

RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2012

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The Rapid Social Response (RSR) program is a multi-donor endeavor to help the world's poorest countries, in partnership with the World Bank, to build effective social protection systems that can safeguard poor and vulnerable people against severe shocks, such as the recent global food, fuel, and financial crises. RSR has been generously supported by the Russian Federation, Norway, and the United Kingdom since December 2009 and currently supports 83 activities worldwide. It also collaborates with the Japan Social Development Fund Emergency Window. For more information, visit www.worldbank.org/rsr.



RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE PROGRAM

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T

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CLOSING THE GAP IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

Background – A Series of Crises

The world is increasingly interconnected and risky (Table 1). The increased mobility of people, capital, goods and information has led to economic shocks and epidemics flowing rapidly across national borders—as with the food, fuel, and financial (FFF) crises of 2007-2011 and the global influenza pandemic in 2009-2010. Natural disasters have increased in frequency, having already doubled between 1990 and 2008. Demographic change will inexorably change societies. In some places, young people clamor for jobs in record numbers—for example, a million new workers a month in South Asia and Africa—in others, aging will shrink the productive population and bring new fiscal challenges. Poverty, inequality, and exclusion persist in every country, and the lack of “equality of opportunity” to access quality education, health, and nutrition makes economic mobility across generations unattainable for many poor people. Nor does the future offer much basis for optimism; the prospects for secure and productive jobs are uncertain for a large swath of the world’s workers, who face unemployment as well as underemployment. All of this is taking place as urbanization, migration, and modernization are changing individuals’ and families’ traditional sources of resilience and security against these risks (World Bank, 2012).

“The RSR is designed to assist countries address urgent social needs stemming from the crisis, and to build up capacity and institutions to respond better to future crises”
World Bank, 2009



Table 1: A Changing World

Indicator		1990 (1981–1990)	2000 (1991–2000)	2010 (2001–2010)
Number of natural disasters (annual) ¹	↗	181	322	438
Energy price index (constant 2005 US\$)	↻	58.49	37.77	97.12
Food price index (constant 2005 US\$)	↻	114.56	97.13	118.57
Poverty headcount ratio ²	↘	45.6	35.8	27.9
Workers' remittances (current US\$, in millions) ³	↗	42,249	97,995	222,356
Mobile cellular subscriptions (in millions)	↗	2.8	212.7	2,767.2

Source: Data adapted from the International Disaster Database, Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), and World Bank Commodity Markets and World Development Indicators (WDI)

Note: ¹Global average values per decade; ²Percentage of population in low-income countries (LICs) and middle-income countries (MICs) living under US\$1.25 a day (PPP); data available for 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005;

³Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received.

Box 1. RSR as the New Umbrella

“The Vulnerability Financing Facility is a dedicated facility to streamline crisis support to the poor and vulnerable. The VFF organizes under one umbrella the existing Global Food Crisis Response Program (GFRP) and the new Rapid Social Response (RSR) Program focused on social interventions.”

From a World Bank board document (World Bank, 2009)

It was the increasing riskiness of the world—stemming particularly from the food, fuel, and financial crises—that led to the creation of the Vulnerability Financing Facility in the World Bank, a framework to streamline crisis support to the poor and vulnerable and to provide a broad range of technical and financial assistance to low-income countries. The facility was designed to address two specific areas of vulnerability to crisis: agriculture, the main livelihood of over 75 percent of the world’s poor; and safety nets, employment, and protection of basic social services, which all help the poor and vulnerable groups cope with crisis (World Bank, 2009).

The Vulnerability Financing Facility addresses each area of vulnerability under a separate umbrella. The first is the Global Food Crisis Response Program¹, established in 2008. It addresses agriculture by (i) reducing the negative impact of high and volatile food prices on the lives of the poor in a timely way, (ii) supporting governments in designing sustainable policies that mitigate the adverse impacts of high and volatile food prices on poverty while minimizing the creation of long-term market distortions, and (iii) supporting broad-based growth in productivity and market participation in agriculture to ensure an adequate and sustainable food supply response (World Bank, 2008).

Launching RSR

The Rapid Social Response (RSR) Program, the second umbrella of the Vulnerability Financing Facility (Box 1), is “designed to assist countries address urgent social needs stemming from the crisis, and to build up capacity and institutions to respond better to future crises” (World Bank, 2009).

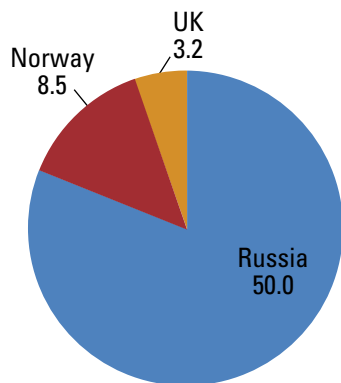
Launched in 2009, RSR deploys resources in its core operations that are used exclusively for IDA-eligible (i.e. low-income) countries. Three donors—the Russian Federation, Norway, and the United Kingdom²—contributed US \$61.7 million to the trust fund. Of the total, the Russian Federation has donated more than 80 percent, or US \$50 million. Norway has donated US \$8.5 million (NOK 50 million); and the United Kingdom has given US \$3.2 million (GBP 2 million).³

The Trust Fund Administration Agreement came into effect in 2009, with the UK signing first in July (amended in November to modify the installment schedule), the Russian Federation signing in October, and Norway in December—the same month that, with the arrival of the donors’ first installments, RSR became operational.⁴ In addition to resources from the trust fund, RSR-supported projects often leverage resources from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or the International Development Association (IDA).

Compared to the Global Food Crisis Response Program, which is focused primarily on immediate mitigation of the harms of elevated and fluctuating food prices, RSR was given a broader mandate and a longer time horizon. The greater latitude was important so it could give rapid and effective support to the low-income countries that were the least prepared for severe shocks. Some middle-income countries had, by the time the recent series of crises hit, spent nearly two decades building their social protection systems and institutions. Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia, for example, could quickly expand and reinforce

their safety nets—*Bolsa Familia*, *Oportunidades*, and *Familias en Acción*, respectively—for the poor and the vulnerable. An advantage of having systems already in place is “automation,” or their ability to be triggered or adapted by the onset of a crisis—say, by increasing the level of benefits or lowering the thresholds for eligibility (Marzo, et al., 2012).

Figure 1: Contributions by Donor (US\$ million)



On the other hand, countries without adequate systems were less able to respond effectively. By the end of 2010, an additional 64 million people were living on less than US \$1.25 a day, and 76 million more were surviving on less than US \$2 daily, according to estimates, reversing what had been a pre-crisis trend of economic growth for developing and emerging countries. That decline was on top of the 130-155 million people who were pushed into poverty in 2008 due to soaring food and fuel prices (Chen, et al., 2008). Taking some specific low-income countries, Timor Leste's social protection transfers reached only 27 percent of the poorest one-fifth of its population in 2007, Afghanistan's reached 15 percent of the same segment of its population in 2007, and Cambodia's reached only 2 percent of its poorest in 2008 (all latest available data). In a happier contrast, social protection transfers reached well over 90 percent of the poorest fifth in Mongolia (latest data from 2007), Thailand (2009), Romania (2008), Latvia (2008), and Chile (2009) (World Bank, 2012).

An important lesson is that social protection systems need be built in "good times," before a major crisis hits (IEG, 2011). Even so, setting up systems in low-income countries is especially challenging. To begin with, poverty, acute vulnerability, and crises are disproportionately concentrated in low-income countries. Restricted fiscal space and limited institutional capacity further exacerbate the challenge.

Accomplishments to Date

Since December 2009, RSR has extended support to 42 low-income countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—countries that together have an estimated 1.58 billion⁵ poor and vulnerable people. Ninety-two percent of RSR resources have been devoted to fund 70 technical assistance and small pilot projects in specific countries and regions, so they can build systems to protect those populations from future crises. The remaining 8 percent has funded 13 global activities for South-South learning; knowledge management; and the creation, documentation, and dissemination of diagnostic techniques or program practices with the object of delivering cross-country and cross-sector learning, primarily to benefit a broad range of low-income countries. It is worth noting that nearly half of all RSR resources have been allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa. The complete list of all 83 projects starts on page 47.

The amounts that RSR distributes are relatively small—averaging US \$685,000 per project, with some grants up to US \$3.2 million. RSR does not fund a stream of benefit payments, except in small pilot projects, but instead aims to be catalytic and to draw in other resources and partners. Of the 83 projects in its current portfolio, 59 projects (or 71 percent) are funded at US \$500,000 or less.

RSR has demonstrated that modest funding levels can effectively support efforts to construct systems that are capable of supporting a large number of beneficiaries. Many of the system components built with RSR-support—such as beneficiary registry and identification systems, or poverty targeting methods and payment mechanisms—may not be eye-catching, or even visible. They are critical, however, if a country's social protection systems are to deliver results. By helping add critical components to those systems, RSR in the medium- to long-run improves efficiency and effectiveness, while catalyzing more resources, as the country's implementation capacity is upgraded.

RSR has been one of the instruments capable of providing relatively small but highly catalytic funding for social protection. At present, 26 RSR-funded projects in 26 countries (totaling just US \$25.52 million) are associated with US \$1.33 billion worth of existing and planned IDA credits and grants. Some RSR-supported projects accompany existing IDA operations. Other RSR-projects have been added to existing IDA operations to make them more effective. For example, RSR is funding the "Ensuring Effective M&E and Social Accountability

Table 2: Some Key Facts about RSR

Operational Since	December 2009
Total Resource Envelope	US \$61.7 million
Donors	The Russian Federation, Norway and the United Kingdom
The Number of Countries Assisted So Far	42
The Number of Poor in the Countries Above*	1.58 billion
The Number of Projects	83
Average Size of Projects	US \$685,000
Largest Project	US \$3.2 million
The Region that receives largest share of resources	Africa (48%)
Average time from the call of proposal to approval	2 months
Number of RSR-Projects formally associated with IDA operations	26
Aggregate amount of RSR-funding associated with IDA	US \$ 25.5 million
Associated IDA financing amount	US \$ 1,330 million
IDA/RSR Association Ratio	52.1

for the Urban Youth Employment Project,” in Papua New Guinea. This US \$300,000 technical assistance project is an add-on to an IDA-financed US \$15.8 million Urban Youth Employment Project to ensure that the main project is efficient and effective with transparent administration.

