EXERCISE TO IDENTIFY LINKAGES OF CVA TO THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

LINKAGES BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN ACTORS AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

ITERATION 1 - COLOMBIA

In support of

April 2022

INDEX

Acknowledgements

This document constitutes a first step in the diagnosis for the collective identification of linkages with the Colombian Social Protection System. The product was elaborated by Celia González Otálora, CashCap's technical support for the social protection sub-group of the Cash Working Group (CWG) in Colombia, with the active participation of Maria Jimena Peroni, CashCap's inter-agency regional advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The systematisation of the exercise and the tools associated with the first iteration have been fed back and improved thanks to the contributions of Karen Patiño (WFP) and Mariarita Ceccaroni (DRC), co-leaders of the CWG social protection sub-group, Diego Prado (CWG Colombia coordinator), Ana María Florez and Maria Paula Silva (UNHCR), and Lady Vanessa Pérez (GIFMM Colombia protection sector).

Our sincere thanks to the team from the Departamento Administrativo para la Prosperidad Social (Administrative Department for Social Prosperity) and the Jóvenes en Acción (Youth in Action) programme that participated and provided feedback on this first experience.
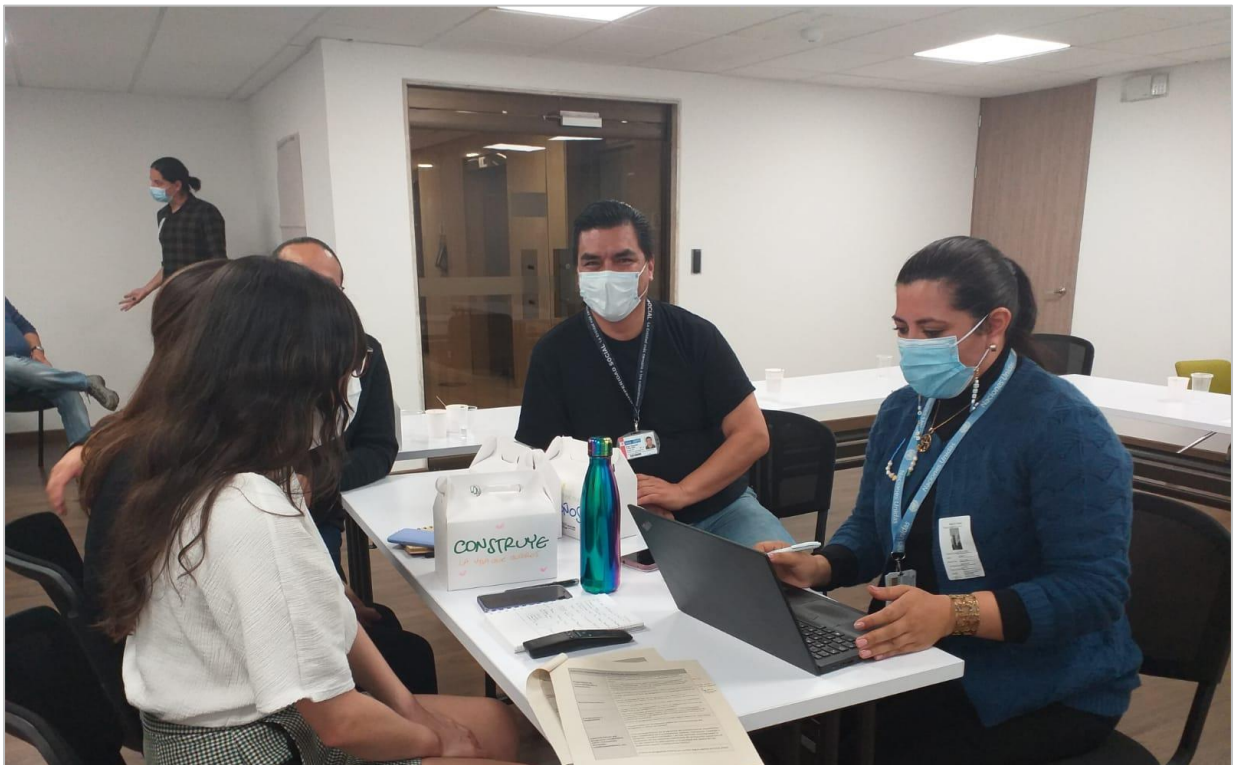

Photo 1: Face-to-face workshop with the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity – Youth in Action programme team, 30 March 2022.

INTRODUCTION

Why linkages with the Social Protection System?

For years, humanitarian actors in Colombia have been implementing various cash transfer programmes to support persons internally displaced by the Colombian conflict and by the intensification of the migration phenomenon from Venezuela, with the intention of covering the most urgent basic needs of the population in vulnerable situations. In addition, Colombia has a social protection system (SPS) with a long history of assistance to the Colombian population.

Numerous experiences, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, have shown the relevance of responding to emergencies through social protection systems, which is also the case in Colombia through the creation of new programmes or through adjustments and expansions of existing programmes. In addition, with the implementation of the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants (ETPV – for its acronym in Spanish) approved by the Colombian government, a window of opportunity opens to integrate the population that progressively achieves regular status into government social protection systems. This could meaningfully contribute to the provision of durable solutions to address the different vulnerabilities and promote the socio-economic integration of the population.

For this reason, the CWG of Colombia creates a working subgroup on social protection from October 2021, with the objective of "identifying and facilitating the implementation of actions that promote linkages between cash transfer programmes and social protection systems, in order to promote access to social protection for the population facing vulnerability situations". (ToRs of the Social Protection Sub-group available [here](#))

Different initiatives at regional and global level provide a background for this:

- At the global level, following the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, signatories to the [Grand Bargain](#) noted that the delivery of humanitarian CVA should, where possible and appropriate, use, link or align with local and national mechanisms, such as social protection systems (Core Commitment 3). It was also emphasised that humanitarian organisations and donors should commit to "scaling up SP programmes and strengthening national and local systems in order to build resilience in fragile contexts" (Core Commitment 10).[i] In addition, the Grand Bargain CWG, in its roundtable on "Linking social protection with humanitarian CVA" identified the need to improve dialogue and knowledge sharing between different humanitarian and social protection actors.

  - The [Common Donor Approach to Humanitarian Cash Programming](#) states "donors expect to see cash programmes use, link to or align with local and national mechanisms such as social protection systems, where possible and appropriate".

