
		Paraguay	
RBEC	Kazakhstan		
	Montenegro		
		North Macedonia	
		Albania	
		Kosovo ⁴²	
		Armenia	
RBAS	Yemen		Shock/Adaptive
	Egypt		
		Iraq	
		Libya	
		Syria	
		Lebanon	Shock/Adaptive

⁴² References to Kosovo should be understood in the context of the Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Annex 6: Case Study tool

INTRODUCTION

This tool should be used to conduct the country case studies for the Thematic Evaluation on UNDP's Support to Social Protection, allowing for a structured assessment of UNDP's support and a level of standardization across countries.

The tool asks you to describe UNDP's work in relation to select components of the national social protection system using areas from the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment tools.⁴³ The first part of the tool is structured by three components:

1. System
2. Programmes
3. Delivery mechanism

The fourth area asks you to consider how Social Protection is integrated in the UNDP Country Office's work:

4. Social Protection in the Country Programme

Your assessment should be based on all triangulated secondary and primary data collected over the course of the case study.

NATIONAL INDICATORS:

Country name: [INSERT]			
	2016*	2019	2022
HDI score			
Number of people covered by at least one form of social protection			
Major groups covered by social protection systems			
% of GDP allocated to Social Protection			
UNDP budget for Social Protection			
MPI			
Poverty headcount according to national poverty line(s)			
Poverty headcount according to international poverty line			
Income inequality (Gini coefficient)			

*Please use data from reports of these years, and note if the data used in the report is from an earlier period.

⁴³ <https://ispatools.org/all-tools/>

Social Protection Systems

Guidance for “What matters” when assessing Social Protection Systems can be found [here](#).

1. Government social protection policies, frameworks and related regulatory frameworks

- a. Does UNDP contribute to the government’s social protection policies and frameworks? **[Y/N]**

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results\

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap in the system, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

**** In your response, please briefly reference the major SP policies and frameworks with 1-2 sentences on their objectives and coverage where pertinent to understanding UNDP’s work.**

2. Social protection mechanisms in the UN system, donor country strategies, any other country frameworks of development partners

- a. Is UNDP social protection work relevant and coherent with these mechanisms?
[Y/N and justify with brief reference to the objectives of other stakeholders and any pertinent element of their coverage, relative size of their contribution, and when they started working in this area.]

3. Institutional coordination mechanisms for social protection programming, including inter-agency and inter-ministerial task forces.

- a. Does UNDP contribute to these coordination mechanisms? **[Y/N]**

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap in the system, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

** Briefly reference the coordination mechanisms and describe their objectives and coverage where pertinent to understanding UNDP's work.

Social Protection Programmes

** Guidance for "What matters" when assessing Social Protection Public Works Programmes can be found [here](#) and for Food Security and Nutrition programmes [here](#)

1. Social protection interventions implemented by the national government in the following three sub-areas:

1.1 Social Assistance

- a. Does UNDP contribute to social assistance? [Y/N]

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Role of any major partners
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap in the programme, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

*** Briefly reference the major social assistance programmes with any pertinent information about their objectives, coverage, and when they commenced. Describe the thematic and geographical targeting of these social protection interventions. Describe the criteria used for selecting the target recipients.

1.2 Social Insurance

a. Does UNDP contribute to social insurance? [Y/N]

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Role of any major partners
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap in the programme, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

*** Briefly reference the major social insurance programmes with any pertinent information about their objectives, coverage, and when they commenced. Describe the thematic and geographical targeting of these social protection interventions. Describe the criteria used for selecting the target recipients.

1.3 Labour and employment market programmes

a. Does UNDP contribute to labour and employment programmes? [Y/N]

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Role of any major partners
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap in the programme, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If there is a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

*** Reference the major labour and employment programmes with any pertinent information about their objectives, coverage, and when they commenced. Describe the thematic and geographical targeting of these social protection interventions. Describe the criteria used for selecting the target recipients.

