

INTRODUCTION

In the last couple of years Social Protection experts have developed tools and guidance ([OPM Shock Responsive Social Protection framework](#) and the « [Unbundled](#) » [Paper by the World Bank](#)) to help operationalize concepts of « Shock responsive / Adaptive Social Protection » (SRSP), with a focus on Social safety nets (SSN). However, in West and Central Africa, most Social Protection systems are just emerging on the administrative and operational sides. Some practitioners working in those countries thus feel it is premature to work on a shock-responsive dimension of those systems, while the World Bank is actively working with governments to make this happen. Nonetheless, in those countries, where humanitarian community is largely active, either providing support to vulnerable groups affected by chronic crises or responding to more acute humanitarian disasters, there is an increasing push (led by donors and host governments) to develop operational solutions to articulate emergency Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) implemented by Humanitarian actors and Government-led SSN. Increased coordination should indeed avoid duplication and tensions, reduce gaps, promote long term viable systems and maximize resources. But furthermore, it could broaden the scope or coverage and thus enhance the impact of SSN. However, ensuring that humanitarian principles remain respected is one of the main concerns of the humanitarian community of practice.

Despite increased knowledge and harmonization of key challenges between humanitarian practitioners and SP actors, practitioners at field level still struggle to operationalize this connection. Building on tools already developed in the region to support this reflection ([CaLP's guidance, recommendations](#) from the event hosted by the Regional Platform on Social protection, [SSN mapping in Nigeria](#), [recent webinars](#)) enriched by experience as progress is made, this rough table aims at covering the « last mile », complemented by technical support provided by regional and national offices of the regional SP platform members, to:

- Help actors at national level locate and analyse their countries in terms of context and systems;
- Identify key aspects to consider and guide national actors towards resources and tools;
- Support national actors to take operational decisions contributing to connect humanitarian CVA with SSN as fit for their context.

HOW TO USE THIS TABLE ?

Practitioners (CWGs, national coordination structure, or preferably jointly) can assess each operational aspect to understand what is the current level of articulation between humanitarian and government systems / approaches, and define a desirable level of integration according to their specific context and general considerations listed in the below the table. Actors can pick and combine different levels of articulation for each element of the delivery chain. Delivery partners may select, for example, parallel funding sources, combine them with piggy backing on the national system for registration, and align in payment delivery. This framework will help define a common direction and concrete actions to improve connection and coordination between humanitarian CVA and SSN.

DEPTH OF CONNECTION ¹

TECHNICAL ASPECTS TO ARTICULATE ²

	INFO SHARING	IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SYNERGIES			STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL ALIGNMENT		
	<p>Parallel systems (There is no appropriate or ripe aspect to align further but relevant information is shared between systems to keep all actors aware of what is being implemented)</p>	<p>Tweaks (Not enough resources to expand vertically but a new shock calls for refocus of the programme on the most vulnerable groups : displacements, epidemics...)</p>	<p>Alignment (Parallel humanitarian response aligned on technical aspects to a potential SSN not yet operational, to prepare a potential horizontal expansion. It uses a parallel infrastructure rather than the same system)</p>	<p>Piggybacking (Using SSN administrative systems and structures but different programming)</p>	<p>Vertical expansion (Complementary programming : add a layer, deepen impact of the SSN due to a new shock or new objectives)</p>	<p>Horizontal expansion (Alignment to SSN, to increase coverage either due to lack of funding or new shock)</p>	<p>National Systems-led (When ripe and solid enough, government SPS take over responses to shocks and disasters, in respect with humanitarian principles)</p>
<p>1. Financing (Are there common sources of funding ? Is there a government financing strategy ? Should new rapid funding mechanisms be developed ? Are EWS and triggering mechanisms in place ? Pool funds ? Is it appropriate ?)</p>							
<p>2. Legal and policy framework (What are the regulations in place in terms of amount, data protection, delivery mechanism, national SP strategy ?)</p>							

¹ Adapted from [OPM](#)

² Adapted from the [World Bank](#)

<p>3. Setting eligibility criteria / targeting Are we targeting same groups ? Do we share common objectives ? Should we apply the same targeting criteria / methodologies – PMT vs Life Cycle approached ?</p>							
<p>4. Coordination and governance (Do we need two parallel coordination systems ? (Hum CWG + Gov structure ?) Is the government structure strong enough ? Are there specific humanitarian issues requiring parallel coordination ? Could some coordination bodies and conversations be joined or co-led ? Are roles and responsibilities in case of an emergency clearly defined ?)</p>							
<p>5. Registration, enrolment and administration systems (How advanced is the Social registry ? How inclusive is it ? What are the safeguarding systems in place to protect beneficiaries' data ? Are there clear SOPs for data sharing and management ? Is the administrative SP system in place ?)</p>							

<p>How ripe is it to include information from humanitarian programming? Are there protection issues? What are actors' capacities to manage a sudden larger caseload? Can existing administration systems interconnect?</p>							
<p>6. Setting transfer type, amount, frequency, duration (What are the existing agreed thresholds: MEB, poverty lines, minimum wages? Can a similar transfer type allow achieve objectives of specific interventions? Is there need for a top-off, a review, different duration or frequency?)</p>							
<p>7. Delivery model / Payments (Are there delivery mechanisms in place to deliver cash at scale in all interventions areas (flexibility, scope, capacities, acceptance)?)</p>							

<p>Are there framework agreements in place allowing alignment from all operational actors ? Can we negotiate standard fees with FSPs ? Are there economies of scale to make ?)</p>							
<p>8. Complaints and appeals / Feedback mechanisms (Is there a protection risk ? Independence ? Can it be combined ? Is there a national system in place ? Who is responsible for case management and programme adjustment by type of complaints ?)</p>							
<p>9. Information Management / Reporting (Could resources and tools be combined ? Risk of duplication ? Specific requirements ?)</p>							
<p>10. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) (Should there be a set of common indicators ? Should contribution to NSPS be monitored ? Should tools be harmonized ?)</p>							

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS TO SET A DESIRABLE LEVEL OF INTEGRATION:

- What is the type of needs humanitarian actors are addressing: refugee setting? Sudden disaster or slow onset? Chronic food and nutrition insecurity? Acute food and nutrition insecurity? Is there a need to switch to structural response / shock responsive dimension?
- What are the risks related to humanitarian principles and beneficiaries' protection (including data protection and specific groups' vulnerabilities)? Is it a conflict-related crisis? Is the government part of it?
- What are the skills required and technical capacities needed to operationalize this articulation?
- How mature is the administrative system, how flexible is it and how collaboration can provide support?
- Are government priorities / humanitarian priorities compatible or complementary? (nutrition sensitive, education programming, protection...)
- What is the appetite to collaborate from both sides?
- Where does funding come from?
- What is the role of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM)? What is the link between longer term resilience government and humanitarian programs and approaches?