Other RSR-funded projects are paving roads to future IDA operations. In Cameroon (US \$550,000) and Burkina Faso (US \$550,000), for example, RSR has been supporting technical assessment projects for assessing the feasibility of public works and cash transfer modalities, and designing key technical and operational features of new safety net programs, including poverty targeting, beneficiary registry, payments, and monitoring and evaluation. Based on the findings, governments are planning to initiate social safety net projects to be financed by IDA—with indicative financing of US \$50 million for Cameroon.⁶

Only 2 years and 4 months have passed since RSR became operational. In time, the cross-leveraging and catalytic linkages between RSR and IDA should grow even stronger.

Box 2. The World Bank’s New Social Protection and Labor Strategy on the RSR

The major partnership challenge is to join forces to build foundational SPL systems in countries where these are lacking, as exemplified by the RSR initiative. This effort builds on the collaboration mobilized as an urgent response to the pressing 2008-2009 food, fuel, and financial crises.... The RSR initiative, together with the Global Food Response Program and Japanese Social Development Fund, financed programs in 19 (mainly IDA) countries that had previously received no safety net support. Today, the US\$61 million RSR fund financed by Russia, Norway and the United Kingdom stands out as a prominent example of a successful multilateral partnership, which will evolve to become the umbrella TF to support the implementation of this strategy. (World Bank, 2012)

RSR is making a difference, according to a recent evaluation of social safety nets by the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank, which observed that “...resources to support [social safety nets] and institution building and to stimulate country demand were lacking in [low-income countries]. As additional funds were provided through the RSR trust funds, engagement in LICs increased, and the Bank and countries focused more on institutional strengthening” (IEG, 2011). And the World Bank’s recently finalized Social Protection and Labor Strategy for 2012–2022 named RSR as an instrument central to the successful implementation of that strategy (see Box 2).

Themes and Resource Allocation

RSR-supported projects can be sorted into three key themes: i) building social safety nets and other social protection and labor systems to protect the poor before a crisis hits, ii) protecting access to basic services for the most vulnerable, and iii) tapping into knowledge to share lessons and create toolkits.

More than 60 percent of RSR resource commitments have been made to 44 projects—totaling US \$35 million and averaging US \$800,000 each—that exemplify the theme of building safety nets and social protection and labor systems. The systems these projects help design, develop, and implement can prepare and protect the poor during crisis or post-conflict or when natural disasters strike. Projects in this category may improve safety nets through conditional and unconditional cash transfers and public works programs to address vulnerability; they build systems to support the scaling up of existing mechanisms; they pilot-test promising approaches; they strengthen technical and institutional capacities. Other projects with this theme provide diagnostics and

formulate, implement, and evaluate policies and programs to protect workers during a crisis by stabilizing employment and earnings, including those of the youth and women. Descriptions of selected projects under this theme can be found on page 13.

Projects under the second theme support the protection of access by the poor and vulnerable to basic

social services such as nutrition, health, and education. Close to 30 percent of the active RSR portfolio (US \$15.6 million) have been assigned to 20 projects of this kind, averaging at about US \$780,000 per project. When hit by major shocks, uninterrupted availability of basic services is vital to safeguard human capital and avoid irreversible damage to people, especially children, by maintaining nutrition, health, and education. Projects typically support capacity building and institutional strengthening for design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of health and nutrition programs, especially to prevent irreversible damage from a crisis. They often focus on the nutritional “window of opportunity” (from before pregnancy until two years of age), micronutrient supplementation or fortification, and nutrition during humanitarian crises and emergencies. Some support initiatives to improve, bring to scale, and replicate successful maternal and child health, nutrition, and early-childhood development efforts. Case descriptions of selected projects with this theme can be found on page 31.

Under the last theme—tapping into knowledge to share lessons and create toolkits—is support for the creation, documentation, and dissemination of diagnostic techniques or program practices with the objective of delivering cross-country and cross-sector learning. Although the use of RSR resources is restricted to IDA-eligible low-income countries, projects in this thematic area may include middle-income countries, provided that resulting knowledge sharing primarily benefits low-income countries. About 11 percent of RSR’s portfolio resources have been devoted to 19 projects following this theme, averaging about US \$320,000 per project, or less than half the amounts for the other two thematic areas. Included in this category are two worldwide South-South learning forums, described on page 45.

Table 3: Thematic Allocation of RSR Resources

	Number of Projects	Resource Share	Average Funding per Project
Building Safety Net and SP&L Systems	44	62%	797,456
Protecting Access to Basic Services	20	27%	778,273
Tapping into Knowledge	19	11%	323,189
Total	83	100%	684,266

Governance and Management

RSR has a governance and management structure consisting of four entities. The first, the RSR Program Steering Committee, composed of World Bank vice-presidents and chaired by a World Bank managing director, defines and directs the RSR Program in a broad context and resource allocation strategy. The steering committee approves overall program priorities based on inputs provided by the program management team.

The second entity, the RSR Consultative Group, comprising the RSR donors and the World Bank, provides overall strategic direction, guidance, and advice for RSR within the parameters established for the program. The consultative group meets once a year and reviews the RSR work program performance and progress.

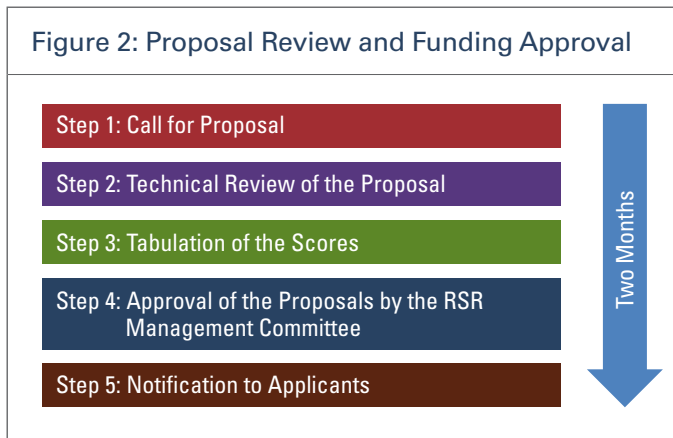
The third entity, the RSR Program Management Committee, comprising the Human Development Network Management Team, more specifically Human Development Network Council (HD Council), headed by the Human Development Network Vice President, makes daily decisions about the operations of the program, including approval of funding proposals.

Finally, the RSR Program Management Team supports the daily operations of the RSR Program, including the administration of trust fund resources. The program management team, among other things, reviews all proposals for RSR funding for relevance to its objectives and adherence to eligibility criteria, while quality assurance of funded activities will remain the responsibility of the relevant sector units within the regional vice-presidencies. Task team leaders prepare funding proposals sent through line management to be reviewed by the program management team.

Operational Procedures

RSR approval procedures have been designed to enable the rapid deployment of necessary expertise. Employing competitive selection processes, funding decisions are made within two months of proposal submissions. There have been four rounds of calls for proposals. Figure 2 illustrates the process from the submission of proposals to funding decision by the RSR Management Committee (the HD Council).

All proposals are required to be submitted by trust-fund accredited World Bank staff members on behalf of the beneficiary country and cleared by their immediate line managers prior to submission.



Once received, proposals are reviewed and scored by two Lead/Senior level subject specialists, using 16 criteria to be scored from 5 (best) to 1 (worst). Then scores are tabulated and the proposals ranked based on the average total scores by the two technical evaluators. Proposals with the highest average scores are forwarded to the RSR Management Committee, which consists of one Vice President (HDNVP) and 13 Directors across the World Bank, for their review and approval or rejection.

The criteria to evaluate and approve proposal include both technical and operational criteria to determine the suitability of a proposal for RSR funding. Reflecting the demand-driven and results-oriented nature of RSR, one of the most important criteria for evaluating RSR funding proposals is implementability. This quality, by definition, requires

strong client ownership even for relatively small-scale technical assistance projects. To ensure the proposal's consistency with the Bank's overall strategy to assist its clients, the applicable World Bank Country Director's office is consulted from a very early stage of concept development. Another key evaluation criterion is solid monitoring and evaluation arrangements to ensure that the project, if approved for funding, will generate concrete results that, in turn, will contribute significantly to strengthening the country's system to protect the poor and the vulnerable against major shocks.

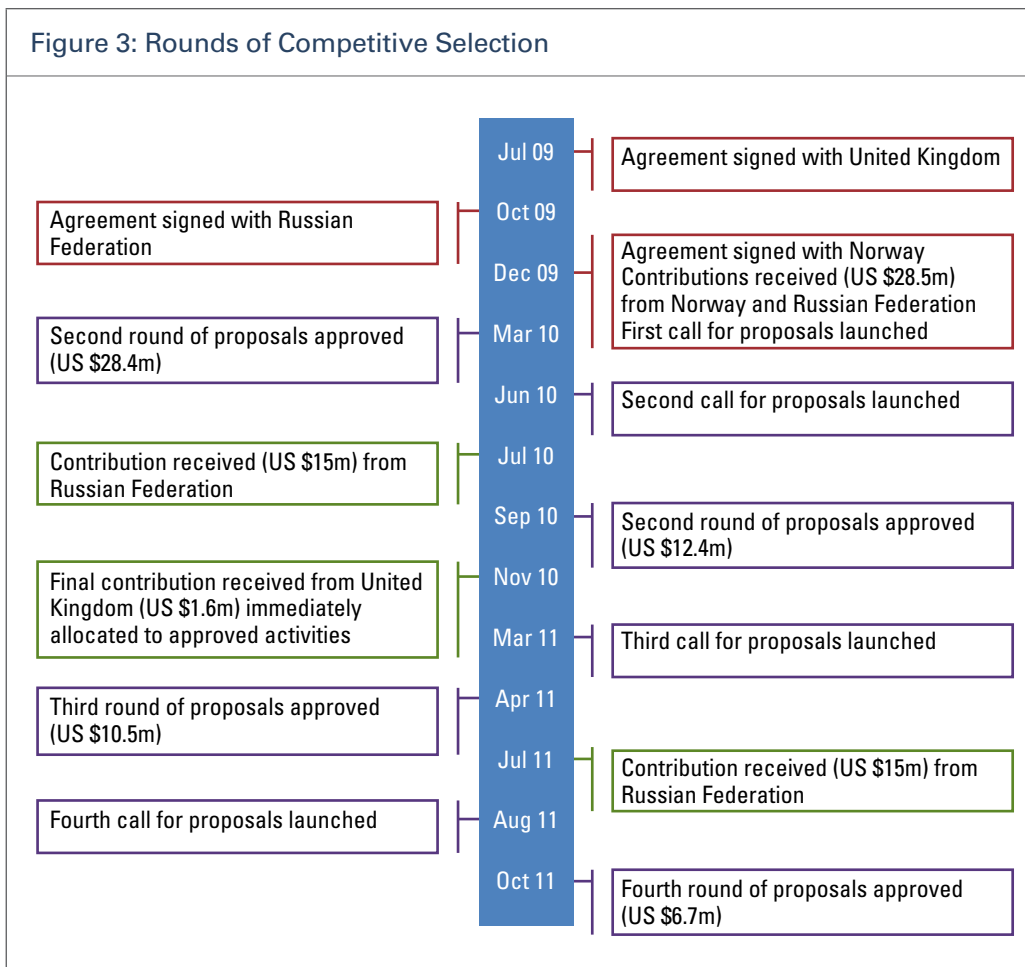
Once the proposal is approved, the further processing of projects that seek RSR funding follows the World Bank's rigorous standard operational policies and procedures. The processing of the recipient-executed project follows the same processing procedures as for IBRD or IDA funding, while Bank-executed technical assistance will follow the same rigorous review processes that all non-RSR-funded projects are required to follow. Unlike many other trust-funded programs in the World Bank, RSR's operational procedures have very few program specific requirements, and rely on the World Bank's existing quality assurance and fiduciary control mechanisms.