2. Social protection measures designed for shocks and climate stressors

- a. Does UNDP contribute to the shock responsiveness of Social Assistance, Insurance, and Labour and employment market measures described above, or any other measures not captured in this list? [Y/N]

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Role of any major partners
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap in the system, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

*** Briefly describe the geographic and thematic targeting, and who can/cannot access the support

3. Measures taken to respond to COVID

- a. Did UNDP contribute to the COVID response through the Social Assistance, Insurance, and Labour and employment market measures described above? [Y/N]

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Role of any major partners
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

If No, describe:

- Was this a gap in the programme, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact did this have and for whom?
- Did UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

*** Describe the geographic and thematic targeting, and who can/cannot access the support

Social Protection Delivery Mechanisms

** Guidance for “What matters” when assessing **identification systems** can be found [here](#) and for payment systems can be found [here](#)

1. Beneficiary Registration Systems

- a. Does UNDP contribute development or management of the MIS? [Y/N]

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Role of any major partners
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap for the delivery mechanism, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

*** Consider how the Social Protection Information Management System is implemented. Consider if and how it is used for decision making, targeting, with deciding transfer value, and how it is updated for the inclusion and exclusion of new target groups into social protection programming (especially during the COVID-19).

2. Payment modalities

- a. Does UNDP contribute to the payment modalities used in the country? [Y/N]

If Yes, describe:

- Form and extent of contribution
- Relevance
- Major results
- Role of any major partners
- Internal factors that have affected results
- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

If No, describe:

- Is this a gap for the delivery mechanism, or are others fulfilling this role?
- If a gap, what impact does this have and for whom?
- Has UNDP attempted to contribute to this area? Should it, and how?

*** Consider the major payment modalities operational in the country, for example, the Finance Service Providers, Retailers, use of Payment cards and mobile banking for cash transfer programming and other social assistance programming.

*** Describe who can / cannot use these forms.

Other UNDP support with links to social protection

In this section, please describe any major activities that the UNDP country office explicitly associates with social protection support⁴⁴ but which do not fit within the sections above (for example, support to social / health care delivery, in kind transfers, or general awareness raising on social issues). Also include any general CO plans to support SP which have not started yet.

Before including an activity here, consider whether is better described as an indirect or a weak contribution to any of the areas in the preceding areas. For example, UNDP may intend the Multidimensional Poverty Index studies to contribute to the social protection policy and programme targeting, and the results of this intention could be assessed under these areas.

For each activity included in this section describe:

- How the CO intends the activity to support social protection
- Whether or not there are practical connections established yet
- Your assessment of the relevance of support to social protection
- Major results
- Internal factors that have affected results

⁴⁴ You do not need to include activities that the CO does not associate with social protection

- External factors that have affected results
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling

Social Protection in the Country Programme Country Office

3. For each of the following areas, provide 1-2 paragraphs describing the situation in the country office and your assessment of whether the situation supports or hinders UNDP's social protection support:
- Design:** If and how Social Protection is integrated in UNDP's country programme eg. Is it a separate outcome or integrated across other outcomes?
 - Management and operations:** Team composition, number of social protection experts in the team; engagement of senior management in SP, integration with cross-cutting specialists, eg gender.
 - Integration with other CO teams:** working relationship of SP team with other CO teams, especially teams for environment, DRR, climate and governance.
 - Budget allocation:** Total amount for SP. Amount of core-funding versus project-based funding. Major donors. Pipeline of funding.

Global social protection offer

Tick if and how UNDP's social protection support links to UNDP's global Social Protection Offer

	Responsive Governance		and Accountable			Resilience				Environmental Sustainability		
	<i>Developing national SP strategies and/or policies</i>	<i>Closing gaps in coverage</i>	<i>Supporting digital capacities for identifying needs of those left furthest behind</i>	<i>Support identification or creation of fiscal space for social protection</i>	<i>Enhance capacities of countries for management of SP systems</i>	<i>Identifying multidimensional vulnerabilities</i>	<i>Improving SP instruments for reducing risk and increasing shock-responsiveness</i>	<i>Linking emergency social assistance to longer term recovery</i>	<i>Integrate disaster risk management with SP instruments and green recovery</i>	<i>Mitigating vulnerabilities arising from the "green transition"</i>	<i>SP for climate related shocks</i>	<i>Supporting households affected by environ. degradation, and unsustainable production and consumption</i>
Tick if present	✓	✓										
Brief description of connection	XXX											

4. Describe in 1-2 paragraphs if and how the CO's social protection support applied the **Principles (Gender and Human rights)** in UNDP Global Social Protection offer. Describe whether or not the

principles are included in designs and/or applied, and whether the principles are linked to results (and why).

