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SDC Issue Paper

on Social Protection

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SDC has identified Social Protection as an effective approach to contribute to its core mandate of fighting poverty, tackling global risks, saving lives and alleviating suffering. Social Protection has emerged as a dominant topic of development policy in the last decade, based on the strong evidence of its effectiveness in supporting the most vulnerable populations, while upholding their human rights and dignity. The present Issue Paper expresses the logic and explains the instruments of SDC's engagement in Social Protection.

Social Protection encompasses all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers, access to basic social services or protect from livelihood risks. SDC focuses its interventions on the categories of social assistance (non-contributory and regular transfers) and social insurance (insurance schemes).

The rich experience with Social Protection in developing countries has demonstrated its positive impact on household income, market stimulation and economic growth. Likewise, there is abundant evidence of positive effects on food security, health, education levels and empowerment of the most vulnerable, including children, older persons and women.

SDC pursues three specific objectives in its engagement in Social Protection: (1) reducing poverty and decreasing inequalities; (2) promoting gender equality; and (3) promoting resilience and preparedness of vulnerable communities, especially regarding climate change.

SDC is already strongly engaged in Social Protection, both as a donor and an implementing agency, with more than 70 projects including Social Protection components. It disposes a wide range of instruments, including technical assistance to partner governments and global institutions, policy dialogue, fund capital and engagement through public private partnerships. To strengthen its role, SDC seeks to further diversify and adapt its instruments. Furthermore, Social Protection is an excellent option to overcome gaps between development and humanitarian aid.

The development goals cannot be reached through Social Protection alone. SDC therefore takes a holistic view in its approach, linking its engagement in Social Protection to health, education, job creation, governance and governmental revenue. Likewise, SDC understands that Social Protection needs to be carried by the national governments to be politically feasible and sustainable. Accordingly, SDC supports partner governments' priorities in the design of Social Protection systems.

Abbreviations

CaLP	Cash Learning Partnership
CTP	Cash Transfer Programming
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
ILO	International Labour Organization
MICs	Middle Income Countries
P4H	Social Health Protection Network
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
PSIA	Poverty Social Impact Assessment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
WFP	World Food Programme
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit

The main purpose of this issue paper is to highlight how and why SDC engages in Social Protection. The paper details (1) how Social Protection is an effective approach to contribute to SDC's core mandate of fighting poverty, saving lives, alleviating suffering and promoting sustainable development; (2) SDC's objectives when engaging in Social Protection; (3) SDC's principles and main intervention modalities in Social Protection; (4) risks and mitigation measures, as well as (5) performance indicators for SDC engagement.

The issue paper aims to lay the ground for consistent communication and advocacy within SDC and with operational partners and the donor community at all levels. The target audience for this paper are SDC staff members that interact with operational partners and donors in the implementation of SDC Cooperation Strategies, SDC programmes or the development of international policies in regards to Social Protection. It also informs SDC managers about this widely applied approach.

SDC understands Social Protection as an approach effectively addressing 'Leave no one behind'. It crosscuts a number of policy areas, addressed by different SDC thematic networks. These include poverty reduction, equality and non-discrimination, gender equality, inclusive economic development, access to health, education, decent work and governance.

SDC considers that people are the main agents that act to ensure their own Social Protection, including protection provided between members of the family or members of a local community, through formal and informal networks and mechanisms. SDC recognizes the very political nature of Social Protection, which is about addressing social cohesion and inclusion through redistribution mechanisms. Social Protection provides governments with a range of different mechanisms to redistribute income. It also capacitates the people to cope with shocks. SDC considers Social Protection as a complementary approach ensuring that everybody benefits from development and that human rights are gradually realised.

