

# Introduction to Social Protection

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Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

# Agenda

1. Social Protection 101
2. Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP)
3. The Role of Social Protection in Disasters and Climate Change

How many of you are paying into a state pension scheme?

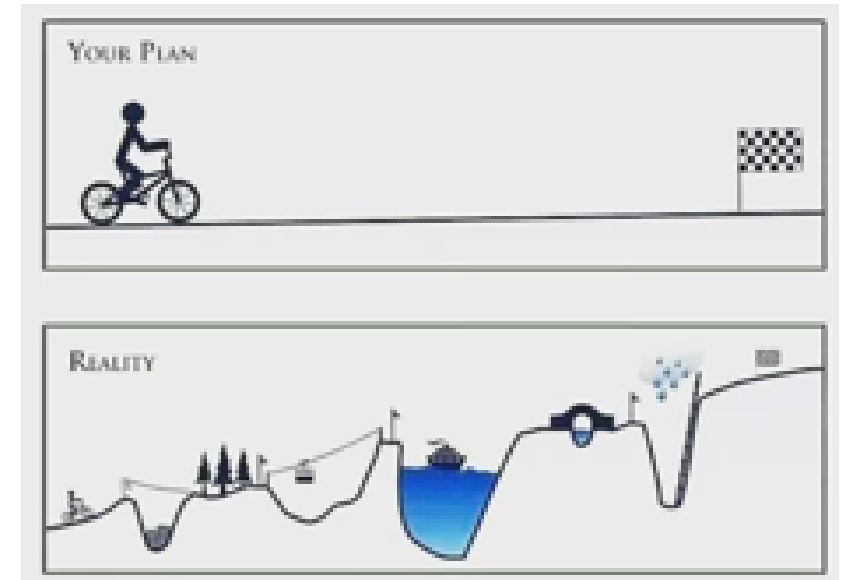
If you get unemployed tomorrow, would you  
get state support?

How many of you have made use of parental  
benefits or receive child benefits?

# What is social protection ??

“The set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent social risks throughout the lifecycle – and displacement – such as poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion” (ILO)

- The protection that individual's need to face life's shock, this includes healthcare and income security for the whole life cycle
- It is part of a government-owned policy and programme portfolio, delivered through sophisticated systems



# Overview of social protection schemes

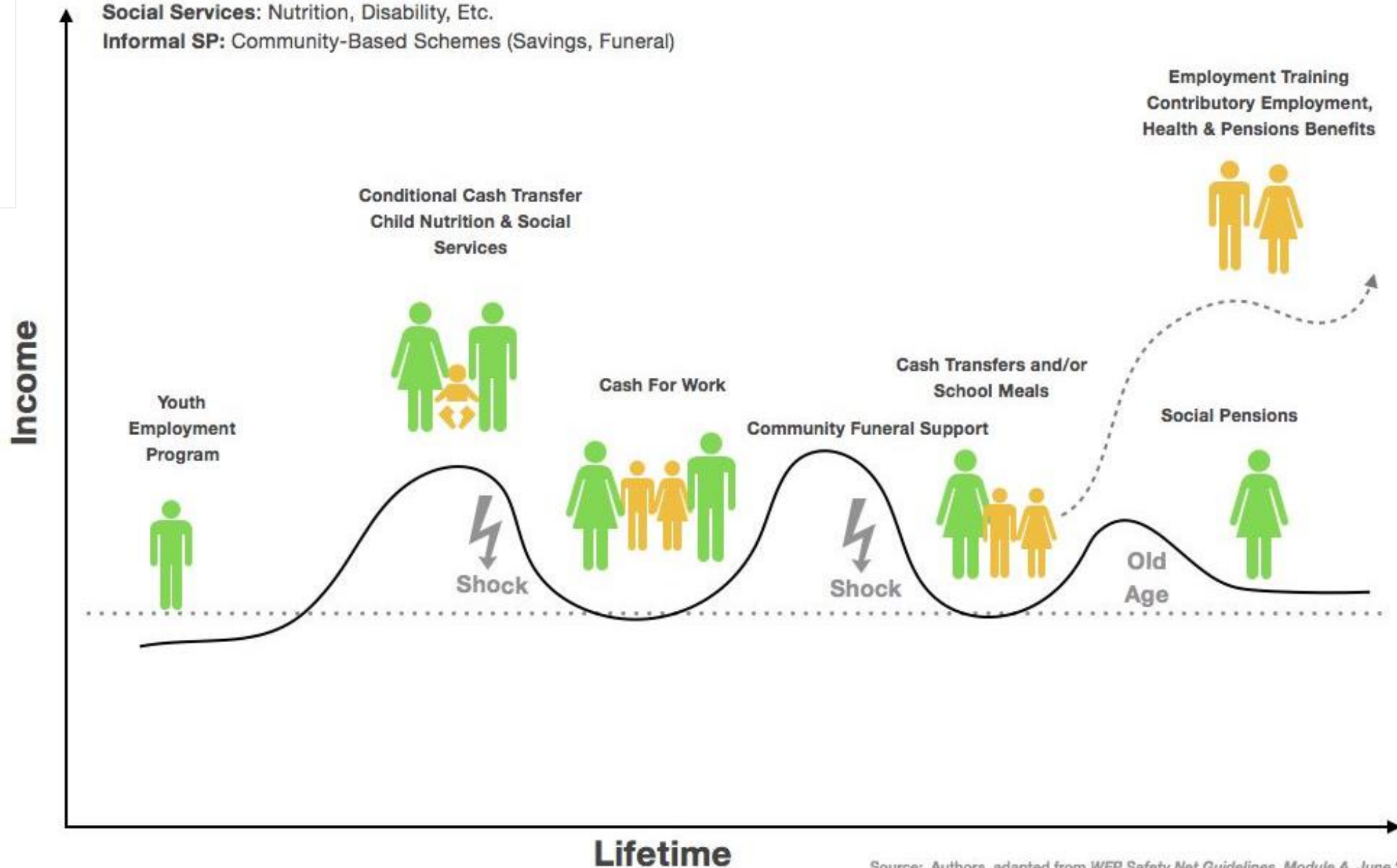
**Social Assistance:** Cash & In-Kind Transfers, Cash For Work, School Feeding, Social Pensions, Etc.

