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PROGRESS REPORT 2016–17
RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

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2016–17

RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

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ABBREVIATIONS

ASPIRE	Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity
DR	disaster responsive
DRM	disaster risk management
FY	fiscal year
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation
MDTF	multi-donor trust fund
NS	nutrition sensitive
NSPPF	National Social Protection Policy Framework
PSSN	Productive Social Safety Net
RSR	Rapid Social Response
RSRC	RSR Catalyst Trust Fund
SPJ	social protection and jobs
TASAF	Tanzania Social Action Fund



SECTION 1

Summary of Progress





This report covers Rapid Social Response Program (RSR) activities during calendar year 2016 (January–December 2016), which includes the fiscal years (FYs) 2016 and 2017. During this period, the RSR approved the Round 10 call for proposals, which is reflected in the information and data provided in this report. Round 11 was approved in 2017.

The RSR Today: Where It Is, How It Got Here, and Where It Is Headed

The RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) program was established in 2009, in partnership with the World Bank, to help the world's poorest countries build effective social protection systems. The RSR MDTF is supported by Australia, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Since its inception, the RSR—in addition to becoming a widely recognized brand name associated with social protection and jobs (SPJ) systems building—has undergone a number of changes consistent with development needs worldwide. Since Phase 1 (2009–12), which was originally launched to assist countries in addressing urgent social needs stemming from crises and helping them build the capacity and institutions to better respond to future crises, the RSR has developed in Phase 2 (2012 onwards) to support a broader agenda of SPJ systems building. Cross-sectoral by nature, the RSR embraces both core SPJ areas as well as supports priorities that are easily linked to SPJ operations, including gender, nutrition, employment and jobs, graduation, and—more recently—disaster risk management.

Today, the RSR is one of the main instruments for implementing the World Bank's 2012–2022 Social Protection and Labor Strategy (World Bank 2012), primarily in countries eligible for International Development Association (IDA) support. It does so by providing small—relative to typical IDA/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) operations—but catalytic funding, averaging \$530,143 as of December 2016, in support of social protection agendas worldwide. The RSR has demonstrated time and again that the grant amounts, while modest, can effectively support countries' efforts in designing or strengthening their social protection systems and reaching those most in need through policies, dialogue, and interventions. The catalytic nature of RSR support helps draw in other resources and partners. By the end of 2016, 80 RSR projects were associated with IDA operations, totaling \$47.6 million. RSR funding has helped leverage an impressive amount of IDA financing—approximately \$7 billion, including additional financing, thus far.

Seven years after RSR operationalization, the contributions the program has made are becoming more visible; many of these are captured in table 1.1 and expanded on in this section. Throughout 10 selection rounds to date—resulting in 178 projects in 81 countries worldwide—the RSR has been able to support the growing social protection agenda as a whole, either through supporting pilot programs in countries without prior SPJ experience, facilitating new dialogues and partnerships, or supporting knowledge exchanges between countries and globally. Moreover, financing

TABLE 1.1 Key facts about the RSR

Item	2013	2014	2015	2016
Development partners	Russian Federation, Norway, United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden		Russian Federation, Norway, United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden, GFDRR	
Programmable resources (cumulative) ^a	\$90,531,791	\$100,135,891	\$101,219,506	\$110,013,648
Number of competitive selection rounds	6	8	9	10
Subprogram window	Classic	Classic, NS	Classic, NS, DR	Classic, NS, DR
Number of proposals received (cumulative)	278	306	349	367
Number of projects approved (cumulative)	131	140	167	178
For Africa	59	65	83	89
Share of resources allocated to Africa	49.5%	50.2%	49.7%	51.0%
Number of countries that have directly benefited (cumulative)	63	67	79	79
In Africa	31	34	37	38
Average RSR project financing ^b	\$571,747	\$561,517	\$575,457	\$530,143
Largest RSR project financing	\$3,155,000	\$3,155,000	\$3,155,000	\$3,155,000
Number of RSR projects associated with IDA operations (cumulative)	66	72	79	80
Amount of RSR financing (cumulative)	\$43,460,009	\$45,983,509	\$46,000,000	\$47,612,530
Number of IDA operations associated with RSR ^c	54	67	81	90
Amount of IDA financing ^d	\$3.35 billion	\$4.15 billion	\$5.68 billion	\$7.09 billion
IDA/RSR association ratio: project-to-project average	77.1	90.2	123.5	148.8
IDA/RSR association ratio: program as a whole	37.0	41.4	56.1	64.4
SPJ coverage of associated IDA operations	42.1 million	77.3 million	72.4 million	131.5 million
Female	21.0 million	38.3 million	36.2 million	65.8 million
Average RSR \$ to catalyze incremental SPJ coverage	\$2.15/person	\$1.30/person	\$1.40/person	\$0.84/person

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

Note: DR = disaster responsive; GFDRR = Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery; NS = nutrition sensitive; SPJ = social protection and jobs. "Classic" refers to the Phase 1 funding modality.

- Cumulative programmable resources do not take into account financing provided by the GFDRR, as that is an external financial channel.
- Average of projects that were approved excluding the grant allocated to project management.
- Number of IDA operations takes into account the number of IDA parent codes only and does not include additional IDA financing.
- Amount of IDA financing covers both the amount allocated to IDA parent projects and any associated IDA additional financing.

The World Bank's International Development Association, established in 1960, helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low- to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA supports development work in 112 countries, and is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 77 poorest countries.

through the RSR has helped establish and strengthen the core components of SPJ systems through designing new payment modalities; creating new targeting mechanisms; strengthening management information systems; and coordinating with ministries, agencies, and subnational governments.

The most impressive RSR achievement to date has been the large increase in coverage of SPJ beneficiaries worldwide. As of December 2016, approximately 131 million people worldwide are covered by IDA operations that are associated with RSR funding. As the ultimate goal of the RSR, this increase in SPJ coverage proves both the importance of catalytic investment and that of continuous support in helping countries establish their SPJ systems so as to better support their vulnerable populations.

The role of RSR in the global SPJ sphere continues to be well recognized. Notably and most recently, this role was highlighted at the Ministerial Roundtable meeting during the World Bank–International Monetary Fund 2017 spring meetings. The Ministerial Roundtable annually convenes high-level representatives (typically ministers of economy and finance, development agency officials, and senior government representatives) for a dialogue on safety nets.

The RSR's role, importance, and engagement have been evolving in response to new challenges in social protection. As new frontiers emerge in the development arena, the role of social protection is growing, along with expectations for it to become more innovative and collaborative, with new programs and systems that will be able to respond not only to shocks originating within an economy, but also to outside shocks such as climate change, natural disasters, and displacements. Social protection systems are increasingly being used to improve opportunities for economic and social inclusion in rapidly changing societies. Crucial linkages with graduation programs and jobs will shape the new portfolio as well, together with emphasis on nutrition-sensitive programs, disaster-responsive programs, and the like.

Worldwide, progress has been made regarding the coverage of SPJ programs, which today are present in virtually every low- and middle-income country. But much remains to be done with respect to coverage of the most vulnerable populations, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, which house most of the world's poor. To make matters worse, the world is experiencing an increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters, as well as continuous human-made crises—which usually lead to a reversal of development gains and have the potential to create new layers of transient poor. And these shocks affect the chronic poor in a disproportionate manner. Against this global backdrop, there is an urgent need to continue improving and innovating SPJ systems, as well as build linkages between social protection and disaster risk management.

The RSR is already adapting to changing development frontiers as well as client government needs, taking on a greater role in SPJ-related advances. While staying true to its core purpose of increasing SPJ coverage in the poorest and most vulnerable countries, the RSR portfolio will have to continue to evolve to support activities and dialogues that both bring SPJ to the forefront of development and help link it with other sectors to improve opportunities for economic and social inclusion. Going

forward, the RSR scope will need to be expanded to help programs become more adaptive, scalable, and sufficiently flexible to respond to a variety of shocks resulting from both human-made crises and natural disasters.

EVOLUTION OF THE RSR

Phase 1: Catalytic, Crisis Response

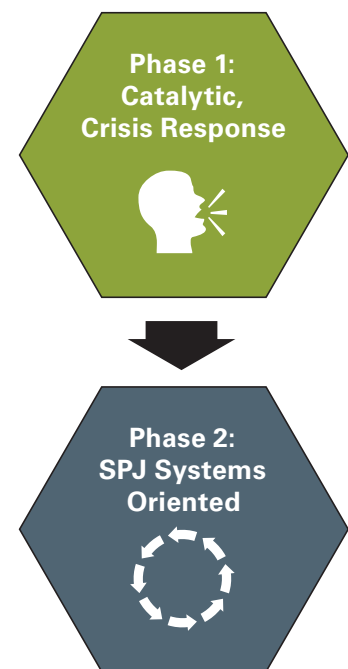
From its operationalization in 2009 until 2012, the RSR's main mandate was to help low-income countries cope with major crises such as the food, fuel, and financial crises of 2008–10. Support was earmarked solely for IDA-eligible countries to protect the post-crisis poor populations of the most severely affected countries.

While the RSR grants were relatively small, this seed money provided critical support in the form of services and in-kind benefits to vulnerable and poor populations. Some of the pilot programs supported by the RSR led to full-fledged IDA operations as in Cameroon, Mozambique, and Rwanda. This initial phase also positioned the RSR high in the social protection agenda, which allowed it to then move into new and more forward-looking spheres. A total of 80 activities were supported during this phase, with \$61.8 million of programmable resources from two trust funds: the RSR MDTF and the RSR Catalyst Trust Fund (RSRC).

Phase 2: SPJ Systems Oriented

Following its successful and effective Phase 1, the RSR evolved into its second phase, with a strong focus on building and strengthening social protection systems. In the fall of 2012, RSR development partners approved a five-year extension of the program from June 2013 to June 2018. This mandate—which marked the official inception of the new phase—was a response to the World Bank's new 2012–2022 Social Protection and Labor Strategy (World Bank 2012), which called for the RSR's continuous involvement in supporting low-income countries as well as global knowledge sharing on SPJ systems through support of South-South learning forums and communities of practice.

The development partners agreed on several aspects of the RSR business model and on a results framework (see figure 1.4 at the end of this section), while the focus on low-income countries in establishing or strengthening their core social protection systems remained unchanged. RSR support continued to be provided to activities in IDA-eligible countries for new or improved SPJ system components, platforms, and architecture for a specific country or countries (Theme 1) and to protect access to basic services in times of crisis for a specific country or countries (Theme 3). However, in contrast to the first phase, the inclusion of IBRD countries was made possible under a new theme (Theme 2), which encourages knowledge sharing across development levels so as to further boost social protection system agendas. In cumulative terms, Phase 2 expanded the RSR portfolio to include 62 countries and 131 projects altogether (excluding regional activities).



Three themes and several key subthemes were introduced in Phase 2, which extended and expanded upon the RSR's initial mandate. Notably, special channels were created to supplement SPJ strengthening with, respectively, nutrition-sensitive and disaster response considerations.

During Phase 2, an important subtheme emerged under Theme 2, with a particular focus on providing nutrition benefits, particularly for young children and pregnant/nursing mothers. A nutrition-sensitive window, the RSR-NS, was therefore established under the RSR; more information on RSR-NS is provided in section 3.

Also during Phase 2, the RSR entered into a partnership with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), enabling it to support and link disaster responsiveness to social protection. This new window, the RSR-DR, aims to help build disaster readiness in countries' SPJ systems; section 3 provides more information on activities undertaken through this partnership.

Overall, the new programmable resources—which include funding from the RSR MDTF, the RSR-NS, and the GFDRR—and the new mandate have enabled the RSR to boost SPJ presence in the broader development agenda and increase the World Bank's engagement in low-income countries. In this way, the RSR is focusing both the national and international SPJ agendas away from stand-alone projects and toward systems building.

WHAT'S NEXT

The RSR has become a renowned brand in development programs. It has managed to stay abreast of changing development landscapes and, through relatively small grants, has made a lasting imprint on SPJ coverage worldwide as well as on broader development agendas.

- ◆ **The RSR will continue building on the significant progress achieved to date.** It will do so by helping extend social safety nets and social protection delivery systems and make them more adaptable worldwide. The new adaptive social protection agenda has received increasing attention, and the upcoming South-South learning forum supported by the RSR and the GFDRR, Building Resilience through Adaptive Social Protection, sheds light on the importance of this agenda. With GFDRR support, too, the RSR can help expand and enrich this topic through involvement in IBRD-eligible countries as well.
- ◆ **The RSR will make use of new SPJ mandates and resources for better labor market and jobs outcomes.** These include multisectoral, demand-side interventions related to migration and economic inclusion and with the overarching objective of helping client governments broaden and deepen their SPJ coverage and improve the economic opportunities of social protection beneficiaries. The focus will be on areas where SPJ policies and systems can make a significant difference, not only in maintaining the consumption of the poor and vulnerable, but also in empowering them—especially structurally disadvantaged groups, including women, migrants, and the internally displaced—to build their human capital and use it to achieve a better life for themselves and their families and communities through jobs and sustainable livelihoods.

- ◆ **Despite a remarkable increase worldwide, SPJ coverage remains low, particularly in low-income countries.** Globally, some 131 million people are benefiting from SPJ programs through the catalytic nature of the RSR and linked IDA operations. However, as of 2015, only one in five people received any SPJ benefits in low-income countries. The gap is more acute in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (World Bank 2015).
- ◆ **Partnerships forged within and outside the World Bank Group have helped increase RSR visibility and momentum in the international SPJ field.** Collaborations with the Human Development Practice Group within the World Bank on issues involving nutrition, gender, and jobs; the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for knowledge exchange, such as the South-South learning forums; and the GFDRR, for disaster-responsive SPJ, have opened the door to an increasing number of joint efforts.
- ◆ **The 2017 Ministerial Roundtable meeting emphasized the need to build more inclusive and resilient programs and systems going forward.** Central to this premise highlighted at the World Bank–International Monetary Fund spring meeting is the RSR’s role as both a catalyst of IDA support as well as a bridge between safety nets and disaster risk management measures in low- and middle-income countries.
- ◆ **With changing global dynamics, there are new and continuous opportunities for SPJ and RSR involvement.** Issues of fragility and conflict, internal and international waves of migration, increased linkages with the World Bank jobs agenda, and the productive economic inclusion of SPJ beneficiaries are among the challenges for which the RSR can chart new pathways for experimentation and learning.



The RSR in Perspective

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The RSR continues to be a popular program, with a global imprint on development agendas. While staying true to its core purpose of supporting SPJ systems building, the RSR has branched out to include nutrition-sensitive social protection and disaster-responsive social protection; and to support a variety of development agendas, including gender, urban social safety nets, and social protection for populations on the move. Since becoming operational in December 2009, the RSR has received a total of 367 expressions of interest and approved a total of 178 activities worldwide, amounting to about \$93.8 million. During Round 10, a total of \$5.07 million was allocated to 11 activities, including nutrition-sensitive and disaster-responsive social protection. The overall approval rate for expressions of interest submitted is 48.5 percent, with 35.7 percent of the funds requested actually being granted (table 1.2).

TABLE 1.2 Expressions of interest submissions and approvals, cumulative as of end of calendar year

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number submitted	278	306	349	367
Total amount requested (\$)	220,621,800	233,645,300	251,723,960	262,601,760
Number approved	131	140	167	178
Total amount approved (\$)	74,898,847	78,612,347	88,682,307	93,755,107
Approval ratio, number of submissions (%)	47.1	45.8	47.9	48.5
Approval ratio, amount requested (%)	33.9	33.6	35.2	35.7

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

The importance and impact of RSR support was acknowledged at the recent KNOWbel Awards.

This year, two RSR-supported SPJ projects won KNOWbel Awards, further solidifying RSR’s role in both SPJ systems building and in collaboration across sectors. The projects were based in Côte d’Ivoire and Uganda, respectively; they are further detailed in section 2.

- ◆ In **Côte d’Ivoire**, an RSR grant supported a unique public-private partnership approach for increasing social protection coverage, livelihoods, and financial inclusion among the poorest households. A collaborative effort between the World Bank’s SPJ Global Practice and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) led to innovative methods of service delivery, including mobile payments; and client solutions, with transformative impacts on poor households (see feature beginning on [page 32](#) for additional information).
- ◆ In **Uganda**, the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund Project (NUSAF III) is led by the SPJ Global Practice and aims to provide effective income support to and build the resilience of poor and vulnerable households in Northern Uganda through labor-intensive public works and livelihood income support activities. It also includes a \$12 million disaster risk financing component, which was recently triggered to scale up the public works program for an additional 30,000 households following a severe drought in the region. RSR support was instrumental in the design of a complementary IDA operation. Specifically, it funded a SPJ sector review and initiated meaningful policy dialogue (see feature beginning on [page 50](#) for additional information).

RSR financing has reached the majority of IDA-eligible countries worldwide.

As envisaged by the original mandate of the RSR MDTF of increasing SPJ coverage worldwide and the subsequent objective of supporting SPJ systems-building agendas, the RSR continues to be well aligned with its purpose and is successful in assisting IDA countries around the world. In addition, IBRD-eligible countries can be added to the portfolio through nutrition-sensitive SPJ or disaster-responsive SPJ programs—primarily through South-South learning, communities of practice, and the building and testing of toolkits for analytical or operational purposes. As shown in table 1.3, RSR funding has been extended to 51 IDA-eligible countries. As of December 2016, only 11 IDA-eligible countries had not

The KNOWbel Awards are an International Finance Corporation (IFC) initiative and a World Bank Group-wide recognition program aimed at fostering a collaborative knowledge-sharing culture. The most outstanding, high-impact projects that have managed to foster a collaborative culture and increase efficiency while learning from the past—and that, most important, have supported client-focused solutions—are presented with the KNOWbel Award.

TABLE 1.3 Countries that have received direct assistance from the RSR

Region	Country
Africa: 38 countries	Angola (1), Benin (1), Burkina Faso (1), Botswana (9), Burundi (6), Cameroon (1), Comoros (7), Congo, Dem. Rep. (1), Congo, Rep. (6), Côte d'Ivoire (4), Ethiopia (1), Gambia, The (1), Ghana (1), Guinea (1), Guinea-Bissau (7), Kenya (1), Lesotho (1), Liberia (1), Madagascar (3), Malawi (1), Mali (1), Mauritania (5), Mozambique (2), Niger (3), Nigeria (3), Rwanda (1), São Tomé and Príncipe (6), Senegal (1), Sierra Leone (1), Somalia (9), South Sudan (9), Sudan (7), Swaziland (10), Tanzania (1), Togo (1), Uganda (1), Zambia (1), Zimbabwe (1)
East Asia and the Pacific: 10 countries	Cambodia (5), Fiji (9), Mongolia (1), Myanmar (5), Papua New Guinea (1), Philippines (9), Timor-Leste (1), Tonga (9), Vanuatu (9), Vietnam (7)
Europe and Central Asia: 5 countries	Albania (1), Armenia (8), Kyrgyz Republic (1), Tajikistan (1), Uzbekistan (8)
Latin America and the Caribbean: 18 countries	Antigua and Barbuda (4), Bolivia (3), Colombia (10), Dominica (3), Ecuador (9), El Salvador (3), Grenada (3), Guyana (3), Haiti (1), Honduras (1), Jamaica (9), Mexico (8), Montserrat (4), Nicaragua (2), Peru (1), St. Kitts and Nevis (4), St. Lucia (3), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (3)
Middle East and North Africa: 2 countries	Djibouti (1), Yemen, Rep. (2)
South Asia: 8 countries	Afghanistan (4), Bangladesh (1), Bhutan (5), India (1), Maldives (1), Nepal (1), Pakistan (3), Sri Lanka (1)

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

Note: The numbers in parentheses indicate the first selection round in which RSR assistance was approved for the country. Countries in **red** are IBRD-only countries, approved through the RSR-NS (nutrition-sensitive) or RSR-DR (disaster-responsive) windows. Albania graduated from IDA after receiving RSR assistance. Peru was included in a toolkit/knowledge-sharing project for which IBRD countries are eligible through the RSR Classic window.

received direct assistance from the RSR: Cabo Verde, Chad, Eritrea, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

While the RSR is present worldwide and reaches an increasing number of countries every round, the majority of support remains in the Africa region. The dominance of Africa in the RSR portfolio is due to both the region's high number of uncovered people and increased demand in the face of natural and human-made crises. Altogether, without taking into account regional and global activities, the RSR has supported technical assistance—as well as small-scale pilot projects—in a total of 81 countries, as shown in table 1.3. During calendar year 2016, two new countries were added to the pool of RSR support: Colombia and Swaziland.

The RSR has proven to be an impactful program, with concrete results and outcomes. As of December 2016, the RSR has, as noted above, supported 178 activities in 81 countries worldwide, reaching over 131 million people. This broad coverage has been made possible through the leveraging of IDA resources. RSR catalytic funding has also enabled new activities in countries previously without SPJ support; for those countries with existing RSR support, it has enabled continued engagement.

Countries are finding the value added of RSR-supported SPJ systems to be much greater than anticipated in their initial expressions of interest.

In Mozambique, for instance, the flexibility of the RSR grant allowed for a rapid response, helped build a more robust social protection system, and helped the government pilot an approach that improved the lives of many thousands of people. Further, it enabled excluded groups—such as women and people with disabilities—to participate in innovative “soft” public works schemes. More important, the RSR grant leveraged \$60 million through IDA operations and additional financing. See the country case study beginning on [page 29](#) for more detail.

The RSR has not only helped leverage IDA resources, but has also informed the design of SPJ strategies and projects.

In Uganda, as noted earlier, RSR financing helped finalize the SPJ sector review under the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund Project (NUSAF III) World Bank IDA operation. The findings from the consultative process held in preparation of the sector review also informed the social protection policy dialogue.

The RSR has helped initiate new dialogues and engagement in countries without prior SPJ experience.

The development community, both inside and outside the World Bank—as evidenced in the Bank’s spring meetings, learning forums, and on-the-ground operations—increasingly credits the RSR with building trust with government counterparts, allowing for international best practices to be shared and implemented, and enabling the building of innovative and adaptive SPJ systems.

Communities of practice and South-South learning forums have been widely popular and well accepted by government counterparts.

These two mechanisms, which are the main knowledge-sharing initiatives of the RSR, have helped enhance the program’s visibility in both low- and middle-income countries. Communities of practice have been established around the world, including in West and East African countries. In addition to full-scale South-South learning forums—the next of which will be conducted in partnership with GIZ and the GFDRR—the RSR has sponsored several regional knowledge exchanges on adaptive SPJ and disaster-responsive SPJ systems, and workshops on coherent pension policy and improved pension delivery in Africa. These initiatives have made policy makers and practitioners more informed about the importance of building SPJ systems. Continuation of such activities will allow for more collaboration among IDA and IBRD countries and innovation in SPJ programming.

RSR Coverage

BY REGION

Regionally, across all rounds and all RSR windows (RSR Classic, RSR-DR, RSR-NS, and RSRC), Africa accounts for the largest percentage of the RSR portfolio (figure 1.1). Given the design parameters of the RSRC and the RSR MDTF, a large share of RSR resources have been directed at Africa, which is where the largest number of IDA-eligible countries are located. Total resources allocated to the Africa region by the end of 2016 represented 51 percent of all programmable resources, and the number of projects in Africa is by far the largest—84 expression of interest, or almost 47 percent of the total count. This allocation trend has been fairly constant since the program's inception.

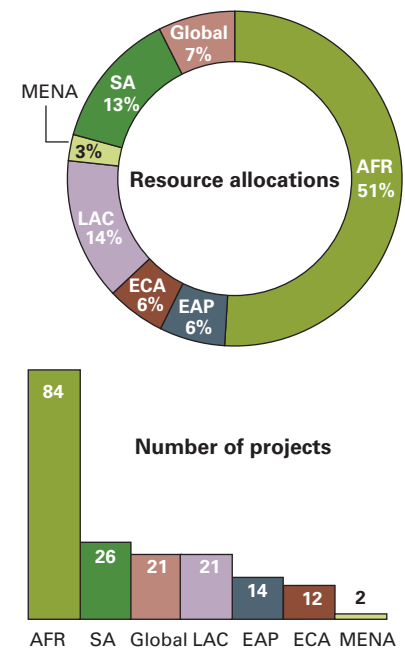
BY THEME

Since the Round 5 selection in June 2013, the RSR has used the thematic typology noted in table 1.4. Expressions of interest approved in earlier selection rounds have been retroactively recoded to reflect this typology. The following observations include all rounds and all RSR windows (RSR Classic, RSR-DR, and RSR-NS). Figure 1.2 shows the number of projects supported per theme, as well as resource allocation shares as of the end of December 2016.

Theme 1: New or improved SPJ system components, platforms, and architecture for a specific country or countries continues to command the dominant share of projects, accounting for 74 percent of both the total number of projects as well as of total resources allocated between calendar years 2010 and 2016. In all, total resources allocated to Theme 1 have exceeded \$69 million. The breakdown and share of subthemes within Theme 1 is as follows.

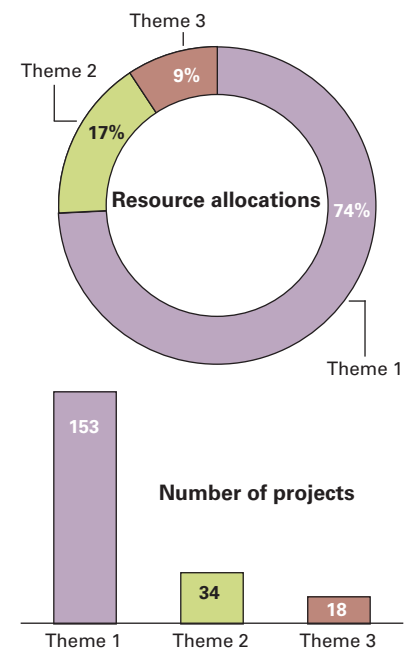
- ◆ **Subtheme 1.a.1**, Systems diagnostics, analysis, and stocktaking, including the application of Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools, represents the largest share of activities in the RSR portfolio, with 95 expressions of interest listing it as a subtheme—or 62 percent of the total theme count associated with approved expressions of interest under Theme 1.
- ◆ The second highest share is represented by **Subtheme 1.b.2**, Improving processes for determination of eligibility, with 59 approved expressions of interest citing it as a subtheme, or 39 percent of the total count associated with activities approved under Theme 1.
- ◆ **Subtheme 1.c.2**, Integration of individual programs into coordinated, national systems through harmonization and use of common components, platforms, or architecture, is represented by 57 projects; **Subtheme 1.a.2**, Identification or development of effective options, and **Subtheme 1.b.1**, Building systems for robust identification of beneficiaries and development of registries, are addressed in 52 and 54 projects, respectively.