SDC adopts the definition of Social Protection put forward by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), defining Social Protection as all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to poor people, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized.¹ This entails three categories, whereas SDC focuses its interventions on the first two:

1. **Social assistance through non-contributory and often regular transfers to the poor and most vulnerable in society.** Such transfers can be in the form of cash or in-kind. Instruments include social transfers, pensions, and child grants.
2. **Social insurance through contributory insurance schemes that 'prevent' people from falling into poverty following a shock in their lives.** Such shocks can include adverse personal circumstances (e. g. illness, disability or accidents), life-cycle events (e. g. pregnancy, old age) and livelihood risks (drought, floods). Social insurance aims to reach everyone vulnerable to such shocks, thereby moving beyond reaching exclusively the poor. However, due to the contributory nature of social insurance, these find it often difficult to extend to the informal sector and thus to the extreme poor. Instruments include unemployment insurance and input subsidies.
3. **Labour market policies** encompass two different kinds of policies. The first refers to the creation of employment and 'promotion' of livelihoods. Instruments include public works and credit schemes. The second type of labour market policy refers to the legal frameworks and standards underpinning the labour market, including regulations around decent work, minimum wage, maternity leave and benefits and child care arrangements.

¹ Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004)

Social Protection has become a major topic of development policy. Originally, it was introduced in the global south as a policy to achieve aims of economic and social development, with countries like Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, India and South Africa leading the way. The clear break with standard policy of that time was to introduce direct cash transfers funded by *tax revenue*, rather than *contributory* or *insurance-based* Social Protection predominant in most developed countries. Social Protection has since demonstrated impressive results and experienced a rapid spread. Nowadays, nearly every middle- and low-income country has at least one Social Protection scheme – on average a staggering 20. The spread has taken up speed. In Africa alone the number of countries with unconditional cash transfers has doubled between 2010 and 2015, to reach 40 countries.²

There is overwhelming evidence of the positive effect of Social Protection on socio-economic development and poverty alleviation. Social Protection systems strengthen access to health, education and work, improve food security and enable micro-investments leading to market stimulation. Some are directly targeting the poor, do not require pre-existing capabilities of beneficiaries and are relatively simple to administer. This combination makes Social Protection programmes especially successful in extending to the extreme poor that are sometimes difficult to reach through development programmes. The wealth of experience indicates that Social Protection systems are affordable even in least developed countries. It should not be seen as a luxury following development, as the duty to establish Social Protection systems derives from the *right to social security* enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and several treaties.

Positive results and the quick spread have pushed bilateral and multilateral agencies to develop their own Social Protection strategies. It features prominently in the agendas of DFID, Australian DFAT, German BMZ, ECHO as well as the World Bank, ILO, WFP and UNICEF. A general trend can be observed with US-based agencies advocating for conditionality and Europe-based agencies focusing on targeting, while developing countries try to keep donor influence low and design their approach based on political and economic feasibility.

Despite this rapid spread and evidence of success, only one-third of the poor worldwide are covered by any Social Protection scheme.³ This means that more than 870 million people are not covered, while existing schemes also vary considerably in their level of social security guarantees, targeting and conditionality. Middle- and low-income countries spend on average 1.6% of GDP on social assistance (non-contributory transfers), with many countries far below that level. OECD countries spend on average 1.9% of GDP on social assistance, but more than 21% of GDP on all types of social expenditures (including social insurance and tax breaks).⁴

² World Bank (2015)

³ World Bank (2015)

⁴ World Bank (2015); OECD (2014)

SDC's engagement is based on its mandate to fight poverty, save lives, alleviate suffering and address global risks. As an effective modality of intervention to serve these goals, SDC engages in Social Protection on the basis of nationally and internationally adopted agendas.

Sustainable Development Goals – The new agenda for sustainable development, outlining the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides the frame for SDC's involvement in development cooperation. Social Protection is explicitly a target in Goal 1 (eradicating poverty in all its forms and everywhere), Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives), Goal 5 (achieving gender equality), Goal 8 (economic growth) and Goal 10 (reducing inequality within and among countries). To reach these goals, the agenda puts forward the implementation of nationally appropriate Social Protection systems, including national Social Protection Floors⁵ in Goal 1.3.

