

# CONTENT

WHAT IS SOCIAL PROTECTION?

## What is Social Protection?

Social protection includes policies and programs aimed at reducing poverty, inequality and vulnerability (Costella et al., 2022). Social protection is also termed as social security and/or social policy in different countries. With increasing climate related risks, social protection programs are becoming increasingly relevant as they can help protect people from the impacts of climate shocks and stressors, protecting their lives and livelihoods.

Traditionally, social protection has supported vulnerable groups to address risks that occur during one's life cycle (e.g. unemployment, disability, old age). But due to the worsening impacts of climate change, it is expected that more people will be unable to meet their basic needs and will need additional assistance. For this reason, it is important to see how social protection systems can be strengthened and adapted to provide the necessary support against climate risks, especially in anticipation.

Social protection systems that respond to address climate shocks are commonly known as shock responsive social protection (for more info, see IFRC brief on SRSP in the toolbox), whereas systems that systematically integrate climate risk, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to strengthen households' capacity to prepare for, cope with and adapt to evolving climate impacts are termed as adaptive social protection. For more specifically on social protection related priorities, see the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre Position Paper on Social Protection. Both resources can be found in the toolbox.