FIGURE 1.1 Cumulative resource allocations and project count by region, end December 2016



Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

FIGURE 1.2 Cumulative resource allocations and project count by theme, end December 2016



Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

TABLE 1.4 RSR thematic typology

<p>Theme 1: New or improved SPJ system components, platforms, and architecture for a specific country or countries</p>	<p>a. Systems diagnostics, analysis, and stocktaking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diagnostic studies, stocktaking notes and mapping of SPJ programs, beneficiaries, or data collection practices 2. Identification or development of effective options by comparing the existing programs, their performance, cost-efficiency with programs in similar circumstances in other countries <p>b. Specific elements of system components, platforms, and architecture, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building systems for robust identification of beneficiaries and development of registries 2. Improving processes for determination of eligibility 3. Developing effective appeals and grievances procedures 4. Streamlining payment systems to minimize the risk for error, fraud, and corruption and increase efficiency 5. Setting up appropriate evaluation arrangements 6. Establishing practices for communication and outreach 7. Building information systems for better service management 8. Improving administrative processes and clarifying rules <p>c. Interministerial program harmonization of policies, programs and administrative arrangements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination of legal and policy level frameworks 2. Integration of individual programs into coordinated, national systems through harmonization and use of common components, platforms, or architecture (from the list b.1–8 above)
<p>Theme 2: Increased cross-national learning and knowledge sharing for SPJ service delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South-South and peer-to-peer learning • Communities of practice • Analytical and operational toolkit
<p>Theme 3: Protection of access to basic services in times of crisis for a specific country or countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of nutrition benefits—particularly for young children and pregnant/lactating mothers • Provision of other forms of social assistance benefits—cash transfers (conditional and unconditional), in-kind transfers, public works, waivers for school fees and health costs, protection of particularly vulnerable groups (e.g., protection from gender-based violence) and required administrative support

As of the end of calendar year 2016, the cumulative count of projects and resources allocated for **Theme 2: Increased cross-national learning and knowledge sharing for SPJ service delivery**, were 34 and \$8.9 million, respectively.

The number of projects and the share of resources dedicated to **Theme 3: Protection of access to basic services in times of crisis for a specific country or countries** did not increase since the last reporting period, remaining at 18 and \$14.6 million, respectively. Theme 3 activities are recipient-executed emergency projects that actually distribute cash and in-kind benefits to poor and vulnerable populations to mitigate the severe impact of major crises. For this reason, expressions of interest that include Theme 3 activities are not approved unless the application of World Bank Operational Policy 8.00, Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies, has been declared for the intended beneficiary country.

ASSOCIATION WITH IDA AND OTHER BANK OPERATIONS

By the end of December 2016, the RSR—including the RSR MDTF, the RSRC, the RSR-DR, and the RSR-NS—had received \$110.0 million in programmable resources from its five development partners (Australia, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) and the GFDRR (table 1.5). Of this total amount, approximately \$47.6 million, funded by the RSR MDTF and the RSRC, was associated with large-scale national programs/projects supported by World Bank operations—that is, IBRD loans, IDA credits/grants, and trust funds other than the RSR.

These World Bank operations accounted for a total of about \$7.09 billion in IDA credits/grants and additional IDA financing—a \$1.41 billion increase compared to the last reporting period—\$50 million in IBRD loans, and \$484 million in non-RSR trust fund resources for RSR MDTF and IDA associated projects. The cumulative total financing from Bank operations reached \$14.59 billion. Client governments mobilized \$6.97 billion in total, or approximately 48 percent of total World Bank operations financing.

For each dollar of RSR programmable resources, there is an associated \$64.40 in IDA financing. If total World Bank and national government financing is considered, every dollar of RSR programmable resources leverages an associated \$132.60. And when only those projects that are directly associated with World Bank operations are taken into account, \$306.50 in total associated financing is leveraged for every dollar of RSR financing.

During calendar year 2016, associated national government counterpart financing is estimated to be approximately \$1.5 billion (table 1.6).

TABLE 1.5 RSR association with IDA and other resources

Indicator	2013	2014	2015	2016
Resources (\$)				
Total programmable RSR resources	90,531,791	100,135,891	101,219,506	110,013,684
Associated with WBG operations	43,460,009	45,983,509	46,036,580	47,612,530
Total amount of WBG operations financing	3,599,000,000	4,398,180,000	6,186,000,000	7,621,000,000
IDA credits and grants	3,352,500,000	4,146,680,000	5,681,000,000	7,087,000,000
IBRD loans	50,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000.00	50,000,000
Non-RSR trust funds	196,500,000	201,500,000	455,000,000	484,000,000
Amount of government financing	5,088,230,000	5,710,100,000	6,877,000,000	6,972,000,000
WBG + government financing	8,687,230,000	10,108,280,000	13,063,000,000	14,593,000,000
Association ratios				
WBG/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	39.8	43.9	61.1	69.3
WBG/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	82.8	95.6	134.4	160.1
IDA/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	37.0	41.4	56.1	64.4
IDA/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	77.1	90.2	123.4	148.8
National budget/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	56.2	57.0	67.9	63.4
National budget/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	117.1	124.2	149.4	146.4
Total associated resources/RSR per total programmable RSR resource	96.0	100.9	129.1	132.6
Total associated resources/RSR per RSR financing directly associated	199.9	219.8	283.8	306.5

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

Note: WBG = World Bank Group. Note that the IDA figures were dominated by a single country (Bangladesh). IDA is the sole financier for most projects, with the following notable exceptions:

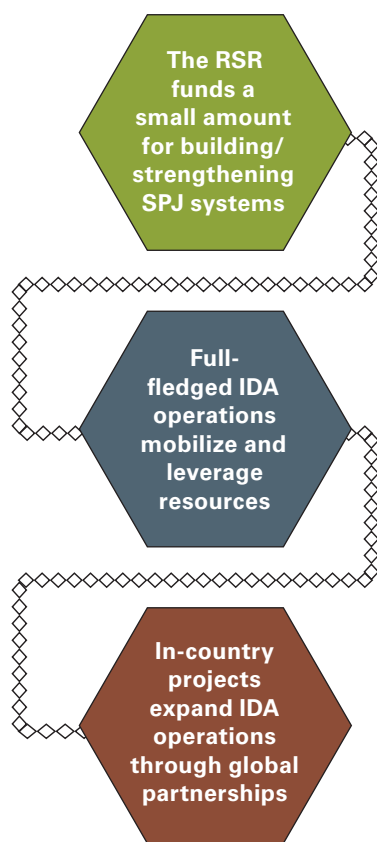
- IDA provides 18 percent (\$500 million) of the total cost of Bangladesh's Safety Net Systems for the Poorest Project (P132634; July 2013); the rest (\$2.2 billion) is provided by the government.
- IDA provides 75 percent (\$300 million) of support to Nigeria's Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (P126964; March 2013); the remaining \$100 million is provided by the government.
- IDA provides 27 percent (\$500 million) of support to Nigeria's Social Protection Project (P151488; June 2016); the remaining \$1.33 billion is provided by the government.
- IDA provides \$220 million to Tanzania's Productive Social Safety Net project (P124045; March 2012); the remainder is provided by the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) (\$16 million), the government (\$4 million), and Spain (\$0.9 million).

TABLE 1.6 World Bank financing approved for SPJ activities, 2016–17

Region	Country	Project title	Approved	IDA (million \$)	Government (million \$)
Africa	Burundi	Social Safety Nets (Merankabandi)	12/15/2016	40	0
Africa	Chad	Chad Safety Nets Project	9/1/2016	5	0
Africa	Djibouti	Djibouti Social Safety Net Second Additional Financing	5/31/2016	4	0
Africa	Ethiopia	Productive Safety Net Project (PSNP 4) Additional Financing	6/30/2016	100	110
Africa	Guinea	Additional Financing Productive Social Safety Nets Project	5/31/2016	12	0
Africa	Guinea-Bissau	Second Additional Financing to Rural Community-Driven Development Project	5/10/2016	10	0
Africa	India	Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Youth	6/21/2016	63	27
Africa	Kenya	Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities	5/20/2016	150	0
Africa	Lesotho	Social Assistance Project	6/3/2016	20	7
Africa	Lesotho	Additional Financing to Social Assistance Project - CRW Fund	12/6/2016	20	0
Africa	Liberia	Liberia Social Safety Nets Project	4/28/2016	10	0
Africa	Madagascar	AF Social Safety Net Drought Response	11/10/2016	35	0
Africa	Malawi	Second AF for Strengthening Safety Nets Systems Project MASA	11/8/2016	70	0
Africa	Nepal	Strengthening Systems for Social Protection and Civil Registry	12/2/2016	150	0
Africa	Niger	Adaptive Social Safety Nets Project	4/7/2016	22.5	0
Africa	Nigeria	National Social Safety Nets Project	6/7/2016	500	1,333
Africa	Nigeria	Community and Social Development AF-2	6/7/2016	75	0
Africa	Nigeria	Nigeria Youth Employment and Social Support AF	6/7/2016	100	0
Africa	Rwanda	Third Social Protection System Support (SPS-3)	10/31/2016	95	0
Africa	Tanzania	TZ-PSSN Additional Financing	6/16/2016	200	0
South Asia	Sri Lanka	Social Safety Nets Project	12/2/2016	75	0
Middle East & North Africa	Yemen, Rep.	Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project	7/19/2016	50	0

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

FIGURE 1.3 RSR results chain



SPJ COVERAGE CATALYZED BY THE RSR

The RSR results chain is straightforward. The RSR provides a small amount of funding to facilitate SPJ system building and strengthening of activities in IDA-eligible countries. Many of those efforts mobilize and facilitate the preparation of a full-fledged IDA-funded project. In turn, the IDA projects provide the needed SPJ coverage (figure 1.3).

As of end December 2016, approximately 131 million people were estimated to be under the SPJ coverage of IDA-funded operations catalyzed by the RSR. Half of those are estimated to be women (table 1.7).

Given that the total programmable resources during calendar year 2016 were roughly \$110.0 million, it can be estimated that \$0.84 in additional RSR resources leads to the expansion of SPJ coverage for one additional person. This marginal cost to the RSR of SPJ coverage has become much more economical over time; the December 2015 estimate was \$1.40.

ASPIRE COVERAGE

ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity) is an ongoing program funded in part by the RSR that aims to improve SPJ data quality, comparability, and availability to better inform SPJ policies and programs. Its portal (<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/aspire/>) generates harmonized indicators to assess the performance of social assistance, social insurance, and labor market programs based on nationally representative household survey data. Most indicators are estimated by program type, for the entire population and by quintiles, of both pre- and post-transfer welfare distribution. ASPIRE coverage has increased significantly over time. At the end of the present reporting period (December 2016), its database contained data for 122 countries (including 216 surveys), compared to 57 in 2013.

TABLE 1.7 SPJ coverage catalyzed by the RSR in IDA-supported projects (millions of individuals)

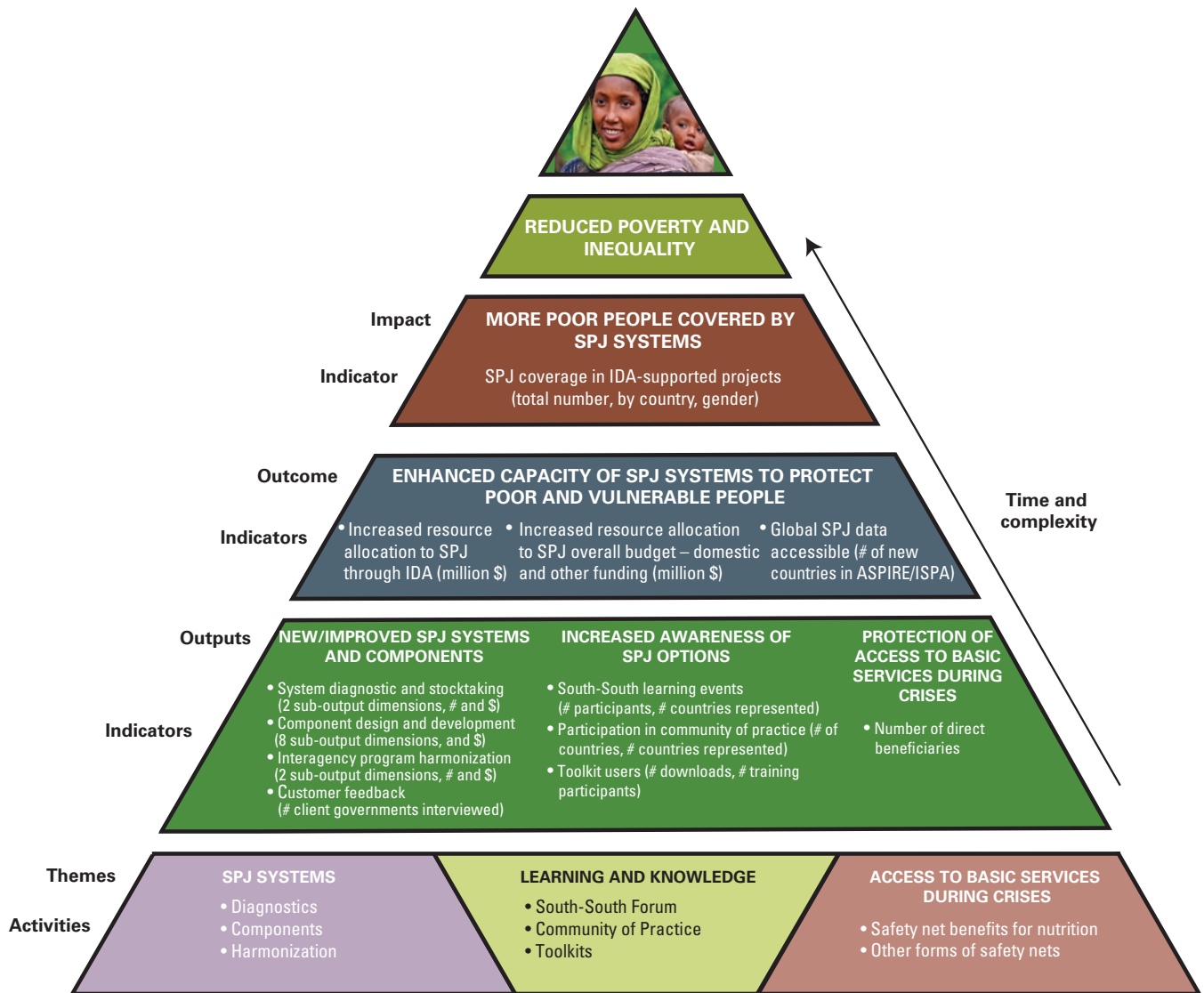
Year	Both sexes	Females only
2013	42.1	21.0
2014	77.3	38.3
2015	72.4	36.2
2016	131.5	65.8

Source: Implementation status and results reports and implementation completion reports of IDA operations associated with the RSR.

KEY RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Figure 1.4 illustrates the RSR results framework. The framework is articulated around three levels of results: (1) impacts, (2) outcomes, and (3) outputs. **Outputs** are what the implementation agency can exert the most control over, while **outcomes** and **impacts** tend to be more contingent on a variety of contextual and exogenous factors.

FIGURE 1.4 RSR results framework pyramid



SECTION 2

Country Highlights





KENYA

Support to developing and strengthening the country's social protection system

As the government of Kenya struggled with a fragmented social protection system, RSR-funded activities directly contributed to the development of a more comprehensive national social protection and labor system by enhancing the capabilities of a single registry, developing common program targeting mechanisms, and designing program graduation mechanisms. The grant was critical in advancing reforms to consolidate Kenya's major cash transfer programs and contributed to improved program delivery and a reduction in inefficiencies and duplication of efforts. Moreover, the grant ensured increased investments in the area of youth employment and informed the design of the \$150 million IDA-funded Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project.

Social protection has long been an important part of the Kenyan government's strategy to fight poverty and promote equitable economic growth and social inclusion. The country's constitution asserts the "right for every person to social security and binds the state to provide appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependents."

20

Challenge

Economic growth not matched by proportional poverty reduction.

The country's economic growth during the past decade has not yet led to the realization of the goal of "a prosperous society for all." The benefits of economic advances have accrued to the elite, as the top 10 percent garners about 40 percent of the nation's income. Poverty remains rampant. Four out of 10 Kenyans lives in poverty, as economic growth has not translated into expected improvements in development outcomes. One consequence of the uneven distribution of the country's wealth is that many of the poorest children suffer from low cognitive development stemming from poor nutrition.

Governance: a major brake on growth and development, despite improvements.

Overlapping or uncoordinated government agencies, weak implementation, and misuse of state resources are hampering development potential in many sectors. Efforts to improve oversight and accountability by strengthening the demand side of governance are under way—albeit challenging to fully embed.

Youth employment: an opportunity behind the challenge.

Growth, while solid, has been constrained by low investment and productivity. The rising number of youth in the working population represents a tremendous opportunity for faster economic growth, but only if the demographic dividend can be productively exploited. Among other things, youth will need to acquire relevant labor market skills and find the pathways to employment.

Fragmented social protection. At the time the RSR grant was made, Kenya's safety net sector was composed mainly of four cash transfer programs.

These were fragmented and uncoordinated, as they were implemented through different departments using different targeting approaches, payment mechanisms, monitoring frameworks, and complaints and grievance mechanisms.

The need: a comprehensive social protection approach that goes beyond safety nets. Kenya’s National Safety Net Program was established in response to the fragmentation challenge, creating an effective, efficient, and coherent framework within which to place the four main cash transfer programs. It was also understood that social protection services in the country would need to move beyond safety nets toward more integrated and comprehensive social services that promote economic inclusion and jobs. Poor Kenyan households need to strengthen their resilience, improve their welfare, and enhance their capacities and assets in order to be able to graduate out of poverty.

Approach

The RSR grant aimed to support and enhance delivery of Kenya’s National Safety Net Program for results and contribute to a system that would move beyond social safety nets to cover labor market programs as well. The approach consisted of three components:

- ◆ **Enhancing the functionalities of the existing single registry so that it could serve as a database for safety nets beneficiary information.** The registry is linked to the Integrated Population Registration System (IPRS). The enhancements enabled information to be shared across Kenya’s four cash transfer programs, thus allowing program implementers to verify beneficiary information against the IPRS. In this way, implementers can confirm that beneficiaries meet eligibility criteria, flag cases of beneficiary “double dipping,” and allow for provision of complementary services to eligible beneficiaries (e.g., health insurance to orphans).
- ◆ **Improving targeting and recertification.** Technical assistance was provided to develop and implement a consolidation strategy and a harmonized targeting mechanism across the four cash transfer programs to improve coordination within a single coherent framework. Among other issues, the activities undertaken aimed to bring coherence to the daily management of the cash transfer programs—including transfer of payments, handing of complaints and grievances, monitoring and evaluation, and consolidation of the program management information systems. Adoption and implementation of this strategy was expected to lead to significant efficiency gains in program delivery and to consolidate capacity, better allowing the government to link cash transfers and other related social protection programs.
- ◆ **Creating linkages with safety net and graduation programs and productive services.** These linkages involved harmonized targeting mechanisms and identifying gaps in programming. Technical assistance was provided to better understand existing programs, particularly within the youth

ASSOCIATED IDA PROJECTS

The RSR grant-funded activities in Kenya supported three IDA projects:

- ◆ **Enhanced the delivery of the National Safety Net Program for Results (P131305)** a \$250 million project aimed at supporting the Kenyan government in establishing an effective national safety net program for poor/vulnerable households
- ◆ **Supported the Additional Financing for Cash Transfers for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project (P146161)**, which was partially financed through a \$10 million IDA commitment and seeks to increase social safety net access for orphans and vulnerable children in extremely poor households through effective program expansion
- ◆ **Informed the design of the Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (P151831)**, a \$150 million IDA project aimed at increasing employment and earnings opportunities for targeted youth



employment area. This provided both the client and the World Bank with good scope to define clear links and pathways between the various safety net programs and labor market programs.

Accomplishments and Results

The \$415,250 RSR grant helped the government of Kenya accomplish much—including developing a comprehensive social protection system that also covered labor market programs. Specific accomplishments follow.

◆ **Developed the Consolidation Strategy.**

— RSR-funded activities played a critical role in the creation of a coordinating body, the Social Assistance Unit, which was a notable achievement given the difficult political economic context within the government. Three of the four cash transfer programs, which were housed within the Ministry of East African Community, Labor and Social Protection, were consolidated under this new

unit. The fourth program remains with the National Drought Management Authority because of its focus on drought-affected counties, but its implementation is closely coordinated with the Social Assistance Unit.

- Greatly improved the delivery of government programs, including harmonization of the payment mechanism and—for the first time—ensured timeliness of payments for all four programs.
- Harmonized monitoring and evaluation frameworks and consolidation of management information systems (ongoing), and complaints and grievance arrangements at the national level (efforts are ongoing at the local level).

- ◆ **Produced a harmonized targeting methodology and tool, further contributing to the consolidation of Kenya’s cash transfer programs.** The RSR grant supported development of an improved unified targeting methodology and common operational targeting procedures and guidelines; these helped in avoiding confusion and contradictions on the ground emerging from different targeting approaches and timings. The tool is expected to contribute to increased efficiency and improved targeting/coverage of the National Safety Net Program.
- ◆ **Conducted Kenya’s first attempt to profile working-age vulnerable populations through diagnostic labor market studies.** The provision of technical assistance and analytical work initiated engagement with the government and guided dialogue around youth employment activities (see box below).
- ◆ **Conducted youth consultations aimed at informing policy decisions.** Consultations were undertaken with young people to better understand their needs and desires, options and views, in terms of most appropriate social services.

Kenya Youth Jobs Diagnostic

As part of a Youth Jobs Diagnostic, 12 youth profiles were defined based on labor market conditions and demographic variables from the 2005 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey. Based on these profiles, which identify specific youth employability and social barriers, activation recommendations were drafted to

- ◆ Increase the employability of those actively seeking work;
- ◆ Equip those who are considered inactive but able to work with education and experience to enter the labor market;
- ◆ Improve upward mobility among those in low-productivity/low-paid jobs.

A WORD FROM THE PROJECT TASK TEAM LEADER...

The RSR grant was critical in advancing dialogue and reforms in the Kenyan safety nets sector. The grant-funded activities helped bring about more coherence and efficiency in program delivery, and it improved the linkages between the social protection and jobs sectors.

—*Cornelia M. Tesliuc*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Strengthening SPJ systems in low-capacity countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Four countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region—Bolivia, Grenada, Honduras, and Nicaragua, which are among the region’s poorest nations—benefited from RSR grant-funded activities which build on government efforts to reform their social protection systems, as well as ongoing Bank efforts in this regard. These activities contributed to increasing the evidence and knowledge of SPJ programs, provided a pivotal public good, and built government capacity. The activities conducted under the grant strengthened country engagement by supporting and informing policy decisions.



Challenge

Bolivia: after impressive poverty and inequality reduction, progress is stagnating with slower growth. Bolivia has achieved strong progress in reducing poverty and inequality rates since 2002, outperforming most other Latin American countries. The poverty rate decreased from 63 percent of the population in 2002 to 39 percent in 2013, and extreme poverty from 37 percent in 2002 to 19 percent in 2013. Poverty reduction was accompanied by a large decline in income inequality. However, due to a less favorable economic context, with growth decreasing from 6.8 percent in 2013 to 4 percent in 2016, progress toward reducing poverty and inequality has stagnated.

Despite large investments in SPJ, coverage and quality in Bolivia remain problematic. Even with the cushions accumulated during the period the economy was thriving, public spending efficiency must be improved to ensure it increases the coverage and quality of public services and protects the most vulnerable groups. The government has increased investments in social transfer programs (mostly categorically targeted or universal). A universal social pension guaranteeing a basic pension for all people over the age of 60 was introduced in 2008, and the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Provision has strengthened its active labor market programs. The country's two conditional cash transfer programs promote the use of health services by pregnant women and children under age two and promote basic education among school-aged children.

Grenada: high unemployment and vulnerability persist, despite economic recovery acceleration. Although Grenada's economic recovery accelerated in 2014, unemployment remained high at about 29 percent, with youth unemployment reaching about 45 percent in 2014. The country ranks high on the UN Human Development Index, compared to other countries at similar income levels, but is highly vulnerable to external economic shocks (including changes in terms of trade and declines in tourism) and natural disasters.

Grenada's social safety nets feature poor targeting, fragmentation, and duplication. A 2009 assessment found that Grenada's safety net needed improvement in several areas. Existing social assistance programs are fragmented and duplicative, with poor targeting, a lack of operational manuals and reliable management information systems to track beneficiaries and payments, and scant monitoring and evaluation. Also, better linkages are needed to positive behavioral change, such as increased school attendance among poor children. With World Bank support, the government undertook a reform of its social assistance programs, which entails strengthening the basic architecture of the consolidated conditional cash transfer program, increasing coverage of poor households receiving cash transfers, and improving the education outcomes of poor children and health monitoring of vulnerable households.

Honduras faces the highest level of economic inequality in Latin America, along with high poverty and rampant crime.

ASSOCIATED IDA PROJECTS

The RSR grant complemented activities implemented by IDA resources in all four countries:

- ◆ **Bolivia: Improving Employability and Labor Income of Youth Project** (P143995)
- ◆ **Grenada Safety Net Advancement Project** (P123128)
- ◆ **Honduras Social Protection and Its Additional Financing** (P115592)
- ◆ **Nicaragua Social Protection** (P121779)

A WORD FROM THE PROJECT TASK TEAM LEADER...

Given the fluid environment task teams work in, the flexible nature of the RSR trust fund helped teams take advantage of opportunities to the fullest extent as they appeared—and allowed the team to maintain and deepen engagement with the targeted countries while being responsive to the government’s requests.

—*Junko Onishi*

Since the 2008–09 global economic crisis, Honduras has experienced a moderate recovery: 3.7 percent growth in 2016, with the same expected for 2017. Despite the more favorable economic outlook, recent progress toward poverty reduction has been disappointing, with nearly one in five Hondurans living on less than \$1.90 a day. According to official data, more than 66 percent of the population was living in poverty in 2016. Another major challenge in the country is rampant crime and violence; Honduras has one of the highest murder rates in the world (59 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016). Additionally, Honduras is highly vulnerable to adverse natural events.

A dire need exists to improve the implementation of SPJ programs. The Honduran government has developed a conditional cash transfer program to provide income support to households in poverty and promote investments in human capital. The secretary of Social Development developed a unique registry of beneficiaries; since 2015, the conditional cash transfer program has revised its targeting formula to focus on only the extreme poor. The World Bank and IDB are helping improve program implementation through the development of transparent mechanisms and instruments for targeting program beneficiaries, monitoring compliance with program co-responsibilities, and making payments to program beneficiaries.

Nicaragua has seen notable advances in poverty reduction, despite its being the poorest country in Central America. Despite a per capita gross national income (GNI) of only \$1,870, Nicaragua nonetheless saw a 13 percent drop in general poverty between 2009 and 2014—from about 43 percent to about 30 percent. Over the same period, extreme poverty dropped 6 percent, from about 15 to about 8 percent. The country ranks among the most vulnerable in terms of natural disasters and extreme climate.

Access to basic services remains a challenge in Nicaragua despite advances. Within the National System of Social Welfare, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Children has played an important role in responding to the needs of the extremely poor. In 2009, it launched the Family and Community Attention Model, whose objective was to improve social welfare conditions focusing on the family with a life-cycle approach. The flagship program, Programa Amor, aims to improve beneficiaries’ social welfare conditions covering the different stages of the life cycle. While there have been advances in education and health, there are still gaps in extremely poor families’ use of social services that need to be addressed.

Across the four countries, the coverage and public spending of social protection programs should be assessed. In all four countries, it was deemed necessary and highly relevant to analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of spending on social protection programs. Such assessments are particularly effective when put in comparative terms with other countries in similar stages of economic development. Through the data collected and the capacity-building activities conducted under this RSR-funded activity, Bolivia, Grenada, Honduras, and Nicaragua are now able to identify program areas that require further investment or reduced spending, within the respective social protection reforms.