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- At the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean:
  - In May 2021, a regional learning event called "[Linking Cash Transfers with Social Protection Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)" brings government and humanitarian actors together at the same table to explore experiences on linking with SPS. This event highlights the difference in perception depending on the type of actor with respect to the barriers to linkages, as well as the need for solid coordination structures for this purpose and the relevance of carrying out assessments that show practical entry points for linking with SPS.
  - Regional studies published on the [integration of migrant populations in SP](#) and on [CVA in the framework of Social Protection Systems](#) that reinforce these conclusions.

  - Finally, the recently [DG ECHO's new cash transfers policy](#) (march 2022), emphasises that funding will be provided to CT that link to existing SPS at different points of the delivery chain. It encourages the programme to be broken down into blocks to identify entry points for linking CT, and states that partners are expected to assess these linkage opportunities and justify decisions.

This exercise aims to contribute to understand how to link practically with SPS programmes, breaking down the analysis into various levels and possible entry points, in order to make specific proposals for linkages.

What is this document for?

This paper describes the process undertaken in Colombia to address the phase of **assessment of entry points for linking with the social protection system**, both at the general and programme level.

Note: This document does not address the response analysis that should be done for the linkage response options proposed after the assessment exercise.

To whom is the document addressed?

This document aims to contribute to the initiatives of working groups wishing to address practical linkages with social protection in different contexts, as well as for the social protection sub-group of the Colombia CWG, currently led by the World Food Programme and the Danish Refugee Council, for iterating the process with different social protection programmes.

Methodological considerations

The methodology of the exercise has used and adapted a number of theoretical frameworks to serve the purpose sought by the CWG's social protection sub-group, mainly **focused on operationalising the link with the social protection system.** However, the exercise aims to guide actors to have a **collective dialogue**, reinforcing the key role of government institutions in assisting the affected population.

At the same time, we encourage recognition of the **crucial role of civil society within all the dimensions analysed**, highlighting the importance of considering their voice and implementing measures to ensure their meaningful participation in linking exercises.

Finally, it should be stressed that this exercise is a first step in the **assessment of linkages with social protection, and that it is necessary to iterate the process repeatedly** in order to adapt it, discussing each possible scenario according to the needs of each context, and ultimately building bridges for dialogue between humanitarian and social protection actors.
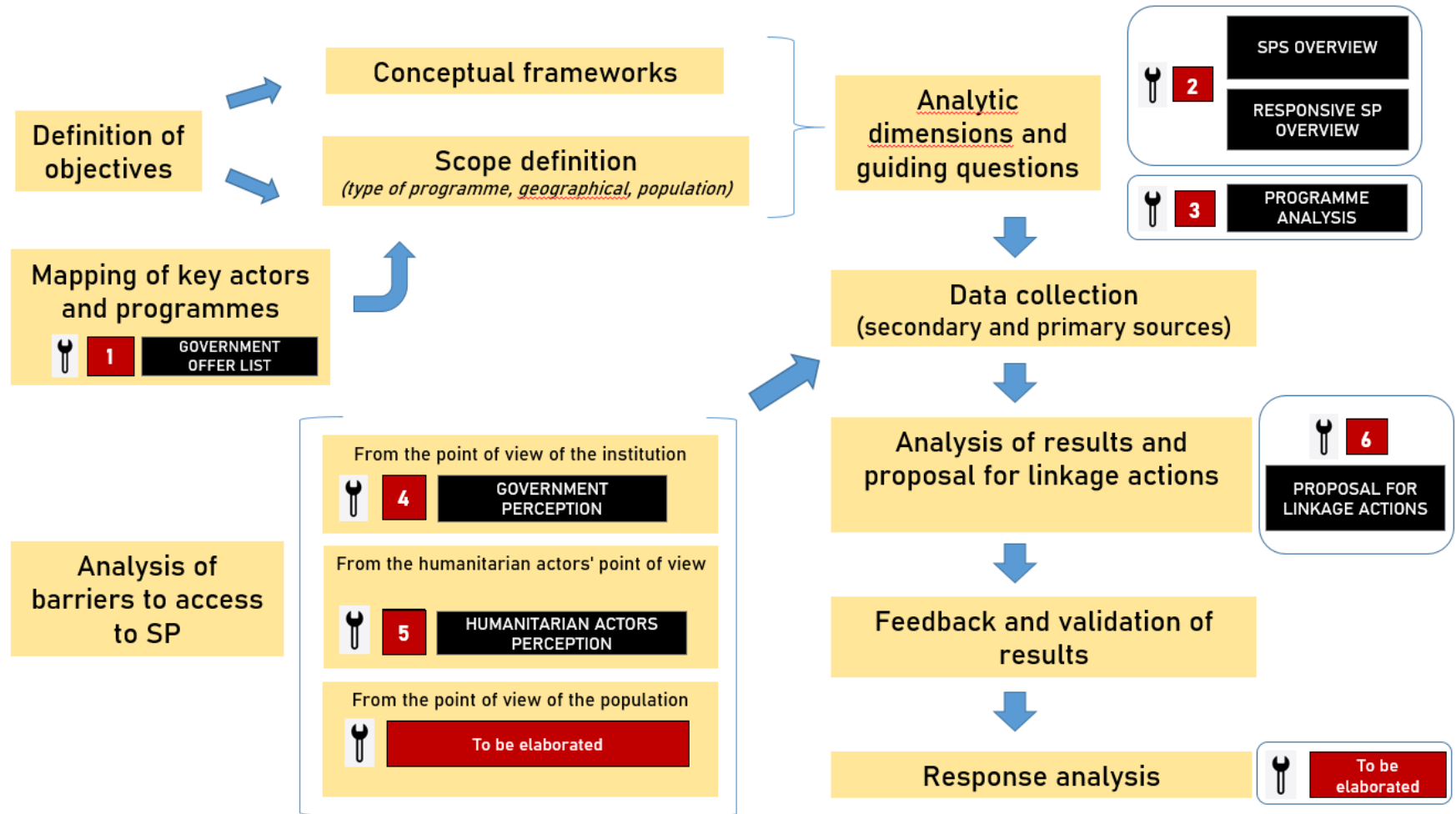
When does the exercise take place?

✓ January 2022: literature review of theoretical frameworks and relevant literature
✓ February 2022: Collaborative design of the process and associated tools
✓ March 2022: Feedback on the proposal and tools from members of the social protection sub-group interested in participating in the exercise (piloting working group).
✓ 30 March 2022: piloting workshop with the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and the Youth in Action programme.
✓ 6 April 2022: feedback and validation meeting with the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and the Youth in Action programme.
✓ 26 April 2022: Socialisation of the results of the process with the CWG steering committee and the social protection sub-group.