The New Dispatch – The Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–2020 stresses the importance of breaking down silos between different arms of SDC and pushes a *whole of government* approach for Swiss engagement abroad. Social Protection is an excellent option to overcome gaps between development and humanitarian aid and can further advance cooperation with SECO. It connects many domains, such as governance, health, education, employment and income for South and Eastern Europe Cooperation; cash transfer programming for Humanitarian Aid; migration for Global Cooperation and government income generation for SECO. An increased focus on Social Protection provides a platform for strengthening synergies and collaboration between these domains.

World Humanitarian Summit – The use of Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) in humanitarian responses was asserted as a global priority. It is also a strong priority area for SDC's Humanitarian Aid.⁶ To make cash transfers timelier, more cost-effective and scalable, strengthening the link between CTP and Social Protection was identified as key.⁷ SDC has made three commitments that link Social Protection with CTP at the WHS – (1) investing in preparedness to use cash, including through Social Protection Programmes, (2) testing of new and bold models to go to scale; and (3) scaling up CTP in humanitarian crises to eventually become part of national Social Protection systems.

Human Rights – SDC is committed to upholding and promoting human dignity and human rights through all its interventions, as set forth by its human rights policy.⁸ Human rights strive to empower the poor and promote an approach of entitlements and corresponding duties. The *right to social security* requires States to provide a minimum standard of benefits and to progressively realise an adequate level over time. These minimum standards consist of elements that together comprise a Social Protection floor as described in the ILO recommendation 202 supported by Switzerland.⁵

⁵ ILO (2012)

⁶ SDC/HA (2016)

⁷ ECHO (2015); ODI (2015); see also: Grand Bargain Process (2016)

⁸ SDC (2006)

Household Income Generation & Sustainable Economic Development – Regular cash transfers provide poor people with funds for small investment activities. In Mexico, the *Oportunidades* programme resulted in investment of beneficiaries into micro-enterprises. These achieved impressive rates of return, leading to an increase in consumption capacity of households of 34% within 5 years.⁹ Transfers are spent several times locally before leaving the area, thus creating demand and stimulating market development in poor regions. In Malawi, a study found transfers to be spent three times within a community before leaving the area.¹⁰ With domestic demand identified as a key constraint to economic growth, Social Protection has an important role to play in economic development.

Education – Social Protection systems dramatically increase school attendance of children from poor families and reduce dropout rates at higher educational stages. Children of beneficiary families of *Oportunidades* in Mexico are 33% more likely to attend middle school than children outside the scheme.¹¹ However, Social Protection systems alone are not enough. Quality, availability and proximity of schools are important complementary requirements.

Health – Beneficiaries spend a large portion of direct transfers on better, more and more varied food, drastically improving overall nutrition and health status. What is true for Social Protection schemes' positive impact on education outcomes holds also for health. Rising demand needs to be met with appropriate supply of quality health services.

Children – Children benefit both from direct (schemes targeting children) and indirect schemes. Children in beneficiary families grow taller and develop better cognitive capacities due to better nutrition in the first two years of their lives.¹² This in turn positively affects their earning capacity as adults.

Empowerment – Social Protection systems often have an empowering effect. For instance, they can positively affect women's employment rate and increase their household negotiation power if they are the primary recipients of transfers.¹³ Impact is double-edged when conditionality creates obligations for women – having both liberating effects as well as creating additional burdens and potentially discouraging men from taking co-responsibility for important issues such as health.

WFP Southeast Asia

Swiss Humanitarian Aid seconded an expert to provide technical recommendations to India on how to turn its social assistance programme from in kind to cash assistance to improve effectiveness. This will affect 870 million beneficiaries of the scheme.

⁹ Gertler et al. (2006)

¹⁰ Davies (2007)

¹¹ Mexico Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (2008)

¹² Paxson and Schady (2007)

¹³ World Bank (2014)

There are 3 core objectives for SDC's engagement in Social Protection. SDC programmes and SDC investments directly support all or several of these objectives.

