

Potential Challenges

There are a number of opportunities, but also limitations, in linking FbF with social protection. A few are:

Targeting

While SP programs often target the most vulnerable, in some cases, those most affected by a particular climate hazard might not be those that are traditionally considered vulnerable under a social protection approach and are enrolled in existing programs' registries. Understanding climate-related vulnerability to individual or multiple hazards is key in aligning targeted populations of a joint FbF-SP approach. For more, see this [study from Kenya](#).

Actions

Similarly, discovering and understanding specific climate-related vulnerabilities and historical impact of disasters is essential for prioritising actions of a joint FbF-SP system. For instance, the type of support provided through a social protection mechanism (public works, cash or in-kind) might not help households with the impacts of a specific shock. An understanding of potential shock impacts on targeted populations is key. Also, forecast-based action is not likely to eliminate completely the need for ex-post response – though it could significantly reduce it – and appropriate response actions might be needed.

Capacity

SP systems in some countries are nascent, just as FbF approaches. It is important to ensure that existing resources and capacities can be directed towards a joint FbF-SP mechanism, which is only likely to happen when such an approach is a priority for relevant sectors and officials in national governments.

Financing

Financing of a forecast-based action system requires overcoming significant challenges in the way funding is structured. While channeling financing through an existing SP system might be cost-efficient, and contingency funds or budget reserves from programme funds could be used, additional, sustainable, sources of financing would be required for sustained action at scale.

Coordination

Successful alignment requires partnerships and coordination among diverse stakeholders. This is often difficult because it entails the need to harmonise different mandates, interests, decision making processes and priorities.