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Photo 2: face-to-face workshop with members of the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity, 30 March 2022.

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PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING LINKAGES

The phases of the process in Colombia, and the tools associated with it, are described below.

7

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE

The overall objective of the exercise is to diagnose the different possible entry points for linkage at the level of a specific social protection system programme.

Specifically, the exercise aims to:

- To understand the general functioning of the entity to which the programme under analysis is attached.
- Identify links between humanitarian programmes, in particular CVA, and the Colombian Social Protection System programme selected for analysis.
- Break down the barriers the population faces to access to the programme from the point of view of the institution.
- Understand the programme's interests with regard to engagement with humanitarian actors.

2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS AND DEFINITIONS USED

Definition of social protection used by the Colombian Social Protection sub-group:

Recognising that there is no unified concept of what social protection is, the sub-group uses the definition used by the Social Protection Inter Agency Cooperation Board - SPIAC-B:

"Social protection is a set of policies and programmes aimed at preventing and protecting all people from poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion, throughout their life cycle placing a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups (...). This protection can be provided through social insurance, tax-financed social benefits, social assistance services, public works programmes and other schemes guaranteeing basic income security and access to essential services. "

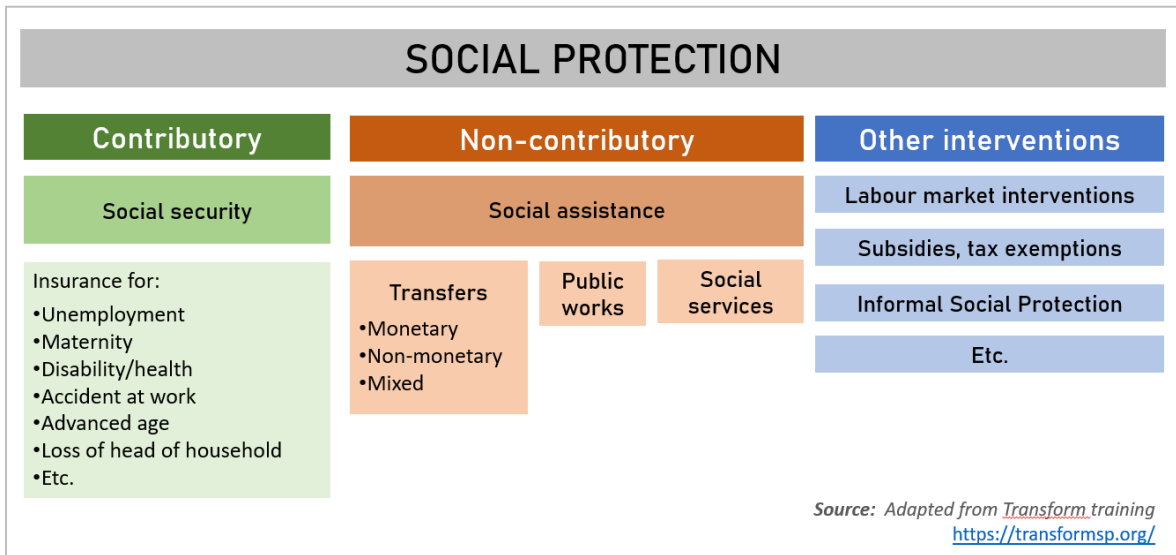The following conceptual frameworks were used for the construction of the process:

A. Pillars of social protection [ii]

In the exercise, each of the programmes analysed should be placed within the contributory, non-contributory, or other social protection pillars.

- **Contributory pillar:** In contributory schemes, contributions made by beneficiaries (and their employers) determine entitlement to benefits. The most common form of contributory scheme is a compulsory social security scheme that usually covers employees, and in some countries the registered self-employed. Social security schemes grant access to health care and other social services (e.g. long-term care) or pay regular cash benefits for the duration of the specific contingency covered (e.g. old age, unemployment, industrial accident, maternity, sickness, etc.).

- **Non-contributory pillar:** Non-contributory schemes normally do not require any direct contribution from beneficiaries or their employers as a condition of entitlement to benefits.

Non-contributory schemes are usually financed through taxes or other state revenues and may have the objective of preventing and alleviating poverty, but not exclusively.

▪ **Other interventions:** This pillar brings together other types of interventions such as labour market interventions (to promote labour market participation, ensuring hiring standards, etc.), subsidies and tax exemptions, informal social protection (through community networks, etc.), and other types of programmes and policies that may fall under the definition of social protection.
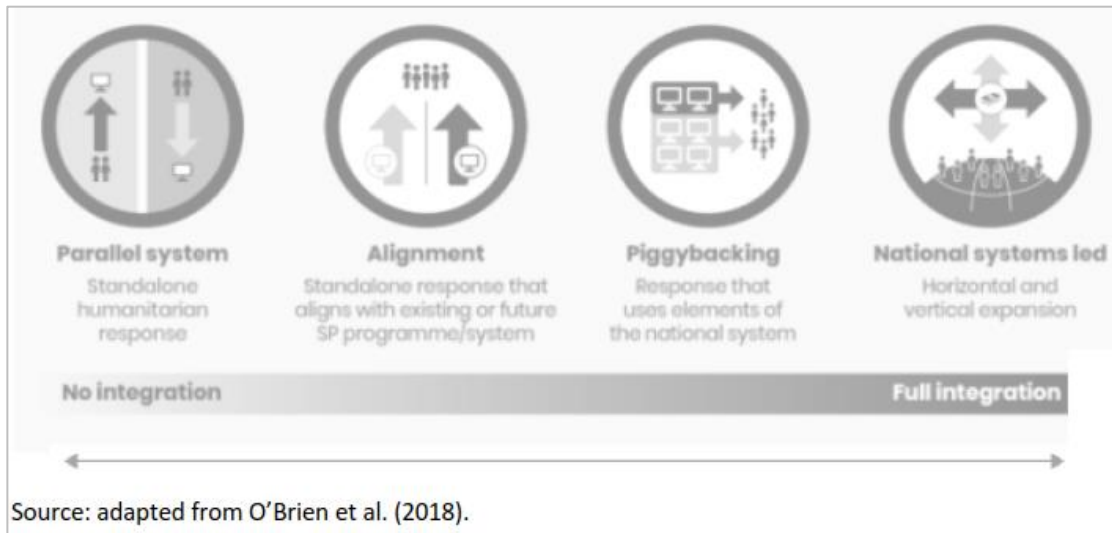

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Contributory	Non-contributory			Other interventions
Social security	Social assistance			Labour market interventions
				Subsidies, tax exemptions
Insurance for: •Unemployment •Maternity •Disability/health •Accident at work •Advanced age •Loss of head of household •Etc.	Transfers •Monetary •Non-monetary •Mixed	Public works	Social services	Informal Social Protection
				Etc.

