CRISP
Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection

ESCAP Working Paper

Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific (CRISP)

Conceptual framework for national research studies examining the impact of climate change and climate change mitigation policies on vulnerable populations and current and potential future social protection responses



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About this Document

This document provides a practical conceptual framework to guide researchers producing a series of national studies to be carried out in Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, which are intended to support the development of the social protection sector to respond to the growing challenges of climate change, and to contribute to the part of the wider UNESCAP Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific (CRISP) initiative.

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Outline of Key Social Protection and Climate Terms

Adaptation refers to the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities (IPCC, 2018)

Adaptive social protection (ASP) helps build the resilience of poor and vulnerable households by investing in their capacity to prepare for, cope with, and adapt to shocks, ensuring that they do not fall (deeper) into poverty (World Bank, 2025).[1]

Climate change refers to the change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. (UNFCCC, 1992). The consequences of climate change are already experienced through increased intensity and severity of droughts, water scarcity, wildfires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity (UNFCCC 2022).

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of disaster losses (UNDRR 2016).

Green transition – describes the shift from fossil fuel-based economies with carbon-intensive industries, to low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive ones, aimed at combating climate change through sustainable practices and technologies.

Just transition – describes a fair and inclusive process of transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies that ensures no people, workers, places, sectors, countries or regions are left behind in the transition from a high-carbon to a low carbon economy, and that addresses the negative social and economic impacts of climate action.

Loss and damage refers to the negative effects of climate change that occur despite mitigation and adaptation efforts, because they are deemed irreversible and unavoidable at this stage of climate and environmental deterioration and therefore ought to be addressed by dedicated mechanisms, which include social protection mechanisms. Loss and damage impacts include both economic losses, whose costs are quantifiable in monetary terms, and non-economic losses, which include less tangible negative impacts, such as loss of culture, displacement, and way of life (UNEP 2023).

Mitigation of climate change refers to human interventions to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases (IPCC, 2018)

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are reports that countries that have joined the Paris Agreement are mandated to produce, that outline plans for emissions reductions. Some NDCs also address how they will adapt to climate change impacts, and what support they need from, or will provide to, other countries to adopt low-carbon pathways and to build climate resilience (IPC, 2018).

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are nationally produced reports that set out climate actions, including climate related targets, policies, and measures that governments aim to implement as their commitments to global climate action under the Paris Agreement. They are national plans which identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and develop strategies to address them,

[1] https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/publication/adaptive-social-protection-building-resilience-to-shocks-key-findings

with the goal of reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience and facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation, into relevant new and existing policies and programmes, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors.

Resilience is the capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation (IPCC, 2018)

Rights-based social protection is grounded in the recognition of the human right to social security/protection as enshrined in international human rights frameworks.[2] Rights-based social protection schemes are grounded in a statutory basis and guaranteed by the state, or other duty-bearing institutions, which can be held accountable for delivery of legally-binding commitments. Other principles of rights-based social protection are: universality, dignity and autonomy, equality and non-discrimination, inclusion, gender-responsiveness, transparency, effective participation, respect of privacy, sustainability, accessibility, adaptability, and adequacy of benefits (UNRISD 2016).

Shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) refers to the use of the social protection system to deliver responses to sudden crises, by increasing the numbers of those in receipt of support (horizontal expansion), increasing the amount provided (vertical expansion) or by the use of social protection delivery systems and registries to deliver new interventions (O'Brien, Scott, et al. 2018).

Social protection refers to the set of policies and programmes designed to ensure income security for all. It provides benefits to individuals on the basis of risks faced across the life cycle (e.g., unemployment, disability, maternity, etc.) and to those suffering general poverty and social exclusion. (ILO)

[2] These include Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in several ILO conventions, most notably Convention on Social Security (Minimum Standards) No. 102

Introduction

This brief sets out a practical conceptual framework to guide researchers producing a series of national studies to be carried out in Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, which are intended to support the development of the social protection sector to respond to the growing challenges of climate change. These studies are part of the wider UNESCAP Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific (CRISP) initiative.

The structure of this conceptual framework is as follows: the framework first sets out the context for the study, giving a brief overview of the CRISP initiative and its wider climate and social protection rationale, which includes text that the authors of the country studies may draw on in order to contextualise their own reports. Next the four substantive components to be covered in the national studies are set out. These are:

- A: an analysis of the main climate challenges and policy responses;
- B: an overview of existing social protection policy, programming, institutions, operational systems and financing;
- C: analysis of adequacy of existing social protection provision in relation to climate challenges and the extent of policy convergence between the climate and social protection sectors; and
- D: insights and opportunities to support discourse, policy and programme development.

For each section conceptual guidance drawing on existing literature is set out, together with the key questions and issues for exploration. A suggested template for the national reports is included in Annexe 1 and a listing of suggested key informants, policy resources, and links to relevant documents and websites to support the completion of sections A, B and C are set out in Annexe 2.

Throughout the study, particular attention should be given to the implications for informal workers and women in line with UNESCAP priorities.

The Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific initiative

The overall goal of the UNESCAP Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific (CRISP) initiative is to:

- Identify and map impacts of climate events and policies on population groups and existing initiatives to use social protection systems or cash transfers to address them.
- Promote understanding of the consequences of climate change for people and their livelihoods in the Asia Pacific region among social protection policymakers
- Promote an understanding of the potential role of social protection to address these climate impacts, and also the potentially adverse impacts of policies aimed at mitigating or adapting to climate change, among social protection and climate policymakers
- Build the capacity of social protection and climate policymakers to respond effectively
- Inform policy and programme development at the national level
- Support the development of institutional architecture to accommodate and respond to climate challenges through social protection
- Share good practices and lessons learned to build understanding and awareness among countries at the regional level, which will feed into the development of a regional roadmap.