5. Describe in 1-2 paragraphs if and how the CO's social protection support applied the **Enablers (Fiscal space, Digitalization, Data and evidence)** in UNDP Global Social Protection offer. Describe whether or not the enablers are included in the designs and/or applied, and whether the enablers are linked to results (and why).

Annex 7: Regional analysis template

Social protection systems in the region – needs, performance and gaps

*Nb. This section captures **regional level analysis** of the social protection system needs, approach, gaps and challenges. Include examples of specific country case studies and/or in-dept review.*

- **PERFORMANCE:** Describe the social protection systems performance in your region, including coverage and other key social protection indicators (e.g. by ILO, WB, etc.)⁴⁵
- **NEEDS/GAPS:** Analyze the major needs, gaps and challenges⁴⁶ of SP systems in your region. Briefly describe and reference any strategies for linking social protection to the SDGs in your region/area. Briefly explain the major drivers of these factors, and highlight any interconnections between the drivers.
- **ACTORS:** Explain the key actors⁴⁷ and highlight any major regional/national initiatives aimed at addressing the needs and gaps.
- **PARTNERSHIP:** Describe any joint programming, collaboration and partnerships in the region/countries, e.g. SDG funding window for social protection, joint resource mobilization, etc.
- **COVID:** Describe major impacts of COVID in your regions and the major trends of if and how governments used social protection in their COVID responses⁴⁸.
- **SHOCKS:** Explain other types of shocks (environmental, economic, conflict, etc.) that affect your region/countries within your region, their impact on social protection systems, and initiatives adapting to the emerging needs.
- **VULNERABLE:** Please differentiate your description throughout with the experiences of women, children, people with disability, and other groups in vulnerable and marginalized situations.

UNDP support to social protection

- Using the global Social Protection Offer as a benchmark, briefly describe UNDP's approach to social protection in your region. Reference regional strategies, agreements, and guidance, where present, and distinguish between these and implementation where possible. In your description, please:

⁴⁵ e.g. poverty and vulnerability indicators, employment levels and conditions, key indicators within the life-cycle approach, weaknesses and transitions in sectors of the formal and informal economy, experience of idiosyncratic shocks, and major threats linked to environmental degradation or climate change.

⁴⁶ Regarding the gaps, cross reference with UNDP's social protection offer and other regional literature, and add any gaps not covered by the UNDP offer. Examples include: Sufficiency of national budget committed to SP; Coverage; Excluded groups; Targeting challenges; Delivery mechanisms; Governance – horizontal and vertical integration; transparency and corruption; Shock unresponsiveness; Emerging threats; among others

⁴⁷ government actors: relevant ministries, departments, agencies; development partners: bilateral, multilateral, UN, IFI; civil society, academia, etc.)

⁴⁸ Systems used; Type of support given; National budgets increases/decreases allocated to social protection; Recipients; Adjustments to SP post-covid

- Discuss to what extent there is congruence with the Offer, and where there may be particular emphasis, gaps, or conflicts with the strategy and approach in your region.
 - Highlight and discuss support given to particularly vulnerable groups
 - Discuss approach to partnerships or facilitation, including with national and subnational stakeholders, private sector, civil society, communities and beneficiaries for social protection
 - Refer to any regional Theory of Change, where present
 - Briefly describe particular countries as necessary.
- Describe the social protection team and coordination between UNDP HQ, regional, country levels
 - Refine the project portfolio for your region and develop graphs and tables
 - Analyze UNDP's portfolio in social protection system strengthening by type of intervention (social insurance, social assistance, labour market interventions), highlighting the social protection instruments used (e.g. cash for work, public work, etc.)
 - Analyze UNDP' portfolio in social protection through the lens of the 3 Pathways (in Section 3.3) and the Principles and Enablers (Section 3.4)

Assessment of UNDP support to social protection

Please **refer to the Evaluation Matrix** for the questions you should consider and the secondary data you should review for each finding area.