RSR's operational procedures have been devised to maintain both responsiveness and quality assurance. Though the primary mission is system-building, which ideally happens before a country is hit by a major shock, the reality is that the need is often recognized only when a crisis is imminent; that poses a problem, especially for low-income countries, where the capacity to take urgent action is usually very weak. Mobilizing necessary expertise is often a vital first step, which is why RSR operational procedures allow the World Bank to deploy expertise quickly. The procedures are also designed for speedy processing of grant proposals. As mentioned earlier, an approval decision can usually be issued within two months, and often less, of the call for proposals (Figure 2). RSR provides more time to its low-income country clients by speeding up the processing on the side of the Bank.

Since RSR became operational in December 2009, four rounds of calls for proposals, corresponding to the receipt of funds from the donors (Figure 3), have taken place. For the first round, concluded in March 2010, 109 proposals were submitted, totaling US \$69 million, nearly 2½ times as much as the available resources at the time. In subsequent rounds, demand for RSR-funding has remained consistently strong.

In World Bank terminology, disbursements mean actual expenditures, i.e. payments made for goods, works, and services delivered. Disbursements take place only after goods are delivered, work is certified as satisfactory, invoices are submitted to the implementing agency

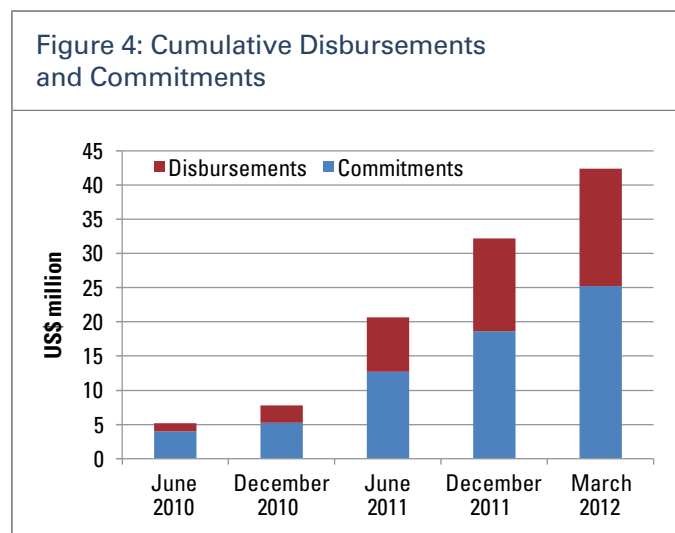
Figure 3: Rounds of Competitive Selection



for review, and payment is requested from the trust fund account. On the other hand, commitments are contractual obligations to provide funds for services to be provided, work to be done, and goods to be delivered. Thus, disbursements occur as the last step of implementation and are a lagging indicator of a project's progress.

As shown by Figure 4, disbursements and commitments are steadily increasing, indicating strong implementation progress. Nearly 70 percent of RSR funds has been either disbursed or contractually committed in a little over two years. And most of the projects in the portfolio are expected to accomplish their objectives as planned. Several projects, however, have had to be cancelled due to political instability, conflicts, and change of priorities in the country, including technical assistance to Nicaragua and a safety net pilot project in Yemen.

Figure 4: Cumulative Disbursements and Commitments



Lessons Learned

During the last two-plus years, RSR has grown quickly. Starting from zero in December 2009, the program portfolio has expanded to consist of 83 projects covering 42 low-income countries (see Page 47). RSR's resource base (US \$61.7 million) and funding level at about US \$685,000 per project are too small to provide actual protection—through cash benefits; temporary employment; or access to nutrition, health, and education—to the 1.58 billion poor people in those countries. It

is possible, however, to support those countries' efforts to construct and assemble critical building blocks of social protection, leading to enhanced capacity for effective and efficient systems to protect their people. RSR, though very young, is already catalyzing larger resources for many low-income countries (see Page 57).

The relationship between RSR and larger development assistance is like that between a fire hydrant network and fire engines. When a big fire breaks out, people crane their necks to see the fleet of big, red fire engines with their sirens and fire-fighters. Yet unless water comes out of the nearby fire hydrants, those imposing machines and courageous people can do little to extinguish the blaze. The invisible, underground network of water pipes must be planned and constructed well before the fire breaks out. Yet such projects rarely grab people's attention precisely because they are invisible. Similarly, when a poor country is hit by a major shock, large emergency loans or grants to fuel cash transfers and public works programs may become the key agenda item of discussions and negotiations. Yet without adequate instruments and people trained to use them for targeting poverty, identifying beneficiaries, making payments, and supervising work, the emergency loans are unlikely to be effective. That is precisely why an instrument like RSR—small, agile, and catalytic—is needed.

There are challenges, many of which are inherent to development work in low-income countries, and especially in those in fragile or post-conflict conditions. Unstable political environments, multiple shocks and crises, changes of the guard, weak coordination, and communications problems can cause—and have caused—unexpected delays. When projects have moved slowly, the RSR Management Team has considered the opportunity cost of maintaining their funding commitments to identify possibilities for reprogramming. As a result, two projects have been cancelled and their resources have been reallocated for other more promising projects. Several more may need to be partially or totally cancelled.

In spite occasional delays and cancellations, RSR stands as a successful instrument (IEG, 2011). A Development Committee Paper makes RSR's case: "The number of projects increased and many countries that had not engaged with the Bank for safety nets entered into a fruitful dialogue, often—especially low-income countries—spurred by the Rapid Social Response program." (World Bank, 2012a). Part of its success comes from its high degree of integration into the World Bank's core sector strategy and knowledge management network. The fact that RSR Management Team is placed in the Social Protection and Labor Anchor Unit (commonly denoted as HDNSP) facilitates the on-time mobilization of high-quality expertise for technical quality assurance and operational support.

An even more important factor in RSR's success has been the donors—the Russian Federation, Norway, and the UK—who mandated RSR to be flexible and agile. RSR operations do not confuse task teams and country beneficiaries by bypassing or replacing standard World Bank operational policies and procedures. The program has only a limited number of program-specific requirements, among which the most significant is the process of competitive selection of proposals. Therefore, both Bank task teams and beneficiary countries can concentrate on substance rather than incremental administrative burdens. In fact, many beneficiary countries and World Bank staff responsible for managing RSR-funded projects have expressed gratitude to the donors.

RSR has been one of the instruments capable of providing relatively small but highly catalytic funding for social protection. It has made a significant contribution in its brief existence, but that is just the beginning. After all, there are 40 more IDA-eligible countries, in addition to the 42 that RSR supported so far. There is more to be done, and more support will be needed.

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¹ For more information about GFRP, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/bankinitiatives.htm>.

² For information about IDA and IDA eligibility, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/ida>.

³ The UK originally announced to contribute GBP 200 million to the RSR TF (World Bank, 2009). However, it later decided to support the fund through the Pilot IDA Crisis Window instead and made a smaller amount available to the RSR.

⁴ Funds from the Russian Federation and the UK were made through multiple installments. The Russian Federation made three separate payments: US \$20 million in December 2009, US \$15 million in June 2010 and another US \$15 million a year later, June 2011. The funds from UK were received first December 2009 in the amount of GBP 1 million (US \$1.6 million equivalent) and a year later in the same amount.

⁵ Data from World Development Indicators (WDI). The numbers are the head count of people who live with US\$2 or less, where the data is available, or with the income below nationally established poverty lines. For Maldives and Papua New Guinea, the numbers were cited from the latest Country Assistance/Partnership Strategy for the respective countries.

⁶ These are indicative amounts and subject to change.



Building Safety Nets and other Social Protection and Labor Systems to Protect the Poor – Before a Crisis Hits

RSR is supporting the design, development, and implementation of systems that can protect the poor during crisis or post-conflict or when natural disasters strike. Many projects with this theme help to build and improve safety nets, like conditional and unconditional cash transfers and public works programs. Others provide diagnostics and formulate, implement, and evaluate policies and programs to protect workers during a crisis by stabilizing employment and earnings, including those of the youth and women.



Protecting Access to Basic Services for the Most Vulnerable

RSR helps build basic and equitable social services that prevent irreversible harm to the most vulnerable during a crisis. Such schemes typically ensure uninterrupted support to nutrition, health, and education.



Tapping Into Knowledge to Share Lessons and Create Toolkits

RSR helps to create new diagnostic techniques that benefit individual countries or have a global impact on social safety net systems and poor people's access to basic services, in normal times and in crises. Through its global involvement, RSR facilitates exchanges of experiences to make development more effective. RSR supports South-South Learning initiatives and development of communities of practitioners to make learning and exchange of experiences happen, across cultural contexts and borders.