**Social Insurance:** Contributory Pensions, Health Insurance & Unemployment Benefits

**Labour:** Employment Programs, Etc.

**Social Services:** Nutrition, Disability, Etc.

**Informal SP:** Community-Based Schemes (Savings, Funeral)



# But how far have we gotten?

## Global effective coverage rates (excluding health and sickness)



# 46.9%

of the global population are effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit (SDG 1.3)

## Population receiving at least one social protection benefit (SDG 1.3) by region



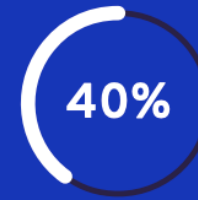
Europe and Central Asia



Americas



Asia and the Pacific



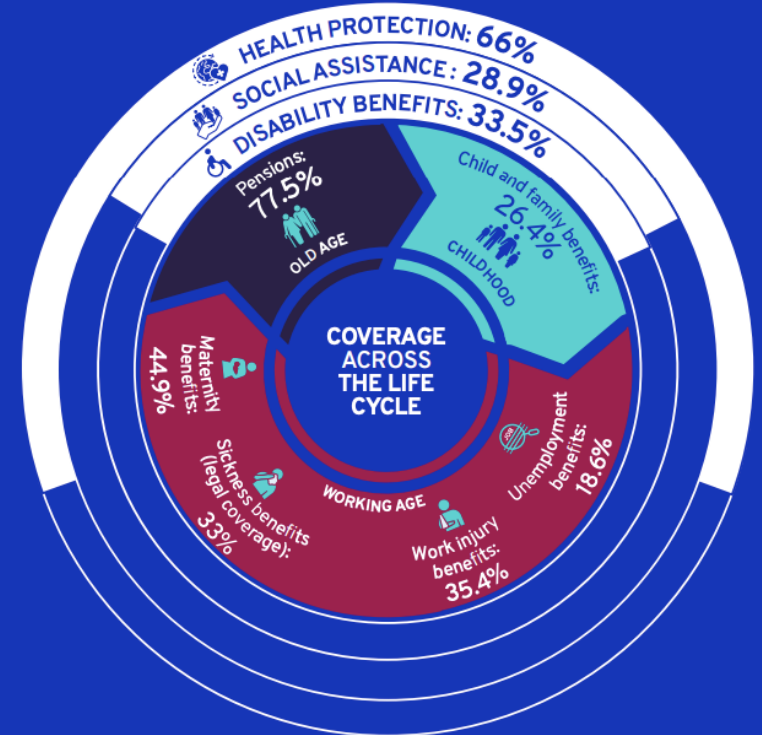
Arab States



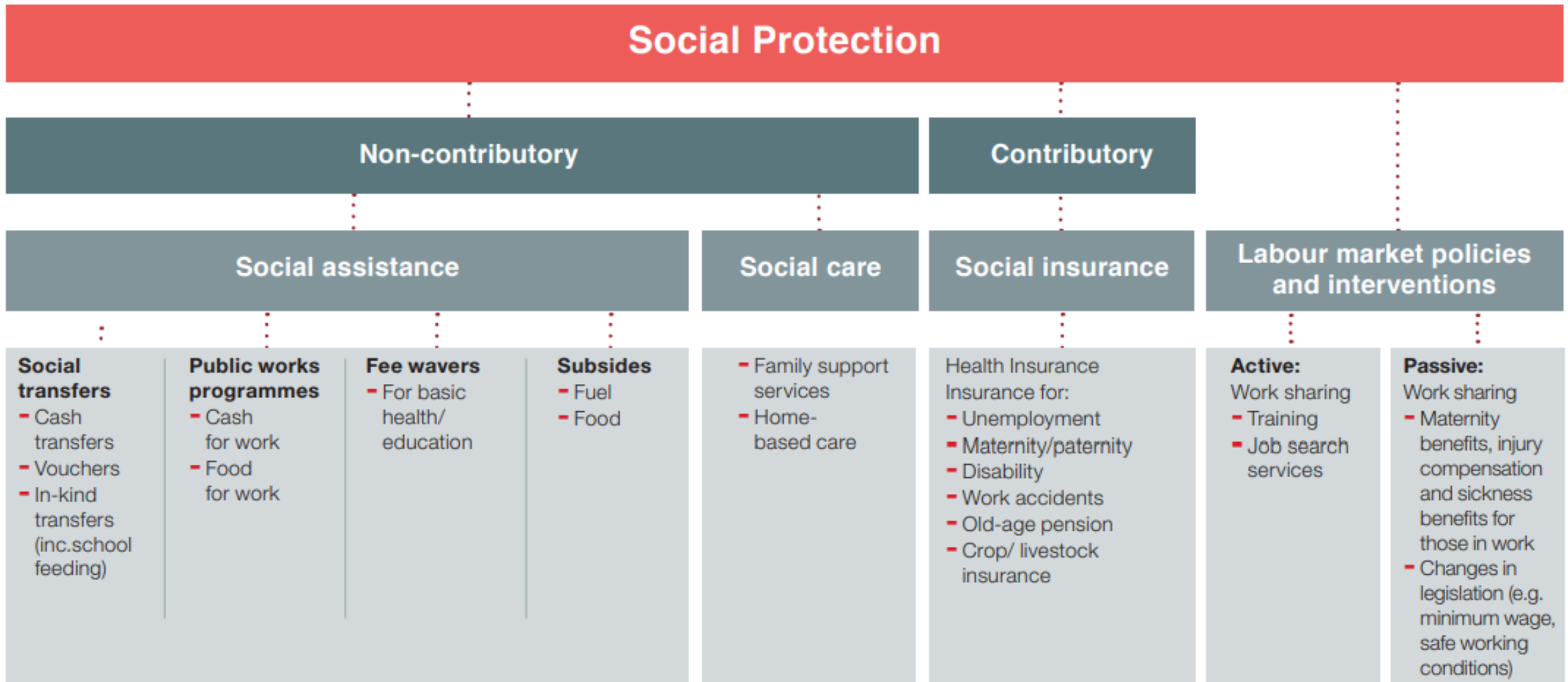
Africa

## Social protection coverage across the life cycle (SDG 1.3)

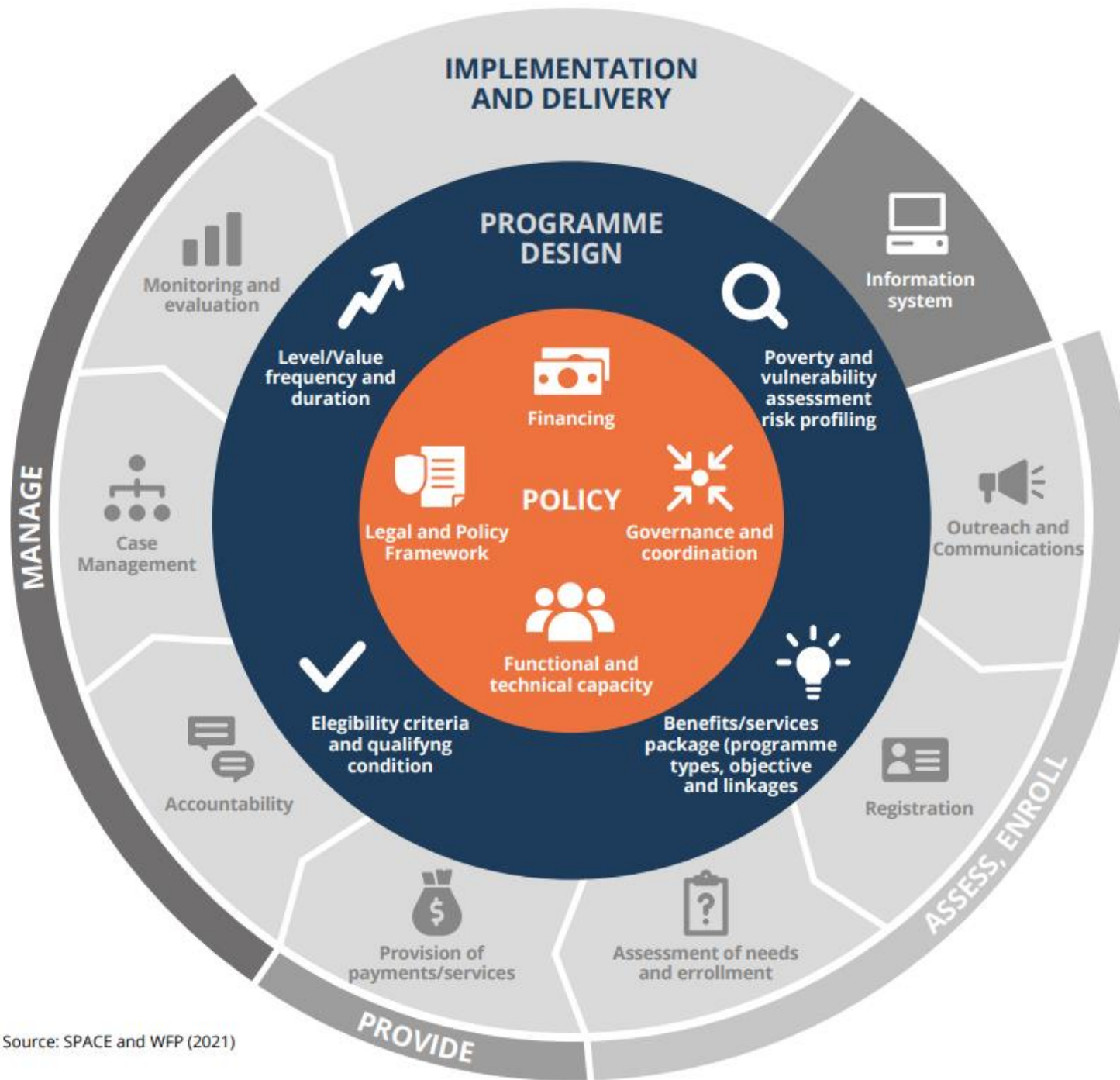
Coverage ratio in per cent of the respective reference group



# Social Protection schemes



# So how does a Social Protection Programme Work?



Source: SPACE and WFP (2021)

# Approaches to Social Protection

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# 1. Shock Responsive Social Protection

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# Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP)

1. Shock-responsive social protection is a term used to bring focus on shocks that affect a large proportion of the population simultaneously (covariate shocks).
2. This can be ex ante or ex post
3. Social protection can complement and support other emergency response interventions.

# Typology of options for shock-responsiveness



## Design tweaks

Adjusting the design of routine social protection interventions



## Piggybacking

Use an existing programme's infrastructure



## Vertical expansion

Temporarily increase the value or duration of benefit for existing recipients



## Horizontal expansion

Temporarily increase the number of recipients in an existing programme



## Alignment

Align with other current or planned interventions

# Option 1: Design Tweaks



## Design tweaks

Adjusting the design  
of routine social  
protection interventions

- Small adjustments to the design of a routine social protection intervention such as removing or reducing conditionalities or changing the delivery mechanism or schedule.
- May strengthen the intervention or introduce flexibility to maintain service in a shock.