This conceptual framework guides analysis of the impact of climate change and climate change mitigation and adaptation policies on vulnerable populations and current social protection responses in five countries in order to contribute to these goals. It is intended to identify climate impacts on poverty, livelihoods and employment, and social protection responses, building on the recognition that social protection has a key role to play in responding to the diverse challenges of climate change, as set out in a range of recent documents, including the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, which recognizes the importance of social protection in reducing climate impacts as well as in supporting mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCCC[3] in 2023, the outcome document from COP 28 in 2023 (ref), the recommendations of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future[4], the most recent ILO World Social Protection Report[5] (2024) and the ESCAP Social Outlook 2024[6].

In line with this recognition, these country studies should be informed by the understanding that climate change and increasing socio-economic inequality are deeply intertwined, intensifying challenges for marginalized households who often lack the capacity and resources to manage complex shocks impacting health, income security, food security and displacement. The studies should also recognise the covariate nature of many climate change-induced impacts and that these affect not only poor and marginalised groups traditionally targeted in social protection programmes, but whole populations, and the need to ensure that income security is available for all, including those not traditionally covered including informal and migrant workers. Social protection is now recognised as having the potential to play a critical role in the region's response to the climate crisis: reducing poverty and building resilience before shocks occur; helping people cope better after a shock has happened; helping to ensure a just transition as climate change mitigation policies are implemented; supporting climate adaptation approaches; contributing to mitigation, through carbon sequestration and ecosystems restoration; and potentially also providing support once loss and damage has occurred. Through various combinations of income and in-kind transfers, contributory schemes and active labour market policies, social protection can support climate change policies and address the effects of climate change events.

Progress on the CRISP agenda entails activity across four areas:

- ✓ promoting institutional capacity for policy and programme development;
- ✓ supporting the development of appropriate social protection measures;
- ✓ strengthening the evidence base for climate action through the development of data tools; and also
- ✓ highlighting needs and identifying potential avenues for financing these areas as well as programme implementation.

The relative priority given to each of these four areas in each country will vary, depending on the extent to which the narrative and associated policies and programming linking climate and social protection are already in place.

This document contributes to the realisation of these objectives by providing a conceptual framework to inform a series of country studies that examine the nature of the challenges and also the extent to which social protection systems are already being used to address them. These studies will be used to inform national dialogue and also feed into a wider regional discussion on the links between social protection and climate change.

[3] IPCCC, AR6
[4] 2024 Pact of the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Declarations
[5] ILO World Social Protection Report 2024–26 Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific (ILO, 2024)
[6] ESCAP, 2024. Protecting our Future Today: Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific.

Rationale for CRISP Initiative

People in Asia and the Pacific are highly exposed to climate change related events that will increase poverty and inequality and compromise socioeconomic development. Climate change remains a driver of poverty and inequality across the region. As identified in UNESCAP, 2024; ILO, 2024:

- Achieving inclusive and sustainable development will become even more challenging as the impacts of climate change manifest themselves across Asia and the Pacific.
- Climate change and rising socioeconomic inequalities are inextricably linked, with severe negative effects on the lives and livelihoods of marginalized people in vulnerable situations who lack the capacity and resources to cope with complex shocks related to health, income and food security, and displacement
- Exposure and vulnerability to climate-change induced events and coping capacity are by no means equal between and within countries.
- Inequality in access to basic services and infrastructure amplifies lack of resilience, and thereby perpetuate inequalities over time.
- Social protection can support climate resilience, help facilitate the introduction of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and measures, and contribute to a just transition and a net-zero emissions future, thereby fostering inclusive and resilient socioeconomic development
- The importance of social protection in responding to climate change has been recognized in decisions adopted at international climate negotiations, including most recently at COP28 (UN 2023e; 2023a; 2023b).
- As an essential contribution to climate justice and a just transition, social protection should be recognized as part of nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and climate investment plans.

In this context social protection is a powerful policy tool to support people affected by climate change policies and events. It has the potential to support people's health, income and food security and helps those displaced by climate change. Social protection, coupled with active labour market policies, such as reskilling, can help people manage work and life transitions. It has the potential to contribute to adaptation, mitigation and also shock responses to direct and indirect climate shocks and stresses and potentially also play a role in loss and damage programming.

Methodology

The production of the country studies will require a combination of literature review and key informant interviews. Much of the information required will be readily available from existing documentation analysing the social protection sector and resources on climate policy and climate impacts. In some cases analysis linking social protection and climate change may also be available. Primary research based on data analysis will not be required to complete the studies.

The research should focus on advancing the national agenda, and the emphasis across the five sections will vary according to the extent to which a climate-social protection discourse is already underway. Where analysis of climate and social protection sector policies and programming (sections A and B) is already advanced in terms of immediate shocks, climate impacts on ecological and human systems, and linkages to climate change mitigation policy impacts on poverty and livelihoods, existing analyses can be briefly summarised in this document, and the focus of the study can be on appraising: the extent and adequacy of the social protection response to climate challenges with particular reference to informal workers and women (section C); and

insights relating to policy, institutions, programming systems and financing and the identification of opportunities for supporting the national discourse and enhanced policy and programming integration (section D).

The information gathered should be presented using the structure outlined in Annex 1 to facilitate comparability across reports.

Once the report is prepared, the findings will then be validated and shared through a national workshop process facilitated by UNESCAP which will include participation from the ministries responsible for climate response and also social protection. From this process recommendations and ways forward will be developed.