Building Safety Nets and other Social Protection and Labor Systems to Protect the Poor — Before a Crisis Hits

RSR is supporting the design, development, and implementation of systems that can protect the poor during crisis or post-conflict or when natural disasters strike. Many projects with this theme help to build and improve safety nets, like conditional and unconditional cash transfers and public works programs. Others provide diagnostics and formulate, implement, and evaluate policies and programs to protect workers during a crisis by stabilizing employment and earnings, including those of the youth and women.





- Albania Making Social Assistance More Efficient, Equal, and Transparent
- Cameroon Strengthening Safety Net Responses to Crises
- Ghana Building a Common Cash-Transfer Targeting System
- Kenya Making Poverty Aid and Crisis Preparedness More Effective
- Liberia Fostering Multi-Sector Social Protection
- Nepal Improving Delivery of Cash-Based Safety Nets
- Tajikistan Helping Reform National Social Assistance





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Making Social Assistance More Efficient, Equal, and Transparent

ALBANIA

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	3,204,284
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2008)	4
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	3,960

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$50,000

Timeline

December 2009–December 2010

Partners

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities

Albania aims to do a better job of delivering on its commitment to reduce poverty. To do so, the country is reforming its social sector with support from a World Bank loan to make the system more effective, equal, and transparent. The Rapid Social Response program funded a functional review of the main poverty program—*Nhdima Ekonomike*—which was a step on the way to a more modern social benefit administration system.

Rationale

Albania stands as a success story, because it has sustained impressive economic growth since the 1990s and has proved to be relatively resilient to recent global crises. The country recently entered the ranks of upper-middle income countries and became eligible for commercial IBRD loans. But while Albania as a whole has seen a decline in poverty, remote areas lag behind. Twenty-seven percent of the population in the mountainous areas are poor. Many lives could potentially be improved by access to social benefits; yet coverage remains low and falling, due to the current eligibility rules and management of the benefit system. For the poor, applying for social benefits is often a frustrating experience. Many villagers travel long distances to the nearest social welfare office, only to be informed that additional documents are needed. Or they may find that they are not eligible for social assistance at all. Currently, applicants are automatically disqualified from benefits by answering with a single “yes” to any of a series of questions, which act as filters: Do you live with somebody who receives pension? Has someone in your household left to work abroad? Do you own a car? There is no mechanism for appeals.



Response

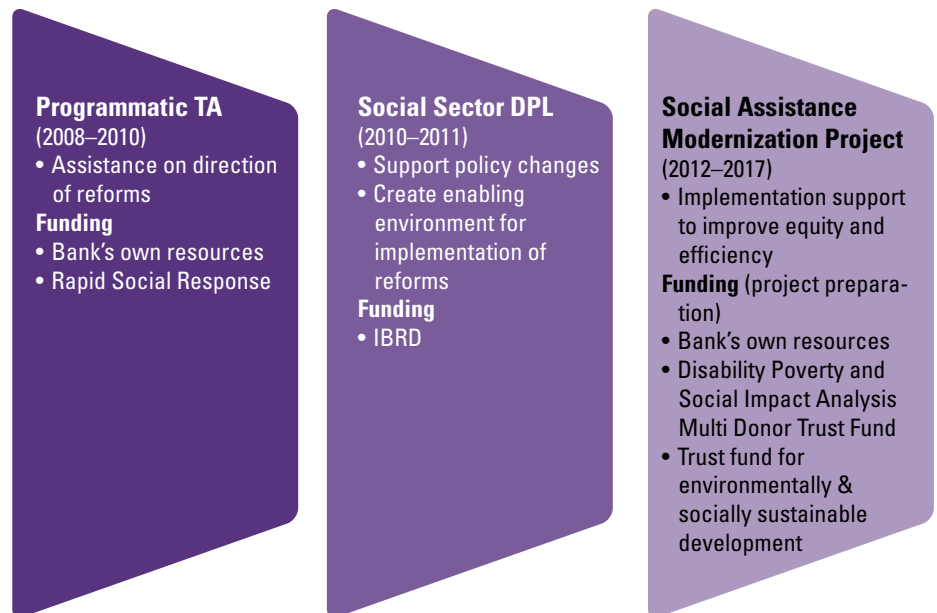
In response to the Government of Albania's commitment to reduce poverty, Albania's social sector is undergoing a major reform, to which the World Bank provided programmatic technical assistance (TA) from 2008 to 2010.

As part of the overall technical assistance, the Rapid Social Response Program funded a functional review of *Ndihma Ekonomike*, the main anti-poverty program. The review analyzed *Ndihma Ekonomike*'s architecture and procedures and charted information and financial flows, functional responsibilities, and institutional capacity. One major finding was the need for improved household registries and better administration of benefits.

The technical assistance led to a Social Sectors Development Policy Loan (DPL); US \$25,000,000), approved by the World Bank in 2011, to improve the effectiveness of social safety nets in a fiscally sustainable manner.

The proposed Social Assistance Modernization Project (US \$50,000,000), which is expected to be approved by the World Bank's board of executive directors soon, will provide support to the implementation of reforms for an improved anti-poverty system. Among the reforms, the project will help develop a new national registry for social assistance, which will streamline the application process for applicants and administrators alike. The registry also will facilitate the assembly and analysis of key program indicators, and thus policymakers will be able to monitor progress and better understand the realities of the lives of the poor.

How RSR Assists in the Reform Process





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises

CAMEROON

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	19,598,889
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2007)	30
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	1,180

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$550,000

Timeline

April 2010–October 2012

Partners

Government of Cameroon

RSR has supported a thorough inventory and analysis of viable social safety net programs in Cameroon and is now providing technical assistance for the design of a pilot cash transfer which, if successful and scaled up, could address the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

Rationale

In response to price increases during the devastating economic crisis in 2008, the government of Cameroon tried to remedy the situation through the use of universal subsidies for food and fuel products. Neither of them was successful in reaching those in most need. Food subsidies on maize, flour, frozen fish, rice, and wheat do not specifically target the poor, children, or other vulnerable groups. (Source: "Global Economic Effects on Children: Effects and Policy Options in West and Central Africa," UNICEF, 2010) Fuel subsidies do not benefit the poor either, because commercially available fuel, such as gasoline, is more likely to be consumed only by households in higher income groups.

Response

The Government of Cameroon is committed to strengthening its social safety nets system to support the poorest and most vulnerable during crises. RSR supported an assessment of the use of universal subsidies, and an inventory and review of the country's existing social safety net programs. RSR also supported a feasibility study for potentially viable social safety net programs in Cameroon.



Following the thorough analysis, the RSR project is helping to pilot-test a cash-transfer program that could benefit more than 2,000 households of poor and food-insecure people in the northern regions of Cameroon, especially children and women. RSR supports capacity building at central level for the overall design and monitoring of the pilot, including development of a management information system that will help in maintaining an accurate database of current and potential beneficiaries.

The government funds the implementation part of the project, including promoting the involvement of local institutions, in tasks such as helping to identify the potential beneficiaries, enrolling them, and handling grievance procedures.

Based on the findings of the assessment and lessons learned from the RSR-supported pilot, the government has initiated dialogue on potential future funding from IDA for a scale-up of effective safety nets to reach all poor and vulnerable households in the country.

Accomplishments to Date

- Completed safety net assessment and five background papers
- Conducted feasibility studies, now close to completion, with results already disseminated and discussed with the government, along with research on cash transfers and public works
- Began preparatory work of the development, implementation, and evaluation of a safety net pilot



Five Steps To Strengthen Cameroon's Social Safety Net System





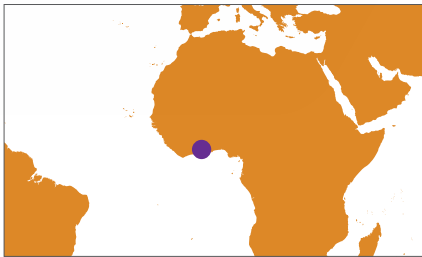
RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Building a Common Cash Transfer Targeting System

GHANA

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	24,391,823
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2006)	52
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	1,230

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$189,000

Timeline

April 2010–April 2012

Partners

Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, Ministry of Finance, UNICEF, DFID, WFP

Ghana, with support from the Rapid Social Response Program, has taken one step closer to a uniform targeting system that will help identify extremely poor households—those that would benefit most from both conditional and unconditional cash transfers, as well as fee waivers for health care. So far, 70,000 beneficiaries have been identified; the long-term target is 200,000 people.

Rationale

Ghana became a middle-income country at the end of 2010, as a result of two decades of political stability and economic growth. But while Ghana's economic potential is indisputable, social and economic inequality has the potential to overturn many of the country's gains. To stabilize growth, vulnerable groups in Ghana need assistance in finding pathways out of poverty through well-designed social protection and labor programs. Ghana has several mechanisms in place to build an inclusive, socially empowered society, but there is a strong need for a common targeting system that will prioritize spending and increase credibility among the poor.



“The beneficiaries [from employment in the labor-intensive reforestation projects] have been able to use the cash income to transform their lives by financing enrollment in health insurance and using the income as seed money for micro-business...” Village Chief in Bawku District, Upper East Region of Ghana.

“For the first time in our lives we do not need to worry about the costs of health care driving the family into penury.” Enrollee in the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme.

Response

With support from RSR and the World Bank, the country's once relatively inefficient systems for identifying beneficiaries of social safety nets are being replaced by simpler, more transparent procedures. The procedures were initially prepared to support the scaling up of LEAP (Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty), the country's main cash-transfer program; but they already have proven useful for selecting beneficiaries for other poverty-targeted programs, including the National Health Insurance Scheme and the labor-intensive works program. The work towards a common targeting system is supported by a community of donors, which provides technical assistance and monitoring to measure progress against annual targets. The new method uses a combination of community-based targeting and proxy-means testing. The communities themselves validate the final list of beneficiaries, to address possible errors.

RSR financed the initial analyses, field-testing, development of guidelines for implementing the targeting system, and training workshops on how to use and work with the system.

In parallel with the new targeting system, Ghana is developing a single register for all programs targeting poverty. The adoption of the single registry will be coordinated with the introduction of the nation's first biometric electronic ID system, which is under development.