Approach

The overall objective was to increase evidence and knowledge of the scope and performance of existing SPJ programs so as to help inform SPJ policy, as well as to provide an important public good contributing to several regional and global knowledge initiatives. Given the limited capacity for collecting and analyzing SPJ data in these countries, the RSR grant-funded activities also aimed to improve government capacity for monitoring and evaluation of SPJ indicators. The specific activities undertaken included stocktaking and mapping of SPJ programs through data collection and analysis, estimating key indicators (expenditure, number of beneficiaries, and performance), capacity building, and contributing to analytical work to enhance policy dialogue.

Component 1: Data collection and SPJ system components mapping. Activities undertaken in this component include the following:

- ◆ Reviewed reports, policy, and research notes to identify existing information about SPJ programs in the countries.
- ◆ Collected detailed information on each program, including annual budget amounts, annual spending amounts, annual average benefits, and annual average number of beneficiaries disaggregated by sex.
- ◆ Collected information on program design features—e.g., starting/ending year, eligibility criteria and targeting mechanism description, and relevant laws—in order to develop a better understanding of how these programs operate.
- ◆ Classified the collected data and information for consistency and compatibility with the ASPIRE database.

Component 2: Capacity building. The team worked with key stakeholders in the line ministries on the data collection and analytical activities with the goal of improving capacity for sustained monitoring and evaluation of SPJ system performance. Workshops and training were tailored to maximize impact and synergies with ongoing projects and analytical activities.

Component 3: Stocktaking and dissemination. This component originally envisioned the development of policy notes. However, as implementation proceeded, it was deemed more appropriate, given some data collection delays and the timing of ongoing activities, to support country-level analytical work already under way.

Accomplishments and Results

The activities funded through the \$150,000 RSR grant contributed to increasing the evidence and knowledge of SPJ programs, informed policy in each country, provided

The training undertaken under component 2 was highly appreciated by the public officials and participants praised the immediate applicability to their day-to-day tasks.

a pivotal public good, and built government capacity. Specific accomplishments follow.

- ◆ **Informed policy decisions.** All activities conducted under this task strengthened country engagement by supporting and informing policy decisions.
- ◆ **Contributed to a comprehensive mapping of SPJ programs as well as compilation of information on their design.** There was extensive collection of administrative data on spending and numbers of beneficiaries in Bolivia, Grenada, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The information has been compiled into the region’s ASPIRE database, and will be part of the global ASPIRE database (see box below).
- ◆ **Improved government capacity to assess existing SPJ programs.** In particular, the RSR grant-funded activities filled important knowledge gaps about spending and performance, and strengthened the respective government’s technical capacity for future monitoring and evaluation of SPJ indicators. As capacity building through regular engagements by the task teams was difficult to capture and document through a regional task, the team planned and conducted discrete capacity-building activities in Grenada, Honduras, and Nicaragua focused on training technical staff on concrete analytical skills, tailored to the needs and data availability of the countries.
- ◆ **Strengthened the data analysis skills of government counterparts in all four countries supported by the grant.** This strengthening in turn facilitates knowledge exchange as the technical staff are more appreciative of the Bank’s technical and analytical contributions and are able to produce and analyze data more appropriately for and in policy making.

The Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) Initiative

The RSR grant Assessing Social Protection Systems contributed to the expansion of the ASPIRE database and has strengthened its significance as a global public good. Activities built on the LAC regional team’s experience in collecting SPJ program administrative data to contribute to the ASPIRE initiative. Prior to this, the LAC social protection database contained mostly larger, middle-income countries with higher capacity. Now LAC data for ASPIRE provides benchmarks for lower-income countries in the region as well.

The LAC region has invested in building a comprehensive database on government spending on social assistance and labor market programs in the region. The resulting database includes information on expenditure, number of beneficiaries, and SPJ program design aspects for 10 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay. This knowledge platform provides tools—including standard definitions, classifications, and templates—that counterparts in low-income settings can apply and thereby organize their data collection and reporting. It also provides data on SPJ program benchmark spending and coverage, available to inform the design of future SPJ systems.

MOZAMBIQUE

Building gender-sensitive SPJ delivery systems

The RSR helped Mozambique establish a comprehensive, robust social protection system. Through the piloting of an innovative “soft” public works scheme, female-headed household participation in public works increased, and much-needed social and community services were expanded to reach vulnerable households. Concurrently, coordination between the relevant sectors improved.

Challenge

Mozambique, a struggling shooting star. Over the past two decades, Mozambique was often referred to as “Africa’s fastest rising star,” a country well known for its rapid economic growth. What is less known is that half of the country’s population remains poor amid growing inequalities. Mozambique’s economic growth did not translate into poverty reduction or proportional improvements in development outcomes. Growth was also accompanied by very little sustained formal employment. Women in particular struggle to find stable sources of income, and female-headed households experience higher concentrations of poverty.

Social protection, but not yet for all. Although the government of Mozambique has made considerable progress in building a social protection system in recent years, the inclusion and coverage of women and the most vulnerable groups remains low. The chronically ill, people with disabilities, the elderly, and children in particular often lack protection and access to social services all together. More than two out of five children under the age of five suffer from chronic undernutrition.

Public works: not only a “man’s world.” Public works programs can reduce current poverty through participants’ labor earnings by making the assets created valuable to the poor. The Productive Social Action Program (an IDA operation) was designed as part of an effort to expand Mozambique’s social protection system. The program’s aim was to provide employment to the chronically poor through labor-intensive public works. Poor households with at least one member capable of working were targeted. After two years, female participation remained low due to a lack of appropriate activities, the absence of child care options for beneficiaries, and sociocultural constraints.

The need: gender-sensitive SPJ delivery systems. More gender-sensitive design features in the existing public works program were clearly needed. Equality of opportunity in participation had to be ensured, and female biases in project choices reversed. The specific challenges to address were (1) the low inclusion of women as well as persons with mild disabilities in labor-intensive public works schemes; (2) weak access to social and community services, and (3) weak institutional coordination among the sectors relevant to a strong social protection system.



Approach

Necessity, the mother of invention. Since the challenges were complex and touched the lives of an enormous number of people living in highly vulnerable situations, an “outside-the-box” approach was required. Coverage of public works programs had to be expanded to traditionally excluded households, while social and community services had to be expanded to better reach poor households. The team came up with a way to meet these two needs with one deed. They sought to reinvent public works programs in a model of “for the people by the people,” hiring and training community members to provide needed community services in exchange for monthly pay.

This new approach to public works was piloted—the Building Gender-Sensitive Social Protection and Labor Systems—with the aim of helping the government improve its social protection systems through increased coverage of female-headed households in public works. The project accordingly designed and implemented the following “soft” public works:

- ◆ **Offering temporary employment opportunities to women and people with disabilities in social and community service delivery public works.** These projects are less physically demanding than traditional basic infrastructure public works. Flexible working hours and results-based, rather than time-based, work were implemented to facilitate female participation while encouraging productivity.
- ◆ **Providing social and community services particularly needed by vulnerable populations.** At the district and municipal levels, a set of social and community services were identified (and their

programmatic and operational potential analyzed) that could be implemented under a public works scheme within the frame of the government’s Productive Social Action Program.

- ◆ **Strengthening the social protection system through improved coordination.** Coordination among participating sectors (social assistance, education, and health) was improved through close cross-sectoral collaboration in developing materials, delivering training, and supervising service provision. Sensitization and training activities were also conducted to ensure that implementing agencies at the local level were fully engaged with the approach and operation of inclusive public works.

Accomplishments and Results

The RSR grant helped the government create a more comprehensive and robust social protection system in Mozambique while leveraging \$10 million in additional IDA financing. Specific accomplishments include the following:

- ◆ **Expanded coverage and inclusion while increasing equality.** The grant provided employment in inclusive public works at the local level to historically excluded target groups.
- ◆ **Increase in female-headed household participation in public works schemes.** Participation by females increased by 95 percent.
- ◆ **High degree of empowerment of female beneficiaries.** A qualitative survey found that one of the project’s most appreciated outcomes was related to beneficiaries’ self-esteem, as beneficiaries providing services in their communities felt much more respected.
- ◆ **Improved sector coordination.** Mozambique’s social protection, health, and education sectors worked together closely in developing materials, delivering training, and supervising the provision of services; this resulted in improved coordination.
- ◆ **Identified inclusive public works.** The project successfully informed the government of potential alternatives to increase the coverage of its public works program by identifying inclusive public works that would promote the inclusion of previously excluded groups.
- ◆ **Support for additional poor households.** The grant activities contributed to increasing the beneficiaries of social safety net programs by supporting an additional 12,032 households through public works.
- ◆ **Expanded coverage of social and community services.** Households and vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, people with HIV, and chronically ill individuals, benefited from access to social services.

A WORD FROM THE PROJECT TASK TEAM LEADER...

The flexibility of the RSR grant allowed for a rapid response and helped build a more robust social protection system in Mozambique. It helped the government pilot an approach that improved the lives of many thousands and enabled excluded groups—women and people with disabilities—to participate in innovative “soft” public works schemes. A scaling-up at the national level is currently in the making.

—Eric Zapatero Larrio

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: 2017 KNOWBEL AWARD FOR CLIENT SOLUTIONS

RSR-funded digital benefits transfer project pushes the limits of innovation to improve social protection and livelihoods

If you are munching on a handful of cashew nuts or a piece of dark chocolate, or sipping a cup of aromatic espresso, there is a good chance that the raw materials for the delicacies you are enjoying come from Côte d'Ivoire—the world's largest producer of cocoa and Robusta coffee beans, and its second-largest cashew producer.

Côte d'Ivoire has seen significant economic growth, primarily driven by agriculture, since the resolution of its civil war in 2011. Nonetheless, poverty remains high, and most farmers live below the poverty line, while vulnerable populations in remote areas lack access to markets and basic social services.

The good news is that the country is seeing an increased focus on livelihoods, social protection, and financial inclusion as a means to address poverty. This is due in large part to World Bank Group project collaborations, such as the 2017 KNOWbel Award winner highlighted here. The Creating Markets: Digitizing Government-to-Person Transfers for Social Protection in Côte d'Ivoire project team is drawn from the Bank's SPJ Global Practice and IFC's Digital Financial Services Practice and Partnership for Financial Inclusion, including ID4D for Africa, the SPJ Global Solutions Group for Delivery Systems, and the Jobs Group. The team coordinates closely with private and public sector partners as well as with the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP).

The project takes an ingenious approach to modernizing Côte d'Ivoire's social protection delivery system while improving linkages between the country's social protection and jobs sectors. It is jointly led by Heba Elgazzar, a Senior Economist in the World Bank, and Meritxell Martinez, an IFC Operations Officer.

We spoke with Heba about her experiences working on the project, the persistence and patience required to cultivate a strong public-private partnership, and the benefits of institutional collaboration for client-focused solutions and greater impact. Heba also shared her thoughts on how a comparatively small grant (\$417,000) from the RSR became the most important driver in mobilizing \$100 million in additional IDA financing for scale-up.



Q. Congratulations to you and the team on winning the 2017 KNOWbel award! Can you tell us about the innovative aspects of this project and some of its accomplishments?

Thank you! First and foremost I would like to say that I accepted this award on behalf of our team, including the IFC lead, Meritxell Martinez, based in the field. Each and every member was indispensable and whatever success was achieved was thanks to this joint effort and the dedication of our counterparts back in Côte d'Ivoire. We are all very grateful that KNOWbel has acknowledged our project through this award.

When it comes to our work in Côte d'Ivoire, I'll begin by saying that the many years of destructive civil conflict, worsening employment prospects, and increasing poverty had hampered whatever social protection existed. In fact, large parts of the population were excluded from all social benefits, with perhaps school feeding programs being the only exception.

There was a major challenge to social protection delivery, as well as employment support, and that was that a vast number of households—especially in hard-to-reach rural areas—had not even been identified by the social protection system and were not part of a registry of any kind. In short, a large part of the population was basically missing!

The urgency of finding new ways of expanding social protection was clear and thanks to funding from the RSR, we could launch the Creating Markets: Digitizing Government-to-Person Transfers for Social Protection project. We leveraged core expertise from across disciplines and identified solutions that were then iterated with the government to ensure that a tailor-made approach for the local context was chosen.

The main innovation was that we helped improve and leverage the country's digital foundation so that it could be used to deliver social benefits—in the form of cash transfers—to even the most remote households. This meant that we could identify people who had previously been completely invisible in the social protection and labor system. Through a public-private partnership, we worked with mobile money operators to first find a way to provide these vulnerable households with mobile accounts. Once the households had been identified and the accounts set up, it became a form of identification.

We then set up a routine schedule for transferring social benefits to areas that are very difficult for social workers to reach—thereby circumventing significant infrastructural weaknesses due to the long conflict, while ensuring financial inclusion and the redistribution of the spoils of economic growth to the most vulnerable.

We helped improve and leverage the country's digital foundation so it could be used to deliver cash transfers to even the most remote households.

Côte d'Ivoire has actually become one of the fastest-growing digital finance markets in the world.

For the first time in Côte d'Ivoire, vulnerable households have received cash transfers from the government through mobile money technology—including beneficiaries from local cooperatives who have started to leverage the technology for improving livelihoods. The approach represents a significant innovation for government-to-person payments in Côte d'Ivoire through the government's Productive Social Safety Net Program.

In just the very first phases of the program, a vast number of people in remote areas have been reached. Approximately 210,000 poor individuals from 35,000 previously unreachable households have benefited from mobile money accounts and e-cash transfers as of the end of December 2017. In addition, some 600,000 individuals from nearly 100,000 households are now registered with the social registry system, although not all of them are mobile account/e-transfer beneficiaries. The program has also been instrumental in mobilizing additional IDA financing for future scale-up.

I should also mention that the project has helped open up whole new markets and the country's telecommunications network is expanding rapidly: it has actually become one of the fastest-growing digital finance markets in the world.

Q. Let's talk a bit about digital payments and their benefits in the context of social protection programs. Have you been able to see a reduction in transaction costs?

The payment delivery mechanism represents a significant element of the administrative budget of most social protection programs. A shift to digital payments can help reduce transaction costs by improving transparency and reducing leakage while opening the door for vulnerable households to benefit from access to the financial system.

We have managed to reduce the transaction costs, and there are multiple aspects to our savings. First, we believe that the financial savings have been substantial. The fee the mobile money operators charge is around 1 percent (at the most 3 percent) of the cash transfer payment itself. Whether hiring a secure financial agent to deliver cash transfers to the beneficiaries, or opening new bank branches—the labor, transportation, and additional security would certainly be much costlier than that 1 percent. Moreover, recipients of cash payments in rural areas often have to travel considerable distances to designated locations, incurring high travel costs.

The second aspect, which is not quantifiable, is the time factor. Here we have made substantive savings for both beneficiaries and providers, with one small caveat: With a project like this you have to put in the time upfront to make sure the system works from an accountability perspective.

Finally, in Côte d'Ivoire, many families get around on foot, and they can be physically vulnerable to street crime and theft when picking up regular cash payments, often at publicly known times. By using digital payments, the risks and costs associated with potential crime can be reduced.

Q. Have you noticed whether the digitization has had a particular impact on women?

Digital payments can be an introduction to the formal economy and help increase women's economic empowerment. We know that it can help women gain greater control over household incomes, and budget decisions. In many cases, it's the first account a woman has in her own name, and it can be a critical first step for a budding entrepreneur—and perhaps lead to the formalization of her small business.

We have anecdotal information about three main areas pertaining to the women's dimension (once our data come in, we will have more information). First of all, we have observed that women are becoming increasingly active in farming and income-generating activities—specifically, in the cooperatives.

Second, we have seen an early effect with regard to savings, and these savings tend to be driven by women in the households. Through the data we collect via the mobile providers, we have learned that women have taken on a prominent role savings-wise. Women often hold back in terms of withdrawing their entire amount and will leave an amount as savings when possible.



Third, with digitization, there has been an uptake in requests for birth certificates and identification of children. We believe it is the mothers who drive this.

Q. How did this project help lay the foundation for an efficient public-private partnership?

When it came to our work with the private sector and developing a contract between the mobile money operators and public entities, I can say that it initially was far from easy. It required persistence and patience, as the public and private sectors had not worked closely together before. We therefore had to begin by cultivating a trusted relationship. The government did not have a system set up for contracting out services—especially not social safety net services—and it took a lot of work, time, and patience to ensure that the contract was set up correctly and that it was working well. But let me emphasize, the time spent upfront was well worth it.

The initial challenge we had to circumvent was that the mobile money operators were used to being able to charge much more when dealing with private clients. After much negotiation, we managed to convince the private sector to charge less for the sake of poverty reduction—which we saw as a tremendous achievement.

Among other things, we developed a framework for the mobile operators to ensure they would be reliable and follow through. We also developed a novel system that ensured the mobile operators collected additional behavioral data and information—which they would not normally do—in order for us to better understand the behavioral dimensions of the project.

The mobile operators provided the project beneficiary households with free handheld phones. This not only benefited the households in numerous ways, but it also benefited the private sector, as the operators acquired new mobile

customers—customers who will likely be tapping into additional digital financial services down the road. In short, a whole new market opened up for the private sector.

At the same time, the government is now able to monitor and reach its citizens, increasing transparency and leading to cost savings. Another innovative aspect of the project was the introduction of reporting and accountability, which was new for both the government and the private sector.

Proof that it has gone well is that the government is scaling up to additional households and will be working with the same mobile providers, continuing the new positive relationship that has been established.

We managed to convince the private sector to charge less for the sake of poverty reduction. . . [subsequently] a whole new market has opened up for the private sector.

Q. I learned that a positive side effect was that project beneficiaries spontaneously began organizing themselves in cooperatives to improve their livelihoods. Can you tell us more?

Yes! And this links to the upcoming work that the Bank's Jobs Group will be leading to help take the project to the next level. What we saw very soon after the digital injection was quite remarkable. We observed small-scale farmers coming together and spontaneously organizing themselves in local cooperatives. Farmers who had not previously been organized in groups suddenly showed a disposition to work together. Needless to say, being able to communicate with each other more easily through the mobile phones they received is what facilitated the formation of new, mainly agricultural, cooperatives.

This anecdotal behavior change is not yet so much about pulling knowledge and cash together, but more about working collectively—at least at this initial stage. Equally important, we observed that with the formation of cooperatives there was also an increase in activity and productivity during the hours farmers spent in the field (although we do not yet have the concrete quantitative data). Even the minister himself—Minister of Employment and Social Protection Jean-Claude Kouassi—was quite impressed with these developments.

This is very encouraging, as dynamic cooperative approaches play a critical role in farming, as a lot has to do with scale and market. Value chains work best when their actors cooperate to produce higher-quality products and generate more income for all participants along the chain.

The Jobs Group will therefore be looking at how these farmers and cooperatives can add value to and improve their products while helping them climb higher up along the value chain—but also investigating how this digitization can further spur growth in related sectors in services and commerce. The government has expressed excitement about the possibilities this may bring about.

Q. How do you think this project contributed to the mobilization of additional IDA financing?

Our RSR-funded activities complemented and improved an existing IDA-financed project, Productive Social Safety Net (\$50 million), and it was the impressive project results that were instrumental in leveraging and preparing the ground for additional future IDA financing. These additional funds will be used for scale-up of the Productive Social Safety Nets project and expand beneficiary coverage. In fact, this past April, the World Bank Group's

Very soon after the digital injection, we saw small-scale farmers spontaneously organizing themselves in local cooperatives.

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vice president for Africa, Makhtar Diop, announced to the government that the World Bank Group will be doubling the current amount of the loan!

Without the RSR grant, the original program would not have had the tremendous impact it had on the ground. Also, it was the \$450,000 RSR grant that was the most important driver behind the mobilization of \$100 million in the forthcoming additional IDA financing for future scale-up—showing that relatively little can go a long way!

I believe that additional IDA financing would not have happened without the RSR-funded activities, which contributed to the project along several dimensions—dimensions that were not only nice to have, but were in fact essential for the success of the project. For starters, the RSR funding allowed us to recruit critical in-country expertise on local delivery system aspects—expertise needed to take the original project to the next level.

Without the RSR grant, the original program would not have had the tremendous impact it had on the ground.

Without the RSR, in-country specialists could not have been hired and the diagnostic would be lacking. In order to understand the entire social protection system and internal dynamics, we had to look at multiple dimensions such as how the pensions and information systems worked, and of course assess the existing livelihoods and delivery/social assistance payment systems to be able to set up reporting.

The above-mentioned components can be entirely attributed to the RSR and were absolutely essential for the success of the project. Without it, the program would not have worked and had the same impact; without it, we would not have seen the concrete results, with approximately 210,000 highly vulnerable and poor individuals benefiting from cash transfers; and without it, we certainly wouldn't have been able to attract the additional IDA financing.

Q. This project is a wonderful example of institutional fusion—with the SPJ Global Practice, the IFC, the Jobs Group, and the private and public sectors working collaboratively to achieve better social protection, jobs, and sustainable livelihood outcomes. What advice would you give other teams wanting to collaborate?

First and foremost, the development challenges that we are trying to tackle in this day and age are of such immense magnitude and complexity, cutting across disciplines and sectors, that we simply can't go about it on our own. We must first begin by trying to understand the problem at hand—which requires looking at it from all angles—since if we do not accurately diagnose a problem, subsequent efforts will either fail or not be as impactful, sustainable, or scalable.

In our case, what spurred the collaboration was precisely this: a realization and acknowledgment early on that the multifaceted challenges—infrastructure, institutional, financial—to program implementation could only be addressed through multifaceted thinking and by leveraging respective comparative advantages.

The skills, talents, experiences, and connections that one side lacked, the other side possessed. For example, the IFC brought critical private sector development expertise, experience, and connections to the table; while the World Bank came in with over 30 years of experience focused on poor consumers and was able to help all parties better understand how to meet the needs of the economically disadvantaged. World Bank involvement also brings political support, which in turn can help mitigate risk.

In our case, a joint business approach to the client was a win-win proposition. If I were to give some concrete advice for a successful collaboration, I would say:

- ◆ **Take the time to get to know each other** early on; do not wait.
- ◆ **Try to learn each other's language** and understand the expectations of the respective institutions: why colleagues from other institutions behave in certain ways—how staff and institutions need to prioritize and how they are incentivized; measurement and clearance requirements, etc. Many misunderstandings can be avoided this way.
- ◆ **Be very clear about roles and responsibilities** upfront—that was the key to our collaboration success.
- ◆ **Keep the main thing the main thing.** Agree on a couple of essentials and try to see eye to eye on the rest. Understand the need for trade-offs and accept that there are some differences—and that that's fine!
- ◆ **Embrace any creative tension.**
- ◆ **Forget about instant gratification** and try to overcome the resistance to making choices that involve paying upfront for gains that may accrue later.
- ◆ **Look at the bigger picture.** When staff understand that the collaboration is worth the extra effort for the sake of the beneficiaries and a more impactful project, then it's easier to remain incentivized.
- ◆ And finally, the client sees us as one, so we must **act as one.**

The development challenges we are trying to tackle in this day and age are of such immense magnitude and complexity that we simply can't go about it on our own.

NEPAL

Technical assistance in building the social safety net system

An RSR grant of \$450,000 helped lay the groundwork for a \$150 million IDA operation greatly expanding acutely needed social protection and labor coverage in Nepal. The grant helped direct the country's SPJ agenda away from stand-alone projects and toward systems building for greater long-term impact, ultimately benefiting well over 2 million Nepalis.

ASSOCIATED IDA PROJECT

RSR-funded achievements were instrumental in leading the Nepalese government to request an full-scale IDA-financed project. This project, the five-year **Strengthening Systems for Social Protection and Civil Registration Project** (P154548), will support establishment of a comprehensive national population register and expanded coverage of civil registration and social security allowances; it will also improve benefit delivery via e-payments in selected districts along with improvements in related processes. These activities will be supplemented with institutional strengthening at the central and local levels.

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Challenge

Rapid poverty reduction yet modest growth. Countries around the world usually experience the opposite problem, as income has become increasingly concentrated in the hands of the wealthy. Nepal has, over the past decade, halved its poverty rate and reduced income inequalities. However, the country remains poor and is one of the slowest-growing economies in the region.

Developmental hurdles: geography, natural forces, and frequent political change. Nepal has a challenging topography and is landlocked, creating a natural barrier to development. The country also has a propensity for natural disaster with often devastating destruction and developmental setback as a result. Near-continuous political transitions, marked by unrest, have negatively affected human capital investments.

Remittances: a social safety nets blessing or a development curse? Nepal is one of the world's largest recipients of remittances as measured as a share of the economy; this is likely the main reason behind its rapid poverty reduction. A large number of Nepalis leave their country to seek opportunities elsewhere, which is a sign of chronic problems. The remittances provide a safety net, but do not improve the quality of public services, health, education, and so on, which remain at unacceptable levels. The large-scale migration depletes the country of human capital and competitiveness, and has relieved pressure on policy makers to deliver results.

Social protection challenges: low efficiency and low coverage. Weak delivery systems mean the key challenges in Nepal are efficiency and coverage. A recent analysis indicated considerable undercoverage of around 30–40 percent among eligible senior citizens and single women—with the incidence even worse among the poorest. At times people are unable to access their benefits, as they are unaware of them, and/or lack a means of transportation or even the required identification documents to prove eligibility.

The need: expanded coverage of civil registration and modernization of social security allowances delivery. The



largest social protection program in Nepal is its social security allowance cash transfer program, which covers about 2.3 million vulnerable beneficiaries. It largely relies on a manually maintained beneficiary database and manual cash payment to beneficiaries through local government officials. The absence of an electronic database and payment mechanism has meant errors in the beneficiary database, possible duplication, alleged leakage of funds, and delayed benefit payments. Also, because Nepal does not have an electronic population register, the government cannot identify and target eligible beneficiaries of the program.

Approach

The developmental objective of the RSR grant was to support the government in strengthening the basic architecture of its administrative systems within its main social protection implementing ministry. The emphasis was on the payment system, the management information system, and the ministry's internal institutional arrangement for social protection policy coordination and service delivery.

◆ **A gradual process of piloting, reviews, and dialogue toward ministry ownership.** The RSR technical assistance activities built on the World Bank's previous engagement in helping Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development in enhancing its administrative systems, through an IDA- and RSR-funded technical assistance program. Through a gradual

process of piloting, reviews, and dialogue, the ministry (and now the Department of Civil Registration which was created within the ministry to manage civil registration and social security administration) has solidified its ownership of the systems modernization agenda.

- ◆ **Combining in-depth technical assistance with stakeholder consultation across agencies.** Given Nepal’s unstable political and institutional context, technical assistance was more effective when it combined upstream conceptual and in-depth technical advice—accomplished through multiple technical missions and the preparation of a series of briefing notes—with a process of consultation among key stakeholders across agencies. This two-pronged approach was applied, for example, in the development of an electronic payment strategy.

Accomplishments and Results

The RSR grant-funded activities—along with earlier RSR-funded technical assistance—have been instrumental in achieving the following:

- ◆ **Leveraged IDA financing of \$150 million.** The RSR grant helped develop technical input into the design of the IDA-financed project, which was approved in December 2016.
- ◆ **Modernized Nepal’s social protection delivery system.** Integral to this modernization was the development and roll-out of an electronic payment strategy, which signified a major advance for the country. Relevant ministries have solidified their ownership of the systems modernization agenda. The work was conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund, drawing on detailed technical analyses and structured consultations with stakeholders.
- ◆ **Institutional strengthening of the government’s social protection service delivery.** The grant strengthened the basic architecture of institutional administrative systems within the main social protection implementing ministry, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development. Activities such as the institutional assessment of local-level service delivery arrangements supported institutional strengthening.
- ◆ **Built government capacity.** The grant helped build the capacity of government officials involved in civil registration and social security mandates.
- ◆ **Benefited over 2 million IDA project beneficiaries and citizens at large.** Although the grant-supported activities focused on upstream conceptual and technical advice and not on actual implementation or scale-up, many people are now benefiting from the strengthened government systems to which the grant contributed the groundwork. Operationalization of the grant-supported actions is now supported through the IDA project.

