

Adaptive Social Protection Program

Addressing the challenges of climate change and disaster risk for the poor and vulnerable

ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION IS AN INTEGRATED APPROACH THAT CAN HELP COUNTRIES ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK FOR THEIR POOR AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

Globally, shocks and disasters have a disproportionate negative impact on the poor—and the poor have significant constraints in preparing for, responding to, and bouncing back from such setbacks. Traditionally, responses to shocks and disasters have mainly been through humanitarian aid and emergency assistance. But a new approach moves beyond this, helping the poor build long-term resilience to climate-related shocks and other risks, reducing extreme poverty, and contributing to achieving shared prosperity. This approach is **adaptive social protection** and it draws on and integrates the tools and techniques of social protection, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

Adaptive social protection interventions are **flexible** and **scalable**; they aim to protect poor and vulnerable households and improve their resilience to climate and other shocks before they occur by providing predictable transfers and helping them develop their human capital, diversifying their livelihoods—and thus decreasing the need for adverse coping mechanisms. These interventions can be scaled up and provide support to the poor and vulnerable to respond to extreme events when they occur.

The **Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program (ASPP)** was launched in March 2014 to increase access to effective adaptive social protection systems for poor and vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. The program provides technical assistance and financing to develop, operationalize, and implement sustainable systems that will enable these **countries** to provide cost-effective adaptive social protection over the long term, and—by directly expanding access to social assistance for the most vulnerable—enable **households** to better withstand current and future shocks and invest in human capital development.

The ASPP is funded by a multidonor trust fund managed by the World Bank; the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £43 million (about \$75 million) to the fund over four years (2014–18). More donors are expected to come on board during implementation.

Country programs

Under the ASPP, six countries in the Sahel have been developing social protection strategies that prioritize investment in long-term, comprehensive, adaptive systems. Each country's targeted program of investments has been developed in close consultation with the

World Bank country team to complement and leverage current International Development Association (IDA) support.



In Burkina Faso, the ASPP contributes to improving the design of safety nets for poor and vulnerable households and to strengthening their ability to respond to shocks and build household resilience. The ASPP team has worked closely with the country management unit to plan and identify activities that will lay the foundation for a

BURKINA FASO

comprehensive national social protection system.

Key activities have already enabled analysis of the country's fragility and vulnerability context, and fostered a better understanding of how safety nets can contribute to improved response to shocks. In 2016, the team will continue to provide technical activities to harmonize social protection systems and prepare for the work program.



In Chad, the ASPP aims to update the existing social protection strategy to further integrate disaster risk management and climate resilience, strengthen the existing early warning system to better anticipate the impact and occurrence of hazards on the poorest, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of efforts

CHAD

to prevent and respond to the country's food crisis. The policy and analytical work performed to date has been integral to Chad's completing its social protection strategy. It has also informed the World Bank's strategy in Chad, highlighting important elements and priorities in social protection, adaptive safety nets, increased resilience, and improved livelihoods.



Social protection is a key element in Mali's poverty reduction strategy, and the objective of the ASPP in Mali is to expand current engagement on social safety nets toward developing

adaptive social programs to increase the coverage, resilience, and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable. The team is conducting several analytical activities including the development of a monitoring system and an assessment of basic needs, institutional arrangements, and public work activities that could be used in the ASPP. In 2016, technical activities to develop adaptive social protection systems will continue, along with laying the groundwork for the country-implemented work program.

MALI



In Mauritania, the ASPP is strongly linked with the World Bank's regional project on pastoralism, since the services the two initiatives provide to the poor can be highly complementary and offer an opportunity to quickly enroll pastoral populations in the social registry in case of emergencies. The ASPP finances the establishment of key building blocks of the national social safety net system, including adaptable

MAURITANIA

social protection tools, as well as design and implementation of modules to promote household resilience to shocks and adaptation among conditional cash transfer program beneficiaries. Technical support is also provided on a vulnerability analysis, adaptation of the early warning system to trigger social protection responses to crises, and defining mechanisms and measures to respond to shocks and promote resilience.