Source: Adapted from Transform training
https://transformsp.org/

B. Types of humanitarian actors' engagement with the Social Protection system [iii]

The exercise seeks to capture the current type of engagement between the programme under analysis and humanitarian cash transfer programmes, in order to collectively determine towards which degree of engagement it is desired to evolve.

The types of involvement proposed in the tool, in order from least to most involved, are as follows:

▪ **Parallel or autonomous system (parallel system):** in this option, the provision of humanitarian social assistance is independent of the national systems.
▪ **Aligned system**: a humanitarian response that is independent of, but aligned with, existing or future social protection programmes.
▪ **Piggybacking:** represents a response that combines the independent response with national social protection systems.
▪ **Government-led system (national systems led):** response managed entirely by national systems, where the migrant and refugee population is as much a part of the system as nationals. In this case, approaches such as horizontal or vertical expansion as well as design adjustments are applied.
  o Horizontal expansion: temporary increase in the number of beneficiaries of an existing social protection programme.

o <u>Vertical expansion</u>: temporarily increasing the value or duration of benefits for existing beneficiaries.

o <u>Design tweaks</u>: making minor adjustments to the design of regular social protection programmes.

Source: adapted from O'Brien et al. (2018).

C. Entry points to linkages [iv]

This framework was used in the exercise to break down the building blocks or potential entry points for linking to the programme under analysis.

The original framework is adapted in the Colombian exercise to include some crosscutting aspects in the analysis:
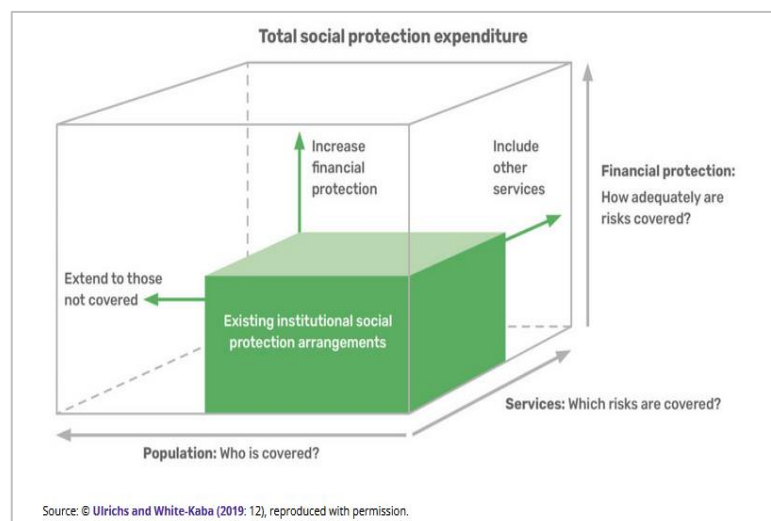
- Public policy
- Programme design
- Programme implementation
- Cross-cutting issues

D. Possible dimensions for linking [v]

This analytical framework was used in an adapted form in the final part of the process, to define the possible objectives to be achieved through the linkage.

- **Coverage: Refers** to the population reached by a programme, or "socially protected" population. [vi]
- **Adequacy:** refers to the level of protection provided and how adequately risks are covered, through quality benefits and services that are adequate to meet the social protection needs of the population. [vii]
- **Comprehensiveness:** refers to the benefits and services provided against a broad set of social risks and contingencies, with the system covering the basic areas of social protection. [viii]

These dimensions can be looked at from different angles. It is possible to think of increasing **responsiveness** (flexible reaction to adapt quickly to impacts or being able to make longer-term adjustments depending on the type of impact[ix]). Another possibility could also be seeking for **durable solutions** (the means by which the situation of populations of concern can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved while ensuring the domestic protection of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights[x]) for certain population groups that have been addressed by humanitarian response through CVA.

Source: © Ulrichs and White-Kaba (2019: 12), reproduced with permission.

3. DEFINITION OF THE SCOPE

Before starting the exercise, the scope of the exercise should be clarified in terms of the following aspects:

- **Type of programme to be analysed**: based on the list drawn up of the government's offer, certain programmes of the social protection system will be prioritised according to their objectives and potential interest for linkage with humanitarian programmes.

  > *Exercise in Colombia: Programme Youth in Action, attached to the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity.*

- **Geographical scope**: it should be defined whether the analysis is carried out at national or territorial level (e.g. by department or municipality).

  > *Exercise in Colombia: national level*

▪ **Population scope**: while the exercise aims to facilitate understanding of the general functioning of the selected programme and the entity to which it is attached, it will be necessary to adapt the exercise to obtain information for particular population groups.

> *Exercise in Colombia: the aim is to understand the programme in general, with specific emphasis on the migrant population with Temporary Protection Status.*

4. DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS

4.1. Analysis of the overview of the social protection system

i.   **Level of analysis**: analysis at ENTITY level.

> *Exercise in Colombia: It was decided to apply this tool at the entity level and not at the system level, given that the SPS is fragmented, with various entities managing SP programmes, without there being a single entity that carries out the overall coordination.*
> *The entity analysed in the exercise is the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity*
> **La equidad es de todos** | **Prosperidad Social**

ii. **Purpose**: To understand the functioning of the SPS and how the entity is positioned within it, its capacity and interests with respect to linking with humanitarian action, in particular with CVA. This information will serve to contextualise the subsequent programme analysis phase, taking into account the particularities of the entity to which it is attached.

iii. Dimensions of analysis:

A. Overview of the SPS	B. Overview of reactive SP
• Government Social Protection Policy • Informal protection schemes in Colombia • National register of programme beneficiaries • Coordination between SP entities • Programme evaluation • Conditionalities • Coordination with development and humanitarian organisations. • Funding	• Positioning • Agreement on the use of SP in emergencies • Leadership and stakeholders • Response mechanisms • Activation of emergency mechanisms • Evaluation • Coordination with development and humanitarian agencies • Outsourcing of response services • Technical capabilities

> **Associated tools**
>
> ✓ **Tool 1** - List of government programmes and key actors – here (in Spanish)
> ✓ **Tool 2** - Overview of SPS
>   o 2.1. Template for centralising the findings of the SPS overview - here
>   o 2.2. Template for the entity interview - word and pdf

4.2. Analysis at programme level

i. **Level of analysis**: analysis at social protection PROGRAMME level.