Conceptual Framing Guide

The national studies have four sections:

A. The climate context – summary of i) main climate challenges, identifying the ways that climate change will affect income security, livelihoods and the populations affected and ii) national climate policy priorities and financing
B. Current social protection provision - overview of existing social protection policy, programming, operational systems and financing
C. Social protection and climate integration - discussion of i) the extent and adequacy of existing provision in relation to climate challenges identified in section A, ii) the extent of current climate and social protection policy convergence iii) identification of achievements and gaps (policy, programme and financing); and a review of the climate change and social protection discourse, in terms of how national actors including the government and other key players are approaching climate induced livelihood and income disruption
D. Insights and opportunities for the promotion of programming and a wider discourse on Climate Resilient and Inclusive Social Protection

Guidance for each of the four sections is set out below. The objectives of each section are outlined and conceptual framing for the research is provided, along with key question and suggestions relating to the issues that should be explored. Formats for tables are provided that may be used to enable simple visual summaries of the report findings, these are intended to provide guidance only and may be adapted at the discretion of the authors. A template for the report structure is set out in annexe 1 and annexe 2 provides information and links to national and international documentation and online resources that may be of use, together with suggestions for key informant interviewees.

A The Climate Context

This section will summarise current and medium term climate challenges, drawing on existing tools and analyses, to identify the implications of these challenges in terms of their impacts on livelihoods, poverty and wellbeing, taking into consideration factors such as health, income security, food security and displacement/mobility. It will also appraise the main policy and programming responses to these challenges.

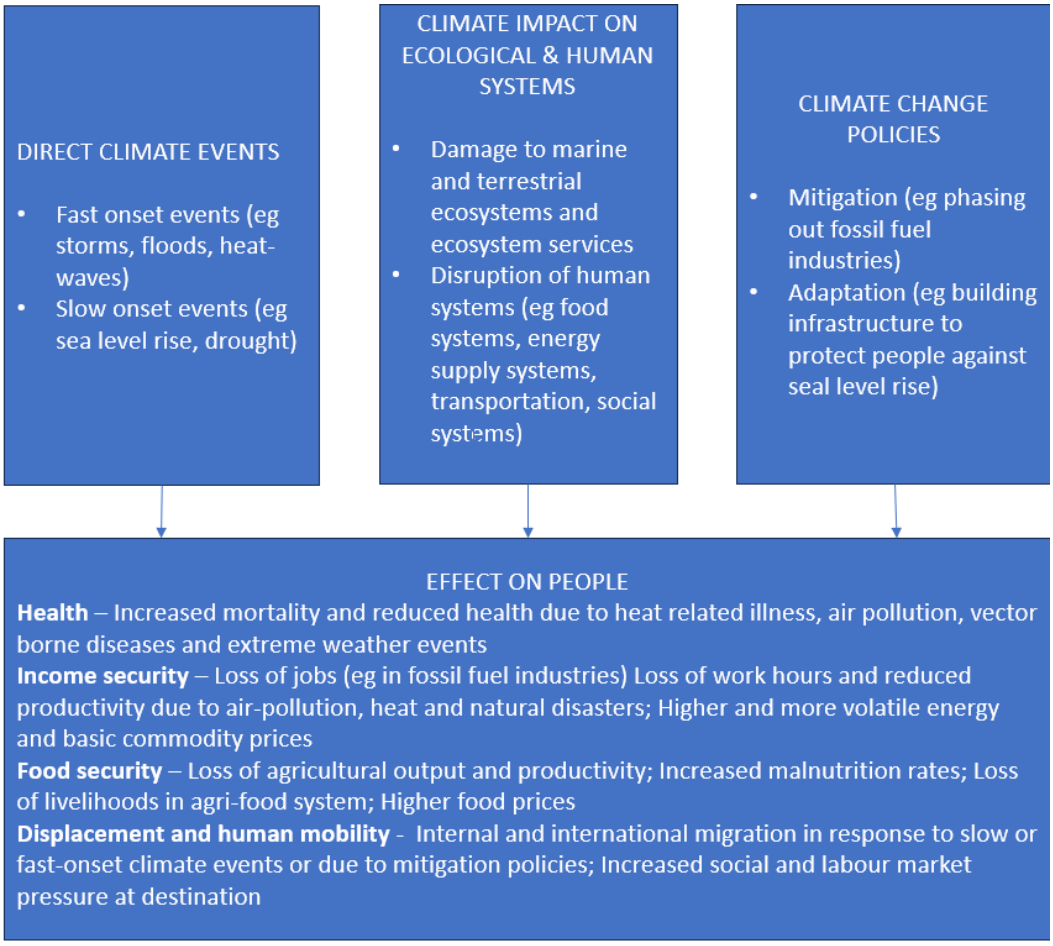
This will include a review of the analysis in both the UNESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal - which provides country level information on major challenges, climate adaptation priorities, and adaptation costs as well as key climate and adaptation policies with links to NDCs, NAPs and DRM as well as national climate adaptation strategies – and also the UNESCAP INFER (INsights on

Food SystEm Risks) risk assessment framework that provides insights into multidimensional risks to food system outcomes to generate policy-relevant information for risk communities and food system communities. See annexe 2 for a full listing of potential resources for this section.

A.1 What are the Main Climate Challenges?

The study should identify and discuss the main climate challenges being faced in the country and their effect on people, taking into consideration i) direct climate events, ii) the impact on ecological and human systems, iii) and climate change policies, as illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 1: Climate challenges and their effects



Source: Adapted from UNESCAP, 2024.