Accomplishments to Date

- Developed and tested a uniform targeting system
- Developed proxy-means testing questionnaire
- Developed guidance materials and trained policy makers on the procedures of the common targeting system





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Making Poverty Aid and Crisis Preparedness More Effective

KENYA

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	40,512,682
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2005)	67
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	790

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$2.9 million

Timeline

April 2010–December 2012

Partners

Ministry of State for Planning; Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Development; Kenya Private Sector Alliance

The Rapid Social Response Program is supporting the government of Kenya in their effort to bring about a systemic change of the social protection system, and deliver more tangible and sustainable results for vulnerable people.

Rationale

Historically small and not coordinated with one another, Kenya's safety net programs have had local successes but have not attained a scale that could broadly reduce poverty or lessen the vulnerability of Kenya's population to crises. Poverty and vulnerability are perhaps Kenya's greatest challenges, with almost half of the population classified as poor and nearly 20 percent as extremely poor, and with many households at risk of sliding into poverty for a number of reasons—natural disasters, environmental degradation, health events, unemployment, and a lack of income in old age. Social and economic inequalities are added factors that weigh on both poverty and vulnerability. In addition, the country lacks adequate programs for youth, given that one in three of Kenya's poor is from 15 to 19 years old and that young people are a disproportionately large share of the unemployed.



The government has made social protection a priority in past couple of years, with the aim of reducing poverty and inequality and responding better to future crises. A draft National Social Protection Policy proposes a new institutional framework for managing the sector, with a focus on social assistance and social insurance. The policy, currently being considered by the Cabinet, also covers reforms to the country's health insurance and pension systems. Safety net programs, such as public works programs and cash transfers to the poor, could accomplish more with their limited implementation capacity if they were better coordinated.

Response

RSR has supported a set of activities that are helping Kenya improve the efficiency of existing programs, while laying the groundwork for reform, particularly in the social assistance programs.

RSR has funded technical assistance for the design of the government's single registry of beneficiaries, across all safety net programs. RSR resources have also financed technical assistance to the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Development to improve overall financial management of its Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children program. Within that program, RSR has supported a pilot to test use of conditional transfers to needy individuals. When complete, such testing is anticipated to produce credible evidence on the use of conditions to improve selected development outcomes in the Kenyan context.

To address the specific needs of youth, the government is implementing a pilot project, also funded by RSR, as part of its Kenya Youth Empowerment Program. In the pilot, the Kenya Private Sector Alliance places young men and women, aged 15 to 29, in six-month internships to allow them to gain skills and work experience. Interns split their time between training in business and life skills and work placements. The first internship program was completed in February 2012; the second will end in June 2012. RSR resources were used to develop a management information system for the internships, to provide technical assistance, and to conduct a comprehensive evaluation, still in process, of the internship component.

Accomplishments to Date

- Completed review of the urban food subsidy program and made progress on creating single registry of beneficiaries
- Funded technical assistance for financial management of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Development
- Began pilot on use of conditional cash transfers
- Installed MIS to support the youth training and internship program





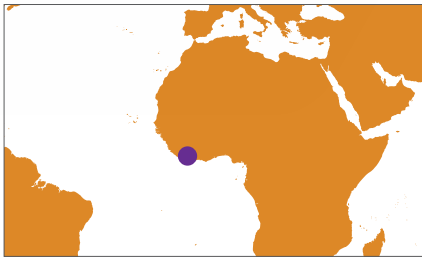
RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Fostering Multi-Sector Social Protection

LIBERIA

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	3,994,122
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2007)	95
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	200

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$290,000

Timeline

October 2010–March 2012

Partners

Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs

With flexible funds, the Rapid Social Response Program has mobilized expertise in response to the government’s need for technical assistance in developing a National Social Protection Strategy, as the country prepares to adopt its second Poverty Reduction Strategy in June 2012.

Following several waves of crisis in recent years, the government of Liberia recognized that a strategy for social protection would be a critical tool to safeguard the country’s poor and vulnerable populations, if and when another crisis hits. Such a strategy would account for Liberia’s specific pattern of vulnerability to food shortages, stemming from insufficient food production that is aggravated during the rainy season.

Social protection in Liberia depends heavily on donor financing. In addition, funds are spread thinly across many small-scale interventions, which are uncoordinated and often independent of government direction (Source: “The Social Protection Sector in Liberia: A Policy Note,” March 2012).



“No matter how developed Liberia becomes, there will still be people at the bottom of the ladder or who fall off the ladder, who will need the government to catch them.” Andrew Tehmeh, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Gender and Development, during the Regional Protection Strategy Consultations.

An RSR-funded Social Protection Diagnostic Report was a critical first step in the development of a coordinated and comprehensive social protection strategy, which will form an integrated part of the human development pillar of the country’s poverty reduction strategy.

The diagnostic report and the accompanying policy note detail the ongoing social protection interventions in the country. They also provide recommendations on how to make the transition from fragmented social protection programs to an integrated social protection system that can support the chronic poor during normal times and be scaled up quickly during a crisis.

The Social Protection Diagnostic Report has given impetus to broader policy discussions across sectors and outside the working group of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, UNICEF, and the World Bank. Increasing numbers of representatives from the government, development agencies, and civil society organizations now attend regular meetings.

A social protection specialist was hired with RSR funds to support the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and other government stakeholders in the drafting of the diagnostic report, to research informal indigenous coping mechanisms, and to help develop the social protection section of the poverty-reduction strategy. RSR also sponsored the participation of government officials in two South-South learning forums on public works and social safety nets, in 2010 and 2011.

Based on the Diagnostic Report and funded by the IDA Crisis Response Window and the Africa Catalytic Growth Fund Operation, the government is enhancing its capacity to monitor and evaluate its social protection programs.

Accomplishments to Date

- Completed a social protection diagnostic report and policy note
- Funded specialist to mobilize knowledge and guide agenda on social protection
- Facilitated rapid expansion of policy discussions on social protection





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Testing Methods to Target Poverty

NEPAL

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	29,959,364
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population)	57
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$) (2009)	440

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$2.18 million

Timeline

March 2011–September 2012

Partners

Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Education, United Nations Capital Development Fund

The Rapid Social Response is supporting an evidence-based approach to Nepal’s increased social safety net funding. A pilot project will test alternative methods of targeting cash transfers to the poor, with a goal of providing more equitable and effective delivery of services.

Rationale

Compared to countries of similar wealth and development, Nepal is advanced in its safety net programs. Nepal has expanded its social safety nets gradually since 1995 and increased spending substantially in recent years. Yet questions remain about whether the government’s commitment is matched by a capacity to deliver. Targeting of beneficiaries is mainly by category—old age, single women, belonging to historically excluded social group, etc.—and geography, which can be susceptible to leakage of funds to the non-poor while leaving a considerable number of the poor uncovered. In addition, management of social safety nets is spread across several government ministries, and implementation at the local level is not well-coordinated, which poses many planning and administrative challenges.

The limited available evidence suggests that better targeting of social safety net programs could make them more effective in reaching the poor. And strengthening the relationships between the ministries and local government could create synergies in use of data and the management of beneficiaries, while allowing agencies to focus on their respective strengths.



Response

RSR is supporting a pilot project to test alternative methods of targeting social safety nets, while helping local governments to deliver cash benefits more efficiently and to move towards improved planning and budgeting processes.

The pilot, launched in two districts, will support the districts in updating and computerizing existing household registers. The pilot is trying to find a targeting mechanism that can be used for other social safety net programs that seek to aid the poor and vulnerable. The targeting approach developed by the project uses both proxy-means testing and a multi-deprivation index; the pilot will test both methods and analyze their performance—as well as the current categorical targeting—and make recommendations.

The pilot seeks to put in place a system of electronic cash transfers to enable beneficiaries to receive their cash from independent payment providers—which could be banks, the postal service, telecommunications services, etc. Shifting to a private sector payment service provider has potential to increase the security of payments while giving beneficiaries greater access to financial services. The pilot will also establish a mechanism for redress that is accessible to all, including a process for people to appeal decisions and file complaints about the delivery of services.

Evaluation of the pilot is expected to generate findings on policy, implementation, and management of Nepal's social safety net program that will be disseminated to stakeholders in government and the donor community. The evidence from the pilot will inform the national dialogue and guide policy and programs to move toward a safety net system that is more efficient and inclusive.

Accomplishments to Date

- Reviewed cash-transfer programs to inform design and preparation of pilot
- Progressed toward developing MIS, evaluation, and payment methods
- Finalized targeting methods, with plans for evaluation and data collection nearly complete
- Progressed toward procuring service providers and preparing communication to launch with the registration process





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Supporting the Expansion of Social Protection

RWANDA

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	10,624,005
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2006)	87
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	520

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$2.2 million

Timeline

April 2010–September 2012

The Rapid Social Response Program is supporting a comprehensive assessment of the country’s social safety net system—a critical step as the country connects and strengthens its existing programs that protect poor and vulnerable people into a single system with coordinated management and expanded coverage. With a recent IDA grant from the World Bank, an estimated 115,000 households, or about half a million people, stand to benefit.

Rationale

Three years away from the target year of 2015, Rwanda has made notable progress towards many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including those related to access to primary education, the fight against communicable diseases, and better health and survival rates for mothers and children. But the country’s rapid population growth combined with its slow recovery from the global financial crisis mean that its gains in reducing poverty need to be accelerated in order to get closer to the MDGs related to poverty and hunger. The government and external



donors have launched several initiatives for poverty reduction and social protection, as part of the country's first poverty reduction strategy (2002-2005), but coordination of these initiatives and interventions has been a major stumble-block to efficiently overcoming poverty in Rwanda.

Response

RSR supported Rwanda's first social safety net assessment, which helped to define and solve some of the implementation issues of the country's National Protection Strategy approved in 2011. The assessment analyzed and identified gaps in a number of policy areas related to the fast-developing social sector in Rwanda, such as cash transfers, social insurance, targeting, decentralization, and harmonization. The RSR-funded assessment thus made a key contribution to the government's effort to move social protection to a higher level.

The assessment has paved the way for a US \$40 million International Development Association (IDA) grant, approved by the World Bank in March 2012, for the financing of the Support to Social Protection System Project (SSPS-1). This is the first in a series of three World Bank operations designed to support a larger and more efficient social protection system, as envisaged by the 2011 National Social Protection Strategy.