**Armenia:** Since COVID19, pensions are being home delivered to the elderly who would previously need to travel to post offices.

**Baphalali Eswatini RC:** Since COVID19, the NS influenced the Government of Eswatini to deliver social assistance grants using mobile cash, rather than cash in envelopes.

# Option 2: Piggybacking



## Piggybacking

Use an existing  
programme's  
infrastructure

- A humanitarian operation is built upon and uses elements of an existing social protection intervention.
- Ex. use of an established cash delivery mechanism or drawing on an existing databases.
- Be aware not to overload the underlying mechanism.

**Pakistan:** the Ehsaas Emergency Cash (EEC) Programme was rolled out to deliver immediate relief to 12 million households, building on beneficiary information from pre-existing safety nets along with additional beneficiaries included from the national database.

# Option 3: Vertical expansion



## Vertical expansion

Temporarily increase the value or duration of benefit for existing recipients

- Temporary increase to value/duration of support for some or all existing recipients, when there is an increase in need.
- NS can provide support to top-up the assistance given via government programmes.
- Likely to need complementary interventions to reach those not covered.

**Montserrat RC:** In response to COVID-19, provided food vouchers to recipients of Government social protection programmes to ensure they could meet their food needs.

# Option 4: Horizontal expansion



## Horizontal expansion

Temporarily increase the number of recipients in an existing programme

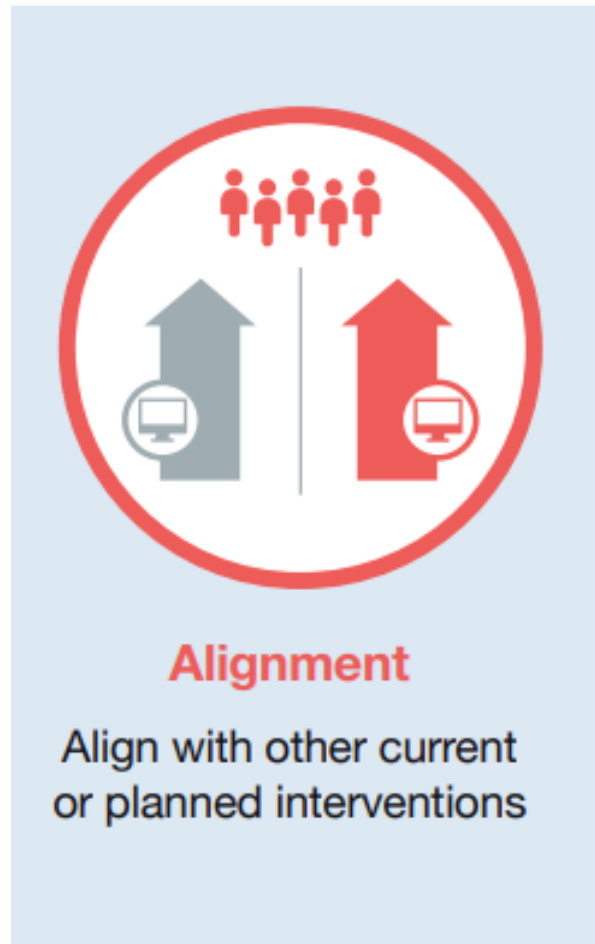
- An extension to the programme coverage to include new recipients not regularly part of the programme but in need due to the new circumstances or shocks.

Three options:

1. Extend geographical coverage
2. Enrol new people in existing areas, who meet regular criteria
3. Enrol new people by modifying criteria

**Kenya RC:** Engaging with the national social protection system to provide support to additional recipients not covered, to expand programme coverage. Also support targeting and registration in difficult to reach areas.

# Option 5: Alignment



- Humanitarian interventions and social protection interventions are aligned in their design and features.
- E.g. aligned objectives / targeting method / transfer value / delivery mechanism

**Anguilla:** a new cash transfer intervention has been initiated to financially support those who do not qualify for the Unemployment Benefit offered by the social security system, mirroring the objectives of the existing scheme.