3.1 Strategic positioning (covering also partnerships)

For section 3.1 Strategic Positioning:

Analyze and describe UNDP's

- Comparative advantage and disadvantage
- Partnerships
- Advocacy/key messaging
- Institutional arrangement and coordination
- M&E and knowledge management

→ Include:

- 1) A list of countries that support your finding, identifying countries that provide particular nuance to the finding or are positive or negative outliers
- 2) Acknowledgement of UNDP's strengths and weakness in the areas, and contextual factors that influence UNDP's work
- 3) Identify lessons (if there are important examples, please use a textbox to describe them) and areas for improvements
- 4) A brief note on the possible implications of the emerging finding – 1) To UNDP and 2) To other Evaluation Questions
- 5) Identify further data/interviews you may need during the evaluation to assess UNDP's work in this area (noting that much of the secondary data is self-reported)

3.2 Key results

For sections 3.2 Key Result areas, 3.3 Pathways and 3.4 Principles and Enablers.

For each of the below, first describe the extent of UNDP work on this area in your region.

→ In your findings include:

- 1) An assessment on the scale of the interventions (in terms of financial, beneficiaries, tools, intervention types, etc. Are the interventions pilot initiatives or an attempt to comprehensively address the problem?) in the region. Identify limitations and possible reasoning for the gap, and whether it may be justified or not. Identify countries that provide particular nuance about scale or are positive or negative outliers.
- 2) Use the questions/ sub- questions and the “how to assess” columns in the **Evaluation Matrix** under Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability to guide your analysis, and to the extent possible use the ROAR, meta-analysis, and strategy, programme and context

documents as evidence. Please make sure to reference all evidence used in footnote. Identifying countries that provide particular nuance to the finding or are positive or negative outliers.

3) Where gaps/limitations exist, assess whether (further) support in this area is needed. For example countries / populations from your region that would be most affected if the support is needed and neither UNDP nor any other stakeholder is providing support in this area; in such case, describe possible implications if UNDP and no other stakeholder is providing support in this area, and explore what could be possible entry ways for UNDP and the resources/conditions required.

3.2.1 Social protection system strengthening

- Addressing needs and gap
- Addressing life cycle risks of people in vulnerable situations
- Supporting system strengthening (policy, capacity development, etc.)
- Supporting social protection system financing
- Expanding types of services and quality (coverage, adequacy, access)

3.2.2 Shock responsive and adaptive social protection

- Enhancing the adaptiveness of national social protection systems
- Increasing people's resilience to natural and socio-economic disasters and shocks
- Covid response and recovery support
- Social protection in conflict affected context
- Social protection addressing/adapted to environmental and other stressors

3.3 Pathways

3.3.1 Responsible and accountable governance

3.3.2 Strengthened resilience

3.3.3 Environment sustainability

*** In addition to the individual analysis of each pathway, assess the degree of integration of the three pathways in the region/country social protection programming

3.4 Principles and enablers

3.4.1 Human rights

Incl. LNOB

3.4.2 Gender

3.4.3 Fiscal space

3.4.4 Digitalization

3.4.5 Data and evidence

Annex 8: Meta-synthesis methodology

The meta-synthesis draws on the body of UNDP evaluations which directly or indirectly reference social protection, to qualitatively draw out lessons regarding UNDP's engagement with social protection.

A keyword search and mapping exercise was undertaken to identify and pre-select a number of evaluation reports published in the period 2016-21, for the meta-synthesis component of the evaluation. Two key sources were consulted: the IEO's Artificial Intelligence for Development Analytics (AIDA) platform (<https://aida.undp.org/landing>) as well as the Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC) (<https://erc.undp.org/>).