RSR has also funded the technical assistance necessary to carry out evaluations of the country's largest social safety net program, Vision 2020 Umurenge (VUP), which was originally launched as pilot. This program combines direct cash transfers, public works, and microcredit interventions to benefit the most vulnerable segments of the Rwandan poor population. RSR has also supported the development of beneficiary and administrative databases and training of VUP staff. Altogether, these RSR-funded activities have helped the program to expand, so that the social safety net system can cover more vulnerable families without jeopardizing fiscal sustainability. RSR support as a whole has been instrumental in supporting Rwanda to step-up efforts to address chronic poverty and cushion poor people from the adverse impacts of economic and climatic shocks.

Accomplishments to Date

- Supported Rwanda's first social safety net assessment
- Supported the design, development, and implementation of the social protection MIS, which includes a unified registry of beneficiaries
- Provided continuous support to the implementation and redesign of Vision 2020 Umurenge, the country's largest social safety net program





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Helping to Reform National Social Assistance

TAJIKISTAN

BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS TO PROTECT POOR PEOPLE—BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CRISIS



Population, total	6,783,390
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population)	28
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	730

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$2.7 million

Timeline

July 2011–November 2012

Partners

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, IDA, European Union, Asian Development Bank

The Rapid Social Response Program is supporting the development of the first building blocks of a system to deliver aid to the poorest households in Tajikistan, so that the government and donors will have an effective and efficient way to intervene in ordinary times and during crises.

Rationale

The Government of Tajikistan addresses poverty, in part, through two main social-assistance programs. The largest program helps the poor afford electricity and gas, and the second largest is a cash-transfer program for needy families whose children attend school. Despite the value of such aid, the social assistance programs have done little to reduce poverty rates, a conclusion reached in the World Bank report *Tajikistan: Delivering Social Assistance to the Poorest Households* (Report No 56593-TJ, 2011).

At present the country has no consolidated listing of beneficiaries, only paper files spread among government offices in each district (rayon). In understaffed district offices, the files on beneficiaries of social assistance are often inaccurate, or at least out-of-date, creating an obstacle to effective social assistance that can actually help people climb out of poverty.

Response

To improve management of social assistance to the poor, the government, through an International Development Association (IDA) grant of US \$3.2 million and the RSR fund, is building a National Registry for Social Protection. The registry, being tested



in a pilot project launched in January 2011, will apply a proxy-means test to identify the poorest households eligible for social assistance. It will also help the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to better manage, monitor, and oversee payments to beneficiaries and eventually be used by other social protection programs in each region.

The pilot, which receives technical support from the European Union and the World Bank, consolidates the two largest social-assistance programs into a single benefit, and uses a proxy-means test to target benefits to the poorest 20 percent of the population. The RSR grant supports the pilot in two districts by building their capacity. The pilot will continue through 2012; before the end of that year, a statistical evaluation funded by the grant will be completed. The government will use the evaluation as it prepares for a nationwide roll-out of the reform of social assistance in 2014.

In addition to supporting the creation and evaluation of the registry, the RSR grant supports planning for the roll-out of the reform of social assistance and training civil servants in management, technical skills, and community work. The funding will help purchase electronic equipment for offices that process applications for social assistance. The grant will also help Ministry of Finance to improve budgeting and oversight to better serve the population.

Accomplishments to Date

- Launched pilot in two districts to test new national registry
- Started data collection for evaluation of pilot
- Supported government in preparing for national reform, pending pilot evaluation results



Protecting Access to Basic Services for the Most Vulnerable

RSR helps build basic and equitable social services that prevent irreversible harm to the most vulnerable during a crisis. Such schemes typically ensure uninterrupted support to nutrition, health, and education.





The Gambia

Promoting and Expanding Nutrition Security for Children under Five

Haiti

Strengthening Health Delivery to the Most Vulnerable





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Promoting and Expanding Nutrition Security for Children under Five

THE GAMBIA

PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE



As malnutrition continues to threaten the children of Gambia, the Rapid Social Response (RSR) Program is supporting the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) in their work to raise policymakers’ awareness of the socio-economic gains the country is making from investing in nutrition. The government has developed an updated policy for nutrition, with an accompanying strategic plan for implementation. Both are integrated in the new Poverty Reduction Strategy of Gambia.

Population, total	1,728,394
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2003)	56
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	450

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$3.16 million

Timeline

March 2010–December 2012

Partners

National Nutrition Agency, UNICEF, WFP, ActionAid

Rationale

Gambia was badly affected by the recent food, fuel, and financial crises, which stalled many of the country’s gains toward the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals. With 24 percent of its children under five suffering from stunting (UNICEF 2010), Gambia has no time to lose. The updated policy improves and guides the nutrition work of stakeholders at the central and regional level. The strategic plan accompanying the updated policy for nutrition has implementation features of service-delivery platforms, which—when a crisis hits—can scale up quickly to reach many more mothers and young children.

Response

With the government’s growing commitment comes the recognition that malnutrition is best addressed by the community, using simple, appropriate, cost-effective strategies. In villages, community-based approaches are a move away from traditional vertical approaches, in which children’s nutrition is addressed at the health center, often too late. The community-based approach entails engaging the community in activities that will combat malnutrition through prevention and recognition of early warning signs. The RSR-funded project provides behavior change communication activities for caretakers of young children aimed at changing practices of hand washing, feeding, malaria control, and home and village cleanliness. Trained village volunteers screen children for malnutrition and refer those with severe cases to the health clinic for treatment; they also distribute vitamin A capsules and medicine against intestinal worms.

RSR has also provided support to policy development at the central government level and helped NaNA, the agency responsible for implementing the policy, to strengthen institutional capacity and outreach. With RSR support, financial and procurement staff have been recruited and trained, new accounting software has been introduced, and a framework for monitoring and evaluation has been adopted. Moreover, an awareness-raising strategy has been developed, and staff with expertise in communication and monitoring and evaluation have been recruited.

In addition, RSR has supported the training of 23 trainers from the government's regional health teams to guide the work of community workers in villages and helped form 180 village support groups for nutrition activities in the communities, encompassing a total of 1,260 members and volunteers in 506 villages across the country.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Supported the development of an updated policy on nutrition
- Helped to elaborate and produce budget estimates for a strategic plan for nutrition
- Developed tools for monitoring and evaluation
- Supported campaign to register all children under five in 506 communities
- Developed nutrition advocacy strategy

Integrated Anemia Control



181 Gambian villages receiving RSR-funded community-based nutrition support have started community gardens since the project began in 2010.

RSR is supporting a pilot project for integrated control of anemia, which is a major cause of maternal deaths and cognitive deficiencies in children under five in Gambia. The pilot is an add-on to the service delivery platform for maternal and child nutrition at the community level. Community workers, by a simple prick in the finger, can quickly diagnose an iron deficiency and thus detect anemia early. The pilot project supplies villages with needed resources to prevent iron deficiency, such as knowledge on why and how to use insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria (one of anemia's leading causes), incentives to start a communal garden, and food fortification powder that can be sprinkled on top of food.

The pilot project has demonstrated that simple, low-cost interventions that are integrated in the community can reduce anemia among children and pregnant and lactating women. The next step is to build links to other relevant sectors, such as health, agriculture, education, and social protection and to other community development initiatives, then scale-up the project across the whole country. With an effective model, a stronger state nutrition agency, and an improved policy, the government and its partners may save lives and offer a better future to mothers and children in every Gambian village.





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Strengthening Health Delivery to the Most Vulnerable

HAITI

PROTECTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE



Population, total	9,993,247
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2001)	78
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$) (2009)	670

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$1.8 million

Timeline

May 2011–December 2012

Partners

Government of Haiti, UNICEF, UNFPA, Partners in Health, MSH, Save the Children, Pan American Health Organization, World Food Program

In Haiti, the Rapid Social Response Program has funded the pilot testing of innovative health and social services delivery, which—when scaled up with support from IDA—will constitute a key contributor to one of three main pillars in the government’s goal to reduce hunger by 50 percent over the next five years. The use of fast-tracked, simple, and flexible RSR procedures allowed for timely preparation of the operation. The RSR-funded activity encouraged collaboration with other donors and private sector service providers to co-design and co-implement the operation.

Rationale

The reconstruction of Haiti, after the 2010 earthquake, shows progress, but poor access to clean water and sanitation and a persistent food crisis keeps the country in a state of emergency. Fluctuating food prices, poor harvests, and weak government institutions continue to have devastating effects on the health, food, and nutrition security of the population, especially children under age five and their mothers. To lessen those impacts, the government of Haiti has adopted a national strategy to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The strategy goes by the name *Aba Grangou*, which in Creole means “Down with hunger.”

Response

The pilot project funded by RSR has been chosen by the Government as a key contributor to one of the three main pillars in its strategy to reduce hunger by 50 percent over the next five years and to eradicate it by 2025.



“Before, community agents were too few to get good results. Now, with Kore Fanmi, the agents can work much more closely with the families, understand their situation, and gain their trust. We really think that this can make a difference, especially for the communities that are very hard to reach.”

Nurse Thulme, Community Health coordinator for Zanmi Lasante, Partners in Health, Centre Department, Haiti.

The Kore Fanmi pilot project started in 2011 in Le Plateau Central—one of the country’s poorest rural departments. The objective of the Kore Fanmi pilot is to test a new mechanism to improve family health and nutrition practices and to strengthen health delivery through coordinated community support and information management.

The pilot is introducing a management information system (MIS) to help municipalities target poor households and to keep close track on their basic needs, health, and the delivery of basic social services. The MIS will make data available, on demand, to local and central government agencies, donors, and aid organizations data.

Making systematically collected information on both the demand and supply of services and programs available to all service providers in the community will improve coordination among the many development organizations in Haiti and ensure more effective support to poor and vulnerable families.

To increase efficiency in the delivery of basic services, the RSR Kore Fanmi pilot project also introduced household development agents, or Agents Kore Fanmi. These community workers are employed by non-governmental organizations that work closely with the municipality. The agents are entrusted with providing support for a range of basic needs, such as nutrition and health advice, provision of basic commodities such as mosquito nets and micronutrients, which are supplied by UNICEF and the World Food Programme and other donors and through referrals to health clinics and other key social services and programs.