- **Objective 1: Reduce poverty and inequalities (SDG1 and SDG10)** – Social Protection systems provide protection from life risks and income guarantees to build a way out of poverty. They are an effective means to support the most vulnerable populations (leave no-one behind), while upholding their human dignity. Carefully developed social transfers can also be an effective way to mitigate inequalities, which can cause social disruption and are harmful to the inclusiveness of societies, if acute. Social Protection coverage is increasing, but still low. Therefore, SDC aims at increasing *coverage* of social assistance and social insurance in its countries of intervention, in particular to reach the poorest. SDC further aims at ensuring *transfer volumes* that are substantial enough to trigger economic virtuous circles, effectively reducing poverty and inequality.¹⁴
- **Objective 2: Promote gender equality (SDG5)** – Social Protection schemes can have a transformative impact on the role of women within the family and the society at large. SDC commits to support gender equality as a crosscutting dimension in the Social Protection schemes. It recognises the burden of unpaid care work and aims at promoting gender equality through Social Protection systems in order to actually have a transformative impact.
- **Objective 3: Promote resilience and preparedness of vulnerable communities, especially regarding climate change** – SDC aims at increasing preparedness of existing or emerging Social Protection systems to be shock-responsive and function as effective delivery mechanisms for humanitarian assistance during crises, also for migrants and refugees. Social protection is instrumental to Disaster Risk Reduction and livelihood restoration, as well as climate resilient measures. Social Insurance protects against some of the major shocks due to livelihood risks (drought, floods), illness, disability, accident, life cycle events and can be a tool to promote resilience. SDC aims at designing Social Insurance systems, reducing costs barriers for the poor and increasing coverage overall.

¹⁴ Research indicates that social transfers need to increase family consumption by 15-20% to have a substantial impact – see Hanlon et al. (2010)

Four sets of principles guide SDC's Social Protection interventions and investments.

- **SDC takes a holistic view when engaging in Social Protection** – There is a clear understanding within SDC that Social Protection alone will not reach the goals of development policy. An array of issues needs to be considered and linked to Social Protection programming. These are namely sustainable natural resources management, quality of and access to health, education and job opportunities, improved economic conditions and strengthened livelihoods, governance, as well as a stronger revenue base of governments. Furthermore, any intervention in a specific Social Protection scheme needs to consider the effects on the whole Social Protection architecture, often encompassing a multitude of schemes. Last but not least, there is a need to consider Social Protection in the wider context of macroeconomic policies.
- **SDC supports priorities of partner governments** – SDC aims at increasing partner governments' capacity to make informed choices about design and functioning of Social Protection systems and to ensure government capacity to effectively administer the programmes. SDC supports partner countries' priorities in the design of the Social Protection systems. These depend on a multitude of factors, including political priorities, political feasibility, income level and social attitudes.
- **SDC has a transformative and inclusive agenda** – SDC builds on the transformative capacity of Social Protection to foster inclusive societies. Therefore, SDC strives for Social Protection systems to be *assured* (guaranteed transfers to unfold long-term planning and investment), *practical* (within administrative capacity), *substantial* (transfers need to be substantial to cause change of behaviour), *popular* (politically acceptable) and *rights-based* (underpinned by legislation).
- **SDC follows humanitarian and human rights principles when engaging in Social Protection** – Humanitarian principles include neutrality, impartiality and independence of aid. Social Protection Programmes also integrate human rights principles and address discrimination and inequality; identify and empower marginalised and vulnerable groups; and enhance transparency and accountability, while establishing a dialogue with the governments to integrate those values in their priorities.

