

# Opportunities: Why linking FbF and SP?

**By integrating an FbF approach with social protection systems, we can harness synergies for taking early action before disaster impacts materialize; playing a critical role in reducing disaster impacts, building resilience and protecting development gains**

Linking forecast-based action with social protection programming aims to make better use of existing systems to protect people before disasters, especially by supporting some key features:

## **Scale**

Social protection often relies on large scale, long-term, nationally-owned systems. These systems reach significant sectors of the population: in 2015, more than 1.9 billion people in 136 low- and middle-income countries were on beneficiary rolls of social safety net programs (World Bank 2015),

## **Systems**

In recent years, governments and donors have made significant investments in setting up social protection systems that increase coordination, building supporting structures (staff, tools, resources) as well as systems for targeting and registration of beneficiaries, delivery of benefits and management of information. These systems could be used not only during emergencies but before they happen to reach already existing beneficiaries with early action, and/or for identifying and enrolling new beneficiaries.

## **Vulnerable populations**

Social assistance programmes aim to provide support to those identified as poor and/or vulnerable, which are sometimes most at risk from climate related shocks. In most cases it is likely that the population that is part of social protection services are more impacted by hazards, given their exposure and vulnerability.

## **Speed**

Shock-responsive social protection programmes should be able to rapidly scale up during a crisis and back once the crisis is over. A forecast-based action mechanism would be a key piece of such a system, helping establish objective indicators and agreed plans of action as well as ring-fenced financing to enable anticipatory action.