

SESSION 7

ROLE OF EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH IN SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Building Block 4:** Programmes and Delivery Systems for Adaptive Social Protection

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# Significance of evidence and research in effective social protection

## Key Topics:

- The role of evidence in designing social protection initiatives.
- Key considerations for policymaking in effective social protection including adaptive measures to address emerging vulnerabilities like climate change



## Need for Evidence-Based Policies for Social Protection Framework

**Evidence-based policymaking** in social protection refers to the approach of formulating and executing social protection policies **grounded in comprehensive research and data analysis.**

**This methodology enables policymakers to make well-informed choices** regarding the most effective strategies to meet social needs, rather than depending exclusively on intuition or political factors.



## Promoting an evidence-based approach

- Effective contribution to social protection requires **systematic efforts to produce evidence, exchange knowledge and support the process of learning.**
- This is to **maximise quality, relevance and impact** of our technical advice on social protection issues.



## Promoting an evidence-based approach



1. Research and evidence generation for filling knowledge gaps



2. Communication for adapting and disseminating acquired knowledge



3. Capacity strengthening to capitalise on and apply this knowledge over time.



## Step 1: Research and Evidence Generation

### Identify the research agenda:

- Regularly identify capacity needs, critical issues and debates, drawing on perspectives from social protection, poverty, food security, climate change and nutrition outcomes including people's resilience to both personal and large-scale shocks, stressors and crises
- The efficient and effective delivery of social protection in crisis and conflict contexts; and links between social protection, government-led emergency response and international humanitarian assistance



## Step 1: Research and Evidence Generation

### Generate new evidence:

- Impact evaluation – e.g. cash-based transfers, nutrition interventions, school feeding programmes, and asset creation
- Introduce innovations, through pilot-testing and ‘proof-of-concept’ initiatives conducted at the request of governments, in which to mobilise new ideas and solutions.



## Step 2: Communication

### Improve access to social protection knowledge:

- Communicate knowledge, evidence and ideas to governments and their partners, policymakers, communities and others
- Mediums of communication: events, written outputs, online media, sector working groups
- Maintain a database and repository of social protection knowledge products



## Step 3: Capacity-strengthening

### **Build and facilitate opportunities for learning from the knowledge acquired**

- Convene lessons-learned workshops and other conferences at country and regional level to inform future programming
- Develop training materials, including for e-learning, on social protection topics
- Facilitate south-south learning

### **Consolidate knowledge and learning oriented partnerships**

- Seek opportunities to build and strengthen knowledge and advocacy partnerships
- Ensure that technical assistance work in social protection undertaken by different actors have links with ongoing components



## Key considerations for policymaking for effective social protection

1. Develop social protection programs that address by integrating vulnerability assessments and prioritizing regions affected by poverty, food insecurity, and shocks.
2. Utilize a range of strategies, including cash transfers, incentives, and insurance, to meet immediate needs and support long-term adaptation.
3. Encourage community involvement and creating tailored solutions.
4. Recognize the specific vulnerabilities of women, who are disproportionately affected
5. Use data on social vulnerabilities to inform and evaluate social protection programs.
6. Ensure sufficient funding for climate-responsive social protection initiatives.



## Presentation Session on Evidence & Research in Social Protection in Pakistan

1. Ms. Maheen Zahra, Senior Consultant, Poverty and Social Protection Practice, Oxford Policy Management. Feasibility Study on Social Protection for Health and Climate Resilience by KfW
2. Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, Founding Director, Institute for Global Health & Development, the Aga Khan University. Impact Evaluation of Benazir Nashonuma Program (BNP)
3. Ms. Zaineb Majoka, Social Protection Economist, World Bank. Mind the Gap: Assessing Pakistan's National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER)
4. Mr. Sanaullah Hassanzai, Technical Advisor Climate Risk Assessment. Climate Risk Profiles
5. Dr. Asim Ijaz, Director General BISP. Social Protection Delivery System on Wheels: A case study of mobile registration vehicles in Pakistan