Instruments

SDC is already strongly engaged in Social Protection through its support to wider policy frameworks and by providing input into specific interventions. A light mapping exercise has resulted in the identification of more than 70 SDC projects which include Social Protection. The focus of these interventions for SDC lies mainly in social assistance and social insurance, with labour market policies being less addressed. SDC's engagement in Social Protection is strongly linked to health, DRR, food security, local governance and migration. This influences the choice of SDC's preferred instruments of intervention.

Principles & Instruments

SDC does not typically provide direct transfers to beneficiaries, but supports the development of Social Protection systems through various other instruments, including Technical Assistance. SDC can however provide funding capital for insurance schemes and sector wide approach (SWAP) financing or budgetary support to governments to kick off Social Protection schemes. Current modalities include:

- Technical Assistance
- Policy Dialogue
- Capital Fund
- Budget Support
- Private Public Development Partnerships
- Expertise in Registration and Documentation
- Cash Transfers in humanitarian crises

Jigisemejiri - Mali

In light of the cyclical food crises and the continuing threat of Boko Haram in the north of Mali, the Swiss Humanitarian Aid and South Cooperation joined forces to improve the local social assistance scheme Jigisemejiri.

SDC seeks to complement and further develop its tool kit of instruments. SDC is seeking to develop its modalities and expertise, turning Social Protection into a preferred approach to engage in fragile contexts, Middle Income Countries (MICs) and in the context of Urban Poverty. Priority is given to:

- **Promoting South-South learning & trilateral partnerships** – experiences of other low- and middle-income countries with design, targeting, conditionality, inclusion, registration, updating, auditing and financing of Social Protection schemes are invaluable. SDC seeks to promote learning through south-south and trilateral partnerships.
- **Complementarity to technical expertise in expanding governmental income base** –SECO has developed an expertise in supporting its partner countries to increase their income base to finance Social Protection, including through formalisation of the informal sector and stronger and more effective taxation systems. However without redistribution policies, Social Protection schemes may do harm to the poorest. Therefore, SDC seeks to increase the partnership with SECO with a view of expanding Social Protection schemes to excluded populations and of effective implementation at local level.
- **Technical expertise in preparedness of Social Protection for humanitarian crises** – SDC seeks to deepen its technical expertise in ensuring preparedness of Social Protection systems to humanitarian crises, including through registration database development, transfer mechanisms or organisational arrangements that would enhance capacity to expand rapidly in emergencies. Shock-responsive Social Protection links humanitarian assistance with development cooperation. SDC can also have a key role in facilitating exchange of experience between governments.

SDC has several comparative advantages, based on its approach to development cooperation and its technical expertise.

- **SDC's flexible approach** – rather than based on a strong agenda, SDC's current involvement with Social Protection is highly flexible, fitting in with the national context and relevant policy frameworks. Social Protection needs to be carried by the national governments to be politically feasible and sustainable. Therefore, SDC's absence of a strong agenda favours a country-centred engagement.
- **PPDP** – SDC has a strong background with PPDP in Social Protection, specifically through its link with the insurance and re-Insurance sector and the Swiss Capacity Building Facility. This expertise is crucial in designing financially sound social insurance schemes.
- **P4H** – SDC is member of the global Social Health Protection Network (PH4), providing technical and strategic assistance to countries to develop and implement health financing, universal health coverage or social health protection strategies; a topic closely linked to Social Protection. It could serve as a model for similar networks in other areas of Social Protection.
- **Innovative Finance** – SDC is one of the few agencies that have experience with innovative finance mechanisms, also in the humanitarian field. This expertise can be harnessed to provide insight into alternative ways of financing Social Protection schemes.
- **Strong focus on Cash Transfer Programming** – SDC is a strong actor in the domain of Cash-Transfer Programming (CTP) and is expanding its experience through CTP experts guiding partner organisations' work on Social Protection and the provision of technical assistance to governments. Through its engagement in different contexts, including middle- and low-income countries, and sudden and slow onset disasters, SDC disposes of a wide array of tools and instruments. SDC is also on the Board of CaLP (Cash Learning Partnership) and is an active member of the Technical Working Group on Social Protection within CaLP.
- **Social partners** – Switzerland has a broad experience in the implementation and monitoring of Social Protection systems based on national consultations through effective social dialogue and social participation, using the national dialogue methodology as recommended in the ILO-UN Social Protection floor initiative.
- **Complementarity between Humanitarian Assistance and Development** – Social Protection offers a good opportunity for joint programming between Humanitarian Aid interventions that are based on most urgent needs and development interventions which have a long-term focus.