> *Exercise in Colombia: Youth in Action Programme (Jóvenes en Acción)*
> ✓ *General information about the programme: here*
> ✓ *Operational manual of the programme: here*
>
> #Jóvenes EnAcción

ii. **Purpose:**
- Identify linkages of humanitarian programmes, in particular CVA, with the Colombian SPS programme selected for analysis.
- Categorise the barriers to access to the programme from the entity's point of view.
- Review the programme's interests with regard to engagement with humanitarian actors.

iii. **Dimensions of analysis:**
- General features of the programme
- Understanding of the degree of linkage with humanitarian CVA
  - At the public policy level
  - At the programme design level
  - At the level of programme implementation
  - At the cross-cutting level
- Programme interests in linking with humanitarian actors
- Perceived barriers to programme access from the **entity**'s point of view

> **Associated tools**
>
> ✓ **Tool 3** - SP programme analysis
>   - 3.1. Format for centralising the findings of the programme analysis - here
>   - 3.2. Support for the programme interview - word and [pdf](pdf)

4.3. Barrier analysis

i. **Level of analysis**: this exercise is intended to be carried out from different angles in order to triangulate perceptions: from the entity/ programme's point of view, from the humanitarian actors' point of view, and from the population's point of view.

ii. **Purpose: To** break down the barriers to accessing social protection according to their typology, and to analyse the predominant perceptions from the point of view of each audience.

iii. **Dimensions of analysis:** For the analysis, the barriers have been divided into the following categories:
- Population groups excluded/at risk of exclusion from social protection.
- Political and/or regulatory barriers
- Barriers to programme design
- Barriers at the level of programme implementation
- Socio-cultural barriers
- Barriers at household or individual level

- Capacity constraints
- Structural disadvantages

> ### Associated tools
>
> ✓ **Tool 4**: Perception survey of barriers to access SP from the governmental perspective: survey template – [word](#) and [pdf](#)
> ✓ **Tool 5**: Survey of perceptions of barriers to access SP from the perspective of humanitarian actors: survey template – [word](#) and [pdf](#)
> ✓ Survey of perceptions of barriers to access to SP from the population's point of view *- this phase will be addressed after the pilot exercise, being key to the triangulation of perceptions.*

> *Exercise in Colombia: The analysis of barriers is part of an activity per se in the action plan of the SP sub-group, but is integrated within the exercise to enrich the analysis for the proposal of concrete linkage actions.*
> *The **results of the survey on the perception of barriers according to humanitarian actors** are available [here](#) (in Spanish). The results of the survey according to the perspective of the programme analysed are available to the social protection sub-group of the GTF. However, it is worth noting that government actors found it an interesting tool to discuss programme-specific barriers.*

5. DATA COLLECTION

For data collection, a three-phase approach is suggested:

1) **Secondary source review:** this phase is key to the preparation of the workshop with the SP programme team, as it will provide the context for discussions with the government entity, and will identify areas that need to be triangulated, complemented, or search for information not found.

2) **Identification of information gaps:** based on the review of secondary sources, and through the systematic review of each dimension of analysis, areas where more information needs to be found through the collection of primary sources will be identified.

3) **Collection of primary sources:** For the collection of primary sources with key personnel of the entity and programme, it is recommended to hold a workshop format, in person as far as possible, in order to create a working environment that builds trust and fosters dialogue.

> *Exercise in Colombia: A review of secondary sources was carried out through the [website of the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity](#), as well as the [Youth in Action Programme guidelines](#). The information was inserted in the secondary sources column of each of the Excel tools and the workshop for the collection of primary sources was held, having identified the information pending collection.*
> *During the workshop, information was captured during the discussions and subsequently entered into the primary sources column of each of the tools. In this way the tools serve as a mechanism for centralising the information and findings from the exercise.*
> *Subsequently, the conclusions of these findings will be used in the phase of linkage proposals.*

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6. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND PROPOSALS FOR LINKAGES

Based on the analysis of the findings obtained from the review of secondary sources and the collection of primary sources with key informants, a synthesis should be made in order to inform the formulation of proposals for linking humanitarian actors and the programme under analysis.

These linkage proposals should be formulated collectively by the organisations interested in linking with the programme in question. However, each organisation should make its own proposal to contribute to the linkage based on its mandate and technical and operational capacities.

Three main axes around which to articulate the proposals are suggested, according to the framework of "possible dimensions for linking" (*section 2, part D)*:

a. Improving coverage
b. Improving sufficiency
c. Improving comprehensiveness

These objectives should be assessed for each of the potential linkage pathways (policy levels, programme design, programme implementation and cross-cutting aspects). Proposals will not necessarily be made for each pathway or dimension.

Linkage proposals can be made with a view to moving towards more durable solutions for the population of interest, but can also be made with a view to improving emergency response capacity, for example.

> **Associated tools**
>
> **Tool 6** - Proposal for Linking Actions - [here]

> *Exercise in Colombia: A reading and analysis of the results obtained in the data collection phase, including the interests expressed by the entity and the programme should be carried out. It is recommended to summarise the proposals in Tool 6.*
> *For the development of linkage proposals at the subgroup level, it is recommended to hold a workshop with the member organisations of the subgroup interested in linking with the Youth in Action programme. The purpose will be to jointly elaborate linkage proposals according to the desired objectives and mandate of each organisation, but also keeping in mind the collective objectives of the working group.*

7. FEEDBACK OF RESULTS AND VALIDATION

Following the analysis of results and the collective elaboration of linkage proposals, it is recommended that a second workshop/meeting be held with the analysed entity and government programme. The objective will be to share the proposals suggested by humanitarian actors based on the data collected, in order to engage in a dialogue to verify their relevance in terms of the entity's interests, perception of their feasibility, etc.

It is important to clarify during this exercise that these are initial proposals that will need to be analysed in the subsequent response analysis phase, to assess the associated risks, feasibility, resource requirements, etc.