By considering not only fast and slow onset shocks linked to extreme weather events, but also the impacts of climate change on the human and ecological systems on which livelihoods depend, and the adverse impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies (as described in box 1), a full appraisal of effects on people, and on livelihoods, poverty and wellbeing can be made. In the analysis the focus should be on identifying the impacts of the major climate challenges on affected populations, rather than a detailed presentation of the climate challenges themselves, in line with the focus of this report.

BOX 1 Climate Challenges

Direct climate events
This includes both rapid and slow onset extreme weather events such as floods, typhoons, droughts, heat, and sea level rise that directly affect populations.

Climate change impacts on the human and ecological systems
This includes the impacts of climate change on the natural (ecological) and human systems, such as marine and terrestrial ecosystems, food production and distribution systems, energy generation and supply, or transportation, which affect livelihoods and wellbeing.

Impact of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies
Climate change mitigation (CCM) and adaptation policies which form part of a 'Green Transition' can have unanticipated adverse impacts on poverty. CCM policies can affect poverty by increasing the price of basic commodities and services, decreasing employment linked to polluting industries and restricting access to the natural resources on which livelihoods are dependent.

CCM policies include carbon pricing instruments (CPI) including carbon taxes, Emissions Trading Schemes (ETS) carbon credit mechanisms, fuel taxes or energy subsidy reforms (ESR). These policies affect prices, with the greatest impact on the poor often being through increases in food and transportation costs. CCM also include Green Transition initiatives, including Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP), that will reduce employment in industries with high CO2 emissions, and associated informal employment opportunities. Policies such as the UNFCCC REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) that incentivise developing countries to enhance forest protection can also have negative impacts through displacement and/or restrictions on the use of natural resources. Other potentially negative consequences of adaptation policies include economic costs resulting from adaptation measures such as the adoption of new varieties, crops and technologies.

Based on the analysis of these three types of climate challenges, the study will identify the main challenges (up to five or six) which are already being experienced or are projected to affect populations in the coming decades, including both national and subnational impacts and also relevant regional impacts, based on the scale and severity of anticipated impacts. For each challenge the study should explore the geographic, demographic and socio-economic distribution of impacts as well as their livelihoods and labour markets implications, and the likely impacts on income security and poverty, with a ***particular focus on informal workers (such as those engaged in fisheries or agriculture) and gendered vulnerabilities***. This information should be discussed in the report narrative and may be summarised in the table below.

TABLE 1 Summary Table: Climate Impacts

Climate Challenges	Description of the challenge and its impacts on affected populations	Geographical location and key characteristics (eg coastal plain, arid lands etc)	Populations affected (size and demographic – gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status etc)
Direct climate events			
Climate change impacts on human and ecosystems			
Climate change adaptation and mitigation policies			

A.2 National Climate Change Priorities

In this section national climate priorities should be identified and summarised. This should include activities relating to all three pillars of climate action: **mitigation** (reducing greenhouse gas emissions); **adaptation** (adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change), and **addressing loss and damage** (managing unavoidable impacts).

This will first require the identification of the relevant national policies governing national climate responses and then the preparation of an overview of the key priority responses they identify. In most countries the policy will be set out in Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and National Climate Strategies. In some instances, Just Energy Transition Policies[7] may also be in place and should be identified and the key objectives summarised. Some of these documents maybe found on the ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal.

The report should summarise the priority areas identified in these policies (eg by sector, geographical location, climate challenge etc), the main regional, national and subnational measures in place or under development, the programmes being implemented and the main institutions mandated to manage and deliver these responses.

The inclusion of social protection policy or programming in any of the main climate policies or strategies, should be noted.

Any major areas where challenges have been identified but policy and programming responses are under development or not yet in place should also be described.

[7] Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) are multilateral platforms between developed and emerging economies designed to deliver climate finance that supports developing countries to accelerate the transition to an equitable and socially inclusive low-carbon economy. See https://www.ihrb.org/resources/what-are-jetps-just-energy-transition-partnerships#:~:text=Just%20Energy%20Transition%20Partnerships%20(JETPs)%20are%20multilateral,just%20transitions%20while%20advancing%20international%20climate%20goals.

A.3 Climate Financing Overview

A brief overview of international climate financing currently in place should be presented, noting the main sources of climate finance, the headline objectives of the programmes they are funding, and a broad indication of their value. Some of the main climate financing sources are set out in box 2. Information on national financing of climate programming should also be set out in order to complete the climate financing picture, including headline budget allocations.

BOX 2 Climate financing Option:

Bilateral funders - UK, France, Germany, Japan etc
Multilateral Development Banks - including the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and World Bank Group
Multilateral Climate Funds - the main climate funds are the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)
Climate Investment Funds - The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF)
Innovative options - Debt for Nature/Climate Swaps - Market mechanisms (Carbon Credits / Voluntary carbon markets), Catastrophe Bonds, Parametric insurance and Climate-related bonds (Green, Blue, Social Bonds)
Carbon Credits - Financing from Emissions Trading Schemes (ETS) carbon credit mechanisms, fuel taxes or energy subsidy reforms (ESR)

B The Social Protection Sector

This section of the study will provide an overview of the social protection sector, giving an outline of existing social protection policy, programming, the institutional context, operational systems, and financing. It will summarise social protection policy priorities, the main institutions overseeing policy and implementing social protection programmes, along with a description of the major national and subnational programmes in place – including information on targeting and coverage, as well as descriptions of the main operational systems, budgets and financing modalities. This section will draw largely on pre-existing sector overviews where these are available - key resources are listed in annexe 2.