A WORD FROM THE PROJECT TASK TEAM LEADER...

The RSR grant offers a flexible tool to finance technical assistance activities that can make an enormous difference in the quality and depth of technical engagement in our client countries. Its explicit focus on the social protection systems agenda is fully appropriate, and the RSR program management’s rigor in enforcing a strong design and proper reporting and filing ensures that the activities supported are not frivolous.

—Yasuhiko Matsuda

SOUTH SUDAN

Operationalizing the National Social Protection Policy Framework

Years of conflict have devastated South Sudan's economy and exacerbated humanitarian crises. Further, limited government ability to coordinate social protection activities and provide much-needed services has affected household resilience. However, RSR-funded activities have managed to improve the coordination of social protection activities in South Sudan while strengthening government capacity to monitor and evaluate social protection efforts.

Challenge

New and emerging vulnerabilities are deepening and increasing in the midst of the ongoing humanitarian and economic crisis. Close to 2 million South Sudanese have become refugees, and another 2 million are internally displaced. Six million people are experiencing severe food insecurity, making South Sudan one of the most food-insecure countries in the world. In particular, the loss of social networks, assets, and livelihoods has left thousands of productive young men and women unemployed, and making it difficult for them to provide for the basic needs of their respective families. There is an urgent need to provide social protection to the poorest and most vulnerable groups in an effort to improve their welfare and strengthen their resilience against shocks and stresses.

Government has limited ability to coordinate social protection activities. Social protection is increasingly seen as an important part of the government's strategy to fight poverty and promote economic growth. However, its capacity to design and implement an effective social protection program remains limited. Weak administrative capacity, as well as a lack of infrastructure, continues to hamper the effective design and implementation of social protection programs. Capacity constraints also limit the depth of analysis of various ongoing programs to allow for improved evidence-based programming and policy making. Significant assistance is needed to build government capacity in strengthening the social protection system and transforming the National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) into practical and viable programs that can be implemented.

Approach

The development objective of the RSR effort is to provide support to the government of South Sudan in operationalizing the NSPPF. An RSR grant of \$410,000 for 2016–18 aims to provide the government with analytical and technical assistance,



specifically covering (1) sectorwide assessment of social protection programs and (2) technical assistance to operationalize the NSPPF and knowledge transfer. The lead implementing agency is the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.

The initial plan was to proceed with the sectorwide assessment first, the findings of which would inform the parameters of the technical assistance. Accordingly, a rapid social vulnerability assessment (RSVA) was conducted. However, an outbreak of violence in July 2016 in Juba City—and subsequently in the rest of the country—as well as evacuation of the World Bank’s South Sudan Office to Nairobi prevented further sectorwide assessment. Implementation plans were adjusted to suit the **restrictive operating environment**, and the focus shifted to the technical assistance component informed by the RSVA; support was provided from Nairobi by a social protection specialist. However, now that the World Bank Country Office has relocated back to Juba and the operating environment has once again been deemed favorable for implementation, efforts are being made to quickly scale up the sectorwide assessment component—taking into account ongoing insecurity in parts of the country and restricted access.

The technical assistance component initially focused on these areas of support:

- ◆ Developing roadmaps toward designing and implementing priority programs per the NSPPF
- ◆ Strengthening the capacity of government counterparts to take the lead in the development of social protection projects

- ◆ Building capacity to better coordinate social protection activities
- ◆ Strengthening capacity within the budget and planning unit of the implementing agency

In light of current realities on the ground, it was agreed that RSR technical assistance would narrow its focus to strengthening government capacity to take the development lead and improve its capacity to coordinate activities. This resolution was also informed by RSVAs recommendations, which found that related programs in the social protection sector had been almost entirely financed by development partners, with little government leadership and/or ownership; further, programs had not been delivered at scale and remained fragmented and poorly coordinated, leading to duplication, overlaps, and gaps in coverage.

Accomplishments and Results

The RSR grant-funded activities have helped achieve the following:

- ◆ Approval and launch of the NSPPF
- ◆ Establishment of operational tools for a social protection system
- ◆ Strengthening of government capacity for monitoring and evaluation
- ◆ Development of grievance redress mechanism (GRM) structure in Juba City
- ◆ Replication of GRM structure in three other counties, since government now has the knowledge to replicate
- ◆ Strengthening of government capacity with regard to procurement processes
- ◆ Improved coordination of social protection activities

Improved Coordination of Social Protection Activities

Prior to the RSR-funded support, the government's involvement in the coordination of social protection activities was minimal, and limited to the Social Protection Technical Working Group. This group was chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, but—while it included relevant line ministries and development partners—it did not include humanitarian actors. Those actors are responsible for the lion's share of the social protection-related projects in the country in the form of safety net assistance. In an effort to strengthen government capacity to coordinate related activities in both humanitarian and development areas, key stakeholders were engaged in the partner-led Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster to ensure that the government was included in the forum, particularly in the Cash Transfer and Markets Working Group. The government is now a regular participant in the coordination meetings and has improved its knowledge of ongoing activities in the sector.

TANZANIA

Enhancing sustainable livelihoods and graduation from social assistance by removing bottlenecks to self-employment and household enterprises

A little can go a long way. An RSR grant of \$420,000 helped promote policy dialogue with the government of Tanzania while strengthening the evidence base for policy interventions related to household enterprises. It also informed a wide range of SPJ programs through a survey conducted on constraints to and opportunities for household enterprises. In fact, the grant helped create a public good that will be used in other countries too, as the tools designed with grant funds are already in demand by other World Bank country teams. The activities are also informing the design of a new IDA project.

Challenge

Economic growth and declining poverty rates, yet rampant extreme poverty. Over the last decade, Tanzania has experienced relatively high economic growth of 6–7 percent a year. Despite declining rates of poverty, the absolute number of poor has not dropped; one of the reasons for this is high population growth. An estimated 47 percent of Tanzanians still live in extreme poverty, and others live just above the poverty line and risk falling back into poverty in the event of socioeconomic shocks.

Population explosion: peril and opportunity. Tanzania's overall population is currently about 55 million. In absolute numbers, the size of its youth population almost doubled between 1990 and 2010, increasing from 4.4 million to 8.1 million; this figure will swell to 15 million by 2030. Each year, nearly 850,000 youth enter the labor market, and Tanzania's economic prospects will depend on how it can capitalize on this demographic dividend. Getting it right—by fostering human capital accumulation and productive job creation—could translate into tremendous economic growth. Getting it wrong could have severe implications, including instability and mass migration.

Household enterprises: the fastest growing employment source, at 10–15 percent per year. Although a large percentage of Tanzania's poor work in agriculture, workers are increasingly shifting away from this sector in an attempt to improve their living conditions. Since the supply of nonfarm jobs is limited, individuals are forced to create their own employment. There are approximately 5 million nonfarm businesses in Tanzania, consisting mainly of household enterprises that are mostly run with the help of family members. While these enterprises have helped improve living conditions for some and created employment for the owner and potentially other family members, most workers involved remain

ASSOCIATED IDA PROJECTS

IDA funding of \$200 million supports **Tanzania's Productive Social Safety Net** (PSSN; P124045 and P151838); the RSR qualitative research described here focused on these IDA project beneficiaries.

RSR-funded activities are supporting the design of a new IDA operation under the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), which implements the PSSN. This new TASAF operation will incorporate key findings from the RSR qualitative research to **strengthen the PSSN's Livelihoods Enhancement Strategy** and complementary interventions.

poor and vulnerable and do not have specialized skills. Faced by numerous barriers, many household enterprises do not grow or survive for very long.

The need: a better understanding of household enterprise dynamics, opportunities, and bottlenecks. Household enterprises could play a pivotal role in poverty reduction, income generation, and job creation and could help better meet the needs of the growing labor supply. But their full potential can be fully realized only if the major constraints to their growth and productivity are removed. And for that to happen, a thorough understanding is needed of what those constraints actually are and how best to address them.

Approach

The development objective then was to **identify the most important factors** in higher productivity in nonfarm self-employment and household enterprises—what poor families perceive as the constraints to and opportunities for starting and growing household enterprises—and to identify potential interventions to address these constraints.

To this end of **learning before taking informed action**, the RSR-funded activities aimed to (1) strengthen the evidence base for policy interventions related to household enterprises; (2) contribute to the government’s Livelihoods Enhancement Strategy linked to the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF); (3) help develop a methodology for identifying constraints to self-employment and household enterprises among poor families (especially PSSN beneficiaries) that will be relevant for other countries—especially developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The World Bank and the TASAF worked together to better understand household enterprise constraints and opportunities, with the ultimate aim of improving the design and implementation of future interventions targeted to the poor to improve their livelihoods.

The approach entailed qualitative and quantitative research:

- ◆ **Qualitative.** The team collected information through four qualitative techniques conducted in eight villages/communities, in eight geographically diverse districts across Tanzania:
 - 40 **focus group discussions** with PSSN beneficiaries and nonbeneficiaries
 - 2 **individual life story interviews** per village
 - 2 **key informant interviews** per village, including community leaders and representatives of local financial institutions, nongovernmental organizations, etc.
 - **Contextual mapping** through participant observation

A total of 385 people were interviewed, including more than 200 beneficiaries of PSSN interventions (i.e., cash transfers, savings groups, livelihood enhancements,

and public works); the box below summarizes key findings. Data were collected between May and June 2017, and a draft report has been prepared.

- ◆ **Quantitative.** The team conducted quantitative research which involved analysis of the household survey results conducted among PSSN beneficiaries and nonbeneficiaries. The quantitative research was carried out in coordination with a randomized impact evaluation. A specific module of the survey was developed focusing on household enterprises—specifically, the characteristics of and constraints to starting and growing household enterprises; this module was included in the impact evaluation household survey. The quantitative assessment will complement work performed through qualitative assessment. Results from the quantitative research will be available in 2018.

Interview Findings: Perceived Constraints to and Opportunities for Starting and Growing a Household Enterprise

CONSTRAINTS

- ◆ **Access to finance.** Forty percent of the household enterprises interviewed perceived lack of access to finance as the biggest barrier in starting, growing, and sustaining their business; only 10 percent had accessed formal loans. Many faced difficulties in meeting loan conditions (e.g., collateral). Other barriers cited included high interest rates and living far from financial institutions.
- ◆ **Markets/business environment.** Twenty-eight percent indicated that low demand for their goods, high competition, and fluctuating prices were major constraints. Nine percent identified lack of access to quality infrastructure and services as barriers to productivity.
- ◆ **Skills/education.** Only 10 percent felt impeded by a lack of skills or education; however, 72 percent declared they would be able to spend two or more hours per week to attend technical training, if they had the opportunity.
- ◆ **Agricultural productivity.** Nearly all respondents reported that poor growing/harvesting seasons affect their income. For those selling farm goods, bad weather limits the amount of goods they can sell; whereas if they sold a nonfarm goods/service, it limits the amount of money potential customers have to spend.

OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ **Positive perception about the PSSN cash transfer.** In general, respondents were positive about the PSSN. Cash transfers/cash for work have helped cover basic needs—and for some, have helped them start or expand a business.
- ◆ **Savings groups.** Some mentioned that being part of a savings group is the best way for them to save some money, with women being particularly successful at this.
- ◆ **Gender.** Even though women have less time available than men to engage in business given their domestic duties, they are perceived as better managers of household money.
- ◆ **Overall.** The most successful beneficiaries are those who invested their savings, improved their skills through training, and were supported by their families.

Accomplishments and Results

The \$420,000 RSR grant helped accomplish the following.

- ◆ **Strengthened the evidence base for policy interventions.** Among other things, the RSR-funded activities resulted in the production of a qualitative report and toolkit, life stories, and a quantitative survey module.
- ◆ **Promoted policy dialogue with the government of Tanzania.** The RSR-funded findings entailed a pivotal entry point to stimulate dialogue and actions on how to improve employment outcomes and household enterprises and are expected to influence government policies.
- ◆ **Helped the government by contributing to its Livelihoods Enhancement Strategy.** In this regard, the RSR worked with those ministries and agencies involved in the formulation and implementation of policies most relevant to household enterprises, livelihoods, and activation/graduation of safety net beneficiaries—including TASAF, the Prime Minister's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government, the Ministry of Labor and Employment, the Ministry of Educational/Vocational Training, the Ministry of Finance, and the Planning Commission.
- ◆ **Informed the PSSN and supporting the design of an IDA project.** The results of RSR activities are informing a new TASAF operation aimed at scaling up livelihoods interventions. Results of this work in turn will help refine Bank private sector operation activities.
- ◆ **Created public goods.** The tools designed in the RSR activities can be used in other countries—and are already in demand by World Bank country teams. The grant enabled production of two important public goods that can be used to complement other analytical tools in identifying both constraints to self-employment and household enterprises and potential interventions. The two instruments developed (the quantitative and qualitative survey) are modular, which will allow future surveys—both in Tanzania and in other countries—to more easily use the questions developed. The methodology should be particularly helpful in Sub-Saharan African countries.
- ◆ **Informed a wide range of SPJ programs affecting household enterprises.** The results from these surveys have informed various actors—including policy makers, institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the beneficiaries themselves—and influenced related government policies.
- ◆ **Leverage additional resources.** The RSR activities are expected to leverage other resources—in particular, from the follow-up survey for the impact evaluation of PSSN beneficiaries in Tanzania.

A WORD FROM THE PROJECT TASK TEAM LEADER...

The RSR allowed us to show the importance of public goods through the production of two public goods that can be used in other countries. The qualitative report and tools are already in demand by World Bank specialists working with client countries, such as Zambia.

—*Maria Laura Sanchez Puerta*

UGANDA: 2017 KNOWBEL AWARD FOR LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Uganda's RSR-funded Building Resilience against Drought project uses satellite data to predict drought and build rural population resilience

In 1907 a young Winston Churchill dubbed Uganda “the pearl of Africa”—as he, like so many others to the present day, was struck by its stunningly beautiful and rich nature. In fact, some years ago, government PR specialists felt it was time to “rebrand” Uganda by shifting the focus back to the beauty Churchill spoke of—and away from disasters, poverty, and civil strife—and so the slogan “gifted by nature” was coined. However, beauty aside, the country faces major environmental problems and climate-related disasters, particularly drought—exasperated by overgrazing, deforestation, and primitive agricultural methods—contributing to soil erosion and landslides.

Although Uganda has made significant gains in reducing poverty—the share of people living in poverty fell from 62 to 35 percent between 2003 and 2013—the poorest

For magnificence, for variety of form and color, for profusion of brilliant life... for vast scale—Uganda is truly “the Pearl of Africa.” —Winston Churchill

40 percent of households remain extremely vulnerable to drought and price shocks. Moreover, Uganda’s economy has grown at a slower pace in recent years, reducing its impact on poverty. The slowdown was due to many factors, including regional unrest and private sector credit constraints, but the main factor was increasingly adverse weather. Uganda is particularly vulnerable to disasters and droughts, which take a tremendous toll on the population and the economy: the 2010 and 2011 droughts caused damages and losses of a whopping \$1.2 billion, or 7.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2010.

The good news is that Uganda is focusing more and more on finding ways of reducing the risks associated with drought. For example, through the RSR-funded project Building Resilience against Drought: The Case of Uganda—a component of the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund project (NUSAF III), a \$130 million IDA lending operation led by the World Bank Group’s SPJ Global Practice—the government, in collaboration with the Bank, has developed an innovative solution to predict disasters while providing timely assistance to the most vulnerable during crises. The project won the 2017 KNOW/bel Learning from the Past Award, in fierce competition with over 200 submissions from across the World Bank and the IFC.

We spoke with Endashaw Tadesse Gossa, Senior Social Protection Specialist—who leads the project in joint collaboration with Barry Patrick Maher, Senior Risk Financing and Insurance Specialist—about his experiences working on the project.



Q. Does nature discriminate? When disaster strikes, people in poorer nations often pay with their lives—90 percent of deaths worldwide over the past 20 years occurred in poorer nations.

Destructive earthquakes and ruinous flood waters do not discriminate. However, it is clear that societal inequalities are leading the poor to live in more dangerous areas such as hillsides prone to landslides and in less safe houses—making them more likely to be more affected.

And, while natural disasters may strike without prejudice, the path to recovering from them is much less equal. In developing nations, people often lack the safety nets needed to recover; ironically, the situation can be similar in some developing nations, where the systems in place to help those most in need often fail precisely those most in need—the poor. Look at the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Many of the displaced have still not been able to return home.

Droughts, floods, landslides, and hurricanes have always happened, but they are now happening more frequently, and the impact is becoming more calamitous. While climate change can explain much of it, it does not directly cause every extreme weather event; but there is great concern that climate change is making existing events worse—and that it'll continue to impact future catastrophes. For example, an increase in global temperatures would lead to more extreme weathers, which in turn would drastically increase droughts, with vast numbers of displaced people as a result. Not to mention the impact of rising sea levels. Just today, the chance of being displaced by a natural disaster is 60 percent higher than it was in the 1970s.

Q. So, if natural disasters are becoming more frequent and their impact more devastating, what should governments in the developing world do to manage the risk? And please tell us what Uganda is doing about this.

First and foremost, governments in developed—and even more so in developing—nations should do their utmost to reduce their contribution to climate change. Beyond that, it's critical to think ahead: better preparation can pay dividends both for the present and the future. Climate-related challenges will bring about unimaginable suffering, and we are often not prepared even for the climate-related risks we already face. Nobody would be immune, but it is the poor and the vulnerable who suffer the most—those who did the least to cause climate change. Preemptive risk reduction is key.

There are many different things one can do preemptively, depending on region needs and types of risks, such as improving infrastructure and the safety of buildings, preventing land erosion, etc. Optimally, I would say that



governments should invest in resilience—like early warning systems and broadening social safety nets for vulnerable populations.

And this is precisely what Uganda set out to do under the third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund Project—namely seeking to ensure that development gains are protected by social safety nets, providing income support to and building the resilience of poor and vulnerable households in Northern Uganda through labor-intensive public works and livelihood income support activities.

Uganda's population is reliant on agriculture, and its predominantly rural population consists mostly of smallholder farmers who are subject to production constraints and have limited capacity to cope with recurrent shocks. So when droughts strike, not only do they lose the food they eat, they also lose the little income they generate through farming.

The government of Uganda felt that its response to drought had been ad hoc, reactive, and delayed, so it decided to improve its response. In 2015, it introduced a \$12 million disaster risk finance program.

It was this program that was awarded the KNOWbel 2017 Learning from the Past Award (see box).

Q. Can you tell us a little about how you went about predicting droughts?

Our approach is quite innovative. We use satellite data to predict drought, while at the same time developing a sustainable disaster response system. When it comes to the satellite part, we worked with Uganda’s Department of Disaster Preparedness and Response to predict droughts using the latest satellite technology, and collaborated in designing a satellite index that could spot the early signs of drought. We drew on experience using satellite technology that our team gained while working in Kenya—that’s where the “learning

Following an RSR Grant Down the Results Chain

A rather modest (\$258,800) RSR grant laid the foundation for sustainable social protection in Uganda and helped pave the way for future projects—including the award-winning \$12 million disaster risk finance project highlighted here, Building Resilience against Drought: The Case of Uganda.

Specifically, the funds supported review of Uganda’s social protection policies and sector. Experience from a range of countries in Africa has demonstrated the vital role a comprehensive review can play in setting the foundation for an effective social protection system. Prior to the review, social protection in Uganda had largely consisted of ad hoc food aid by development partners. The review revealed gaps in coverage, duplication of efforts, and limited agency coordination. These and other challenges were addressed by laying out an implementation framework for increased efficiency and coordination among agencies. For the first time in its history, Uganda acquired a clear framework and roadmap for its social protection sector.

The RSR-funded activities played a critical role in bringing stakeholders together while ensuring that the government of Uganda could take on a leading role in the process. It set forth explicit recommendations on enhancements needed for achieving a cohesive social protection system. The review in turn informed the National Social Protection Policy (March 2016). Drawing on the sector review, the policy is being operationalized through a program plan of priority interventions.

A look down the results chain shows that the impact of the RSR grant went well beyond its initial scope and time frame. Among other things, it came to inform the design of the disaster risk finance component of the IDA Northern Uganda Social Action Fund project; this constitutes a concrete example of the RSR’s extended impact. The RSR activities also informed social policy dialogue as well as policy preparation.

The government of Uganda had a big “ask” for the disaster risk finance mechanism. The government wanted it to respond early, just when the initial signs of drought were beginning to emerge, as this would enable quick reaction.

from the past” angle of the award comes in.

In Uganda, we focused on the region of Karamoja, where households are acutely vulnerable to droughts. The World Bank Group team worked closely with the government to streamline data collection and analysis to help officials better understand drought conditions and how to monitor them. We developed processes and systems so the government can rapidly identify upcoming challenges.

We all agreed that we should also pilot the mechanism in this vulnerable region. I should share what my co-Task Team Leader, Barry Patrick Maher, pointed out: the government of Uganda had a big “ask” for the disaster risk finance mechanism. The government wanted it to respond early, just when the initial signs of drought

were beginning to emerge, as this would enable quick reaction and protect the Karamojong from resorting to negative coping strategies such as pulling children out of school, cutting back on food and health care, selling livestock—which can wreak havoc on development outcomes.

Q. What are some of the project results this far?

The disaster risk financing component allowed the government to predict droughts ahead of time and offer additional support to poor households in times of crisis and to rapidly scale up the public works activities of the project—so people would have an income despite farming losses due to drought. For example, the El Niño event in 2016 caused a widespread lack of rain and led to pervasive drought in Northern Uganda. The data system developed by the government captured the drought in Karamoja and triggered a scaling-up of the public works program. Moreover, \$4 million was rapidly mobilized to finance disaster response.

Over the life of the operation, the project is estimated to finance the cost of scaling-up public works to a total of 400,000 people, or 80,000 additional households.

Our project is an innovative solution that responds directly to the need of the poorest. It has already informed similar projects in Senegal, Fiji, and elsewhere. Some of the project results in Northern Uganda thus far include the following:

- ◆ The project established a \$10 million contingency reserve fund (using project resources) to finance the expansion of public works programs.

- ◆ More than \$6.3 million was mobilized to provide rapid disaster assistance to over 300,000 people (50,000 households) in response to drought seasons in 2016 and 2017. These numbers were in addition to the approximately 25,000 (5,000 households) core beneficiaries who were already receiving assistance.
- ◆ A parametric index was developed to monitor drought. Among other things, it was able to foresee the massive drought accompanying the 2016 El Niño that was about to hit the Karamoja region.
- ◆ The public works program was scaled up.
- ◆ Data collection and analysis were streamlined to help decision makers better understand drought conditions.
- ◆ A transparent decision-making process was developed, with accountability and checks, to trigger a response.
- ◆ A range of estimates was produced for the financial cost of the scalability mechanism, which supported financial preparedness planning and enables rapid response.

Q. I understand that this was project a collaborative effort?

It was indeed. The Finance and Markets Global Practice and the SPJ Global Practice partnered to lead the work. We worked in very close collaboration with the government of Uganda as well as with local authorities, UN agencies, Makerere University, and civil society organizations. The project also has been generously supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Finally, I would like to mention that it was an RSR project that informed the design of our award-winning project. The RSR project also informed the social policy dialogue and preparation of the final social protection policy that was approved by the government in 2016—all of which paved the way for our work on disaster risk management.

The RSR project paved the way for our work on disaster risk management.

SECTION 3

Special Channels





THE RSR-DR WINDOW

RSR support has addressed disaster-responsive social protection since 2015. This new agenda brings RSR involvement to middle-income countries through partnership with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

According to the 2016 *Annual Disaster Statistical Review*, there have been about 376 natural disasters each year over the 2006–15 decade; these have affected an average of 224 million people each year (Guha-Sapir et al. 2016). Worldwide, in 2016 alone, 342 reported natural disasters caused 8,733 deaths; these affected 569.4 million people, and caused \$154 billion damages (Guha-Sapir et al. 2016).

Addressing the challenge posed by shocks requires an integrated approach of various social protection programs, together with other disciplines and sectors. Social protection programs can work together at different points along the risk chain: prevention and preparedness, response, and recovery and reconstruction. By so doing, they can help bridge the gap between humanitarian and development assistance.

While disasters do not discriminate, the poor and vulnerable are disproportionately affected relative to the average population in many countries—thus exacerbating their situations and undoing years of developmental gains. Limited savings and access to finance constrain the ability of vulnerable households to respond to and recover from shocks. Traditional coping mechanisms provided by family or community may be overwhelmed by large covariate shocks such as natural disasters. In such circumstances, poor households are often compelled to employ harmful, short-sighted strategies to cope with loss—which can have a lasting and scarring effect on individuals, households, society, and the economy as a whole.

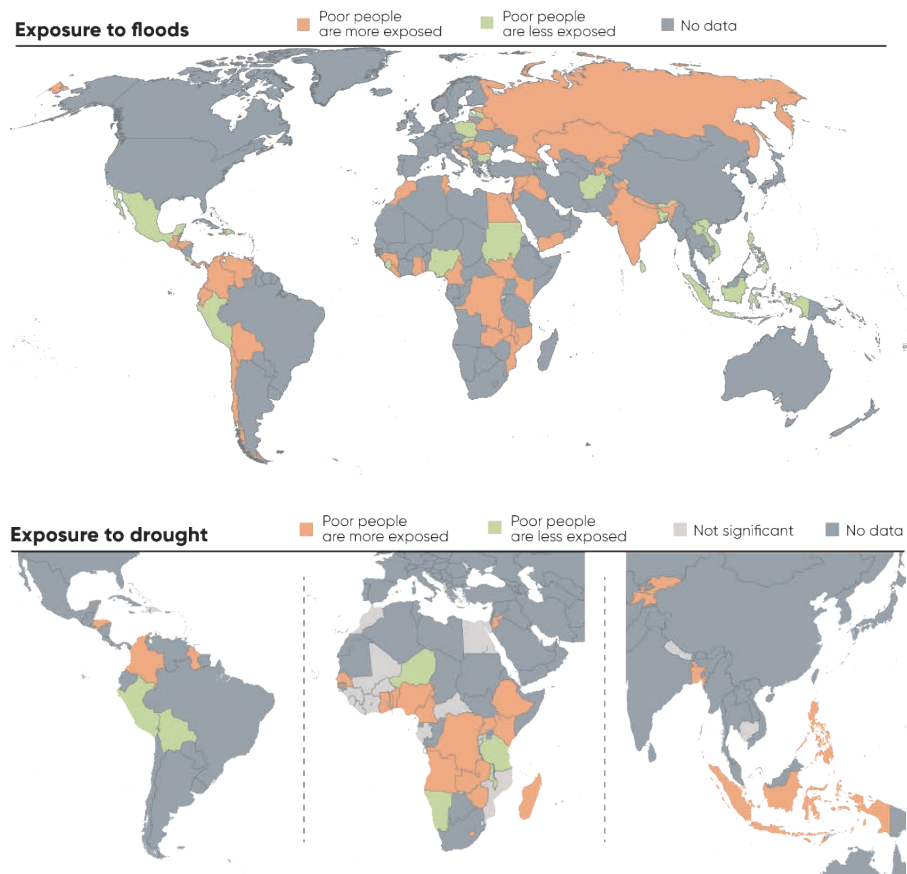
Climate change further exacerbates this trend of natural disaster threats to the resilience of the poor. Figure 3.1, for example, illustrates the exposure of poor households to floods and drought worldwide.