Exercise in Colombia: As this is the first iteration of the exercise, it is recommended that several iterations of the diagnostic phase be carried out before moving on to the response analysis phase.

8. RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Response analysis is a crucial phase in the design of the response, although there is sometimes a tendency to move from the diagnostic phase to the development of proposals without carrying out a proper analysis to assess each of the proposals. Through this analysis, objectives, response options and delivery mechanisms for goods and services can be designed in a reasoned manner and with the aim of avoiding harmful actions.
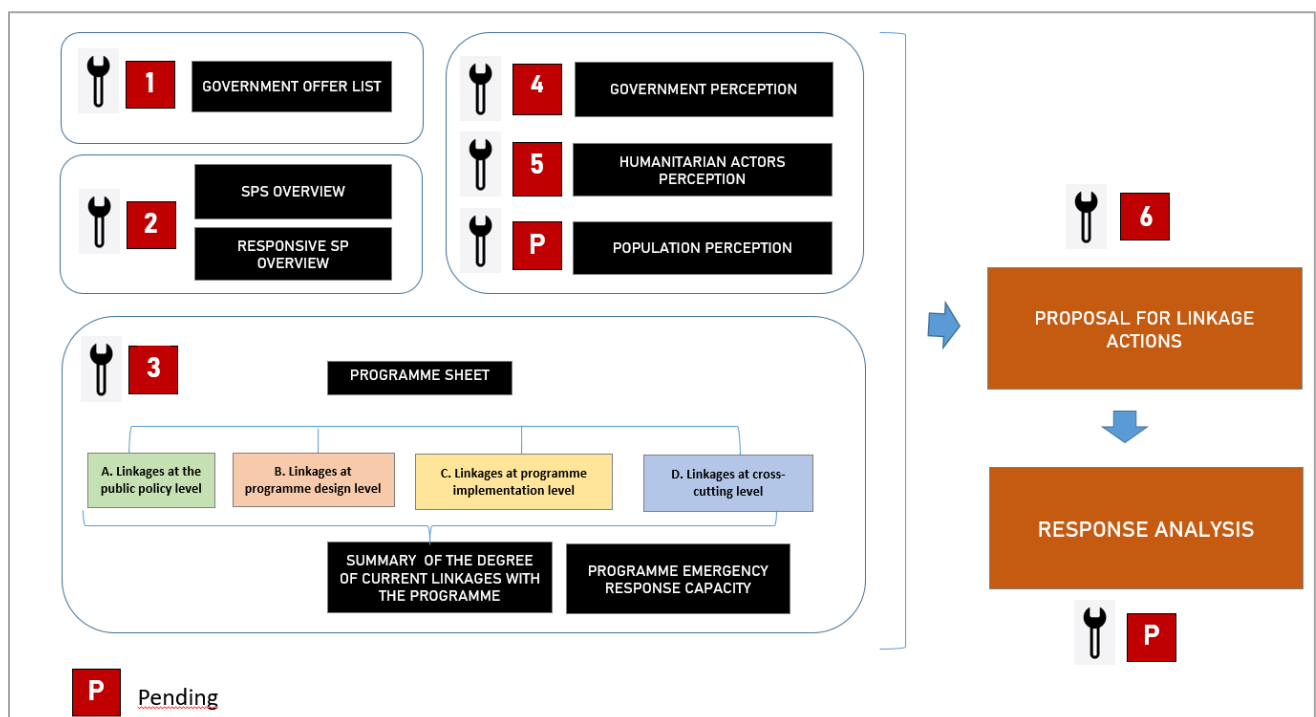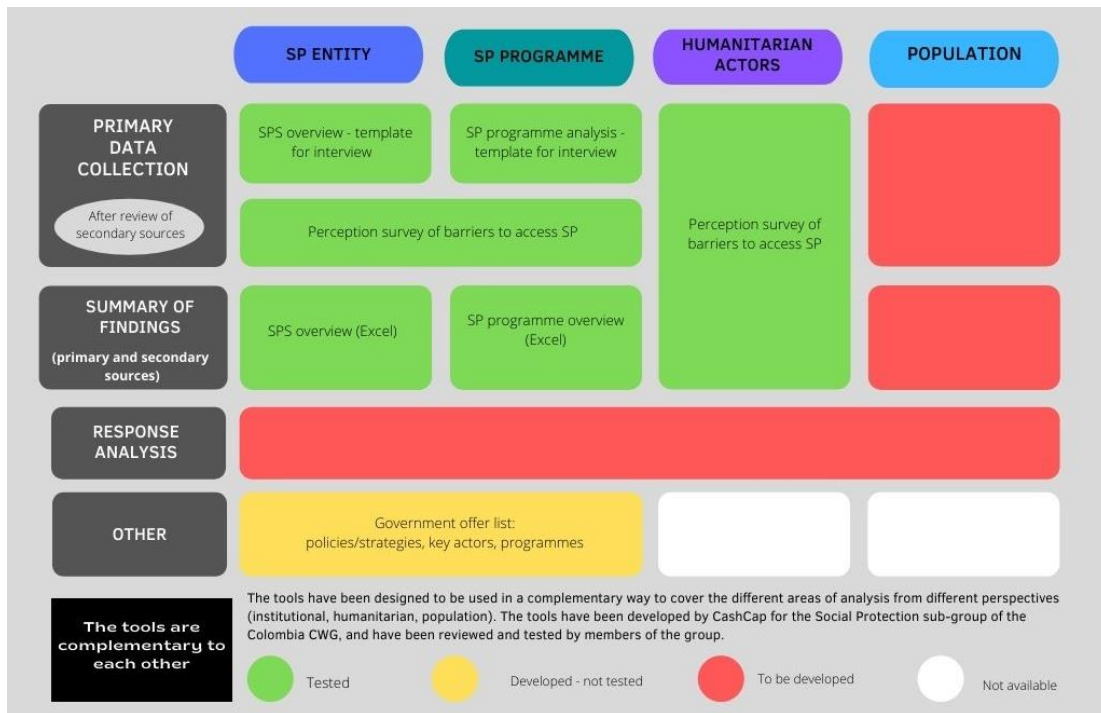
The process carried out in Colombia addresses the diagnostic phase, and as mentioned above, it is recommended that several iterations of this phase be carried out before moving on to the response analysis. Such analysis should be performed for the proposed linkage options, considering the specific risks of each option.