B.1 Policy

This section will identify key social protection policy documents and summarise the policy priorities they describe. It should include not only consideration of national social protection policy, but also policies relating to shock response, and disaster management. If and when climate is mentioned in relation to poverty analysis and programme objectives, this should be noted.

B.2 Social Protection Programmes

The documents identified above should be used to identify the main social protection programmes implemented by the government in each country and to give an overview of overall coverage and demographically disaggregated coverage (available from ILO data sources, see below) as well as

observations on the geographical and socio-economic distribution of provision. Attention should be made to include programmes ***supporting informal workers and women*** given the focus of the study.

The term social protection refers to "nationally defined 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" (as defined in the UNESCAP action plan). The full range of interventions that may be considered under social protection, including social care are defined differently across the case study countries.

In this study, following the ILO and UNESCAP definitions, the focus should be on measures that ensure income security in the context of both individual lifecycle contingencies and also as a response to community wide (covariate) shocks and stressors, including those relating to direct and indirect climate impacts. This means that the focus of the narrative should be on social assistance, social insurance and active labour market policies. These are defined in table 2.

TABLE 2 Social Protection Definitions

Type of Social Protection	Definition	Example
Non-contributory (also known as Social assistance)	Tax-financed cash grants, vouchers and in-kind transfers	Child grant, disability grant, social pension, food distribution.
Contributory (also known as Social insurance)	Transfers based on prior contributions	Old age pension, unemployment benefits, maternity pay, social health insurance
Active labour market policies (ALMPs)	Upskilling or reskilling the labour force, including informal workers, to facilitate access to decent employment[8] and the provision of employment	Training programmes, job search assistance, wage subsidies, public works programmes (cash for work, food for work and employment guarantee programmes)

Each of the main social protection programmes identified should be summarised in the report. Discretion may be applied in the selection of programmes described. It is suggested that up to ten of the largest social assistance, social insurance and active labour market programmes are included. Criteria for inclusion may include: identification of the programme as a significant contributor to social protection in the national discourse; flagship programmes; national or large scale implementation; actual or planned scale of coverage; and link to the climate challenges identified above. Attention should be given to include ***programmes supporting informal workers and women***. Social protection programmes that are designed to provide a response when shocks occur, often referred to as 'shock responsive' social protection programmes (SRSP) or 'anticipatory social protection' (ASP), should be included here. Significant programmes implemented by non- government actors (such as INGOs or donors) should also be included but their non- governmental identity should be noted.

For each scheme summary data should be gathered on: objectives, programme type, implementing agency funding agencies, coverage, eligibility and geographical coverage, as well as whether programme documentation mentions climate in its analysis or objectives. If information on the 'adequacy' of the transfer – the transfer value in relation to its intended function or as a percentage of household income - is available, this should also be noted, as this can be a significant limitation in terms of impact. Where climate is mentioned, the narrative should note

[8] UNESCAP 2024

which of the six broad climate functions set out in box 3 is aiming to achieve (it may involve more than one). This narrative should also be summarised using table 3 format for ease of review and comparison.

BOX 3 Social Protection Climate Functions[1]

- ✓ Reducing vulnerability by promoting resilience
- ✓ Responding to shocks
- ✓ Offsetting the adverse impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies
- ✓ Facilitating adaptation
- ✓ Contributing directly to reduced emissions, carbon sequestration and ecosystems restoration, and potentially also
- ✓ Providing ongoing loss and damage support

TABLE 3 Summary Table: Major Social Protection Programmes

Programme Name	Type of Programme (SI, SA, ALMP)	Programme Objective	Implementing Agency & Ministry	Funding agency (domestic/donor)	Eligibility criteria	Coverage (absolute number and % of eligible)	Geographical location (national/sub-national)	Climate content (Y/N)	Explicit Climate Function(s) (1-6)

B.3 Disaster Response and Social Protection Adjacent Programmes

In addition to the set of social assistance, social insurance and ALMP implemented by the national government, other programmes which are not conventionally defined as social protection, but which contribute to income security, food security, consumption smoothing and/or livelihoods reconstruction in response to climate impacts, should be identified, as described in box 4.

They may include:

- disaster response or humanitarian programmes
- government subsidised crop or agricultural insurance
- subsidies
- payment for environmental services (PES)

BOX 4 Disaster Response and Social Protection Adjacent Programmes

Disaster response and humanitarian programmes - which are implemented outside the social protection ministry and provide temporary support to those whose livelihoods are disrupted by natural or man-made events (eg refugees, displaced, those affected by conflict or natural disasters), including those affected by affected by climate shocks and stressors

Government subsidised crop or agricultural insurance - which offers income security in the context of extreme weather events that reduce farmer income, along with support to reconstruct damaged livelihoods assets

Targeted subsidies - which compensate for rises in the price of basic commodities and services such as food, energy and transportation, occurring due to a range of climate change factors including extreme weather events, food systems disruption, and climate change mitigation policies, such as the removal of universal subsidies. These may also include wage subsidies for the employment of those affected by green transition policies.

Payment for environmental services (PES) - which provide financial incentives for those whose livelihoods depend on access to natural resources, to maintain or improve ecosystems – for example providing cash transfers to ensure income security for fishermen during periods of fisheries closure, or payments for sustainable forest utilisation.

The main disaster response and social protection adjacent programmes in each country should be identified and described in this section in narrative form, and as in the social protection programme analysis above, any linkages to climate impacts in programme documentation should be noted. These programmes should be presented in narrative form, and included in a second table similar to table 3 above.

B.4 Institutional Context

This section should identify the key institutions governing social protection policy and programming, as well as social protection adjacent programming and the relationships between these institutions. It should note where there are linkages and identify current mechanisms for coordination and their performance. It should include both the national and subnational entities responsible for policy and implementation, as well as major non-governmental external agencies

(such as donors or UN agencies) and civil society actors active in the sector. It should outline relationships between these institutions, as well as any organisations established for coordination.

