CONTENT

Which social protection instruments can be leveraged for anticipatory action?

A country's social protection system generally includes a combination of different instruments that are contributory (contributions financed) or non-contributory (tax financed) in nature, as seen in the figure above. Many of these instruments are already familiar to National Societies and mirror modalities they use in their own programs, which means there are relatively low barriers to adopting a more integrated approach to implementing anticipatory action through social protection. Depending on what instruments are existing and operational in a country, National Societies can have different options:

- **Social transfers**, (instruments like cash/food/assets transfers, disability benefits, old age pensions etc.), can be used to deliver anticipatory cash or in-kind support through existing delivery systems, building directly on National Societies' experience with disaster response programming.
- **Public works,** can be leveraged (cash/food for work) programs to see whether anticipatory activities within the available lead time after a trigger is reached, such as relocating productive assets to safe locations, constructing/reinforcing shelters on higher ground, or clearing drainage to reduce flood risks.
- **School feeding and child focused programs** could offer readily available enrolment lists with schools or Ministries of Education that National societies can use to target children, and pre-position relief material, food packages, vouchers or cash to help support families with children in school.
- **Social care services**, similar to health and psychosocial support provided by National Societies in many countries, offer a concrete pathway for National Societies to link up with such networks and facilities to leverage their coverage, access and capacities, and deliver targeted health messaging, referrals and essential services to at-risk populations during the window between a trigger and the anticipated impacts.