The SPJ Role in Disaster Response

By definition, one of SPJ’s key roles is to increase the resilience of poor and vulnerable households to a variety of shocks. While traditionally intended to help cushion the effect of economic shocks, SPJ programs and systems are becoming more adaptable to non-economic shocks—including natural disasters—given the increasing potential for such programs to be scaled up and protect those most vulnerable from destitution.

Important linkages with humanitarian response. While social protection can play a vital role in helping people prepare for and recover from disasters, in cases of fast-onset disasters, first responders and humanitarians are on the scene to provide immediate, life-saving relief. The **reconstruction** period after a disaster hits is managed by a mix of institutions, including first responders, the World Bank, and government agencies, and focuses on infrastructure rehabilitation and on meeting the immediate needs of the affected populations. The subsequent

FIGURE 3.1 Exposure to floods and drought worldwide



Source: Hallegatte et al. 2017, based on Winsemius et al. 2015.

Note: Poverty exposure bias to flood is for 69 countries; for drought, 52 countries.

recovery phase, which begins before markets are restored, is when the chronic poor need the most help and when SPJ can have the biggest impact and play the most important role. Specifically, SPJ can initiate a multitude of interventions that center on income and consumption support, psycho-social care, livelihood restoration and diversification, and community rehabilitation.

Ex ante and ex post: SPJ's role in disaster preparedness and response. SPJ programs have the potential to build household resilience before a shock strikes (ex ante) and support recovery and continued resilience building among affected/impacted households, ex post as well.

◆ **Ex ante situations.** For disaster-responsive SPJ to have an impact before a disaster strikes, it is necessary to have policies, programs, and systems in place to allow for a better response. Accordingly, the RSR and the GFDRR have, from the outset, supported the new **adaptive social protection agenda**, which stresses the importance of building households' resilience so they are better prepared before a shock occurs. Agenda initiatives include public works that strengthen resilience, landscape rehabilitation, hazard-proofing infrastructure, and

The RSR and the GFDRR

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery is a global program that helps developing countries

better understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to natural hazards and adapt to climate change. Managed by the World Bank, the GFDRR is supported by 34 countries and 9 international organizations (see <https://www.gfdr.org/donors>).

The RSR has been chosen by the GFDRR to mainstream disaster risk management into SPJ activities—specifically, as a mechanism to reach out to SPJ policy makers and practitioners; to call for, evaluate, and select viable proposals for grant financing; and to monitor and supervise grant-supported activities. GFDRR staff members actively participate in all of these steps, and administer the funds that flow through the RSR-DR window.

contributing to asset accumulation. When such programs are complemented by appropriate policies and strategies, a disaster-responsive SPJ program or system is able to effectively extend services temporarily to a new caseload in a targeted area, expand support into a new area, or increase support in existing areas.

- ◆ **Ex post situations.** Worldwide, the delivery of SPJ services is characterized by ad hoc programs hastily established after a disaster. Implemented in this fashion, such programs can often take time to be delivered, lack transparency, and struggle for coordinated delivery. However, implementing similar interventions through preestablished SPJ systems—which is the core of RSR work—can increase their timeliness, coordination, efficiency, transparency, and accountability, all to the ultimate benefit of those who have been affected. Other SPJ instruments can also be used to respond, including labor market interventions, skills training, social insurance mechanisms, and the like.

Synergies between SPJ and DRM

There are mutual benefits in continuing to explore and build on the synergies between SPJ and DRM:

- ◆ SPJ systems can be used to effectively channel resources to those most in need following a disaster and can strengthen resilience of households and communities before disasters occur.
- ◆ DRM information systems can provide valuable information on the need to intervene and the degree to which people are affected by certain disasters.
- ◆ A review of existing SPJ-DRM programs worldwide reveals a common thread of design and implementation parameters that ought to be established to make social protection more disaster responsive, including the following:
 - Programs should have a sufficient footprint, flexible design, and comprehensive service delivery systems in place ex ante.
 - Appropriate and credible information (on livelihoods, meteorological data, etc.) should be available to determine the needed response, prepare adequately, and influence timely decision making.
 - Established disaster risk financing arrangements should exist that govern disaster response.
 - Institutional coordination and capacity should be in place to carry out disaster-responsive social protection programs.

Recent Activities Supported through the RSR-DR Window

Through its partnership with the GFDRR, RSR-DR support totaling \$2.1 million has been provided as of end 2016 to activities in Colombia, Jamaica, Lesotho, the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu), the Philippines, and Swaziland. In addition, the RSR has supported two activities through the RSR Classic window; these are in Dominica and Grenada and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Table 3.1 shows the set of activities funded during Round 10.

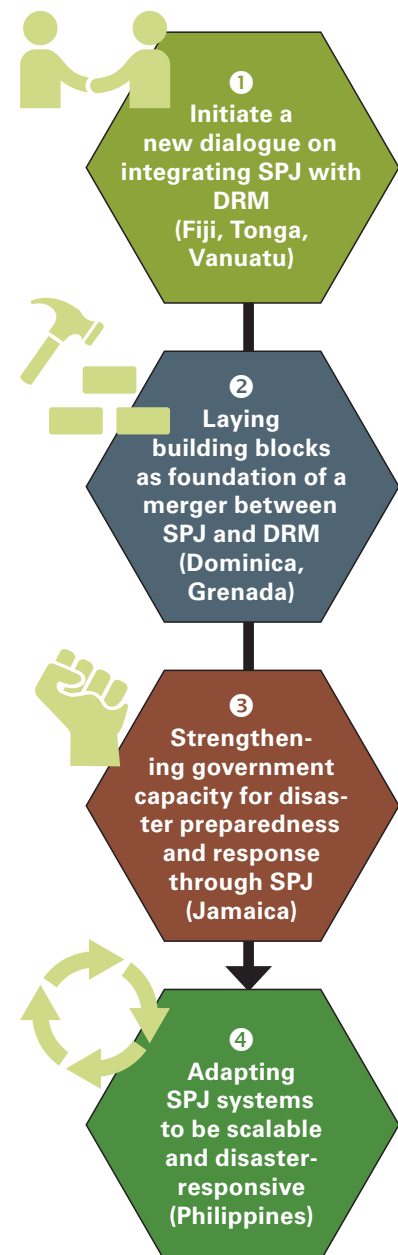
Table 3.1 RSR disaster-responsive projects approved in Round 10

Funding window	Project	Grant (\$)
RSR-Classic	Strengthening Social Protection System for Disaster Preparedness and Response in St. Vincent and the Grenadines	300,000
RSR-DR	Building Social Protection's Role in Disaster Response and Resilience in Swaziland and Lesotho	360,000
RSR-DR	Strengthening Social Protection Interventions as a Disaster Risk Mitigation Mechanism—Colombia	440,000

The RSR-GFDRR partnership has helped support a variety of activities in countries with varying degrees of SPJ systems maturity. These activities correspondingly can be seen as existing along a spectrum of increasing integration and systems building, as shown in the figure to the right and illustrated in the following country highlights.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Vanuatu.** The RSR helped initiate a brand-new dialogue with the government on policy options for integrating SPJ and DRM, given the country's increasing exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters.
- ◆ **Dominica and Grenada.** The RSR is helping these countries fortify their existing SPJ systems and—at the same time—making them more responsive to disasters by strengthening core building blocks through analytics, capacity-building initiatives, and technical assistance.
- ◆ **Jamaica.** The RSR-DR grant has helped make the existing Program for Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) program more disaster responsive. The flagship conditional cash transfer program's service delivery mechanisms have been used to provide cash and in-kind support to poor and vulnerable households postdisaster. To make service delivery more effective and be able to reach a larger number of affected people, the grant helped the government improve the design of delivery mechanisms and provided necessary training for staff and beneficiaries.
- ◆ **The Philippines.** The RSR-DR project is centered on strengthening the government's ability to better protect poor and vulnerable households postdisaster. The social protection and welfare programs in the Philippines—delivered through the Department of Social Welfare and Development—have been at the frontline of disaster response, as witnessed after Typhoon Yolanda in 2013. Nevertheless, the potential for social protection to better assist those most in need during the response period after a crisis occurs has much potential for improvement. The project aims to help assess the potential for introducing a scalable emergency cash transfer in country, which will replace some of the in-kind assistance; it also looks to introduce a management information system to support such an important postdisaster program.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The \$300,000 RSR project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Strengthening Social Protection System for Disaster Preparedness and Response, is facilitating improved stocktaking of the current design and performance of the SPJ system. To date, such monitoring and evaluation has been extremely limited. A better information base will serve as the foundation for planning and coordinating between SPJ and DRM spheres and activities.

The grant will also provide critical technical assistance to the government to support improved SPJ delivery processes and tools in postdisaster contexts—such as improving identification of beneficiaries and payment mechanisms, implementing better operating processes for SPJ support postdisaster, etc.

The grant complements two important IDA-funded activities providing over \$16 million to St. Vincent and the Grenadines: the Human Development Service Project (P154253) and the Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project (P117871). This synergy is very much in line with the RSR's catalytic nature.

Given the multisector nature of the RSR project, one of the main lessons learned to date has been to ensure flexibility and continuous communication with government counterparts. The project aims to improve coordination among the ministries and agencies responsible for SPJ and DRM. Through RSR support, the grant will soon provide specialized training for staff in both sectors in a range of SPJ tools as well as in an adaptive SPJ curriculum.

Ultimately, the RSR grant will help improve government capacity and service delivery to ensure better crisis preparedness as well as response.

THE ASP-DRM TOOLKIT

The GFDRR Tokyo Hub is supporting the development of a new adaptive social protection (ASP)–DRM toolkit to facilitate communication across the SPJ, DRM, and disaster risk financing arenas. The primary target audience is SPJ specialists who help World Bank Group client countries strengthen the natural disaster responsiveness of their SPJ systems—or more broadly, mainstream DRM in country SPJ policies, programs, and service delivery. Other target audiences are those in either the DRM or disaster risk financing communities, those who work closely with and support the SPJ specialist audience, and those who are interested in using SPJ programs and services as a platform to support their objectives. The final product, which is expected to be launched in FY2018, will be an interactive e-book with a corresponding website.

SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING FORUM

In FY2017, the RSR approved a new grant in support of the upcoming South-South Learning Forum on **Building Resilience through Adaptive Social Protection**. The forum, co-hosted by the World Bank and GIZ, is the flagship event of the SPJ Practice. Its main objective is to bring together client officials and policy makers to share and advance global knowledge and practice on social protection.



The 2018 forum will continue themes explored in Berlin in 2016. The topic of adaptive social protection was selected for several reasons, notably because of its

relevance and progressive nature, client demand to better understand how such programs and systems can contribute to managing risks, and a desire to build on the momentum of the global agenda in this area.

What's Next?

Globally, there is growing attention in development frontiers for social protection to become more disaster responsive. The partnership between the RSR and the GFDRR has helped fortify SPJ-DRM collaboration and generate new knowledge and dialogue related to this agenda. Country-specific grants, as well as regional knowledge exchange forums, have helped to both initiate and continue building on this agenda.

There has been increased recognition of the importance of strengthening the resilience and coping capacity of households before shocks strike. Adaptive SPJ systems, policies, and programs help individuals and households better manage the risk of shocks. This is accomplished through instruments that build household resilience both before shocks occur and after they have occurred. The upcoming South-South Learning Forum on Adaptive Social Protection will enrich this agenda by fostering knowledge exchange and a sharing of experiences through the convening of over 200 government officials and development partner organizations to discuss this topic.

Institutional coordination in linking SPJ-DRM remains a big challenge. RSR and GFDRR grants that support the SPJ-DRM agenda through diagnostics or technical assistance have highlighted the need to continue working on and building more coordination and linkages between the two sectors. While there is a natural link between SPJ and DRM, they often exist in different silos and answer to different government agencies.

There is still a global gap in coverage of the most poor and vulnerable by SPJ programs. Natural disasters disproportionately affect those most in need, both due to geography and a lack of coping mechanisms. The synergies between SPJ and DRM will thus have a great impact in low-income countries prone to disasters with a high poverty level. These synergies will also benefit middle- and high-income IBRD countries—like the Philippines—that remain vulnerable to disasters.

The RSR is well positioned to carry this development momentum forward. Originally conceived as a crisis response program, the RSR is well aligned to continue its engagements in disaster-responsive SPJ. Through its partnership with the GFDRR, the RSR can continue to be at the forefront of this new SPJ-DRM agenda. Specifically, it can engage in this agenda through knowledge products that help expand the currently limited body of knowledge on disaster-responsive SPJ, as well as through technical assistance on adaptive SPJ systems development.



THE RSR-NS WINDOW

Supporting work in both low- (IDA) and middle-income (IBRD) World Bank Group client countries, RSR-NS grants can fund stand-alone pilot activities or add a nutrition-sensitive lens to ongoing country programs.

An estimated 45 percent of all deaths of children under five years of age are linked to malnutrition (Black et al. 2013), and globally almost 2 billion people suffer from some form of malnutrition (IFPRI 2016). While poorer countries may exhibit greater rates of undernutrition (too little food and nutrients), rates of overnutrition (too much of the wrong food) are rising as well—and are already high in many advanced economies. When both under- and overnutrition are present in a country, which is not unusual (IFPRI 2014), the economy may feel the impacts of the “double burden of malnutrition,” and governments must tame a two-headed beast that begins as a health concern but ends with negative impacts on human capital, safety nets, government services, and national expenditures.

In short, malnutrition is a barrier to health and development all over the world (see, e.g., executive summaries in Shrimpton and Rokx 2012 and IFPRI 2016). However, with their broad reach within and across countries, social protection systems—especially safety net programs—can play a large role in overcoming this challenge (Alderman 2016).

The RSR Role in Nutrition

According to the Post-2015 Copenhagen Consensus, the reduction of chronic malnutrition is 1 of the 19 (out of more than 100) best value-for-money development options through 2030 (Kydlund, Schelling, and Stokey 2015). RSR-NS grants allow governments to take critical steps toward these investments through social protection system, such as adapting existing safety nets to identify those in need of growth promotion and nutritional counseling.

However, working across sectors does not come naturally. Experts, ministers, and officers are very engaged with their own responsibilities and ways of doing business. Programs with similar goals are often housed in different institutions, and data on participation and outcomes are spread across different repositories. As a result, policy is held back by the effort it takes to find complementarities between programs and systems.

Working across sectors to leverage programs, expertise, and data is a central benefit of a nutrition-sensitive approach. RSR-NS grants provide an option for governments to maximize their programs’ value or to develop new ones.

Recent Activities Supported through the RSR-NS Window

The RSR-NS window supports critical connections between nutrition and social protection in a way that can lead to meaningful policy change (table 3.2). Work supported by this window has evolved since the 2016 Annual Report, and this year shows scale-up and adoption by governments.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Mexico.** Mexico stands out for using an RSR-NS grant to contribute to its “culture of evidence-based policy making,” **piloting ways to establish causality** among complex multisectoral programming. The World Bank team supported the design of an Integrated Social Information System that works across massive national safety nets—including PROSPERA and the Crusada Nacional Contra el Hambre (National Crusade Against Hunger); an operational manual to ensure its effective use was completed this year. The team has also been ahead of the curve in terms of supporting **integration of early child development and safety nets**, and organized a multisectoral mission with PROSPERA, health, and early child development representatives.
- ◆ **Armenia.** The RSR-NS grant in Armenia brought the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to **consensus around shared priorities** bridging nutrition and social protection, with a Nutrition-Sensitive Safety Nets working group formed to validate and strengthen countrywide nutrition data. This demonstrated ability to work together in both strategic and operational capacities is a significant step forward for coordination in the country. A major contribution of the Armenia work has been to create a **case referral system** whereby local social protection agents are trained to assess malnutrition among program beneficiaries and then refer them to the correct health sector (and safety net) services. As with RSR-NS support in other countries, the grant allowed the government to review its **criteria and targeting algorithms for social safety net benefits**, while providing a suite of policy options based on household data and new surveys.

Whether providing a new space for policy dialogue or supporting operational details, the RSR-NS window allows key policy players to come together.

MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION

Six of the RSR-NS teams actively connect multiple ministries and institutions in policy planning and implementation. In **Botswana**, for example, workshops between World Bank experts, government officials, and UNICEF led to a new National Social Protection Framework which includes nutrition-sensitive activities and guidance for coordination across ministries. In **Guatemala**, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Development hammered out details on disbursements for a nutrition-focused cash transfer; and the team in the **Arab Republic of Egypt** is bringing together the Ministries of Education and of Social Solidarity to understand the targeting overlap between school feeding and conditional cash transfer programs.

TABLE 3.2 Current RSR-NS grant portfolio

Year	Grant	Objectives	Budget (\$)
FY16	Enhancing Public Food Delivery Systems as a Safety Net	(1) Review the role of public food distribution systems (PFDS) as part of the national safety net; (2) understand factors that affect the design of PFDS programs across studied countries and their reforms over time; (3) document selected aspects of current design and implementation	450,000
FY16	Support the Strengthening of the Mexico SPJ System and its Focus on Wellbeing, Nutritional Status, and Food Security	(1) Inform policy reforms that can increase the coverage and effectiveness of the social protection system in Mexico; (2) document important results and lessons from Mexico to inform other policy dialogues	380,000
FY16	Armenia Social Inclusion and Activation	Improve the targeting of social safety nets and enhance the contribution of the social assistance system in identifying and reducing malnutrition	380,000
FY17	Strengthening the Social Protection System in Botswana to Contribute to the Eradication of Food Poverty	Support the development of a nutrition-sensitive social protection system through development of key reforms and tools	340,000
FY17	Improving Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection in Ecuador	Support the government of Ecuador in increasing the impact of the social protection system in reducing chronic malnutrition through (1) enhancing the coordination of programs and benefits, and (2) strengthening coordination with the health sector	302,250
FY17	Design of Conditional Cash Transfers for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition in Madhya Pradesh, India	Support development of a strategy, design, system components, and piloting of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program for maternal and child health and nutrition in Madhya Pradesh	450,000
FY17	Leveraging Social Protection Systems for Improved Nutrition [Guatemala]	(1) Strengthen the foundational systems of a CCT program to more effectively target households, deliver benefits, and manage co-responsibility verification as part of an integrated approach to reducing chronic malnutrition; (2) support strengthened monitoring and evaluation of the CCT program; (3) provide support to increase the functionality of the social registry as a dynamic tool to prioritize, coordinate, and harmonize SPJ interventions across sectors	150,000
FY17	Supporting Multisectoral Approach to Reduce Malnutrition among Indonesian PKH [Program Keluarga Harapan] CCT Families	Support the PKH program with a practical mechanism for monitoring, coordinating, and even encouraging reliable and high-quality health services; strengthen monthly family development sessions for PKH beneficiary mothers as a platform to relay essential food and nutrition messages to promote positive behavior changes toward better health and nutrition	400,000
FY17	Strengthening School Feeding Program in Egypt	Support the government of Egypt in expanding school feeding programs in coordination with other social safety net interventions, promoting improved nutritional outcomes for children attending public schools in poorer areas	400,000

SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE

Few people want to reinvent the wheel, and this holds true in nutrition-sensitive social protection. RSR-NS grants are taking advantage of shared experience in several ways. For example, the team in **Armenia** built on a learning visit by the Ministry of Labor to **Brazil** to hear about the Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) program; and **Ecuador** learned from **Peru**'s dramatic stunting reduction, later presenting its own unique and highly successful text messaging pilot to reach rural populations.

In addition to such country-country exchanges, the RSR-NS window recently supported a global research project, **Enhancing Public Distribution Systems as a Safety Net**. This grant effort highlights lessons in public food distribution systems across the world. Working with authors from India, Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and the United States, the RSR-NS team published its final report in book form in the fall of 2017 (see box on opposite page). The team found that despite theory and evidence generally favoring cash, in-kind food programs remain relevant, evolved, and, in most circumstances, improved over time (see Alderman, Gentilini, and Yemtsov 2018). Their analysis is the first of its kind in terms of scope, and is being presented and shared at international forums.

GOVERNANCE

Nutrition-sensitive approaches are still new to many government programs, and become more likely to “stick” if they are well designed, coordinated, and taken up by ministries. In this spirit, an RSR-NS grant to a team in **Madhya Pradesh, India**, allows support for the roll-out of a new conditional cash transfer, the National Maternity Benefit Program, by the Department of Women and Child Health; this support includes a scheme for impact evaluation. A team in **Indonesia** is helping the social assistance and health ministries provide coordinated services at subnational levels, focusing on families in the country's largest conditional cash transfer program. And, in a significant achievement for the RSR-NS window, the government of **Ecuador** is ready to scale up its text messaging behavior change pilot for reaching rural populations.

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

The social protection sector focuses on pro-poor services that target vulnerable populations. RSR-NS grants take advantage of this strength by moving toward registries that track use of government services across multiple ministries, especially in support of safety net programs.

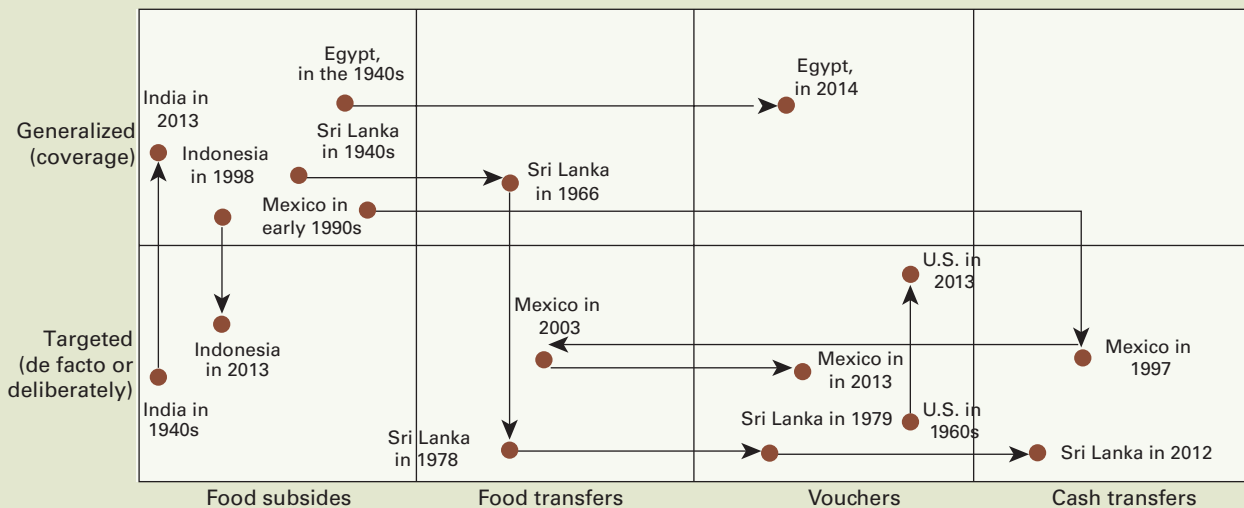
As of September 2017, **Botswana**'s RSR-NS team had completed an upgrade to its social registry database, which now tracks social safety net use, food supplementation programs, and more. The system is being tested with beneficiary data, and operations training for the relevant ministries is soon to follow. **Guatemala**'s grant emphasizes the importance of data collection and co-responsibility, looking at how health service data is collected and how cash transfer beneficiary co-responsibility is verified; it additionally is ensuring the ministries of health and social development have systems that can “talk” to each other, through a unified registration database.

Food, Vouchers, or Cash Transfers?

Government safety nets take many forms. These programs must balance costs, coverage, and results—and take into account country politics and history of implementation. A long-standing challenge in this realm has been to weigh the comparative impacts of providing vulnerable individuals with one of three types of support: cash, vouchers for specific goods, or food.

Using a grant funded through the RSR-NS window, a team of researchers and practitioners within and outside the World Bank led a six-country case study on food distribution systems around the world. The countries examined were Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

The following illustration shows the evolution of the programs examined in the six countries. The researchers found that, on average, there have been gains in moving from in-kind to vouchers or cash assistance. Further, they found that improvements to programs have largely been driven by factors such as political leadership at key junctures, credible evidence, a judicious use of technology, appropriate delivery processes, and ways to hold providers accountable.



The team's careful analysis of the evolution of large-scale, domestic food-based programs has set the stage for a fresh look at how vulnerable populations are served. The resulting book, *The 1.5 Billion People Question: Food, Vouchers, or Cash Transfers?* was released in 2017, and is already generating demand on how to apply global lessons to country contexts—including in Jordan, Lebanon, and the Republic of Yemen.

Source: Alderman, Gentilini, and Yemtsov 2018.

Indonesia is working at the opposite end, taking child nutrition data already collected by its flagship cash transfer program (PKH) and leveraging it to embed complementary health messages in other social development programs.

What's Next?

There is much more ground to cover in the area of nutrition-sensitive social protection, and the RSR-NS mechanism is well positioned to respond. The following themes are likely areas of entry for new projects.

- ◆ **1,000 days.** Sources such as the 2013 *Lancet* series on maternal and child nutrition point to the period from the first day of pregnancy to a child's second birthday—approximately 1,000 days—as a critical time for development, when human capital may become locked in for the rest of a child's life. This rallying cry of the public health nutrition world should continue to guide targeting choices within social protection programs.
- ◆ **Early childhood development.** While concepts such as breastfeeding and growth promotion are typically led by nutrition or health sectors, the education sector has much to contribute to safety net programming. Parents' interaction with their children, such as those involved in conditional cash transfers for households with caregivers, similarly play a significant role in cognitive and socio-emotional development. Social protection ministries should consider reaching out to their education—especially their early childhood development—colleagues.
- ◆ **Maintaining collaboration.** In cases such as Armenia, RSR-NS grants may be allowing a country to work on nutrition across ministries for the first time. These interactions provide the building blocks for multisectoral and nutrition-sensitive work, but represent a significant shift in approach—and even mindset—toward collaboration. Future rounds of grants can build on such groundwork, and will require continued investment to establish nutrition sensitivity as a norm.
- ◆ **Behavior change communication (BCC).** Nutrition and social protection find a programmatic intersection around BCC. Conditional cash transfers can encourage use of government services such as growth promotion, or find ways to include individual or small-group counseling approaches to address nutrition knowledge, attitudes, and practices. BCC is a common challenge in improving nutrition, and an area that can be strengthened in RSR-NS grants.

These and other themes will continue to drive the RSR-NS as a mechanism bringing a nutrition-sensitive lens into the social protection arena. The cohort of grantees will serve as a natural knowledge network to further South-South exchange, and together create a supportive grant system that will grow more impactful over time.



SECTION 4
**Financial
Status**





As of October 23, 2017, development partner contributions to the Rapid Social Response Program—covering the RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund, the RSR Nutrition-Sensitive Trust Fund, and the now-closed RSR Catalyst Trust Fund—totaled about \$117.07 million, including investment and other income. These contributions covered activities under the RSR Classic and RSR-NS funding windows; funding for the RSR disaster-responsive window is provided through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery’s own multi-donor trust fund and not reported on here. Table 4.1 presents the financial summary for the three RSR trust funds, including information on development partner cash contributions, investment income, grant commitments and disbursements, and funds available for allocation against future calls for proposals.

