Social Protection Evaluation Synthesis Management Response and Proposed Actions

Executive Board Meeting
9 September 2015
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Social Protection: Global relevance & UNICEF’s work

Large expansion of social protection over the past 15 years
✓ Over 146 million children reached by social cash transfers alone in 2014.
✓ Greater political commitment at global, regional and country levels (e.g. in SDGs, African Union and ASEAN commitments).

UNICEF works on social protection in 104 countries, covering all regions and diverse contexts
✓ Technical support to national policy development, programme design & implementation, south-south exchange, evaluation & evidence generation.
✓ UNICEF focus is to expand the number of children and families reached and maximize positive impacts for children.
✓ Includes moving from single programmes towards integrated systems.

UNICEF supports 4 main social protection components
1. Social transfers, e.g. cash or in-kind transfers.
2. Programmes that enhance access to services, e.g. health insurance or fee abolition.
3. Social support and care services, e.g. family support, counselling and referrals.
4. Legislation and policies that reinforce equity and non-discrimination, e.g. maternity/paternity leave, equal pay legislation.
The evaluation confirms: social protection works for children

- Positive impacts on health, nutrition, education, ECD, HIV & child protection outcomes.
- Enhances equity & reaches the most disadvantaged children.

Building on the findings and recommendations we should:

- **Strengthen our programming** - to use cash transfers and other social protection measures to enhance results and equity in all sectors, including humanitarian action.
- **Enhance our capacity** – strengthen our technical capacity, partnerships, and mobilise financial resources at national, regional and global levels.
- **Communicate the evidence widely** – to promote further investment in child sensitive social protection among governments and development partners.
- **Continue evaluating** – to strengthen evidence around the further potential of SP to enhance child well-being.
## Social Protection Evaluation Synthesis Management Response

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| **Recommendation 1 & 5:** Increase programme and evaluation attention to “Cash Plus” interventions | 1. Identify Country Offices already supporting combined social protection interventions. Select good practices and evaluate outcomes on child wellbeing. *Underway; Completion date June 2016.*  
2. Review external evidence and work with partners on the evidence of “Cash Plus” and non-cash social protection interventions on various sector outcomes. *Completion date: March 2016.* |
| **Recommendation 2:** Consider integrating the cash transfer (or Cash Plus) modality into programming, addressing each of the outcome areas articulated in UNICEF’s Strategic Plan | 1. Highlight evaluation findings on the broad cross-sector impacts among UNICEF’s global leadership. *Ongoing.*  
2. Develop a communication plan to profile the positive impacts for children of social protection. *Completion date: Jan. 2016.*  
3. Develop guidance on: (i) utilizing cash transfers and “Cash Plus” to support sector outcomes; and (ii) linking sectoral work with social protection. *Underway; Completion date: September 2016.* |
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| **Recommendation 3:** Update the guidance on evidence of impact to be measured through evaluation and research, and on implementation measurement | 1. Development of guidance and web-resources on impact evaluation methodology. Underway; Completion date: January 2016.  
2. Further disseminate findings and lessons from the Transfer Project and other evaluations. Completion date: March 2016. |
| **Recommendation 4:** Make technical support available for an evidence-based approach early in the process | 1. Identify internal expertise and technical capacity gaps and plan to strengthen capacities. Completion date: March 2016.  
2. Expand partnerships and horizontal cooperation. Completion date: September 2016. |
| **Recommendation 6:** Develop the evidence base on effectiveness of cash transfers in humanitarian action | 1. Incorporate M&E in all social protection interventions in emergency contexts. Underway; Completion date: Jan. 2016 to begin implementation.  
2. Develop joint guidance and technical assistance to support cash-based programming in humanitarian action. Underway; Completion date: March 2016. |