What’s next

Preparations are under way for a US \$22 million expansion of the Kore Fanmi project, which the Government plans to cover all of Haiti. The project will be part of the IDA-supported project, “Haiti–Ensuring Health, Nutrition, and Social Services for the Vulnerable,” valued at US \$50 million. The MIS that the pilot project is introducing, which will operate under the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Planning, will be a key instrument for planning that project, and others; where it can improve the coordination and cost-efficiency of all services, including education, health, agriculture, and the nation’s civil registry, in close collaboration with the commission overseeing the Aba Grangou strategy against hunger. That strategy has set a goal of having 15,000 Agents Kore Fanmi operational throughout the country to wage the nation’s campaign against hunger and malnutrition.

Accomplishments to Date

- Recruited and trained community agents and municipal teams
- Completed inventory of available social and health services
- Socioeconomic survey of beneficiary families ongoing
- Management Information System in test phase



Tapping Into Knowledge to Share Lessons and Create Toolkits

RSR helps to create new diagnostic techniques that benefit individual countries or have a global impact on social safety net systems and poor people's access to basic services, in normal times and in crises. Through its global involvement, RSR facilitates exchanges of experiences to make development more effective. RSR supports South-South Learning initiatives and development of communities of practitioners to make learning and exchange of experiences happen, across cultural contexts and borders.





Listening to LAC: Connecting Decision Makers to the Effects of Crisis

Resilience in the Face of Crises: Multi-Sector Actions for Better Nutrition

The West Bank and Gaza: Lessons in Successful Education in Tough Circumstances

South-South Learning Forum: Weaving a Web of Experiences





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Listening to LAC: Connecting Decision Makers to the Effects of Crisis

CREATING INNOVATIVE TOOLS, SHARING EXPERIENCES

Rapid Social Response Funding

US \$250,000

Timeline

April 2010–June 2012

Partners

National Statistics Organization of Peru (INE), Spanish Trust Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (SFLAC), Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD), World Bank.

The Listening to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) pilot project is developing a system to use mobile phones to help collect high-frequency data—indicators that change on a weekly or even daily basis—on how people are affected by crises. It sets up a system for quick real-time surveys of entire populations—including their most vulnerable members, before, during, and after a crisis.

Rationale

During the recent food, fuel, and financial crises, governments across the world were faced with a need to quickly assess the impact on their populations. In many countries, available data were not current enough to show the real impacts of unfolding events on households. Officials found themselves in the dark, for example, about how many families were forced to skip meals as a direct consequence of loss of income, or how many breadwinners lost their jobs, or to what extent families



were forced into distress sale of their livestock or decided to pull their children out of school. It became clear that, regardless of whether a crisis is natural or man-made, the lack of fresh data makes it very difficult for governments and donors to accurately assess the needs of their poor and vulnerable populations in a timely fashion.

Response

The Listening to LAC pilot is developing a system to help collect high-frequency data using mobile phones. The scheme would conduct quick, real-time surveys by contacting a sample of individuals representing the entire population, including the most vulnerable. The pilot has begun in Peru and Honduras, with invitations to 1,500 households to participate in self-administered surveys on food security, employment, drought, violence, illness, and social services. Participants use their own mobile phones if they have them; if not, the project supplies one. Surveys are completed by voice or text messaging, a form of communication available to anyone with a cell phone. Analysis of the responses allow policymakers to have a better, if not instant, sense of what is happening on the ground, to better target policies in response to crises.

The Listening to LAC pilot asks several questions: Among them if a nationally representative sampling is possible in a survey using mobile phones. And what biases may arise from using mobile phones as the communication medium. Listening to LAC is also testing the reliability of different survey modes: SMS text, interactive voice recognition, computer-assisted telephone interviews, and face-to-face interviews. Knowing which types of survey work best will be immeasurably useful for governments, the World Bank, and other partners that seek to conduct statistically sound surveys. Another question is whether giving incentives, specifically free airtime minutes, is necessary to motivate respondents; having to give incentives would add significantly to costs, if the pilot is scaled up to other countries. As part of the pilot, Listening to LAC is also designing a survey management tool that would be a one-stop solution for designing, managing, and launching mobile phone surveys, and for collecting, storing, and presenting data.

If the pilots in Peru and Honduras generate positive results, the Listening to LAC team plans to roll out the experiment to other countries in Latin America, including both middle-income and low-income countries. If this way of collecting high-frequency data proves to be a practical aid for decision-makers to improve policy response to a crisis, the innovation may eventually deliver benefits to the poor worldwide.

Accomplishments to Date

- Tested levels of incentives for respondents, developed methodology for questionnaires and sampling in Peru and Honduras, in concert with Peru's National Statistical Institute
- Finalized sampling and questionnaires
- Commenced fieldwork in Peru (October 2011) and Honduras (January 2012)





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



The West Bank and Gaza: Lessons in Successful Education in Tough Circumstances

CREATING INNOVATIVE TOOLS, SHARING EXPERIENCES

Rapid Social Response Funding

Donor Contribution: US \$400,000

Timeline

November 2010–November 2012

Partners

UNRWA Institute of Education

This project has analyzed a successful school program that provides Palestinian children with a quality education in selected countries of the Middle East. It also developed a tool for documenting administrative, classroom, and compensatory practices and applied selected assessment tools that can be used in conflict zones around the world.

Rationale

The schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in the Near East have been remarkably successful in educating Palestinian students, in spite of challenges and difficulties. Students at UNRWA schools often score higher on state exams than students in the government-run schools of the host country. Understanding the success of UNRWA schools would be valuable to countries in the region and organizations managing schools for displaced and refugee populations in other countries across the globe.



Response

To understand how the UNRWA school system operates so efficiently under difficult circumstances, RSR funded research on its students' academic achievement. Data from students was compared to students elsewhere, using the World Bank's System Assessment and Benchmarking for Education Results (SABER), a systematic process designed to examine education systems. The collected data included the results of international assessments, such as the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the International Association of



the Evaluation of Educational Achievement's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), as well as national assessments and exams, such as Jordan's National Assessment of Knowledge Economy Skills.

In analyzing the data, researchers constructed an econometric model that treats learning achievement as a function of student, family, school, and institutional factors. Statistical techniques were applied to overcome the identification and self-selection biases inherent in such analyses. Results for UNRWA schools were compared with those of public, as well as private (non-government, alternative) schools.

To add to the quantitative data, field workers collected qualitative data on administrative, classroom, and compensatory practices. They used focus groups, surveys, and interviews of school administrators, staff, teachers, students, parents, and community leaders in UNRWA school communities.

The analysis will be used to create a checklist of important factors in delivering quality schooling during crises and other difficult circumstances. The project will disseminate its findings in a report for the benefit of other countries, and for further improvement of the UNRWA schools. The report will be used by the UNRWA Institute of Education, which was participant in the study, as well as other teacher training programs, to improve the quality of teaching in the region.

As a secondary benefit, the project has led to the institutionalized use of classroom observations in Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza. In addition, in the West Bank and Gaza, researchers are working with local officials to implement a survey of school directors. They have also trained government and UNRWA officials in the use of a standard classroom observation tool; the government in the West Bank will start using this method for monitoring educational practice in the classroom.

Accomplishments to Date

- Compared achievement of UNRWA students to students in other schools and regions, and globally
- Collected qualitative data on administrative, classroom, and compensatory practices





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



Resilience in the Face of Crises: Multi-Sectoral Actions for Better Nutrition

CREATING INNOVATIVE TOOLS, SHARING EXPERIENCES

Rapid Social Response Funding

Donor Contribution: US \$250,000

Timeline

January 2011–November 2012

The Rapid Social Response Program is supporting the development, production, and dissemination of tools and materials to guide policy-makers and implementers of programs on nutrition around the world on how to address undernutrition from a multi-sector perspective to achieve more sustainable and rapid improvements in maternal and child undernutrition.



In the wake of high and volatile global food prices and the lingering global recession, policy makers and practitioners that are concerned with health and nutrition are looking for operational solutions to break the vicious circle of undernutrition.

Conventionally, nutrition programs and policies focus on specific or direct interventions delivered through the health sector—for example, distributing vitamin A supplements on Child Health Days; or using community health workers to educate families about better feeding practices for their children. But in response to the continuing high levels of malnutrition in the world, experts are now looking to broad-based, sustainable solutions that engage a range of sectors, including agriculture, education, and social protection in reducing the number of undernourished people in the world. There is substantial momentum for this approach. For example, the Framework for Action, part of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) global movement, launched in April 2010, calls for a multi-sector approach and the use of indicators of undernutrition as some of the key measures of progress in a broad range of sectors.



By reaching beyond the health sector alone, multi-sector action can strengthen nutrition outcomes in several ways. It can address some basic causes of undernutrition, such as lack of clean water, lack of food due to ineffective or nonexistent markets, or gender bias that prevents girls from attending school. Second, programs in sectors such as agriculture may be substantially larger than direct nutrition programs delivered through the health system, which could increase the scale of nutrition outcomes. Third, the increased coherence of policy that results when the government is attentive to the impact on nutrition of programs in other sectors can strengthen the outcomes for nutrition and lessen the unintended negative consequences.

RSR has supported a series of tools, analyses, and meetings to help countries and development partners develop practical ways to invest in nutrition through a variety of sectors. The multi-sector guidance briefs may contribute to several initiatives that make the link between agriculture, food security, and nutrition, including country-led efforts supported by the global movement for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), of which the World Bank is an architect and member. Workshops organized for development partners from a range of sectors are spreading an understanding of undernutrition and ways of integrating nutrition into their work.

As multi-sector approaches to nutrition continue gain momentum, national governments and international organizations may revise and adapt their policies on nutrition to include more multi-sector approaches, which may benefit efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for eradicating hunger and reducing child and maternal mortality.