The RSR MDTF, the RSR-NS, and the RSRC have earned investment income on the undisbursed balance accumulated since the inception of the three trust fund programs. The income is used for the same purposes as the contribution funds, as specified in the respective trust fund administrative agreements. At present, the RSR MDTF is valued at \$110.46 million (\$108.39 million in development partner deposits, plus \$1.90 million in investment income, in addition to \$0.18 million in returned funds). The administrative fee for the three trust fund programs represents the cost of administration and other expenses, which are in accordance with the terms of the administrative agreements.

Contributions by Development Partner

The Russian Federation remains the largest funder of the RSR MDTF, followed by the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, and Australia. The United Kingdom joined the RSR MDTF in 2013 with a total contribution of £15 million.

The Russian Federation is the sole contributor to the RSR-NS trust fund, aimed at SPJ system building and strengthening, with a total contribution amount of \$3.30 million. All funds under this trust fund are fully allocated, and the trust fund is expected to close on June 30, 2018, unless the closing date is extended.

The United Kingdom, via the Department for International Development, was the sole contributor to the RSRC trust fund. A total contribution of £2 million (about \$3.24 million) was received against the trust fund program. These funds supported the preparation of key analytical work in 30 countries focused on assessing existing programs, technical assistance to improve components of existing systems, and building the capacity of implementing teams. This trust fund program closed June 30, 2012.

Table 4.2 shows the breakdown of the RSR MDTF by development partner: \$50 million from the Russian Federation, £15 million from the United Kingdom (about \$23.36 million), Nkr 130 million from Norway (about \$21.62 million), SKr 70 million from Sweden (about \$10.43 million), and \$A 2.90 million from Australia (about \$2.97 million). These contributions represent the amounts specified in the administrative agreements between the development partners, IBRD, and IDA.

TABLE 4.1 Status of RSR contributions by trust fund, as of October 23, 2017 (million \$)

	RSR MDTF	RSR-NS	RSRC	Total
a. Receipts				
Cash contribution ^a	108.39	3.30	3.24	114.93
Investment income ^b	1.90	0.05	0.02	1.97
Other income ^c	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.18
Total receipts	110.46	3.35	3.25	117.07
b. Grant amount/allocation^d	93.91	3.27	3.01	100.20
c. Nonproject disbursements				
Refunds ^e	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07
Administrative fee ^f	1.08	0.07	0.16	1.31
Available balance^g	14.38	(0.05)	(0.09)	14.25
d. Activity disbursements and commitments				
Disbursements ^h	76.38	1.79	2.99	81.16
Commitments ⁱ	2.19	0.24	0.00	2.43
Total disbursements and commitments	78.58	2.02	2.99	83.59

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

Note: In accordance with the Trust Fund Administrative Agreement, “the World Bank shall furnish to the Donor current financial information relating to receipts, disbursements and fund balance with respect to the Contributions via the World Bank’s Trust Funds Donor Center secure website. The Bank shall provide to the Donors an annual single audit reporting, within 6 months following the end of each Bank fiscal year, which starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year.” Additional information on accounting and financial reporting is included in the administrative agreement, annex 2, paragraph 6. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

- a. Any portion of a contribution made in the form of cash.
- b. Returns on cash and investments allocated to the trust fund and earned between November 2009 and October 23, 2017, on the undistributed balance of the RSR MDTF umbrella.
- c. Ineligible expenses returned from one of the recipient-executed grants that has closed. Funds will be reallocated against new approved proposals.
- d. The setting aside of funds for specific agreed activities/projects in accordance with the decision-making process specified in the administrative agreement.
- e. Unspent funds from the RSRC were automatically transferred to the development partner bank account.
- f. The cost of administration and other expenses, which are in accordance with the terms of the administrative agreement and the agreed administrative fee.
- g. Funds available for new allocation after subtracting total grant allocation and the administrative fee. Future unpaid contributions will be allocated against new rounds of calls for proposals in FY18.
- h. Cash payment to a recipient or vendor based on a commitment by the Bank. The Bank provides oversight and supervision over implementation.
- i. Obligations of the trust fund to provide funds. They are recorded in full amounts in the system, pending disbursement against the allocated goods and services. The commitment also includes funds allocated against recipient-executed trust funds.

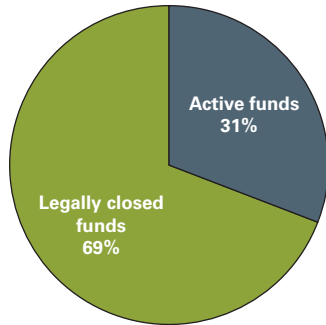
TABLE 4.2 Status of paid and unpaid contributions by development partner, as of October 23, 2017

Development partner	Contribution currency	Amount received (contribution currency)	Amount received (million \$)	Unpaid installments (million \$)	Total (million \$)
Australia	million \$A	2.90	2.97	0.00	2.97
Norway	million NKr	130.00	21.62	0.00	21.62
Russian Federation	million \$	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Sweden	million SKr	70.00	10.43	0.00	10.43
United Kingdom	million £	15.00	23.36	0.00	23.36
Total paid and unpaid contributions			108.39	0.00	108.39

Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

Note: Installments paid in currencies of contributions are valued at the exchange rates in effect at the time the funds are received and the date they are converted to U.S. dollars. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

FIGURE 4.1 RSR status as of October 23, 2017



Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

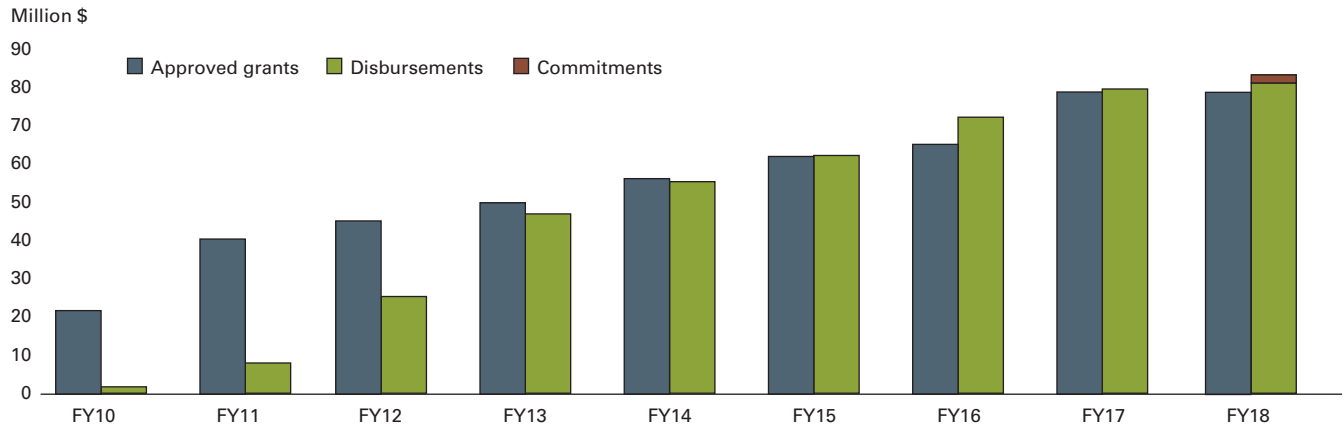
In 2017, Australia provided an additional contribution (not recorded in the above table) in the amount of \$A 300,000 (about \$0.23 million); these funds will be allocated against future rounds. Funds received in 2017 are subject to new cost recovery reforms as specified in the administrative arrangement with Australia dated May 30, 2017.

Program Activities

Since the inception of the RSR MDTF in late 2009 until December 2016, 10 rounds of calls for proposals have been launched, supporting different sectors as well as regional and global activities. Figure 4.1 shows the current status of program activities under the RSR Program. All activities under the RSRC are now legally closed.

Disbursements under the RSR Program have increased significantly since December 2009, as shown in figure 4.2. As of October 2017, about 81 percent of the funds

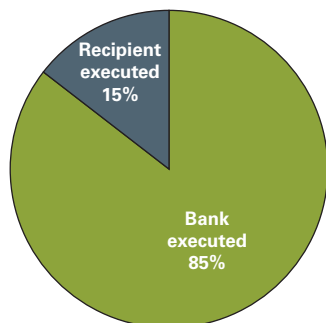
FIGURE 4.2 RSR cumulative grant approvals and disbursements as of October 23, 2017



Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

Note: Approved grant amounts represent the grants that were activated and recorded by fiscal year in SAP.

FIGURE 4.3 RSR grant allocation by trust fund type



Source: SAP (World Bank internal system).

allocated to RSR Program activities have been disbursed; another 2 percent is contractually committed. New rounds of calls for proposals are planned to be launched in fiscal years 2018 to allocate the uncommitted resources.

The RSR MDTF, RSR-NS, and RSRC fund two main types of grants, as shown in figure 4.3. Recipient-executed trust funds (RETFs) are funds the Bank passes on to a recipient, whose projects are prepared and supervised by the Bank. Bank-executed trust funds (BETFs) finance activities such as capacity building, technical assistance, and supervision and preparation of RETF-funded projects. BETFs are implemented by the Bank.



SECTION 5

Supporting Tables





Table 5.1 RSR Project Portfolio

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Africa				
Building Social Protection Systems	Angola: Systemic Support to Social Protection in Angola. Contributes to strengthening the social protection system by enhancing the government's capacity to design and implement social protection programs, strengthening coordination and institutional linkages among the multiple government institutions, and designing a graduation model.	442,622	September 2015–March 2017	Closed
	Benin: Building a Common National Targeting and Registry System for Cash Transfers, Public Works, and Other Safety Net Interventions. Supported the government of Benin in developing a national beneficiary targeting and registry system that can be used across multiple social protection and health programs.	275,000	August 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Benin: Scaling Up Social Protection. Supports the scaling up of social protection activities in Benin, capitalizing on recent advances in building multiprogram platforms for targeting, registry, and grievance redress.	295,000	March 2017–January 2019	Active
	Burkina Faso: Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises. Supported the development and implementation of a cash transfer program and a feasibility study of a public works program to support the poor and vulnerable.	500,000	April 2010–June 2015	Closed
	Burundi: Supporting Evolution toward a Coordinated Social Protection System. Assisted a gradual move from fragmented social protection programs to a coordinated system through feasibility assessments, support to program implementation, and South-South learning.	400,000	August 2014–August 2015	Closed
	Cameroon: Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises. Supported an inventory and analysis of the country's social safety nets, and piloted a cash transfer program.	549,852	March 2010–December 2013	Closed
	Cameroon: Support to Building Productive Safety Nets. Supported the development of a productive social protection system in Cameroon including strengthening the design of safety net programs and including approaches to linking program beneficiaries to the labor market and to productive activities.	250,000	April 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Central African Republic: Social Protection Policy and Forced Displacement in Central African Republic. Supports the government in designing a sustainable and inclusive National Social Protection Policy where development responses to forced displacement are fully integrated and operationalized.	350,000	March 2017–February 2019	Active
	Comoros: Strengthening Social Protection in Comoros. Supported the government in improving social protection policy coordination and safety net program implementation.	410,000	February 2015–October 2016	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Congo–Brazzaville: LISUNGI–Safety Nets System. Supported building blocks of a consolidated national safety nets system and an impact evaluation of the LISUNGI cash transfer pilot program.	350,000	January 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Cash Transfers: Design for Scaling Up in Sub-Saharan Africa. Provided technical assistance to improve and scale-up existing cash transfer programs in Angola, Benin, Lesotho, Mali, Tanzania, and Zambia.	391,874	May 2012–June 2013	Closed
	Côte d’Ivoire: Assessing the Impact of Crises on Human Capital and Laying the Foundations for an Effective Social Safety Net System. Provided technical assistance to investigating the aggregate and distributional impact of recent crises on the country’s human capital, and made specific policy recommendations to better respond to future crises.	299,169	November 2011–December 2013	Closed
	Côte d’Ivoire: Strengthening Social Protection and Labor Delivery Platforms in Côte d’Ivoire. Strengthens institutional capacity for improving coordination and the design of an integrated delivery system for social protection and labor in Côte d’Ivoire.	417,710	April 2016–December 2017	Active
	Democratic Republic of Congo: Support to Establishing a National Social Protection System. Strengthened the framework for social protection and the establishment of a national social protection system through capacity building of social protection actors and mapping of SPL interventions.	350,000	April 2014–March 2016	Closed
	Democratic Republic of Congo: Developing a National Targeting System. Helps the government develop a national targeting system for safety nets which will be piloted in IDA-financed operations.	440,000	April 2017–January 2019	Active
	Ethiopia: Expanding Ethiopia’s Social Protection System: Building the Jobs Agenda. Supports the government in strengthening its social protection system by building its knowledge and capacity to successfully deliver livelihoods and jobs-related services to poor and vulnerable populations.	435,000	February 2017–January 2019	Active
	Gambia: Support for Designing and Building an Effective Social Safety Net System. Supports the government in designing the building blocks of a basic, effective, and efficient social safety net system for the poor and vulnerable.	425,000	April 2017–December 2018	Active
	Ghana: Building a Common Targeting Registry for Ghana’s Social Protection System. Building on previous support from RSR, this grant supported the government of Ghana in establishing a national common targeting system to scale up Ghana’s main safety net program (Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty—LEAP) and the National Health Insurance Scheme.	450,000	February 2014–November 2015	Closed
Ghana: Cash Transfers Designed and Brought to Scale. Helped to upgrade the design of the country’s cash transfer programs with a view to develop a common targeting mechanism for all safety net programs in the country.	181,322	April 2010–June 2012	Closed	

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Ghana: Strengthening, Consolidating and Scaling Up the Social Protection System. Improves the effectiveness and efficiency of Ghana's National Social Protection System.	450,000	September 2016–June 2018	Active
	Guinea: Strengthening Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises. Provided technical assistance, including a feasibility study and capacity building to help create a safety net system that can respond effectively to crises.	399,981	July 2011–September 2014	Closed
	Guinea Social Protection Safety Nets Strategy. Supported the government's request to elaborate a national social protection policy and strategy document.	400,000	March 2015–September 2016	Closed
	Guinea-Bissau: Laying the Foundations for a Social Protection System. Supported the government in laying the foundations of a social protection system capable of effectively responding to current crises and future shocks.	383,500	February 2015–October 2016	Closed
	Kenya: Developing and Strengthening the Kenya Social Protection System. Helped the government enhance the single registry for social protection, develop common program targeting mechanisms, and design program graduation mechanisms.	415,250	August 2013–May 2015	Closed
	Kenya: Social Protection Interventions. Supported the government of Kenya in its effort to bring about a systemic change of the social protection system, and deliver more tangible and sustainable results for vulnerable people.	144,891	March 2010–December 2012	Closed
	Kenya: Support to the Government for Social Protection Programming. Supported the government in strengthening its response to the recent crisis through increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of ongoing social protection interventions.	1,147,853	July 2010–September 2013	Closed
	Kenya: Support to the Internship Program of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance. Supported the IDA Youth Empowerment Project in its efforts to increase access to youth-targeted temporary employment programs and to improve youth employability.	585,000	September–December 2012	Closed
	Lesotho: Developing the Strategy and Building Blocks for a Social Protection System. Supports the government in developing a social protection strategy and laying some of the fundamental building blocks of a social protection system, such as targeting, beneficiary registry, and coordination among programs.	246,829	May 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Lesotho: Social Safety Net Review. Improved the existing safety net to better protect the poor and vulnerable under crisis by analyzing the efficiency of current social safety net programs in reaching out to the most vulnerable, and developing policy reform options and guidance.	137,123	November 2011–May 2013	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Liberia: Development of a Crisis Response Social Protection Strategy and Capacity. Funded a Social Protection Diagnostic Report, which was a critical first step in the development of a coordinated and comprehensive social protection strategy that forms an integrated part of the human development pillar of the country's poverty reduction strategy.	288,275	November 2010–March 2012	Closed
	Liberia: Improving Employment of Vulnerable Youth. Provided an analysis and technical assistance to the government on how to prioritize and sequence employment programs targeting vulnerable youth.	239,566	November 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Liberia: Developing National Social Protection Delivery Systems. Supports the government in establishing key building blocks for a basic national safety system and strengthening coordination and administrative processes.	434,909	August 2015–April 2017	Closed
	Madagascar: Developing Madagascar's Safety Net System. Helps to advance the social protection policy dialogue and develop innovative safety net approaches to address the needs of the poorest population.	439,541	February 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Malawi: Building a Shock Responsive Safety Net. Improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee's emergency and safety net response.	450,000	November 2016–June 2018	Active
	Mauritania: Improving Safety Nets Programs. Helps the government improve targeting, prepare a single registry for safety nets programs, and develop a feasibility assessment for a national cash transfer.	150,000	September 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Mozambique: Developing the Building Blocks for Effective Crisis Response. Supported the development of labor-intensive public works in 10 arid and semi-arid rural and 2 urban areas to address the country-specific dynamics of poverty and improve food insecurity; helped set the direction of the new national public works program by developing and testing criteria for selecting beneficiaries, determining the level of transfers, and ascertaining the types of eligible public works.	1,554,074	March 2012–December 2012	Closed
	Mozambique: Building Gender-Sensitive Social Protection and Labor Systems through Soft Public Works. Supports and expands the emerging social protection system by piloting a gender-sensitive, inclusive safety nets mechanism that provides temporary income support to extremely poor individuals, mainly women, while delivering social and community services to vulnerable groups in underserved rural and urban areas.	900,000	March 2015–May 2017	Closed
	Nigeria: Strengthening Social Safety Net. Provided technical assistance to improve the design of the IDA-supported Social Safety Net program.	399,686	July 2011–December 2012	Closed
	Nigeria: Developing National Social Protection Platform. Supported the development of a comprehensive national platform for an effective safety net program, including a common targeting system, harmonized eligibility criteria, guidelines for a payment system, and a monitoring and evaluation system.	430,000	February 2015–October 2016	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Regional: Support to Coherent Pension Policy and Improved Pension Delivery in Africa. Provides policy makers with the information and international experience required to formulate more equitable old age income security policies as well as with tools to allow program administrators to improve delivery of pensions.	310,000	January 2014–December 2016	Closed
	Regional: Building and Sharing Knowledge to Support Identification Systems in Africa. Aims to produce and share public goods and knowledge that will help countries in Africa in their efforts to build robust identification and birth registration systems leading to an increased share of the population possessing robust legal identity.	410,000	September 2015–June 2017	Active
	Regional: Social Protection Design and Implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Supported the development of cash transfer programs. Depending on the country situation, areas for support included the design for scaling up, specifics of targeting, design of enrollment and identification of beneficiaries, payment systems, control and accountability mechanisms, monitoring system, and management information systems.	95,827	April 2010–April 2012	Closed
	Regional: Support to Africa Social Protection System Development. Developed tools and facilitated knowledge sharing on how to improve social protection systems in Africa.	300,000	January 2014–June 2015	Closed
	Regional: Coherent Pension Policy in West Africa. Equip policy makers with information and international experience required to formulate more equitable old-age income security policies in West African countries.	320,000	March 2016–December 2017	Active
	Regional: Support to Diagnostics of Financing and Structure of Social Protection in Africa. Assess the financing structure of SPL programs in three countries in East and West Africa and provide recommendations on improving SPL system spending efficiency and fiscal sustainability.	450,000	September 2016–May 2018	Active
	Rwanda: SPL Systems in Rwanda: Operationalizing the Vision. Supported the government of Rwanda to improve effectiveness of its social protection system by moving from a focus on policy formulation to the design and implementation of key service delivery systems	450,000	May 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Rwanda: Technical Assistance for Stronger Social Safety Nets. Provided technical assistance to improve existing social protection programs' ability to protect vulnerable households in times of crisis, and boosted the programs' capacity to scale-up interventions and absorb more funds when the need arises.	2,086,048	April 2010–December 2013	Closed
	São Tomé and Príncipe: Building Blocks for Social Protection System. Created the basic blocks for a social protection system by enhancing the government's understanding of vulnerability and risk vis-à-vis the existing supply of safety net interventions, and developing key operational tools to reach the poorest with selected safety net programs.	325,000	April 2014–November 2015	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	São Tomé and Príncipe: Development of Effective Delivery Systems for Social Protection. Supports the government in building delivery systems to turn its core social protection programs into effective safety net interventions.	315,000	April 2017–January 2019	Active
	Senegal: Developing a Unified and Effective Safety Net. Supported the development of a comprehensive and efficient social protection system including a unified set of design parameters such as targeting mechanisms, a registry system, payment methods, and a management information system.	217,563	September 2010–June 2014	Closed
	Senegal: Developing Senegal Safety Net System. Supported the design of a responsive safety net system in connection with the government’s launch of the Food Security Program (Programme de bourse de sécurité alimentaire).	300,000	December 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Senegal: Developing National Social Protection Delivery Systems. Aimed to carry out an assessment of public works programs and develop a time-bound action plan to design and implement new programs, and strengthen the SPL system and coordination through active engagement of government institutions and other stakeholders.	74,346	August 2015–April 2017	Closed
	Sierra Leone: Developing Sierra Leone’s Social Protection System through Common Targeting Mechanisms. Supported the establishment of a common targeting system, a critical step in the consolidation of the country’s social programs into a robust social protection system.	300,000	January 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Sierra Leone: Social Safety Net Support. Provided a diagnostic of sources of poverty and vulnerability and made recommendations to improve the design, effectiveness, and sustainability of the major safety net interventions, with a view to move from an ad hoc emergency focus to a longer-term programmatic focus on national systems.	299,985	July 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Sierra Leone: Strengthening Operational and Institutional Elements of the Social Protection System. Strengthens key operational and institutional elements of the social protection system.	360,000	August 2016–July 2018	Active
	Somalia: Support the Establishment of a Social Protection Framework. Supports the elaboration of a social protection policy and a safety nets strategy in Somaliland as recommended by the Stocktaking and Diagnostic Assessment.	400,000	August 2016–June 2017	Active
	South Sudan. Provides support to the government to assess the state of the social protection sector, generate knowledge, and build institutional capacity for designing, implementing, and coordinating social protection programs.	410,000	April 2016–December 2017	Active

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Sudan: Strengthening Safety Net Programs. Strengthened the effectiveness and responsiveness of social protection interventions by improving the implementation and coordination of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security's Social Support Program, builds the foundations for a common targeting system, and develops cash for work for poor and conflict-affected regions	395,849	February 2015–October 2016	Closed
	Tanzania: Enhancing Crisis Response for the Most Vulnerable Children and Elderly Poor. Worked to improve household practices and engender sustainability of livelihoods of the current Community-Based Conditional Cash Transfer beneficiaries; following some implementation issues, part of the grant was canceled.	626,136	July 2011–September 2012	Closed
	Tanzania: A Systems-Based Approach for Operationalizing the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net. Developed a strategy for using information and communication technology for expanded outreach and greater impact as well as enhancing key operational tools including the management information system, the single registry of beneficiaries, and the formal payment system.	410,000	April 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Tanzania: Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods and Graduation from Social Assistance in Tanzania: Bottlenecks to Self-Employment and Household Enterprises. Identifies the most important constraints to higher productivity in nonfarm self-employment and household enterprises (businesses run mostly with the help of family members), and identifies potential interventions to address these constraints.	420,000	April 2016–December 2018	Active
	Togo: Promoting Innovative Crisis-Response Social Protection. Financed a rigorous impact evaluation of the new public works project and provided technical assistance to the government in implementing and monitoring the national social protection strategy.	283,806	November 2010–September 2012	Closed
	Togo: Support to Social Safety Net Development. Helped the country move toward an integrated national system for social protection by providing technical assistance to the development of a cash transfer program and improving the design of existing programs.	220,000	November 2011–December 2013	Closed
	Uganda: Uganda Social Protection Sector Review. Supported the development of a social protection system through an analysis of poverty, risk, and vulnerability as well as a detailed analysis of existing social safety programs.	258,800	December 2013–December 2014	Closed
	Uganda: Protection and Promotion: Empowering Child Survivors of SGBV PROSPECS-SGBV [Protection and Promotion Empowering Child Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence]. Improves inclusion of child survivors of sexual violence and those at risk into the social protection system.	259,800	September 2016–December 2018	Active