In Niger, ASPP will provide support for poverty mapping, including climatic risks; a review of the existing social protection strategy to ensure that climate-related vulnerabilities and mitigating measures to enhance resilience within communities are effectively addressed; and a capacity needs assessment to facilitate the effective delivery of the revised social protection strategy. Support and technical assistance will be provided for the design of tools to promote resilience in social protection

NIGER

interventions as well as rigorous learning on their implementation and effectiveness. ASPP financing will also help support an existing IDA-funded safety net operation to test innovative approaches for supporting resilient livelihoods and implementing adaptive cash-for-work projects.

build the resilience of the most vulnerable households, complementing ongoing and planned World Bank support in the country. Program activities are fully aligned with the Senegal Country Partnership Strategy and with government plans and the National Strategy for Social Development. The

SENEGAL



The ASPP supports Senegal's capacity to implement adaptive social assistance programs and

ASPP supports the design of adaptive safety net mechanisms—including mechanisms for existing programs to address crises, additional

SUMMARY OF KEY ASPP ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY

	FUNDING	ACTIVITIES
	\$13 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze poverty and vulnerability, social protection and humanitarian spending, and financing efficiency Evaluate institutional arrangements in place and needed for adaptive social protection; analyses assessing and updating different targeting approaches Conduct feasibility studies on activities for building poor households' resilience and productivity, and on complementary programs for making safety nets respond better to shocks; also conduct a study on the gender dimension in cash transfer programs with productive activities
	\$7.1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase knowledge of the drivers and scope of vulnerability in the country Assist in the establishment of an effective and efficient household-level targeting mechanism; develop operational mechanisms to strengthen the impact of safety net programs on adaptation and resilience Update the existing social protection strategy for further integration of disaster risk management and climate resilience, strengthen the existing early warning system to better anticipate the impact and occurrence of hazards on the poorest populations, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of efforts to prevent and respond to food crisis
	\$10 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate institutional arrangements needed for adaptive social protection and assessment of current public works activities that could be used in the ASPP Develop a monitoring system and basic needs assessment
	\$5.2 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance support on vulnerability analysis, adaptation of the early warning system to trigger social protection responses to crises, and defining mechanisms and measures to respond to shocks and promote resilience Support establishment of a national registry of poor and vulnerable households, and design
	\$11 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive social protection assessment; strengthen existing early warning system to better anticipate the impact and occurrence of hazards Adaptive cash-for-work interventions, promotion of resilient livelihoods Learning through data collection and impact evaluation
	\$13 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support design of adaptive safety net mechanisms; broaden early warning systems to trigger social protection responses to shocks Expand national registry of vulnerable households

measures to promote resilience, and new programs such as public works to respond to shocks—broadening of the country’s early warning systems to trigger social protection responses to shocks; expansion of the national registry of vulnerable households to include those vulnerable to shocks; and implementation of adaptive social assistance programs that help prevent shocks or mitigate their impacts.

Cross-country coordination and learning

Regional activities have been designed to improve the coordination of these various country activities and to expand the knowledge base on how to assist the most vulnerable—in the Sahel and beyond—in managing and responding to shocks and disasters. A series of strategy notes have been produced to outline key issues and outline further areas of analysis.

KEY ISSUES AND AREAS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

Vulnerability and resilience	 The objective of this activity is to understand household resiliency strategies to improve social protection program design, targeting, and impact assessment.
Climate-related vulnerability analysis	 This activity will develop a framework to evaluate the effects of shocks on vulnerable households and the impact of different investments on minimizing such shocks now and in the future for alternative climate change scenarios. Such work would enhance the capacity of regional and national institutions to analyze the advantages and limitations of different drought risk mitigation investments through the lens of household resilience to better inform development and climate adaptation planning and sequencing.
Strengthen linkages between disaster risk management and social protection	 This activity plans to foster coordination between various efforts by the World Bank and other donors and international organizations to strengthen, in parallel, national capacities for disaster resilience and for social protection.
Price and market information in the Sahel	 Timely and quality price and market information is critical for improving the information system in the Sahel and understanding the expected impact of shocks on poor and vulnerable people.
Gender in adaptive social protection	 This element supports the design of activities and evaluations that account for gender-specific characteristics of beneficiaries and to better understand resource allocation mechanisms among polygamous households.
Safety nets and productive employment	 Two main areas of work have been defined: (1) diagnostics support aimed at helping project teams identify constraints to productive inclusion that are most binding for their target population, and (2) design support to help country teams develop a set of interventions relevant for addressing the constraints identified.
Public works	 A series of studies on public works programs are planned, focused on promoting improved approaches to using public works programs toward effective sustainable land management. The information will also be used to support the design of country-level programs.
Targeting analysis	 This task has provided support to improve targeting mechanisms for poor and vulnerable households in the region and thus contribute to the targeting strategy of the countries in the Sahel ASPP.
Impact evaluations	 This activity supports impact evaluations to fill in key existing knowledge gaps on the effectiveness of building blocks and innovations in social protection systems in the region.
Economic analysis	 A note on the economic benefits of social protection programs was prepared with the objective of providing preliminary information on the potential costs and benefits expected for the programs supported by the ASPP. Updates will incorporate ongoing results.