ACRE - Africa

In Eastern Africa (Kenia, Tanzania, Rwanda), the SDC's South Cooperation supported the scaling up of an index insurance scheme for smallholder farmers, which has been developed and offered by the insurance agency ACRE Africa. In 2015, over 800,000 persons have been insured.

Certain risks and challenges are attached to SDC's engagement in Social Protection:

- **Social Protection is not a magic bullet** – despite the impressive results that Social Protection has had on poverty reduction and sustainable economic development, it must be well remembered that it is not a cure-all. Although it helped increase school attendance, health check-ups etc. (i.e. demand for services), there is only a positive effect if the supply and the quality of services exists, keeps pace and improves. The question if Social Protection is the most effective means to reach the assigned goal shall continuously remain on the table. Therefore, SDC's principle for engaging with Social Protection is to have a holistic view, not neglecting other forms of interventions that are complementary and maybe more effective at certain times.
- **Risk of political manipulation** – Social Protection depends on political support, but can equally be used to increase popularity within a specific population. Thus, SDC needs to evaluate political risks. To mitigate the risk, SDC will use PSIA (Poverty Social Impact Assessment) and PEA (Political Economy Analysis), where appropriate.
- **Neutrality** – Social Protection systems are pursuing highly political objectives, are driven by political incentives (popularity, re-election) and have political outcomes. In certain contexts, it is difficult to engage in Social Protection, whilst adhering to the core humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence.
- **Do no harm** – Narrow targeting of Social Protection schemes holds the potential for social frictions within communities and may undermine broad-based community and societal support. Likewise, conditionality can influence the gender balance positively or negatively. In conflict settings, security of beneficiaries may be put at risk. To mitigate these risks, SDC will use Gender Analytic Framework, Conflict Sensitive Programme Management and data protection where appropriate.
- **Sustainable financing** – It represents a serious constraint in most development countries. SDC shall take into account the wider macroeconomic context and try to join, where feasible, programmes developing tax regimes and securing the revenue base to finance Social Protection.

SDC sets out to track the performance of its engagement in Social Protection and to specifically progress towards the three main objectives. All interventions through Social Protection will measure the same indicators to allow aggregating numbers and comparing interventions. Where relevant, the indicators are set in line with the reference indicators to monitor the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–2020. SDC seeks to assess its effect and progress towards the three main objectives, discussing several indicators including

SDC engagement in Social Protection

- (1)** Total funds spent on or through Social Protection.
- (2)** Percentage of budget spent on or through Social Protection.
- (3)** Disaggregated funds spent on or through Social Assistance and Social Insurance.¹⁵

Objective 1: Reducing Poverty and Inequality

- (1)** Reduction in the rate of the population living below the poverty rate in the intervention area (by gender and age).¹⁶
- (2)** Number of persons that gained access to and make use of a formal financial service (savings, insurance, loan/credit, leasing, payment and transfer services, etc.)
- (3)** Increase in coverage of Social Protection (region disaggregated) by social assistance and social insurance.
- (4)** Increase in family food consumption through social transfer (in %).

Objective 2: Promoting Gender Equality

- (1)** Change in women employment rate.
- (2)** Change in enrolment rates for primary, secondary and tertiary education amongst beneficiaries; by gender.

¹⁵ This will require setting up new markers in SDC's SAP system.

