Strategies to adapt social protection policies to facilitate the protection of vulnerable individuals susceptible to the climate change risks

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For social protection interventions to be successful, they need to be combined with

- Strategies for **climate change adaptation** (adjustments in individual, group and institutional behaviour intended to reduce a population’s vulnerability to climate risks) and
- **Disaster risk reduction** which is the practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters.

Social protection offsets losses from climate change effects and adverse impacts of pro-climate policies on people.

Social Protection safeguards populations against the impacts of economic and environmental vulnerabilities and shocks.

The ILO recommends integrating social protection into responses to environmental impacts and challenges of the transition for those likely to be negatively affected, in particular employees including making use of employment guarantee schemes and public works.

The need to promote social protection mechanisms that contribute to offsetting the impacts of climate change.

It is possible to use a type or nature of particular risks and natural hazards to help determine when social protection safety net interventions can contribute to both dealing with the particular climate change challenge.

It cannot be assumed that social protection interventions will systematically improve individuals’ and communities’ capacity to adapt to climate change and for this reason it is important for each social protection strategy to be particularly tailored to the challenge being faced.

To this end, social protection should be targeted in a deliberate and planned way, well-suited to hazard or risk, based on the four-step strategy identified.