Guidance literature for response analysis includes the following:

- **Service delivery systems assessment matrix** (link): The purpose of this matrix is to help reflect on possible options/strategies for responding to COVID-19 through existing social protection programmes or by building on existing social protection service delivery systems and their capacity. It facilitates rapid assessment of the strengths of existing social protection systems and, in particular, their component elements, enabling timely decisions on what and how they can be leveraged for the COVID-19 response.

- **Deciding when and how to link humanitarian aid and social protection** (link): this paper presents two tools that can be used to determine the likely feasibility and desirability of linking HA-SP, and the key considerations to take into account for different linkage options.
    o Tool for assessing the feasibility of linking to social protection
    o Where this is possible, a second step will be to consider whether and how this will add further value, including a consideration of the respective pros and cons of the different possible options for linking to the SP.

- **Strategic decision matrix** (link): The purpose of this matrix is to help systematically think through the merits of different options; the challenges and risks inherent in each; and possible mitigation strategies for these (including the need for scaling up programming).

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TOOLS ASSOCIATED TO THE PROCESS

The catalogue of tools associated to the process is shown below, including those to be developed for future iterations, and the logic of their use. **The compendium of tools associated with this process can be found at** [this link](#).

FEEDBACK FROM THOSE INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE

Feedback on the process took place in several phases:

1. Internal feedback with GTF coordination and the social protection sub-cluster.
2. Feedback from members of the social protection sub-group on the tools designed.
3. Working sessions with government: Sessions with the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and its Youth in Action programme were held on two occasions:
   o Face-to-face workshop: Wednesday 30 March 2002, 2-5 pm, 7 government participants, 4 GTF participants.
   o Closing session of the virtual exercise: Wednesday 6 March 2002, 9-10:30 am: 4 government participants, 2 GTF participants.

The process tested through the exercise was of interest to both government entities and humanitarian actors, as a first step in consolidating dialogue between the two sides and exploring practical options for linkages. Some details of the feedback from the process are shown below.

Feedback from the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and the Youth in Action programme:

o *"With the creation of a working group on social protection, we see greater identification to articulate ourselves from the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity".*
o *"It was a learning session for us on the topic of cooperation".*
o *"For us as a programme, feedback scenarios of this kind are important, because we often drown in the day-to-day, and these spaces are also useful for the programme's own internal reflection".*
o *"It gave me the possibility to approach new issues and to listen to what the* Youth in Action *programme itself does from other angles".*
o *"I thought it was a nice exchange scenario".*
o *"I think it is important to give more time to the activities so that they can get more information and invite more members to make the working groups broader."*
o *"The exercise was very useful because sometimes it's difficult interlocuting within our own entity because the issue of cooperation is not well known. It is important that cooperation takes into account the needs of social protection programmes, and this type of space serves to improve the understanding of international cooperation within the entity in order to understand where it can be articulated".*
o *"This exercise makes it possible to liaise with humanitarian and cooperation organisations".*
o *"It is important to articulate our programme with international cooperation from the operational point of view".*

- o *"This process has a lot of potential to generate articulations and synergies".*
- o *"The various strategies and programmes should be interlinked in order to gradually improve the quality of life in the life course in order to achieve a dignified, independent and autonomous old age, which in the long run allows for a significant optimisation of the state's resources".*
- o *"It should be a permanent and long-term exercise, given that if it is left to specific activities at specific times, the direction of the activity can be lost. Socialise the exchange of experiences".*
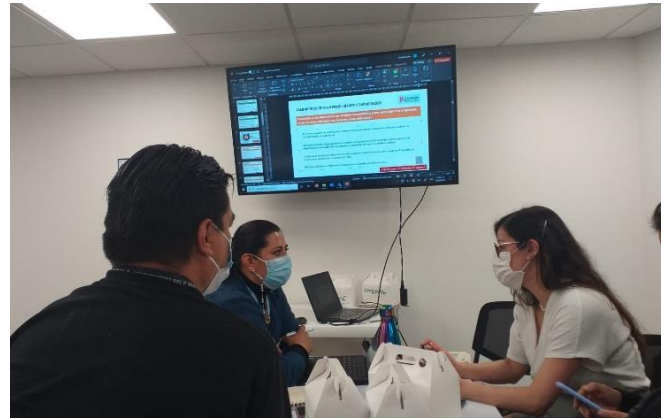

Photo 3: face-to-face workshop with the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity – Youth in Action programme team, 30 March 2022.

OPCIONES DE RESPUESTA	RESPUESTAS	
Continuar con este tipo de análisis a nivel de programa de protección social para identificar puntos de apoyo concretos según los intereses y capacidades de la entidad y los actores humanitarios	25,00 %	1
Seguir reforzando espacios de diálogo neutrales entre actores humanitarios y de Protección Social (grupos de trabajo, mesas técnicas, eventos, etc.)	75,00 %	3
Organizar capacitaciones específicas para fortalecer de forma específica los vínculos entre programas de transferencias monetarias y de protección social	25,00 %	1
Crear/ disponer de más herramientas prácticas para fortalecer los vínculos	50,00 %	2
Asistencia técnica a organizaciones de gobierno y no gubernamentales para apoyar la creación o reforzar dichos vínculos	50,00 %	2
Conversaciones con donantes sobre los resultados de estos procesos de análisis para evaluar posibilidades de financiación	50,00 %	2
Otro (especifique) Respuestas	0,00 %	0
Total de encuestados: 4		

Illustration 1: What do you think should be the next steps to promote linkages between humanitarian cash transfer programmes and SP systems in Colombia and/or in your entity? (in Spanish)

	NO ME HA GUSTADO	NO ME HA GUSTADO CASI NADA	NI ME GUSTA NI ME DISGUSTA	ME HA GUSTADO	ME HA GUSTADO MUCHO
La temática del taller	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	50,00 % 2	50,00 % 2
El formato y facilitación del taller	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	75,00 % 3	25,00 % 1
La posibilidad de poder dialogar directamente con plataformas humanitarias	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	50,00 % 2	50,00 % 2
El uso que se quiere dar a los resultados del análisis	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	0,00 % 0	50,00 % 2	50,00 % 2

4,3 ☺
valoración promedio
☺☺☺☺☺

Figure 2: How satisfied are you with each aspect, and how satisfied are you overall with the linkage identification workshop? (In Spanish) (4 answers)

On behalf of the CWG coordination:

"The meeting was very productive, different actors working with CVA in Colombia were brought together at the same table, there was recognition of the progress made by the national government and what humanitarian actors have been developing was made known, so this space left the doors open for potential linkages between different CVA programmes" (Diego Prado, Colombia CWG Coordinator).