¹⁶ Global reference indicator of SDC

Objective 3: Promote Resilience and Preparedness of vulnerable communities

(1) Number of Social Protection schemes which have used cash when responding to shocks.

(2) Number of Swiss humanitarian expert missions working on the link between cash assistance and Social Protection.

SDC further seeks ways to use the results of Social Protection as a benchmark for all SDC interventions in a given country. If other SDC projects are significantly lower in effectiveness to reach the same results, a switch to Social Protection intervention needs to be considered.

Next Steps – How to engage further in Social Protection

In view of the next Dispatch 2021-2024, it is necessary to fully develop SDC's position on Social Protection, by:

- **Deepening the knowledge and lessons learned** from SDC interventions in Social Protection, based on the light mapping that identified more than 70 projects currently working with Social Protection and on evidence based literature. In particular, analyse more specifically SDC's comparative advantages (the role of SDC in private sector's involvement, cross-sectoral interventions, SDC flexibility, P4H, innovative finance, Social Protection schemes in situation of emergency and social partners); the role of multilateral institutions, and experience with groups at risk of being excluded (most vulnerable, migrants, refugees).
- **Deepening the knowledge on how to reach the most vulnerable** and how to make sure no-one is left behind, in particular with registration modalities.
- Elaborating on **modalities used in period of crises** compared to those used in stable situations: how to strengthen resilience and preparedness of vulnerable communities.
- **Deepening the knowledge** of sustainable financing of social protection schemes with possible mixed funding from private sectors, individuals and public sources.
- **Defining priority areas of intervention for SDC.**
- **Identifying entry points for joint programming between SDC Development and the Humanitarian Aid** domains and test new cooperation mechanisms to enhance synergies.
- **Identifying possibilities for triangular cooperation** in collaboration with MICs that have introduced successful Social Protection systems.
- **Engaging in exchange of experience and policy dialogue** with SECO, partner governments and at global level.

Institute of Development Studies. Research and Publications from the Centre for Social Protection: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/social-protection>

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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Resources and Light – Touch Mapping of SDC Activities in Social Protection: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Poverty-Wellbeing/current-poverty-issues/social-protection/sdc-and-social-protection>

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Summary of light mapping - SDC activities in Social Protection

The tables below present the findings of a light-touch mapping exercise aiming to obtain insight into the ongoing engagements on social protection across SDC. It is based on information obtained from geographical divisions guided by a basic definition of social protection.

Table 1 provides a schematic overview of engagements with a social protection component across regions. It highlights the mixed geographic involvement of SDC with respect to categories of social protection. There is a strong emphasis on social assistance in East Europe and Africa and heavy focus on social insurance in CIS and Africa. Involvement in labour market policies is more mixed and spread across all regions apart from Africa. Global initiatives are strong in terms of social assistance, primarily as a result of cash transfers in humanitarian aid and labour market policies, mostly due to the migration and development programme.

Table 1 Overview of SDC engagement with social protection by region

	social assistance	social insurance	labour market policies
Western Balkan	xxx		x
New Member States	xxx		x
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)		xxx	
West Africa	xx	xx	
East and Southern Africa	xx	xx	
East Asia	x	x	x
South Asia	x	x	x
Latin America and Caribbean	x	xx	xx
Global initiatives	xxx		x

The second table provides an overview of activities per category and domain of intervention.

Table 2 Overview of SDC engagement with social protection per activities and domains.

Categories	Social assistance	Social insurance	Labour market policies
Domains* involved	HA CEE SC	GC CEE SC	HA GC CEE SC
Activities	Roma inclusion State building Local Governance Food Security Health Cash for shelter/livelihoods Child protection	Health insurance Micro-insurance Agriculture/ food security DRR/ Climate Change	Employment Gender (cash for work) Migration
<i>*in bold activities where various domains are involved</i>			

* **CEE**: Cooperation with Eastern Europe – **GC**: Global Cooperation - **HA**: Humanitarian Aid –**SC**: South Cooperation