**Turkish RC:** deliver monthly cash assistance to refugees through the ESSN programme, that is aligned with national policies and institutions to scale-up and reach countrywide coverage despite remaining a separate programme. The high degree of alignment and coherence with the national systems is providing immense advantages in terms of efficiency, facilitation and rapid roll-out.

# SRSP Case Study: Turkey

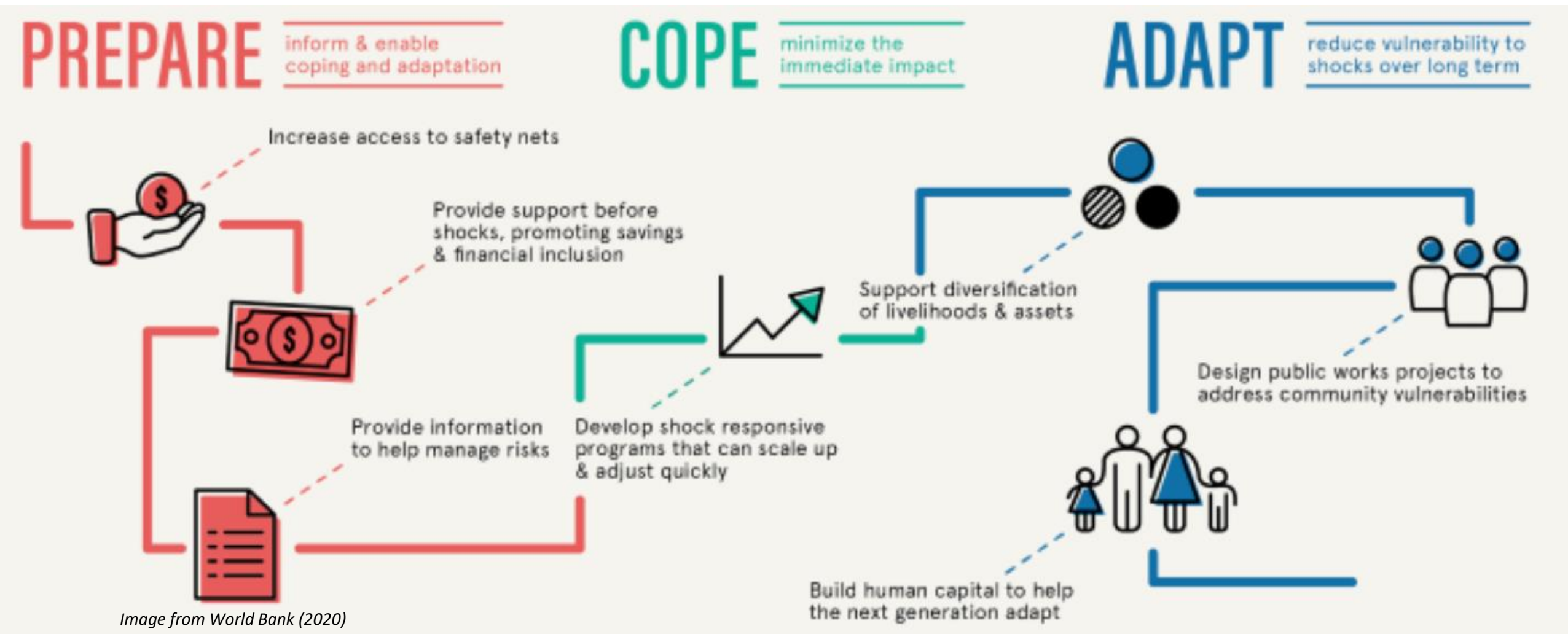
- The national government expanded their Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) to include Syrian refugees and their children.
- Design features include horizontal expansion to include a new caseload, alignment of objectives, and piggybacking on delivery systems of pre-existing programmes.