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Uganda: Improving Opportunities for Vulnerable Youth: Evidence and Learning for Solutions in Uganda. Informs and supports the government in the design of employment policies and programs aimed at improving access to productive opportunities by vulnerable youth, through system diagnostics and expansion of the knowledge base; stocktaking of what exists; and strengthening knowledge sharing and learning capabilities at the national and local levels.	385,000	April 2017–January 2019	Active
	Youth Employment in Africa: The Skill Development-Labor Demand Conundrum. Identified and analyzed programs that improve employability and earnings among youth and reduce their vulnerability and risky behavior—knowledge that improves the design of labor-market interventions.	93,719	March 2010–April 2012	Closed
	Zambia: Development of Integrated Management Information System and Single Registry of Beneficiaries. Supported the government in strengthening its social protection system by developing a policy framework and building management information systems and a single registry to allow robust identification of beneficiaries.	1,400,000	December 2013–December 2015	Closed
	Zambia: Developing an Innovative Payment Platform for the Social Protection System in Zambia. Supports the government to design and pilot an innovative payment platform that gives beneficiaries the choice of how to receive their benefits and is integrated into the national social protection system.	355,000	February 2017–January 2019	Active
	Zimbabwe Productive Safety Net: Pilot Public Works Project. Helped the government of Zimbabwe to improve its national public works program to bolster the resilience of vulnerable families and communities.	1,084,868	March 2011–February 2013	Closed
	Zimbabwe: Revival of Social Protection System. Assisted the government in the development of a social protection strategy and creation of a harmonized targeting system and beneficiary registry for the main social safety net programs in the country.	250,000	February 2014–February 2016	Closed
Sharing Knowledge	Cash Transfers and Conditional Cash Transfers in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Community of Practitioners. This community of practice brought together officials and practitioners from Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Niger to exchange experiences, resources, and learning on conditional cash transfers.	449,805	June 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Community of Practice of Cash Transfers and Conditional Cash Transfers to Support Countries in the Consolidation of Social Protection and Labor Systems. Supported participating countries in their process of launching or scaling-up unconditional and conditional cash transfer programs as a core pillar in the consolidation of SPL systems.	450,000	August 2013–June 2015	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Sharing Knowledge	Experience of Cash-for-Work in Liberia and Togo. This activity built on the experience of the Liberia Cash for Work Project and assisted Togo's government in identifying key issues and success factors for a new public works intervention.	88,699	April 2010–February 2012	Closed
	Informal Safety Nets in Eastern and Southern Africa. Supported the preparation of three case studies in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Côte d'Ivoire to elucidate the interplay between formal and informal safety nets.	118,116	February 2010–April 2012	Closed
	Africa Community of Practice on Cash Transfer for Francophone Countries in the Region. Broadened and deepened the results of the francophone Sub-Saharan Africa Community of Practice on cash transfer programs in member countries.	340,000	January 2015–October 2016	Closed
	Social Safety Nets System: Administrative Toolkit Development and Regional Workshop. Supports the improvement of SPL systems through the development and application of: (1) tools for measuring and evaluating current systems, (2) SPL-specific questionnaires to improve household survey indicators, and (3) sharing knowledge within the region.	450,000	October 2014–June 2015	Active
Protecting Access to Basic Services	Benin and Malawi: Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Design, Implement, and Monitor Nutrition Security Programs. Worked to enhance the two countries' ability to respond to—and mitigate—the nutritional impact of economic and climate-related shocks.	375,770	July 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Ethiopia: Strengthening the Early Warning System. Provided technical support to the development and implementation of an early warning system for malnutrition; the project complemented the IDA-supported Nutrition Project.	1,014,091	January 2011–December 2013	Closed
	The Gambia: Rapid Response Nutrition Security Improvement Project. Strengthened the capacity of the National Nutrition Agency to develop a community-driven approach to nutrition, and provided technical assistance to the development of an updated nutrition policy and strategic plan for implementation.	3,150,623	January 2011–July 2013	Closed
	Lesotho: Estimating the Impact of Economic Crises on Education and Skills Development. Collected and analyzed data to help the government better target education and labor market policies to help youth and vulnerable groups during economic crises.	229,442	April 2010–December 2012	Closed
	Madagascar: Assessing Negative Effects of the Political Crisis and Protecting Access to Essential Health and Nutrition Services. Provided technical assistance to ensure continuous and effective health and nutrition service delivery in stable times and when crises hit.	397,900	June 2011–September 2012	Closed
	Madagascar: Development of Tools to Monitor and Mitigate the Effect of Crises on Out-of-School Children. Supported a diagnosis of the effects of economic and political crises on children and devised appropriate mechanisms to protect vulnerable children's access to basic education.	449,770	November 2011–March 2013	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Protecting Access to Basic Services	Madagascar: Building Nutrition Sensitive Safety Nets. Strengthens the nutrition focus of Madagascar's Productive Safety Net Program through behavioral interventions and productive activities at the household level.	450,000	April 2016–December 2017	Active
	Malawi: Protecting Early Childhood Development. Supported the government in the design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to increase access to—and the quality of—9,000 community-based child care centers across the country.	2,182,341	April 2011–November 2012	Closed
	Mali: Piloting Effective Early Childhood Development Services. Assisted in the government's crisis response by developing cost-effective early childhood development services for vulnerable children in rural areas.	1,976,234	October 2010–December 2013	Closed
	Rwanda: Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection. Supports the government in reducing child malnutrition by identifying, tracking, and building capacity to deliver nutrition support services in its social protection system.	275,000	April 2017–January 2019	Active
	Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo: Operations and Capacity Development for Nutrition. Strengthened awareness of the need to improve capacity to implement nutrition interventions at scale.	50,617	February 2010–April 2012	Closed
East Asia and Pacific				
Building Social Protection Systems	Assessing Myanmar's Social Protection and Labor System and Designing Policy and Program Options for the Future. Used the Social Protection Assessment of Results and Country Systems (SPARCS) framework to identify strategic direction and appropriate instruments to build resilience and promote equity and opportunity; the grant also focuses on building the capacity of government to develop SPL policies, design appropriate programs, and build an effective system for delivery.	450,000	February 2014–September 2015	Closed
	Cambodia: Developing the Components of a National Social Protection System. Put in place elements of a social protection system through technical assistance for the implementation of a cash transfer program; these elements can then be scaled-up to help develop a comprehensive social protection system.	249,970	November 2014–December 2016	Closed
	Making Social Protection Systems Responsive to Natural Disasters in East Asia and the Pacific. Strengthened the capacity of governments across the region to adapt social protection programs and systems to mitigate disaster risks ex ante, improve coping strategies, and better respond to natural disasters and extreme climate conditions.	450,000	December 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Mongolia: Building a More Efficient Social Protection System. Improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's social assistance system by recommending strategies to consolidate the country's fragmented social assistance system and by building an integrated information technology system that can serve as an information platform to manage all categorical and proxy-means tested social assistance programs in the country.	265,000	June 2014–November 2015	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Monitoring and Evaluation for Mongolia Social Welfare Programs. Helped to develop an alternative to the current social security scheme and developed a savings program for herders and others involved in the informal sector, as well as a social security reserve fund.	67,787	February 2010–February 2012	Closed
	Papua New Guinea: Ensuring Effective Monitoring and Evaluation and Social Accountability for the Urban Youth Employment Project. Strengthened the government’s capacity to implement and evaluate the impacts of an IDA-supported youth employment project that aims to increase the aspirations and future earnings of 17,500 urban disadvantaged youth.	296,590	January 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Timor-Leste: Strengthening Social Safety Nets Institutions. Strengthened the delivery of social assistance through a diagnosis of existing payment systems and options for alternative systems, and helped establish a management information system in the Ministry of Social Solidarity to facilitate monitoring and evaluation.	87,811	January 2010–February 2012	Closed
	Timor-Leste Social Protection Administration Project. Supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity in building a standardized information management system that integrates beneficiary information across different database systems and identifies beneficiaries uniquely and strengthening the government’s capacity to improve delivery of cash transfer programs.	2,205,721	March 2011–October 2014	Closed
	Vietnam: Strengthening the Social Protection System. Supported the government in strengthening the social protection system through consolidation of overlapping programs and modernization of management and delivery systems, in addition to building the capacity of government to develop more effective social assistance and social insurance systems.	450,000	February 2015–November 2016	Closed
	Vietnam: Integrated Social Protection Delivery Systems in Vietnam. Provides evidence to inform reforms of national social protection policies and programs, including more efficient systems for information management and identification, enhanced business processes, and front-end client services.	365,000	November 2016–June 2018	Active
	Sharing Knowledge	Implementing Social Protection Programs: Asia Learning Forum. The event took place in Bangalore, India, in September 2012 with the participation of social policy practitioners from 19 countries and focused on the administration and implementation aspects of social protection programs.	436,711	November 2011–May 2013
Lao PDR: Addressing Malnutrition in Lao PDR. Helps put in place the building blocks for a social protection system by developing a concrete design for a social assistance program to help achieve the poverty reduction objectives of Lao PDR’s 8th National Socio-economic Development Strategy.		390,000	May 2017–February 2019	Active

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Europe and Central Asia				
Building Social Protection Systems	Albania: A Functional Review of the Administrative Processes of Nhdima Ekonomike. A stocktaking of the country's main poverty program's administrative architecture and its operational aspects, functional responsibilities, and institutional capacity.	49,846	December 2009–December 2012	Closed
	Rapid Assistance to Improve Social Safety Nets in Kyrgyzstan in the Face of Energy Tariff Reforms. Supported the Agency for Social Protection in reforming its social safety nets so that vulnerable families with children have better access to programs and are less harmed by increases in energy prices.	59,660	March 2010–February 2012	Closed
	Kyrgyz Republic: Roadmap for Improving Social Safety Net Administration and System Building. Supported the efforts of the Ministry of Social Development to design and implement a roadmap for social protection; the grant catalyzes the switch from isolated social assistance interventions toward a system approach by providing critical analytical inputs and helping stakeholders to make informed choices.	370,000	October 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Kyrgyzstan: Enhancement of Targeted Social Assistance. Supported the modernization of the cash transfer program directed to families with children, and the development of a social protection strategy for the country.	259,413	June 2011–January 2013	Closed
	Tajikistan: Targeting and Payment of Social Assistance to the Poor. Supported the building blocks of a more efficient system to deliver aid to the poorest households, so that the government and donors will have an effective way to intervene in ordinary times and during crises.	2,283,190	May 2010–December 2013	Closed
	Uzbekistan: Integrated Single Window Office for the Social Assistance and Employment Services. Developing a concept for an integrated single-window office for provision of services to the population by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection; designing a detailed blueprint for implementation and roll-out of national reform of social assistance and employment program administration, including high-level design of the management information system and a registry of beneficiaries.	550,000	August 2015–March 2018	Active
Sharing Knowledge	Regional: ECA Learning Forum—Management Information Systems for Modernization of Social Protection Programs. Shared lessons and experiences on the benefits of using new technologies in systematic ways to operate existing and new social protection interventions.	330,000	March 2014–June 2015	Closed
Protecting Access to Basic Services	Tajikistan: Protecting and Promoting Access to Maternal and Neonatal Health Services. Provided technical assistance to assess the feasibility of a conditional cash transfer to protect access for the poor to basic maternal and child health and nutrition services in selected <i>rayons</i> (districts) of the Sogd <i>oblast</i> (region) in Tajikistan.	396,291	November 2011–April 2013	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Latin America and the Caribbean				
Building Social Protection Systems	Bolivia: Strengthening Access to Social Services among Women and Indigenous Groups. Filled information gaps about dimensions of access to social services among women and indigenous groups in Bolivia with the goal of promoting more equitable access to social services, social protection, and economic opportunities.	90,000	September 2014–September 2015	Closed
	Haiti: Strengthening Haiti’s National Social Protection System. Helped the government improve its capacity to coordinate and target social initiatives and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending in the area of social protection.	450,000	April 2014–April 2016	Closed
	Honduras Strengthening Social Protection. Strengthened the government’s safety net programs by helping redesign the conditional cash transfer program and enhance targeting of social safety net interventions.	72,566	January 2010–June 2012	Closed
	Nicaragua: Expansion of the Family and Community-Based Social Welfare Model with Cash Transfers. Provided technical assistance to the expansion of a model program for family and community-based social welfare and cash transfers.	2,548,570	February 2012–April 2013	Closed
	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): Enhanced Crisis Resilience Project. Strengthened the OECS Secretariat’s capacity to support and guide national crisis responses on social protection.	475,118	November 2011–June 2013	Closed
	St. Lucia: Transforming Social Protection in St. Lucia. Supported implementation of a social safety net reform through: (1) analyzing and improving key operational elements of St. Lucia’s flagship Public Assistance Program, (2) harmonizing the architecture of social assistance programs, and (3) improving the Ministry of Social Transformation’s capacity to implement the social safety net reform.	300,000	February 2014–November 2015	Closed
	Regional (Bolivia, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines): Building Evidence on Program’s Performance to Strengthen Social Protection and Labor Systems in Low-Capacity LAC Countries.	150,000	April 2014–May 2016	Closed
Sharing Knowledge	Listening to LAC: Mobile Phones as Instruments for Rigorous Surveys. Developed and piloted the use of a low-cost, quick method of gathering data via mobile phone technology to give timely information on the effects of crises on poor and vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean.	239,106	April 2010–June 2012	Closed
	Regional: Improving Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Countries Responses to Protect the Nutritional Status of the Poorest and Most Vulnerable. Supported the development of a toolkit that offers policy makers and program administrators in the region cost-effective tools.	256,000	July 2011–February 2013	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Protecting Access to Basic Services	Haiti: Household Development Agent Pilot. Improved family health and nutrition practices by enhancing the quality and coordination of social services and introducing household development agents.	3,202,317	April 2010–December 2014	Closed
	Haiti Nutrition Security and Social Safety Nets. Improved the capacity and effectiveness of nutrition-related safety net programs to address acute and chronic malnutrition.	90,345	November 2010–June 2012	Closed
	Haiti: Gender-Based Violence in Post-Earthquake Haiti. A community-based organization received support from RSR to improve delivery of services to survivors of gender-based violence and to enhance the growing public dialogue around the issue.	580,951	January 2011–September 2012	Closed
	Honduras: Improving Nutritional Monitoring and Targeted Response to the Global Crisis. Helped to offset the negative effects of the global food crisis on the most vulnerable children by strengthening monitoring systems and providing technical assistance to the expansion of the nutritional services in the most affected areas of the country.	1,054,662	July 2012–December 2013	Closed
	Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti: Education Sector Rapid Response and Protection of Youth Vulnerable to Violence and Conflict. Provided support to policy development and strategic planning to protect children and youth from violence made worse by crises.	378,250	December 2011–March 2013	Closed
	OECS Countries: Building Blocks for Disaster-Responsive Social Protection Systems in Dominica and Grenada. Establishes the building blocks for disaster-responsive SPL systems in Dominica and Grenada.	440,000	April 2016–December 2017	Active
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Strengthening Social Protection System for Disaster Preparedness and Response in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Strengthens the knowledge base and provides options for effective disaster preparedness and response of the social protection system.	300,000	November 2016–May 2018	Active
Middle East and North Africa				
Building Social Protection Systems	Djibouti: Employment for the Poor Project. Piloted an integrated safety net mechanism that combines a workfare program with social assistance for nutrition, using community-driven and participatory approaches as well as targeted capacity-building interventions.	173,593	January 2010–April 2012	Closed
Sharing Knowledge	Lessons from Successful Education Administration under Difficult Circumstances. Captured lessons from the success of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, which provided education to Palestinian students in the Middle East.	398,720	October 2010–November 2012	Closed
Protecting Access to Basic Services	Yemen: Targeted Delivery of Early Childhood Nutrition Interventions. Supported a short household survey to monitor the economic and social impact of instability, including food insecurity; the pilot project was canceled due to prevailing security concerns in Yemen.	201,146	November 2010–December 2012	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
South Asia				
Building Social Protection Systems	Afghanistan: Results-Oriented Approach in the Pro-Poor Program Design of Implementation. Aimed to strengthen the institutional capacity to monitor and evaluate government programs and mechanisms delivering benefits.	200,000	November 2011–June 2014	Closed
	Afghanistan: Assessing the Potential and Feasibility of Scalable Public Works. Explores options for increasing the social protection coverage of the poor by assessing the potential and feasibility of scalable short-term employment generation programs.	370,000	June 2014–April 2016	Closed
	Bangladesh: Improving the Payment and Monitoring System for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest. Provided technical assistance to make beneficiary payment and recordkeeping mechanisms for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest more efficient.	605,706	June 2011–June 2014	Closed
	Bangladesh: Piloting Conditional Cash Transfers for Human Development through Local Governments. Piloted the mechanisms for delivering conditional cash transfers through local governments to improve children’s nutrition and education.	2,619,345	September 2010–December 2013	Closed
	Bangladesh: Assessment of Identification Systems for Social Protection. Aimed to strengthen the SPL system by enhancing government’s capacity to improve ID systems, develop options for how ID systems can be more effective and efficient, set up an action plan to operationalize the most preferred policy options, strengthen coordination among the government institutions involved in SPL programs, and understand the operational foundations of public food distribution systems.	111,566	June 2015–March 2017	Closed
	Bhutan: Supporting the Development of a Social Protection Strategy. Supported the development of an evidence-based social protection strategy.	225,975	April 2014–June 2015	Closed
	India: Broadening the Urban Safety Net Dialogue. Provided support to streamlining and improving the effectiveness of urban safety nets in New Delhi and improving the monitoring and delivery of benefit programs using integrated information technology platforms, databases, and smart cards.	99,048	March 2010–February 2012	Closed
	India: Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Bihar. Strengthened the institutional capacity of the Department of Social Welfare and the Rural Development Department to deliver social protection programs and services and expand outreach of social care services for poor and vulnerable households, persons with disabilities, older persons, and widows in the state of Bihar.	422,338	October 2013–December 2015	Closed
Maldives: Targeting the poor in the Maldives. Assisted the government in designing and implementing a common platform for identification of the poor.	124,295	March 2011–August 2012	Closed	

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Nepal: Safety Net System Building Technical Assistance. Supported the government in strengthening the basic architecture of its administrative systems, with an emphasis on the payment system, the management information system, and the ministry's internal institutional arrangement for SPJ policy coordination and service delivery.	450,000	November 2014–April 2017	Closed
	Nepal: Human Development—Social Protection Pilot. Improved the delivery of cash-based social safety nets in pilot districts of Nepal through technical assistance and capacity building to the Ministry of Local Development.	1,535,882	January 2011–September 2014	Closed
	Nepal: Technical Assistance to Improve Disaster Responsiveness of Social Protection. Supports the government in improving the disaster responsiveness of Nepal's social protection delivery systems and programs, with a focus on Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development's social protection programs.	400,000	April 2017–January 2019	Active
	Pakistan: Financial Inclusion and Literacy Outcomes of Cash Transfers through the Banking System. An assessment to improve the design and implementation of the payment side of cash transfer programs in Pakistan and how different technologies work for the poor; also established ways to make cash grants more sustainable through financial inclusion (e.g., savings) and literacy.	802,254	June 2011–May 2013	Closed
	Sri Lanka: Skills Development for Unemployed Youth. Examined the impact of the economic crisis on vulnerable groups in the formal and informal labor markets, and supported an analysis of critical policy issues on skills development, employment creation, and economic growth.	238,800	June 2011–May 2013	Closed
	Sri Lanka: Strengthening Targeting, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Safety Nets. Supported an assessment of the beneficiaries of the largest social safety net program with a view to make the program more efficient in helping the poor become more productive.	167,760	June 2011–September 2012	Closed
	Sri Lanka: Strengthening Social Protection Systems. Supports reform and strengthening of delivery systems for Sri Lanka's main social safety net programs by financing technical assistance focused on the development of specifications for modern program targeting, management information and payments systems, and the legal and policy frameworks required to implement these systems.	400,000	May 2016–June 2017	Active
Sharing Knowledge	India: Strengthening Urban Safety Nets in India. Creates a community of practice to undertake strategic analytic and advisory activities to help identify, assess, and improve determinants of key human development outcomes in India.	250,000	April 2016–April 2017	Active

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Protecting Access to Basic Services	Bangladesh: Supporting Nutrition-Sensitive Safety Nets through Strengthened Local Government Administration. Supports streamlined social protection services at the local level, with a focus on implementation of nutrition-sensitive safety nets in Bangladesh by strengthening local-level institutional arrangements for safety net administration, developing innovative tools for promotion of nutrition among the poorest through income support and beneficiary engagement.	320,000	August 2015–April 2017	Active
	India: Critical Analysis of the Institutional Arrangements for Improving Nutrition Outcomes. An analysis of existing institutional arrangements for organizing, coordinating, and delivering nutrition services in India and recommendations for how service delivery could be strengthened.	99,640	February 2010–May 2012	Closed
	Maldives: Technical Assistance to the National Social Protection Agency on the National Health Insurance Scheme. Strengthened the capacity of the National Social Protection Agency to improve the design of the Madhana, the country’s nascent social health insurance system, and helped build a robust monitoring and evaluation system that enhances the system’s efficiency and effectiveness.	58,098	June 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Pakistan: Protecting Pakistan’s Poor Against Health Shocks. Provided technical assistance to development of a diagnostic and a review of the health sector’s policy options to increase the population’s resilience to health shocks caused by natural disasters.	363,992	December 2011–March 2013	Closed
Global				
Building Social Protection Systems	Assessing Social Protection Systems. Supported countries in building effective SPL systems by providing clear, cross-country guidance for assessing and monitoring system performance; supported Social Protection Assessment of Results and Country Systems (SPARCS) in developing and applying common instruments to assess the structure of SPL systems and guide their development, and Atlas of Social Protection–Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) in collecting, harmonizing, and sharing comparable indicators of program performance based on household and administrative data.	450,000	September 2013–June 2015	Closed
	Development of a Management Information System for Social Protection. Developed a high-quality, reliable client registry system for efficient delivery of social protection systems.	348,057	December 2011–August 2013	Closed
	ID4D-RSR. Facilitates access to services and rights for all people in developing countries by increasing the number of people in those countries who have an official form of identification. This will be achieved by supporting governments in building effective and inclusive official ID systems using multisectoral approaches and 21st century solutions.	450,000	November 2016–June 2018	Active

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Building Social Protection Systems	Social Registries and Management Information Systems in Social Protection and Labor: Framework, Assessment Tool, and Country Cases. Developed guidance notes and accompanying social information system assessment tools to support clients' efforts in developing streamlined and harmonized information management systems; piloted the assessment tool in selected AFR, LAC, and MENA countries.	314,793	February 2015–April 2017	Closed
	Universality and Targeting: Assessing the Scope, Rationale, and Feasibility of a Cash Transfer Program in the Form of Basic Income Grants in Mozambique and Beyond. Enhances the government of Mozambique's and global knowledge and practice on basic income grants as part of social protection systems.	350,000	June 2017–January 2019	Active
Sharing Knowledge	Public Works Learning Forum: Social Protection South-South Learning Forum 2010. This forum, held in June 2010 in Arusha, Tanzania, allowed more than 220 delegates from 40 low- and middle-income countries to exchange knowledge and take part in cross-country learning on the design and implementation of public works programs as safety net interventions as well as the development of an ongoing community of practice.	515,134	February 2010–December 2011	Closed
	The South-South Learning Forum: Building Resilient Safety Nets in Low Income Countries and Fragile States. This forum, carried out in June 2011, focused on promoting resilient safety nets following the recent wave of food, fuel, and financial crises and natural disasters.	350,000	November 2010–November 2012	Closed
	South-South Learning Forum: Designing Social Protection Systems. Promoted global knowledge sharing among social protection practitioners on the development of social protection systems, notably in low-income countries and fragile states; forum brought together approximately 200 practitioners and experts from 50 countries in Rio, Brazil.	450,000	January–December 2014	Closed
	South-South Learning Forum: Labor Market Policy Response to the Global Jobs Crisis. Organized in Hyderabad in November 2012 to stimulate a discussion and exchange on the experiences of labor and social protection policies during the recent economic crisis and how to bolster effective policy making on labor markets and social protection in response to future crises.	447,859	December 2011–January 2013	Closed
	South-South Learning Forum 2015: Urban Social Protection Systems. Aims to foster global knowledge sharing among social protection practitioners on the development of social protection systems in urban areas.	450,000	May 2015–June 2017	Active
	South-South Learning Forum 2017. Deepens knowledge and shared experiences of how tailored design and delivery systems can support social protection programs to adapt to shocks and build household resilience.	450,000	February 2017–February 2019	Active
	Resilience in the Face of Crisis: Multisector Actions to Achieve Nutrition Results. Developed and disseminated tools for a multisectoral approach to planning and implementation of actions that protect and improve nutrition outcomes for the poorest.	250,000	February 2011–February 2014	Closed

Theme	Project title	Funding (\$)	Timeline	Status
Sharing Knowledge	Development of the ADePT Crisis Module. Supported the development of a crisis module for the ADePT software platform, which produces simulations to help policy makers understand the distributional effects of macro-shocks and structural reforms.	249,263	April 2011–September 2012	Closed
Protecting Access to Basic Services	Development of a Global Action Plan for Scaling-up Nutrition. Provided analytical work, consultations, and policy guidance on how to scale-up nutrition investments and encourage multisectoral actions to achieve nutrition results	39,690	February–December 2010	Closed
	Food Crisis Monitoring System. Developed a framework that defines, identifies, and monitors food security crises at the national level caused by shocks and factors that are not attributed to a given country; the framework categorizes each IDA country's exposure to shocks and its capacity to respond	74,339	November 2011–November 2012	Closed
	Monitoring the Health Outcomes and Financial Vulnerability of the Poorest. Built the capacity of policy makers and researchers to carry out analysis of financial protection and equity, using ADePT Health software, and produced country-specific reports on financial protection, vulnerability, and equity in the health sector	160,535	April 2010–September 2011	Closed
	Policy Levers to Protect Health and Enhance Financial Protection. Improved the capacity of governments and the international community to monitor the health outcomes of the poor after the food, fuel, and financial crises; also helped design health systems and policies more effectively to provide protection to future crises	443,947	July 2011–June 2013	Closed
	Preparing Social Protection Systems for Natural Disasters and Climate Change. Supported the development of a series of case studies and recommendations from five countries to enhance the capacity of safety net programs to respond more effectively to natural disasters and the impact of climate change	370,094	July 2011–July 2013	Closed
	Impact of Financial Crises on Children and Youth: Protecting Human Capital of Future Generations. RSR supported rapport, and accompanying policy notes, to show how the right policies and targeted interventions for children and youth can yield important returns in human capital, and that even small, strategically applied resources can go a long way to protect and promote human development in crises and in stable times	241,127	January 2011–June 2012	Closed
	The Health Sector and the Poor in a Financial Crisis: Identifying and Managing Risks. A stocktaking of the health sectors in the European region and their preparedness and operational responses to the economic shock of 2008/09 with a view to generate lessons and encourage stakeholder dialogue	435,611	December 2011–June 2013	Closed

Note: SPL = social protection and labor. Grant amounts reflect allocated funds against approved RSR call for proposals, up to Round 11, as of October 2017. These amounts may change slightly by the time the grants close, reflecting actual disbursements against the activities the grants funded. Excess funds from closed grants are reused and reallocated against new activities. For the most recent listing of the RSR project portfolio, see the World Bank's Trust Fund Donor Center secure [website](#).