Actors involved in policy and programming relating to SRSP, DRR and other forms of humanitarian response should also be identified and the relative responsibilities and mandates between these institutions and social protection institutions should be mapped.

B.5 Operational Systems

This section will give an overview of the principal operational systems in use for social protection provision. It will identify which are of relevance in terms of actual or potential future climate response and identify and issues in terms of performance, ongoing development and interoperability. Operational systems for consideration should include, but need not necessarily be limited to:

- Registries
- Data collection
- ID systems
- Delivery systems
- Early warning systems

The description of social registries should include an overview of: what social registries and beneficiary databases are used for social protection and social protection adjacent provision. It should include a discussion of registry coverage, updating and timeliness; information on other sectoral databases and administrative data systems held by different actors (ministries, donors etc), including those used for Disaster Risk Management; and a commentary on current and planned interoperability and integrated management information systems (MIS) between the main agencies involved. An appraisal of the population coverage of the social registries and their potential to accommodate covariate risks and non-traditional beneficiaries should be included.

The discussion of data collection should include information on data collection modalities and frequency, data sources and links with vulnerability assessments across line ministries.

Analysis of ID systems should include a commentary on existing identity systems for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS ID), and any pipeline developments in this area.

The modalities of transfer delivery systems should be described, including any experiences and protocols for the extension of provision in emergency contexts.

The use of early warning systems in relation to social protection programming and SP adjacent programming should be noted, (particularly relevant in relation to disaster response and shock responsive social protection) along with a commentary on the efficacy of the EWS and social protection linkages.

Finally, an appraisal of the extent of current and planned digitisation of operational systems including registration, payment systems, MIS and interoperability should be made.

In each case as well as a description, observations on performance and initiatives to should be included where these are identified by key informants and programme documentation.

B.6 Cost and Financing

This section will provide recent summary data on the national budget expenditure on social protection (excluding health care) as a percentage of GDP based on ILO data (see annexe 2). This may be compared to Asia and the Pacific regional expenditure of 8%, and 9.5% in Eastern Asia, 5.1% in South-Eastern Asia and the Pacific, and 3.8% in Southern Asia.

Current and anticipated financing modalities for the sector as a whole should be described (the shares of domestic and donor financing, whether external financing takes the form of grants , loans etc) along with an approximate indication of the cost and financing for the major schemes, assuming this data is readily available. This should include a summary of available analysis relating to national costings and budget shortfalls for social protection, humanitarian and climate interventions, and include a reflection on the implications of ongoing and predicted ODA reductions for social protection provision as well as domestic financing options in the light of climate impacts on GDP.

C Social Protection and Climate Integration

This section will discuss the extent of social protection and climate linkages in terms of both policy and programming. It will include a discussion of i) the extent and adequacy of existing provision in relation to climate challenges identified in section A, ii) the extent of current climate and social protection policy convergence iii) achievements and gaps (policy, programme and financing); and iv) a review of the climate change and social protection discourse – how are national actors including the government approaching climate induced income disruption in terms of social protection.

C.1 The Adequacy of Existing Provision

This section should set out the extent to which social protection programmes identified in section B are explicitly accommodating the climate challenges set out in section A, or have previously been used for climate or any other shock responses. It should note whether design adjustments have been introduced to enable them to address climate challenges (eg, optional changes in eligibility criteria, scale of operation, value of transfer etc in response to crisis). It should also consider the adequacy of existing provision in terms of providing a response to anticipated climate challenges, including the system's ability to address covariate climate risks affecting non-traditional beneficiaries. This section should include discussion of the humanitarian/disaster response programmes and social protection adjacent programmes in place (insurance, subsidies, payment for ecosystems services etc), for climate responses.

Much current social protection and climate programming focuses on the use of social protection to promote **resilience**, **adaptation** (Adaptive Social Protection or ASP), and **shock response** (SRSP) which may be delivered after a shock or in anticipation of predicted shocks, often linked to Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management strategies respectively. In this discussion however, the wider range of functions that social protection can play in relation to climate challenges, noted in box 1, should also be considered, including **mitigation**, **offsetting the adverse impacts of CCM** policies, and providing **loss and damage** support. The adequacy of the existing system in relation to all these functions should be considered.

The main social protection, disaster response and social protection adjacent responses currently being deployed to respond to the climate challenges should be identified and conclusions drawn on the adequacy of these responses. The findings may be summarised in table 4 (an extended

version of table 1), which maps current social protection responses on to identified climate priorities.

TABLE 4 Current Social Protection Programme Responses to Major Climate Challenges

Climate Challenges	Description of the challenge and its impacts on affected populations	Geographical location and key characteristics (eg coastal plain, arid lands etc)	Populations affected (size and demographic – gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status etc)	Social protection programme response (name of programme responding)
Direct climate events				
Climate change impacts on human and ecosystems				
Climate change adaptation and mitigation policies				

C.2 Climate and Social Protection Policy Convergence

Next in the extent of convergence between climate and social protection policies should be appraised. This would include a discussion of the extent to which national social protection policy is explicitly based on climate analytics/data as part of its contextual needs analysis (including data on the scale, location and socio-economic characteristics of affected populations), and explicitly linked to addressing climate priorities, as set out in National Determined Contributions (NDC) documents, and/or National Adaptation Plans.