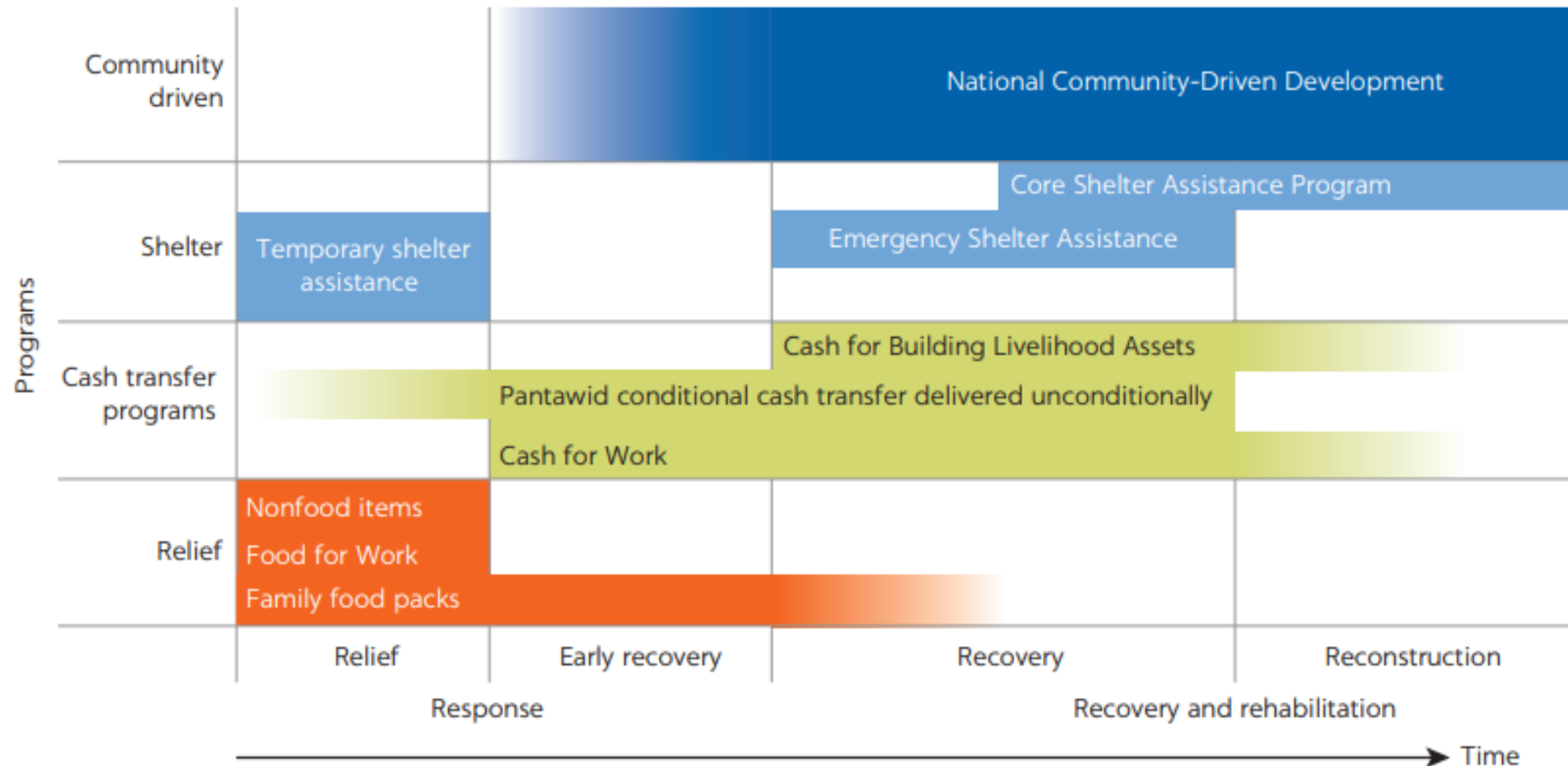
## 2. Adaptive Social Protection

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# Adaptive Social Protection (ASP)



# Philippines: Multiple programs for post-shock periods



# India's MGNREGA

- India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has built resilience of different to climate shocks for rural communities
- Activities include building community assets through spring shed development, improved irrigation, afforestation, land management, flood control and infrastructure development.



# Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP)

- unconditional cash transfers are sent to the bank accounts of approximately 100,000 of the poorest households in the four-month drought-prone countries in Northern Kenya
- When triggers for floods and droughts occur, this programme becomes scalable to provide cash assistance to more households



# The UK's Cold Weather Payment

- A forecast-based social assistance programme created in 1988 to help vulnerable households cope with extreme cold
- Those eligible for a Cold Weather Payment are paid automatically after each seven-day period of cold weather, and the payment reaches recipients' accounts within 14 working days.



Senior woman adjusting her thermostat/Shutterstock

# The Red Cross experience with ASP: Nepal & Nigeria



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