Keyword searches of the two platforms included 88 keywords in English (48), French (20) and Spanish (20), relating to social protection (see Table 3, p.3). Keyword searches in French and Spanish were conducted as a secondary iteration, where duplicate results were removed. The process generated an initial list of 1485 evaluation reports. After excluding 1285 non-relevant reports, a supplementary keyword search for 'Social Protection' was conducted on the ERC platform which resulted in the inclusion of 22 further reports. Finally, 5 additional reports were added by searching the ERC database for Project IDs existing in the Social Protection Portfolio.

The resulting number of 254 initial reports was then further distilled down by reading available summary extracts/paragraphs for each individual evaluation reports and by checking if actual documents could be accessed. This final step reduced the number of reports to be analysed in a first stage to 176 evaluation reports. Numbers of evaluation reports grouped by geographical region and by type of evaluation are listed in the tables below.

Table 1. Number of evaluations by geographical region

Region	No. of reports	% of total
Global	11	6,3%
RBA	55	31,3%
RBAP	27	15,3%
RBAS	19	10,8%
RBEC	33	18,8%
RBLAC	31	17,6%
Total	176	100%

Table 2. Number of evaluations by type

Type	No. of reports	% of total
Project	111	63,1%
ICPE/CP/ADR	42	23,9%
Outcome	11	6,3%
Thematic	8	4,5%
Others	4	2,3%
Total	176	100%

During the data extraction phase, evaluations were manually searched for substantive direct or indirect references to UNDP social protection activities (using the keywords listed below). Information and/or transferable lessons related to the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of social protection activities was extracted from 127 evaluations, forming the basis of this document.

Table 3. List of keywords for keyword search in AIDA

English	Spanish	French
cash and voucher assistance		
cash for work		
cash transfers	transferencias monetarias	transferts monétaires
child benefits	subsidio familiar	prestations familiales
child subsidy		
contributory schemes	regímenes contributivos / sistemas contributivos	régime contributif
crop insurance	seguro de cultivos	assurance récolte
fee waiver		
food for work		
income protection		
income support		
industry compensation		
in-kind benefits		
in-kind support		
in-kind transfers		
job training		
job-search services		
labour activation policies		
labour market intervention		
labour market policy	política de empleo	politique du marché du travail
livelihood insurance		
livelihood protection		
livestock insurance		
noncontributory schemes		
non-contributory schemes	regímenes no contributivos / sistemas no contributivos	régime non contributif
old age pension	pensión	pension de vieillesse
public works	trabajos públicos	travaux publics
safety nets		
school feeding programmes	alimentación escolar	alimentation scolaire
sickness benefit		
social assistance	asistencia social	aide sociale / assistance sociale
social care		
social grants	subvenciones sociales / bono social	subventions sociales / bourses sociales
social insurance	seguro social	assurance sociale
social pensions		
social policies		
social protection	protección social	protection sociale
social security	seguridad social	sécurité sociale
social subsidy		
social transfers	transferencias sociales	transferts sociaux
social welfare	bienestar social	cotisations sociales
unemployment benefit		
unemployment support	seguro de desempleo	assurance chômage
universal basic income	ingreso básico universal / renta básica universal	revenu de base universel
vouchers for work		
wage subsidy	subsidio salarial	subvention salariale
welfare provision		
work sharing		

Limitations

The meta-synthesis findings are only representative of the evaluations included in the databases, identified by the keyword searches. The findings are not therefore necessarily representative of UNDP's social protection work in 2016-2021 as a whole, since evaluations have not been conducted during this time period for all of UNDP's activities. Additionally, since evaluations often cover the entirety of a country's programme, social protection activities may not be mentioned or only in passing, thus not allowing for lessons to be extracted. It is also possible that the keyword searches missed some relevant evaluations, although concerted efforts to compile a comprehensive list of keywords in three languages to conduct the searches. The lack of clarity with regard to the definition of social protection, and which activities are included/excluded may have also contributed to some relevant documents not being included.

Annex 9: Literature reviewed

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