Similarly National Determined Contributions (NDC) documents, National Adaptation Plans and National Climate Strategies should be examined to assess whether and to what extent they include social protection as an instrument for the delivery of climate objectives and if so, what programmes are identified. A review of mentions of 'climate' and 'social protection' in each set of policies would be one indicator of convergence, as would the identification of cross sectoral co-benefits.

C.3 Climate and Social Protection Institutional Coordination

Here the existence and efficacy of any institutions or coordination mechanisms in place to support policy, programming or other convergence between the social protection and climate sectors should be noted, considering all three types of climate challenges.

C.4 Operational Systems and Climate Response

The extent to which the operational systems described in B.5 are being used, have previously been used, or are planned to be used to facilitate climate responses should be discussed here. Issues such as registry coverage rates, management information systems interoperability, protocols for cross border provision and beneficiary mobility etc should be considered. Plans for enhancing climate response capacity within operational systems should be noted.

C.5 Financing

This section should discuss the extent to which climate financing is currently being used to finance social protection or social protection adjacent initiatives, noting the main climate financing sources being accessed, the value of financing flows, the receiving agencies and the programmes and initiatives being financed. Any ongoing climate financing negotiations or aspirations which includes social protection should be noted.

C.6 Overview of Sectoral Integration

In this section overall conclusions should be drawn regarding the extent to which the social protection sector is contributing to addressing the main climate challenges faced in the country, identified above. It will consider extent to which social protection is being used to contribute to climate change responses nationally, and the extent to which there is 'convergence' between the social protection and climate sectors in terms of: policy; programming; institutions; operational systems; and financing.

For ease of analysis, the findings may be summarised in table 5 to provide a rapid overview of the extent to which convergence across is occurring for each type the climate challenges, using either a traffic light summary – red for no convergence, orange for limited convergence or where planning or discussions are underway, and green where convergence is ongoing, or alternatively simple narrative text/summary observations may be placed in each cell.

TABLE 5 Checklist for Social Protection Integration into Major Climate Challenge Responses

	Direct climate events (shock response/DRR)	Climate change impacts on human and ecological systems	Impact of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies
Policy			
Protection programme			
Operational systems			
Institutional coordination			
Financing			

C.7 Social Protection in the Climate Discourse

Finally an appraisal of the current national climate change and social protection discourse should be made. Here the aim is to understand if and how national actors from the climate, social protection and DRR sectors, including the government and civil society and potentially also development partners , are approaching the issue of social protection responses to climate challenges, their aspirations and the extent to which there is an ongoing national discussion on integrating the two sectors to develop climate resilient and inclusive social protection. Key thought leaders in this area (potentially including civil society, academe, multilateral, bilateral or regional funding agencies, or UN agencies) should be identified as KII.

D Key Insights and Opportunities

This section summarises key insights from sections A, B and C and discussing their implications for the development of climate resilient and inclusive social protection, sharing key observations and setting out opportunities to take forward programming and engagement. Special attention should be given to informal workers and women.

It should also identify social protection measures with potential for climate response through expansion or enhancement, and also where there are outstanding needs, and where SP could be expanded or introduced to address these needs in order to address emerging social protection needs.

It should identify major achievements, note gaps, and highlight the main barriers to developing both programming and the broader discourse around social protection responses to the climate challenges.

It will also note opportunities for future collaboration between the social protection and climate sectors to support of development of enhanced policy and programme responses and the achievement of national climate plans. This should include the identification of relevant national, regional and international initiatives, as well as highlighting institutions and actors with the potential to support this process. It will note any specific entry points for addressing the key policy, programming, institutional, operational and financing issues that were identified during the research and reflect on the inputs required to support this process.

Annexe 1: CRISP Country Report Template

Introduction

A The Climate Context

A.1What are the Main Climate Challenges?

A.2 National Climate Change Priorities

A.3 Climate Financing Overview

B The Social Protection Sector

B.1 Policy

B.2 Social Protection Programmes

B.3 Disaster Response and Social Protection Adjacent Programmes

B.4 Institutional Context

B.5 Operational Systems

B.6 Cost and Financing

C Social Protection and Climate Integration

C.1 The adequacy of existing provision

C.2 Climate and Social Protection Policy Convergence

C.3 Climate and Social Protection Institutional Coordination

C.4 Operational Systems and climate response

C.5 Financing

C.6 Overview of Sectoral Integration

C.7 Social Protection in the Climate Discourse

D Key Insights and Opportunities

References

Annexe 2: Resources

Section A: Climate Impacts	
KII	Ministry of Environment/Climate – to include forests and water Ministry of Agriculture – to include fisheries Ministry of Labour Ministry of National Planning Ministry of Finance Ministries with responsibility for carbon pricing, just transition and green transition. UN Country Teams (e.g. ILO, FAO, UNDRR, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP) Development Partners (donors and other implementing agencies e.g. GIZ, DFAT, FCDO, NDC Partnership, Oxfam, International Federation of Red Cross) CSOs/Worker Representative organisations (e.g. WIEGO, Asia Monitor and Resource Centre) Academia
Key Sources	**Government:** NDC 3.0 and implementation plans National Adaptation Plan and implementation plans National Climate Strategy Food System Adaptation Pathways National legislation/frameworks/regulations/guidance notes **Multilateral/international:** ***National Reports (availability will vary)***