Table 5.2 Associated IDA Projects

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Africa							
Angola, Benin, Lesotho, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe	Cash Transfers— Design for Scaling Up in Sub-Saharan Africa	0.39	46	P117764	Benin: Decentralized Community Driven Services	Approved (5/12)	Improve access to decentralized basic social services and mainstream the community-driven development approach for such services
			70	P127328	Mali: Emergency Safety Nets Project	Approved (4/13)	Establish sustainable social safety net system and scale-up programs that increase income and consumption of poor and vulnerable households through cash transfers and short-term employment
			220	P124045	Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net	Approved (3/12)	Increase income and consumption and improve ability to cope with shocks among targeted vulnerable population groups, while enhancing and protecting the human capital of their children
Benin and Malawi	Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Design, Implement, and Monitor Nutrition Security Programs	0.39	28	P143652	Benin Multi-sectoral Food Health Nutrition Project	Approved (12/13)	Increase the coverage and utilization of community-based child growth and nutrition interventions in selected areas in the recipient's territory
			80	P125237	Malawi Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Project	Approved (3/12)	Increase access to, and utilization of, selected services known to contribute to the reduction of child stunting, maternal and child anemia, and the prevention of HIV and AIDS in children and sexually active adults
Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone	Youth Employment in Africa— The Skills Development-Labor Demand Conundrum	0.09	35	P132667	Benin: BJ-Youth Employment	Approved (3/14)	Improve access to employment skills and employment opportunities for underemployed youth in Benin
			50	P130735	Burkina Faso: Youth Employment and Skills Development	Approved (5/13)	Increase access to temporary employment and skills development opportunities for out-of-school youth
			60	P132248	Ghana Youth Employment Project	Pipeline FY14	Expand and enhance opportunities for youth employment, with a particular focus on at-risk youth
			20	P121052	Sierra Leone Youth Employment Support	Approved (6/10)	Increase short-term employment opportunities and improve employability and incomes of targeted youth; program seeks to address constraints on the demand and supply sides of the labor market
Angola	Support to a Systemic Approach to Social Protection and Poverty Reduction	0.45	81.7	P105101	AO-Local Development Project	Approved (3/10)	Improve access of poor households to basic services and economic opportunities, and enhance local institutional capacities among Angola's municipalities

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Benin	Building a Common National Targeting and Registry System for Cash Transfers, Public Works and Other Safety Net Interventions	0.28	a	P117764	Benin: Decentralized Community Driven Services	Approved (5/12)	Improve access to decentralized basic social services and mainstream the community-driven development approach for services
			22.8	P113202	Benin: Health System Performance Project	Approved (5/10)	Contribute to increasing the coverage of quality maternal and neonatal services in eight health districts (roughly a quarter of the population)
Burkina Faso	Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises	0.50	50	P124015	Burkina Faso Social Safety Net Project	Approved (4/14)	Provide income support to poor and vulnerable groups and lay the foundations for a basic safety net system
Cameroon	Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises	0.55	50	P128534	Cameroon Social Safety Nets	Approved (3/13)	Support the establishment of a basic national safety net system including piloting targeted cash transfers and public works programs for the poorest and most vulnerable people
	Support to Building Productive Safety Nets	0.25					
Comoros	Strengthening Social Protection	0.41	6	P150754	Comoros Social Safety Net Project	Approved (3/15)	Increase poor communities' access to safety net and nutrition services
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Support to Establishing a National SP System	0.35	45	P145965	Human Development Systems Strengthening	Approved (1/14)	Strengthen select management systems for education and health services in targeted geographic areas
		0.00	150	P161602	Kinshasa Urban Development and Resilience Project	Pipeline	Improve the living conditions of populations of selected poor and vulnerable neighborhoods of Kinshasa; and strengthen the capacities of central, provincial, and municipal institutions in urban governance
Congo, Rep.	Congo Brazzaville: LISUNGI— Safety Net Systems	0.35	12	P145263	LISUNGI Safety Nets Project	Approved (1/14)	Establish the key building blocks of a national safety net program and pilot a cash transfer program to improve access to health and education services of poorest households in participating areas
Côte d'Ivoire	Assessing the Impact of Crisis on Human Capital and Laying the Foundations for an Effective SSN System	0.30	50	P143332	Productive Social Safety Net	Approved (5/15)	Set the foundations of an effective and productive type of safety net system capable of responding to the country's needs both in normal times and during times of crisis
Ethiopia	Strengthening the Nutrition Information and Early Warning System in Ethiopia	1.02	30	P106228	Ethiopia Nutrition	Approved (4/08)	Improve child and maternal care behavior and increase utilization of key micronutrients in order to contribute to nutritional status of vulnerable groups

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Gambia, The	Rapid Response Nutrition Security Improvement Project	3.16	3.68	P143650	Maternal and Child Nutrition and Health Results Project	Approved (3/14)	Increase the coverage of community-based nutrition and primary health care services
Ghana	Cash Transfers Designed and Brought to Scale	0.18	89	P115247	Social Opportunities Project	Approved (5/10)	Improve targeting in social protection spending, increase access to conditional cash transfers nationwide, increase access to employment and cash-earning opportunities for the rural poor during the agricultural off-season, and improve economic and social infrastructure in target districts
	Building a Common Targeting Registry for Ghana's Social Protection System	0.45	50	P146923	Additional Financing for Ghana Social Opportunities Project	Approved (5/14)	
Guinea	Strengthening Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises	0.42	25	P123900	Productive Social Safety Net Project	Approved (6/12)	Provide income support to vulnerable groups and to lay the foundations of a social safety net strategy by testing some of the building blocks necessary for a larger system
	Guinea Social Protection: Social Safety Nets Strategy	0.40					
Guinea-Bissau	Social Safety Net Systems Support	0.38	15	P151443	Additional Financing to Rural Community-Driven Development Project	Approved (5/16)	Increase access to priority basic social and economic infrastructures and services in participating communities in at least two regions of Guinea-Bissau
		0.00	15	P163901	Guinea Bissau: Social Protection Project	Pipeline	Increase access to priority basic social and economic infrastructures and services in participating communities in at least two regions of Guinea-Bissau
Kenya	Social Protection Interventions	0.15	250	P131305	National Integrated Safety Net Program (P4R)	Approved (5/13)	Establish an effective national safety net for poor and vulnerable households
	Support for Social Protection Programming	1.29	50	P111545	Kenya Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children	Approved (3/09)	Increase social safety net access for extremely poor orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) households through an effective and efficient expansion of the CT-OVC Program
	Support to the Internship Program of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance	0.98	17.03	P111546	Youth Empowerment Project	Approved (5/10)	Support the government's efforts to increase access to youth-targeted temporary employment programs and to improve youth employability
		0.00	150	P151831	Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities	Approved (5/106)	Increase employment and earnings opportunities for targeted youths

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Lesotho	Developing the Strategy and Building Blocks for a Social Protection System in Lesotho	0.25	16	P146534	Lesotho: Second Growth and Competitive-ness DPC	Approved (4/14)	Assist the government in implementing a reform program aimed at promoting growth, competitiveness, and public sector efficiency
		0.00	20	P151442	Social Assistance Project	Approved 6/16	Support the government in improving the efficiency, equity, and shock-responsive function of selected social assistance programs and, in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, provide immediate and effective response to said eligible crisis or emergency
	Lesotho Social Safety Net Review	0.14					
Liberia	Improving Employment of Vulnerable Youth	0.24	6	P121686	Youth, Employment, Skills Project	Approved (6/10)	Expand access of poor and young Liberians to temporary employment programs and improve youth employability
	Development of a Crisis Response Social Protection Strategy and Capacity	0.29	10	P127317	Poverty Reduction Strategy Credit I	Approved (6/13)	Support the broadening of reforms to include economic transformation and human development in the context of the implementation of the government's second Poverty Reduction Strategy
	Developing Liberia's National Social Protection Delivery System	0.45	10	P155293	Liberia Social Safety Nets Project	Approved (4/16)	Establish the key building blocks of a basic national safety net delivery system and provide income support to households that are both extremely poor and food insecure in Liberia
Madagascar	Assessing Negative Effects of the Political Crisis and Protecting Access to Essential Health and Nutrition Services	0.40	75	P131945	Emergency Support to Critical Education, Health and Nutrition Services Project	Closed	Preserve critical education, health, and nutrition service delivery in targeted vulnerable areas in the recipient's territory
	Development of Tools to Monitor and Mitigate the Effect of Crises on Out-of-School Children	0.45					
	Developing Madagascar's Safety Net System	0.44	65	P147514	Emergency, Food Security and Social Protection Project	Approved (2/14)	Strengthen the country's immediate capacity to respond effectively to the food security and locust crises
Mozambique	Developing the Building Blocks for Effective Crisis Response	2.16	50	P129524	Social Safety Net Project	Approved (3/13)	Provide temporary income support to extremely poor households and put in place the building blocks of a social safety net system

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Nigeria	Strengthening Social Safety Net	0.40	300	P126964	Youth Employment and Social Support Operation	Approved (3/13)	Increase access of the poor to youth employment opportunities, social services, and strengthened safety net systems in participating states
		0.43	500	P151488	Social Protection Project	Approved (6/16)	Establish building blocks of a national social safety net system for effectively targeting and delivering cash transfers to extreme poor and vulnerable households
Rwanda	Technical Assistance for Stronger Social Safety Nets	0.07	40	P126877	Support to Social Protection System	Closed	Support government's efforts to consolidate, enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and expand coverage of its social protection system
	Technical Assistance and Capacity Building to the Vision 2020 Umurenge Program	2.12	6	P122157	Third Community Living Standards Grant	Closed	Support government's social protection and health reforms designed to reduce extreme poverty
	SPL Systems in Rwanda: Operationalizing the Vision	0.45	50	P131666	Rwanda Second Support to Social Protection System	Approved (3/13)	Support government's efforts to consolidate, enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and expand coverage of its social protection system
	Support for Strengthening Rwandan Social Safety Nets	0.06	70	P146452	Rwanda Third Support to the Social Protection System	Approved (3/14)	Support government's efforts to enhance effectiveness and expand the coverage of its social protection system
			70	P151279	Social Protection System Support	Approved (1/15)	Support government of Rwanda to improve the efficiency, accountability, and coverage of its social protection system
			95	P155024	Second Social Protection System DPO (SPS-2)	Approved (12/15)	Second in a series of three development policy operations whose program development objective is to support the government of Rwanda to improve the efficiency, accountability, and coverage of its social protection system
95			P158698	Third Social Protection System Support (SPS-3)	Approved (10/16)	Third in a series of three development policy operations (DPOs) whose program development objective is to support government of Rwanda to improve the efficiency, accountability, and coverage of its social protection system	
Senegal	Developing a Unified and Effective Safety Net	0.29	41	P133597	Senegal Safety Net Operation	Approved (4/14)	Assist government in developing building blocks of an efficient safety net system
	Developing Senegal Safety Net System	0.30	20	P129472	Senegal Health and Social Financing	Approved (12/13)	Increase utilization and quality of maternal, neonatal, and child health care and nutritional services, especially among the poorest households in targeted areas of Senegal
Sierra Leone	Social Safety Net Support	0.30	7	P143588	Sierra Leone Safety Nets Project	Approved (3/14)	Create a comprehensive, efficient, well-targeted productive safety net system for the poor and vulnerable

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
South Sudan	Operationalization of the South Sudan National Social Protection Policy Framework	0.41	21	P143915	Safety Net and Skills Development	Approved (6/13)	Provide access to income opportunities and temporary employment to the poor and vulnerable and put in place building blocks for a social protection system
Tanzania	Enhancing Social Protection for the Most Vulnerable Children and Elderly Poor	0.63	a	P124045	Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net	Approved (3/12)	Create a comprehensive, efficient, well-targeted productive social safety net system for the poor and vulnerable section of the Tanzanian population
	A Systems-Based Approach for Operationalizing the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net	0.41	200	P151838	Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net Additional Financing	Approved (6/16)	APL Phase 1 is to create a comprehensive, efficient, well-targeted productive social safety net system for the poor and vulnerable section of the Tanzanian population
	Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods and Graduation from Social Assistance in Tanzania: Bottlenecks to Self-Employment and Household Enterprises	0.42					
Togo	Experience of Cash for Work Program in Liberia for Togo	0.09	8.7	P121067	Togo Community Development Project Additional Financing	Approved (6/10)	Provide selected poor communities with improved basic socioeconomic infrastructures, income-generating and labor-intensive activities, and access to food
	Support to SSN Development in Togo	0.22	14	P127200	Community Development and Safety Nets	Approved (3/12)	Provide poor communities with greater access to basic socioeconomic infrastructures and social safety nets
	Promoting Innovative Crisis Response Social Protection Measures	0.28					
Uganda	Uganda Social Protection Sector Review	0.26	130	P149965	Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund	Approved (5/15)	Provide effective income support to and build the resilience of poor and vulnerable households in Northern Uganda
Zambia	Support for Development of MIS and Single Registry of Beneficiaries	1.40	65	P151451	Girls Education and Womens Empowerment and Livelihood Project	Approved (5/15)	Support the government of Zambia to increase access to livelihood support for women and access to secondary education for disadvantaged adolescent girls in extremely poor households in selected districts
East Asia and the Pacific							
Mongolia	M&E for Mongolia Social Welfare Programs	0.07	12	P119825	Mongolia Multi-Sectoral Technical Assistance Project	Approved (6/10)	Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor to improve the efficacy of social expenditure by designing and implementing a targeted poverty benefit

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Mongolia	Building a More Efficient SP System in Mongolia	0.27					
Papua New Guinea	Ensuring Effective M&E and Social Accountability for the Urban Youth Employment Project	0.30	16	P114042	Urban Youth Employment Project	Approved (1/11)	Provide urban youth with income from temporary employment opportunities and increase their employability
Vietnam	Strengthening the Social Protection System	0.45	60	P123960	Social Assistance System Strengthening Project	Approved (1/14)	Support government of Vietnam in strengthening social assistance system by developing innovations in management and service delivery nationwide, and by piloting these innovations in four project provinces
	Integrated Social Protection Delivery Systems in Vietnam	0.37					
Europe and Central Asia							
Albania	Albania Social Safety Nets TA	0.05	50	P122233	Social Assistance Modernization Project	Approved (4/12)	Support Albania's implementation of reforms to improve the equity and efficiency of its social assistance programs
			25	P116937	Social Sector Reform Development Policy Loan	Closed	Support policy changes to improve the effectiveness of social safety nets
Kyrgyz Republic	Rapid Assistance to Improve Social Safety Nets in the Face of Energy Tariff Reforms	0.06	30	P125425	Economic Recovery Support Operation	Closed	Safeguard social assistance to the poor and to conflict-affected families in the face of fiscal pressures and improve targeting
	Enhancement of Targeted Social Assistance	0.26	16.5	P126278	Second Health and Social Protection Project	Approved (4/13)	Improve health outcomes in four health priority areas in support of the National Health Reform Program 2012/16; and enable the government's efforts to enhance effectiveness and targeting performance of social assistance and services
Tajikistan	Targeting and Payment of Social Assistance to the Poor	2.72	3	P122039	Social Safety Net Strengthening Project	Approved (6/11)	Improve the capacity of the government to plan, monitor, and manage social assistance for the poor through the development of a national registry of social protection and the provision of training, equipment, and related items for improving said capacity
	Protecting and Promoting Access to Maternal and Neonatal Health Services	0.40	15	P126130	Tajikistan Health Services Improvement Project	Approved (7/13)	Contribute to the improvement of the coverage and quality of basic primary health care services in rural health facilities in selected regions

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Latin America and the Caribbean							
Bolivia, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Building Evidence on Program's Performance to Strengthen SPL Systems in Low Capacity LAC Countries	0.15	5	P123128	Grenada Safety Net Advancement Project	Approved (7/11)	Strengthen the basic architecture of the consolidated conditional cash transfer program and the capacity of the Ministry of Social Development to implement it, improve coverage of poor households receiving cash transfers, and improve educational outcomes of poor children and health monitoring of vulnerable households
			20	P121779	Nicaragua Social Protection	Approved (2/11)	Improve basic conditions of welfare and social well-being of extremely poor beneficiary families with children in selected localities, strengthen capacity of MIFAN to implement the family and community-based social welfare model, and promote preschool and primary school attendance through the provision of school lunches
			11	P101084	Bolivia: Investing in Children and Youth	Closed	Strengthen the effectiveness of social protection system by supporting the design, financing, and implementation of two flagship interventions of the social protection network strategy, while enhancing its capacity to coordinate and monitor programs that are part of the social protection network
			40	P115592	Honduras Social Protection	Approved (6/10)	Improve institutional capacity of recipient's institutions to manage the conditional cash transfer program, provide income support to eligible beneficiaries, increase use of preventive health services and school attendance in grades 1–6 among beneficiaries in rural areas, and improve recipient's capacity to respond to an eligible emergency
			95	P123706	Haiti: Improving Maternal and Child Health through Integrated Social Services	Approved (5/13)	Increase the access and use of maternal and child health, nutrition, and other social services
			20	P143995	Improving Employability and Labor Income of Youth Project	Approved (5/14)	Improve employability and labor income of poor youth by supporting the expansion of the Skills Development Programs in Selected Cities

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Bolivia	Strengthening Access to Social Security among Women and Indigenous Groups	0.09	50	P101336	Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Informational Base for Evidence-Based Planning	Approved (1/11)	Strengthen the statistical capacity and improve the informational base of the recipient in order to provide quality information, as defined by its reliability, timeliness, accuracy, and representativeness with the level of disaggregation necessary to support systems for planning, designing, monitoring, and evaluating public programs and policies
Haiti	Household Development Agent Pilot	3.38	a	P123706	Improving Maternal and Child Health through Integrated Social Services	Approved (4/13)	Increase the access and use of maternal and child health, nutrition, and other social services
	Strengthening Haiti's National Social Protection System	0.45					
Honduras	Strengthening Social Protection	0.07	a	P115592	Honduras Social Protection	Approved (6/10)	Support the government's efforts to build an improved social protection system mainly by strengthening institutional capacity to design and implement a new conditional cash transfer program, the Bono 10,000 Program
			12.3	P144928	Honduras Additional Financing for SP Project	Approved (8/13)	Improve institutional capacity to manage the conditional cash transfer program by strengthening transparency and targeting, monitoring compliance with program co-responsibilities, and making payments to beneficiaries; provide income support to eligible beneficiaries; increase use of preventive health services and school attendance in grades 1–6 among beneficiaries in rural areas; and improve recipient's capacity to respond effectively to an eligible emergency
	Improving Nutritional Monitoring and Targeted Response to Global Crisis Project	1.20	23.6	P126158	Additional Finance for Nutrition and Social Protection	Approved (6/11)	Improve Honduras's social safety net for children and youth by strengthening the country's capacity to administer social assistance programs, improving nutritional and health status of young children, and increasing employability of at-risk youth by piloting an employment program
Nicaragua	Expansion of the Family and Community Based Social Welfare Model with Cash Transfers	2.75	a	P121779	Nicaragua Social Protection	Approved (2/11)	Improve the basic welfare of extremely poor beneficiary families with children, strengthen the capacity of MIFAN to implement the family and community-based social welfare model, and promote preschool and primary school attendance through the provision of school lunches

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Strengthening Social Protection System for Disaster Preparedness and Response in St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.30	5.7	P117871	Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction APL1— Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Approved (6/11)	Measurably reduce vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change impacts in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in the Eastern Caribbean Subregion
			10.7	P154253	Human Development Service Delivery Project	Approved (5/17)	Strengthen the quality of service delivery in education, improve efficiency of social protection systems, and improve effectiveness of labor market systems in St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Middle East and North Africa							
Djibouti	Employment for the Poor Project	0.17	5	P130328	Crisis Response— Social Safety Net Project	Approved (6/12)	Support the provision of short-term employment opportunities in community-based labor-intensive works for the poor and vulnerable, and support the improvement of nutrition practices among participating households
South Asia							
Afghanistan	Afghanistan: Results-Oriented Approach in the Pro-Poor Program Design and Implementation	0.20	8	P113421	Afghanistan Pension Administration and Safety Net Project	Approved (10/09)	Improve the administration of the public pension schemes, and pilot a modest social safety net program as a first step to developing a sustainable approach to safety nets in the country
Bangladesh	Piloting Conditional Cash Transfers for Human Development through Local Governments	2.99	500	P132634	Bangladesh Safety Net Systems for the Poorest Project	Approved (7/13)	Improve the equity, efficiency, and transparency of key social safety net programs and finance short-term employment to enable the poorest households to better cope with poverty and vulnerability
	Improving the Payment and Monitoring System for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest	1.10	150	P118701	Employment Generation Program for the Poorest	Approved (11/10)	Provide short-term employment on community subprojects to enable households to better cope with vulnerability, while strengthening program implementation
	Supporting Nutrition-Sensitive Safety Nets through Strengthened Local Government Administration	0.32	300	P146520	Income Support Program for the Poorest	Approved (12/14)	Provide income support to the poorest mothers in selected <i>upazilas</i> , while (i) increasing the mothers' use of child nutrition and cognitive development services, and (ii) enhancing local level government capacity to deliver safety nets
	Assessment of Identification Systems for Social Protection	0.12	195	P121528	Bangladesh Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA)	Approved (12/14)	Provide income support to the poorest mothers in selected <i>upazilas</i> , while (i) increasing the mothers' use of child nutrition and cognitive development services, and (ii) enhancing local level government capacity to deliver safety nets

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
India	Critical Analysis of Institutional Arrangements for Nutrition	0.10	106	P121731	Integrated Child Development Services—Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Program	Approved (9/12)	Improve nutritional outcomes of children in India; strengthen the policy framework, systems, and capacities, and facilitate community engagement; and ensure greater focus on children under three
	Strengthening Social Protection Systems in Bihar	0.45	84	P118826	Bihar Integrated Social Protection Strengthening Project	Approved (12/13)	Strengthen institutional capacity of the Department of Social Welfare and the Rural Development Department to deliver social protection programs and services and expand outreach of social care services for poor and vulnerable households, persons with disabilities, older persons, and widows
			64	P090764	Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project—JEEViKA	Closed	Enhance social and economic empowerment of the rural poor in Bihar through community institution development, community investment, and technical assistance
			100	P130546	Bihar Rural Livelihood Project Additional Financing	Approved (5/12)	
Maldives	Building a Common Platform for Identification of the Poor	0.19	12	P125700	Pension and Social Protection Additional Financing	Approved (6/11)	Support the implementation of the National Pension Act, to strengthen institutional capacity of key agencies responsible for implementing the National Pension Act, and to develop the processes and platforms required for the delivery of social protection programs
	TA to the National AP Agency on National Health Insurance Scheme	0.06					
Nepal	Safety Net System Building Technical Assistance	0.45	150	P154548	Strengthening Systems for Social Protection Project	Approved (12/16)	Improve the efficiency of MOFALD's social protection programs and civil registration

Country	Grant title	RSR	IDA	Project ID	Project title	Status	Objective
		Million \$					
Pakistan	Protecting Pakistan's Poor against Health Shocks	0.40	100	P123394	Punjab Health Sector Reform Project	Approved (5/13)	Support implementation of Health Sector Strategy by focusing on improving coverage and utilizing quality essential health services, particularly in the low-performing districts of Punjab
	Financial Inclusion and Literacy Outcomes of Cash Transfers through the Banking System	0.81	60	P103160	Social Safety Net TA	Approved (6/09)	Support expansion and strengthen administration and performance of country's safety net with particular focus on Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) as the national safety net platform
			150	P125793	Social Safety Net Project—Additional Financing	Approved (3/12)	The additional financing will support the evolution of Pakistan's BISP through the expansion of program coverage and broadening of objectives to promote access to educational services
Sri Lanka	Skills Development for Unemployed Youth	0.24	102	P132698	Skills Development Project	Approved (6/14)	Support the government of Sri Lanka to improve the quality and relevance of the skills development sector
	Strengthening Social Protection Systems	0.40	75	P156056	Social Safety Nets Project	Approved (12/16)	Contribute to the improved equity, efficiency, and transparency of Sri Lanka's social safety net programs for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable
	Strengthening the Targeting of Safety Nets in Sri Lanka	0.20					
Total		47.61	6,411				

Note: Grant amounts reflect allocated funds against approved proposals; however, these amounts may change slightly by time of grant closure to reflect actual disbursements against activities covered by the grant. Excess funds from closed grants will be reused and reallocated against new activities.

a. IDA amount for this project included in regional project.

Table 5.3 Results Framework

		Indicator	2013	2014	2015	2016
Impact	More poor people covered by social protection systems	Social protection coverage in IDA-supported projects (both sexes)	42.1 million	77.3 million	72.4 million	131.5 million ^a
		Social protection coverage in IDA-supported projects (female only)	21.0 million	38.7 million	36.2 million	65.8 million
Outcome	Enhanced capacity of social protection systems to protect poor and vulnerable people	Increased resource allocation to social protection through IDA	\$3.27 billion	\$3.73 billion	\$5.68 billion	\$7.08 billion
		Increased resource allocation to social protection overall budget, domestic and other funding	\$5.09 billion	\$5.71 billion	\$6.88 billion	\$6.97 billion
		Global data accessible (number of new countries in ASPIRE/SPARCS)	57	112	115	122
Output 1: New or improved Social Protection and Labor system components and architecture	1.1 System diagnostic and stocktaking					
	1.1(a) Diagnostic, stocktaking, and mapping	Number	71	76	89	95
		Number of countries	45	48	60	60
		Amount	\$11,944,594	\$12,311,284	\$13,769,410	\$14,173,053
	1.1(b) Identification or development of effective options	Number	31	36	47	60
		Number of countries	37	40	51	51
		Amount	\$6,372,750	\$6,739,440	\$7,840,899	\$8,192,399
	1.2 Component design and development					
	1.2(a) Building systems for robust identification of beneficiaries and development of registries	Number	27	34	47	54
		Number of countries	21	27	43	43
		Amount	\$2,537,607	\$3,047,631	\$3,931,792	\$4,426,551
	1.2(b) Improving processes for determination of eligibility	Number	35	40	53	59
		Number of countries	29	33	47	47
		Amount	\$5,358,345	\$5,701,583	\$6,581,494	\$6,976,254
	1.2(c) Developing effective appeals and grievance procedures	Number	9	11	15	18
		Number of countries	7	9	15	18
		Amount	\$618,230	\$775,516	\$988,135	\$1,327,585
	1.2(d) Streamlining payment systems	Number	12	18	26	30
		Number of countries	14	20	31	31
		Amount	\$2,359,261	\$2,804,999	\$3,324,702	\$3,429,344

		Indicator	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Output 1: New or improved Social Protection and Labor system components and architecture	1.2(e) Setting up appropriate evaluation arrangements	Number	26	29	33	37	
		Number of countries	21	24	29	29	
		Amount	\$6,245,840	\$6,474,792	\$6,858,125	\$7,217,125	
	1.2(f) Establishing practices for communication and outreach	Number	17	20	27	30	
		Number of countries	13	16	23	25	
		Amount	\$2,470,868	\$2,651,821	\$3,192,237	\$3,318,737	
	1.2(g) Building information systems for better service management	Number	33	38	43	47	
		Number of countries	28	32	38	38	
		Amount	\$5,943,983	\$6,291,721	\$6,589,340	\$6,742,149	
	1.2(h) Improving administrative processes and clarifying rules	Number	24	26	37	42	
		Number of countries	29	31	38	38	
		Amount	\$4,860,691	\$4,974,977	\$5,597,179	\$5,820,822	
	1.3 Interagency program harmonization						
	1.3(a) Coordination of legal and policy-level frameworks	Number	17	18	22	25	
		Number of countries	18	19	24	24	
		Amount	\$1,529,183	\$1,662,516	\$1,994,391	\$2,158,391	
	1.3(b) Integration of programs	Number	33	34	49	57	
Number of countries		28	29	43	43		
Amount		\$3,855,916	\$3,905,916	\$5,151,119	\$5,924,212		
1.4 Customer feedback	Number of client government officials interviewed	6	15	20	91		
	Rate of satisfaction	80%	80%	95%	89% ^b		
Output 2: Increased learning and knowledge sharing for social protection and labor service delivery	2.1 South-South and peer-to-peer learning	Number of events	11	13	20	20	
		Amount	\$2,703,224	\$2,880,843	\$3,627,510	\$4,052,510	
		Number of participants	856	1,017	1,398	1,398 ^c	
		Number of countries represented	70	70	75	75	
		Rate of satisfaction	82.1%	82.1%	95.0%	95.0%	
	2.2 Communities of practice	Number	3	4	5	5	
		Amount	\$698,997	\$812,331	\$1,277,331	\$1,277,331	
		Number of participants	141	200	280	380	
		Number of countries represented	25	35	47	47	
		Satisfaction rating	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high ^d	

		Indicator	2013	2014	2015	2016
Output 2: Increased learning and knowledge sharing for social protection and labor service delivery	2.3 Analytical and operational toolkits	Number	15	17	19	21
		Amount	\$2,776,875	\$2,954,494	\$3,091,160	\$3,496,160
		Number of downloads	—	—	—	—
		Number of training participants	—	—	—	—
Output 3: Protection of access to basic services in times of crisis	3.1 Projects to provide benefits	Number	18	18	18	18
		Number of countries	12	12	12	12
		Amount	\$14,622,483	\$14,622,483	\$14,622,483	\$14,622,483
		Number of beneficiaries (both sexes)	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000
		Number of beneficiaries (female only)	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000

Note: — = not available. All indicators are cumulative from the inception of the RSR to the end of the reporting year unless otherwise stated.

a. Approximately 82% of the number of beneficiaries data comes from three large IDA projects (P106228, P121731, and P103160).

b. Based on the internal Bank system and a two-minute survey conducted by the Bank team. This result is captured at the Bank-wide level because the data cannot be disaggregated at the RSR level. Accordingly, 89% are satisfied with their projects in terms of achieving the intended development outcomes.

c. The teams did not organize a South-South learning forum during this reporting cycle; therefore, the number of participants is the same as in 2015.

d. One event under the Community of Practice of Cash Transfers and Conditional Cash Transfers in Africa (TF0A0942) was organized during the 2016 reporting cycle; of the 100 participants who completed the feedback survey, 62% rated their satisfaction with the event as very high; 38% reporting being satisfied with the event.

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The Rapid Social Response Program (RSR) is a multi-donor program that was established in 2009 to help the world's poorest countries, in partnership with the World Bank, build effective social protection systems. The RSR is one of the key instruments for implementing the World Bank's Social Protection and Labor Strategy for Resilience, Equity and Opportunity in countries eligible for International Development Association (IDA) support. The RSR has been generously supported by the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, and Australia.



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