Practical recommendations for the workshop:

Total time: Based on experience, a minimum of 4 hours, including a 10-minute break, would be needed to complete all the work. It could also be interesting to hold a full-day workshop if there is the option, in order to give more space for discussions that may arise, or to split the workshop into two days.

Methodology: For this first workshop, the following points were addressed:
- Introduction to the GTF and the social protection sub-group
- Introduction to the exercise: objectives, methodology, tools, etc.
- Group work:
    - Group A - overview of SPS
    - Group B – Youth in Action programme
- Discussion on barriers to accessing the programme
- Discussion on the process and points for improvement
- Information on planned next steps

Facilitation: A team of 5 people is recommended, so that in each working group there can be a pair of facilitators, and an additional person to facilitate and supervise the process.

Materials: As a minimum, it is recommended to have a flipchart, post it, markers and a video projector.

Other recommendations made by participants:
- It is essential to have done the secondary source review of the entity and the programme prior to the exercise.
- Send a list of guiding questions in advance to the entity so that they can prepare.
- It is recommended to add in the introductory part of the workshop a part in which humanitarian actors talk about the governance entity and why it is strategic to talk about potential linkages with that particular entity and programme.

Exercise in Colombia:
The time available was initially less than ideal, so it was decided not to detract from the richness of the discussions and debates during the face-to-face exercise, and instead a second virtual meeting was convened to address the remaining points.
For more information, see the following materials:
- *Presentations used for the workshops with government stakeholders (in spanish) - here*
- *Feedback from government actors participating in the workshop on the exercise (in spanish) - here*
The results of the exercise with the Youth in Action programme, attached to the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity, are available internally to the Social Protection sub-group of the CWG Colombia, for analysis and iteration with other government programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

This **assessment exercise, consisting of this document and 6 associated tools**, is a first step in supporting linkages with social protection programmes, informing the process of developing linkage options and the subsequent analysis of the response.

From this first iteration, the following recommendations are provided:

- It is highly recommended to **perform several diagnostic iterations** with other social protection programmes to further test the process before moving on to the response analysis phase.

- In this first pilot, it was not possible to address the analysis of barriers from the point of view of the population due to the human capacities required to carry it out at the time of the exercise. However, the **analysis of the population's perception is a fundamental part of the exercise**, and should not be overlooked even though the relevant analyses have been carried out at programme and entity level.

- Ideally, these iterations and the response analysis of linkage actions with the most strategic programmes identified would be conducted **prior to the design of the new humanitarian response plans** (HRP and RMRP), so that their design can take into account the information generated from this process.

Experience from the literature review shows that linking can lead to a number of **potential benefits such as increasing emergency response capacity, sustainability, reducing costs and improving coherence of responses, as well as strengthening national systems**.

In addition to the above, it could be presented as a **possible exit strategy to be explored by humanitarian actors with the aim of providing durable solutions**. This is especially relevant in a context such as Colombia's, where responses for the national population internally displaced for various reasons are combined with responses for refugees and migrants, at least some of whom in an irregular situation will progressively regularise their situation with the implementation of the ETPV, giving them the possibility of accessing the national social protection system.

However, it is important to bear in mind that:

- Linking is an exercise of **strategic interdisciplinary work between governmental, humanitarian and development actors to achieve a common set of objectives**. This implies that the objective will not necessarily be to link in all areas of analysis, but in those that are feasible and relevant.

- In addition, it is crucial to **always keep in mind respect for the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the design of the response**. At times, linking with social protection systems may compromise these principles, so it will be key to analyse the risks and design mitigation measures or discard the option of linking if it is deemed more appropriate.

- At the same time, it is important to keep in mind the **key role of civil society in all dimensions of analysis**, designing mechanisms to consider their voice and implementing measures to ensure their meaningful participation in linkage exercises.

- The linking of humanitarian actors with the SPS, whether for the delivery of assistance in emergencies or for durable solutions, should be **systematically accompanied by the exercise of barrier analysis**. While linking has many advantages in many contexts, it is necessary to bear in mind that, in all likelihood, part of the population will not have access to social protection and **complementary responses** should be considered **under the principle of leaving no one behind.**

- At the level of **coordination architecture**, it is important to mention that, while the creation of social protection working groups under the structure of the CWGs is initially coherent and can be a valuable entry point to start working on the issue, this may limit the scope of activities. The reason behind this argument is that social protection encompasses multiple aspects of which CVA is one part of the spectrum. Indeed, given its interdisciplinary nature, **work on social protection may require a different kind of placement within the humanitarian architecture that can bring together different sectors and cross-cutting working groups such as the CWGs.** The experience of implementing this type of assessment, together with other initiatives, will progressively provide ideas on how to build a better governance structure for articulating linkages with social protection systems, depending on the specific needs and the existing humanitarian and institutional architecture in each context.

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Glossary

CT: Cash Transfers

CWG: Cash Working Group

CVA: Cash and Voucher Assistance

Departamento Administrativo para la Prosperidad Social: Administrative Department for Social Prosperity

ETPV: Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelan migrants

HRP: Humanitarian Response Plan

Jóvenes en Acción: Youth in Action

SP: Social protection

RMRP: Migrant and Refugee Response Plan for Venezuela

SPS: Social Protection System

TOR: Terms of Reference

Notes

[i] Retrieved from *https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/grand_bargain_final_22_may_final-2_0.pdf*

[ii] *This framework has been adapted from the one proposed in the Transform training and the definitions have been inspired by https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.action?id=11.*

[iii] *This framework on types of engagement with social protection is adapted from O'Brien et al. (2018) from the paper "Unbundled: A framework for connecting safety nets and humanitarian assistance in refugee settings".*

[iv] *This framework was developed by the SPACE initiative and the World Food Programme, and the same breakdown is suggested to humanitarian actors in DG ECHO's new cash transfer policy.*

[v] *This framework is drawn from the Governance and Social Development Resource Centre, which provides an adaptation of the Ulrichs and White-Kaba (2019) framework.*

[vi] *Definition inspired by https://socialprotection.org/learn/glossary*

[vii] *Definition inspired by https://ispatools.org/core-diagnostic-instrument/*

[viii] *Definition inspired by https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action?id=55517*

[ix] *Definition inspired by https://ispatools.org/core-diagnostic-instrument/*

[x] *Definition inspired by https://www.unhcr.org/glossary/#d*