	World Bank Climate Risk Country Profiles[9] provide a high-level assessment of physical climate risks for a country, providing insight for decision-makers into the potential for increasing, expanding, and emerging risks across space and time, and for different climate futures. World Bank Group's Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs) offer a diagnostic report that integrates climate change and development. National ILO Rapid Situational Analysis (RSA) for a Just Transition Reports identify key opportunities and hotspots for a just transition in a given country context, mapping linkages between the economy, decent work and the environment in the country and in specific sectors, to identify potential entry points for policies and interventions. The ILO Green Employment Diagnostics (GED) for Just Transition Reports provide an overview of the key challenges climate change poses to ensuring equitable economic development and the creation of decent employment opportunities for all, the main policy and market responses to climate change and other environmental pressures and also the policies that can help manage these risks and opportunities, and other potential constraints to implementing these policies, in the context of national employment policies. ***Data and analytical platforms that provide national level information*** INFORM Country Risk Profiles[10] (Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, DRMKC) also provide summary analysis and the full results can be explored in the climate change tool and map explorers which provides data on hazards, exposure, vulnerability and coping capacity with projections applied at different timeframes (2022, 2050, 2080) to calculate changes in the risk and the vulnerability gaps – the level of vulnerability reduction or coping capacity increase required for a country to preserve its current level of risk. The FAO Climate Risk Toolbox[11] (CRTB) was developed by the FAO Risks and AgroInformatics Teams to support the design of climate-resilient agricultural investment projects and plans, by allowing users to conduct climate risk screenings through advanced climate-related geospatial information and data. It is linked to the FAO Agro-Informatics Platform, which provides open-access geographic information, key food security indicators and agricultural statistics sourced from FAO and from external organizations such as NGOs, academia, the private sector, and space agencies, unlocking over 2 million data layers for more targeted, evidence-based interventions.

[9] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country-profiles
[10] https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Country-Risk-Profile
[11] https://data.apps.fao.org/crtb/?lang=en

	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and/or specific climate vulnerability indices, most notably INFORM,[12] and the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis[13] (RIMA) approaches Insights on Food System Risks[14] (INFER) was developed by ESCAP and the WFP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, with contributions from UNEP and FAO, to provide a multidimensional risk assessment framework for food systems transformation aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Using publicly available data, the tool assesses multidimensional risks to food system outcomes for people, planet and prosperity. INFER applies a composite index methodology combining three risk dimensions: hazard and exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity, with six food security dimensions including availability, access, utilization, stability, agency and sustainability. Drawing on 95 indicators, the tool aggregates and normalizes datasets to generate country-level risk scores. Its interactive dashboard tracks 49 Asia-Pacific countries from 2000 to 2022 for comparative risk analysis. ESCAP's Risk and Resilience Portal (RRP),[15] under the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, makes use of datasets and policy documents to enable the user to deepen understanding of cascading risks from the disaster, climate and health nexus, provide evidence-based analytics to strengthen regional cooperation, and build capacity for risk-informed planning and budgeting. Drawing on more than 700 datasets, the portal integrates data and tools on hazard hotspots, economic losses, and adaptation costs and priorities. Its methodology combines spatial mapping of population and infrastructure exposure using global hazard, health and socioeconomic datasets; probabilistic modelling to estimate average annual losses under current and projected climate scenarios; and cost modelling for adaptation priorities across five key measures, supporting comprehensive and data-driven resilience planning across Asia and the Pacific. INFORM Climate Change Risk Index,[16] developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, extends the INFORM Risk Index by integrating climate and socioeconomic projections to assess how humanitarian crisis risk will evolve under climate change. Using Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) and Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs), it models hazard and exposure for floods, droughts, and epidemics across multiple timeframes (2022, 2050, 2080) on a 0–10 risk scale. The index applies five scenario combinations (e.g., RCP4.5–SSP2, RCP8.5–SSP3) to quantify future risk and identify vulnerability gaps, providing policymakers with a forward-looking tool for climate-informed disaster risk reduction and resilience planning.

[12] https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index
[13] https://www.fao.org/agrifood-economics/areas-of-work/rima/en/
[14] https://www.unescap.org/projects/infer
[15] https://rrp.unescap.org/
[16] https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk

Section B: Social Protection Policies and Programmes	
KII	Ministry of Social Protection Ministry of Finance Ministries implementing social protection adjacent measures –with mandates for disaster and humanitarian responses, agriculture, forestry, food security, industry etc Ministry of Interior (data collection, ID and operational systems) Development Partners (donors and other implementing agencies) Civil Society
Key Sources	**Government:** National Social Protection Strategy National DRR strategy SRSP and ASP strategies **Multilateral/international:** ***National Sector Overviews (availability will vary)*** Social Protection Sector Overviews: eg UNICEF, FCDO, WFP and World Bank Reports based on the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) developed by the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) – this assesses the performance of the social protection system in-depth but without taking the specific climate change lens Reports based on the Assessment based National Dialogue on Social Protection (ABND) developed by the ILO Reports based on the Social Protection Policy Options Tool (SPPOT) developed by the ILO Reports using the World Bank Adaptive Social Protection Stress Test Tool - has an explicit climate focus

	ESCAP national stocktaking reports on social protection available in: Cambodia, Georgia Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Türkiye. ***Online Data Sources:*** ILO World Social Protection Data Dashboards[17] World Bank Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) - a compilation of indicators to analyse social protection programmes scope and performance. ESCAP Social Protection Online Toolbox and SPOT Simulator ***Key Reference Documentation:*** The International Labour Office, World Social Protection Report 2024-2026: Universal Social Protection for Climate Action and a Just Transition – includes links to data UNESCAP Social Outlook 2024. Protecting our Future Today: Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific The World Bank's State of Social Protection Report 2025: The 2-Billion Person Challenge
Section C: Social Protection and Climate Convergence	
KII	Thought leaders - potentially including civil society, academe, multilateral, bilateral or regional funding agencies, and UN agency personnel
Key Sources	World Bank Adaptive Social Protection Stress Test Tool

[17] https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action

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