Accomplishments to Date

- Developed three guidance briefs on multi-sector approaches to nutrition through agriculture, social protection, and health, expected to be finalized in May 2012
- Conducted analytical work that provided recommendations for multi-sector approaches to nutrition through poverty reduction, agriculture, social protection, and health





RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE



South-South Learning Forums: Weaving a Web of Experiences

CREATING INNOVATIVE TOOLS, SHARING EXPERIENCES

South-South Learning by the Numbers

“Making Public Works Work,”
Arusha, Tanzania
June 2010 (US \$520,370)

- 225+ participants from 44 countries
- 9 plenary sessions with 13 parallel sessions
- 34 country studies presented from 21 countries

“Building Resilient Safety Nets in Low-Income Countries and Fragile States,” Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
May 2011 (US \$760,000)

- 260 participants from 54 countries
- 7 plenary sessions with 11 parallel sessions
- 30 case studies presented from 24 countries

Rapid Social Response Program has been supporting South-South learning exchanges on practical ways to build effective social safety nets. At a Learning Forum in Arusha, Tanzania, in June 2010, professional staff from the governments of 44 countries shared their first-hand experience on implementing public works—an increasingly popular safety-net tool to generate temporary employment and income for low-skill workers during crises. A year later in May 2011, another forum was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where policymakers and civil servants compared notes on building resilient safety nets in low-income countries and fragile states.

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The two events represent a continuation of a series of learning forums in the past, including a series of events on conditional cash transfers (Mexico 2002, Brazil 2004, Turkey 2006), and the Cairo Forum 2009 on safety nets in response to the triple wave of food, fuel, and financial (FFF) crisis.

The Arusha forum was a response to growing demand among officials from low-income and fragile countries for greater understanding of how to design public works projects and implement them in a variety of circumstances—such as sudden shocks, chronic poverty, and the aftermath of violent conflict. Participants from many countries offered their experiences. Officials from Argentina and Rwanda shared their views on challenges of program implementation, including the setting of wages to promote inclusion of the poor and to avoid labor market distortions. Other speakers discussed the delivery of public works projects, from environmental rehabilitation on the Loess Plateau, China, to social accountability structures in Andhra Pradesh, India. Representatives from Yemen, Tanzania, and Armenia found

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“We believe that forums like this can help us design our programs in a shorter period of time and to begin from where others end.” Participant at the Learning Forum, in Arusha, Tanzania.

“The presentations during the Global Café were very informative. They helped interact with people who are really involved in defining strategies and implementing the programs.” Participant at the Learning Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

an agreement on the need for a clear division of roles and responsibilities among government agencies engaged in public works efforts. Liberian officials presented the payment systems their programs have deployed, providing insights to other countries that are recovering from conflict.

Most of the 225 participants who were sharing knowledge during the four-day forum were from low-income countries although middle-income countries were also represented. In addition to intensive peer-learning in plenary and break-out sessions, participants had an opportunity to witness through field trips how public works programs are actually implemented in Tanzania (organized by Tanzania Social Action Fund TASAF) Growing out of the forum, the forth-coming Public Works Toolkit will describe step-by-step to the broadest possible audience how to design and implement public works programs, featuring the case studies presented at the forum.

The second forum in the following May, “Building Resilient Safety Nets in Low-Income Countries and Fragile States” in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia provided another opportunity for policymakers and practitioners to share their experience. The over 260 participants from 54 countries discussed day-to-day operational issues of social safety nets, as well as innovations on how to design and implement safety nets in a variety of challenging environments.

An innovation at the Ethiopia Learning Forum was the Global Café—a series of simultaneous group discussions among small groups of country and donor practitioners. To provoke conversations, the sessions were anchored around a specific country case study which was presented by a table host, drawing on prepared country profiles.

By the end of the forum, a new community of practice (CoP) had emerged, building on the experience from Latin American and Caribbean countries, where such an initiative was launched six years ago to foster continued interaction between safety net program practitioners. The new CoP has since flourished through a series of regional video conferences, which will be followed by face-to-face meetings in Tanzania and in the UK this spring. An online community of practice is also under development to provide an additional and continuous platform for interaction.



THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
AFRICA			
BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS	Burkina Faso—Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises supports the design and implementation of a cash-transfer program and a feasibility study for a public works programs to support poor and vulnerable people.	500,000	Apr 2010–Jun 2012
	Cameroon—Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises provides analyses to assist the government in designing a responsive safety net system, including cash transfers and public works programs. mechanisms that can be scaled up in the event of a crisis.	550,000	Apr 2010–Oct 2012
	Cash Transfers—Design for Scaling Up in Sub-Saharan Africa supports development of social safety nets in Angola, Benin, Lesotho, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Technical assistance focuses on efficiency of existing programs and design of cash transfer plans that address chronic poverty and the basic needs of vulnerable groups during crises.	379,240	Feb 2010–May 2012
	Cote d’Ivoire—Assessing the Impact of Crises on Human Capital and Laying the Foundations for an Effective Social Safety Net System jump-starts the delivery of basic social services and to meet the immediate needs of poor and vulnerable groups.	300,000	Dec 2011–Nov 2012
	Democratic Republic of Congo—Building Capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs to Provide Services for Vulnerable Groups aims to improve the government’s ability to protect and serve vulnerable groups during the current crisis and to better prepared for future shocks. The pilot project targets street children and other vulnerable children through conditional cash transfers to vulnerable families and schools. The grant is associated with the IDA-financed Street Children Project.	1,980,000	Feb 2011–Jul 2012
	Ghana—Cash Transfers Design and Scale Up aims to address the design and targeting aspects to develop a common methodology for all safety net programs in the country. This effort is important and timely, as the country’s Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty program is being proposed to expand nationwide.	188,758	Apr 2010–Apr 2012
	Guinea—Strengthening Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises assists the government in laying the foundations of a safety net system capable of responding effectively to crises and increasing people’s resilience to withstand future shocks.	400,000	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
	Kenya—Support for Social Protection supports the government in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection. One project assists in improving the overall coordination and harmonization of the social protection system. A second project helps implement the IDA-funded Kenya Youth Empowerment Project for unemployed youth.	2,945,000	Apr 2010–Dec 2012
	Lesotho—Social Safety Net Review supports the improvement of the existing safety net system to better protect the poor and vulnerable under crisis.	140,700	Nov 2011–Dec 2012

THEME	FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
Liberia—Development of a Crisis Response Social Protection Strategy and Capacity helps the government develop its capacity to respond to crises and plan for scalable, sustainable, and equitable social protection as the country prepares to adopt a new Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2012.	290,000	Oct 2010–Mar 2012
Liberia—Improving Employment of Vulnerable Youth aims to provide analyses and advice to the government on how to prioritize and sequence employment programs targeting vulnerable youth, while taking market forces into account.	240,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
Mozambique—Developing the Building Blocks for Effective Crisis Response tests a public works program designed to enhance the government’s capacity to respond to the global crisis and prepare for future shocks.	2,155,000	Nov 2010–Sep 2012
Nigeria—Strengthening Social Safety Net assists the government in developing knowledge and skills on safety nets in light of current global and national development challenges.	400,000	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
Rwanda—Technical Assistance for Stronger Social Safety Nets aims to help existing social protection programs prepare to protect vulnerable households during future shocks, and aims to boost their capacity to scale-up interventions and absorb more funds when needed.	2,204,000	Apr 2010–Sep 2012
Senegal—Developing a Unified and Effective Safety Net supports development of a comprehensive social protection system and explores the feasibility of interventions to build the resilience of households to shocks and crises. One aim is recommending policies and platforms to address the main risks and vulnerabilities, in light of the country’s economic and poverty strategies.	294,274	Apr 2010–Dec 2012
Sierra Leone—Social Safety Net Support provides a diagnostic of sources of poverty, vulnerabilities, and shocks for households and makes recommendations to improve the safety net system, with the goal to move from an ad hoc emergency focus to a systems focus.	300,000	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
Social Protection Design and Implementation in Sub Saharan Africa helps design of cash-transfer programs targeting the chronic poor that can be scaled up to include transitory poor and food-insecure households after a shock.	100,000	Apr 2010–Apr 2012
Tanzania—Enhancing Crisis Response for the Most Vulnerable Children and Elderly Poor aims to enhance the design and impact of community-based, conditional cash transfers for poor and vulnerable households, with the goal of fostering sustainable livelihoods that would end the need for cash transfers.	2,114,500	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
Togo—Promoting Innovative Crisis-Response Social Protection supports the government in preparing a system of social protection and safety nets system that can aid vulnerable households in time of crisis.	285,000	Nov 2010–Sep 2012
Togo—Support to Social Safety Net Development aims at developing a cash transfer program, improving the design of existing programs, and moving toward an integrated national system.	220,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012

THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
	Youth Employment in Africa—The Skill Development-Labor Demand Conundrum builds evidence for identifying programs that improve employability and earnings among youth and reduce their vulnerability and risky behavior—knowledge that can improve design of labor-market interventions.	100,000	Mar 2010–Apr 2012
	Zimbabwe—Public Works Program helps the Ministry of Labor and Social Services redesign its current program to make it more responsive to the needs of the poor in time of crisis. The pilot aims to improve the livelihoods and access to services for poor and vulnerable households in selected rural communities.	1,085,000	Mar 2011–Dec 2012
PROTECTING ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES	Benin and Malawi—Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Design, Implement, and Monitor Nutrition Security Programs enhances countries' ability to respond to and mitigate the nutritional impact of unpredictable economic and climate-related shocks.	385,000	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
	Ethiopia—Strengthening the Early Warning System strengthens the safety net system by improving the targeting, coverage and quality of existing nutrition indicators. The project complements an IDA-financed Nutrition Project.	1,048,000	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
	Gambia—Rapid Response Nutrition Security Improvement Project supports the National Nutrition Agency in mitigating the impact of the global economic crises on the nutrition security of children under age two and pregnant and lactating women in poor rural and urban areas.	3,155,000	Mar 2010–Dec 2012
	Lesotho—Estimating the Impact of Economic Crises on Education and Skills Development collects and analyzes the latest data to assist the government in targeting education and labor market policies to help youth and vulnerable groups during economic crises.	230,000	Apr 2010–Dec 2012
	Madagascar—Assessing Negative Effects of the Political Crisis and Protecting Access to Essential Health and Nutrition Services focuses on helping preserve health, nutrition, and population services that protect the health of the population in the short- and medium-term.	450,000	Jun 2011–Sep 2012
	Madagascar—Development of Tools to Monitor and Mitigate the Effect of Crises on Out-of-School Children supports efforts to better diagnose the effects of economic and political crises on children and to create mechanisms to maintain the education of vulnerable children.	450,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
	Malawi—Protecting Early Childhood Development supports 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.	2,192,000	Mar 2011–Jun 2012
	Mali—Piloting Effective Early Childhood Development Services assists in the government's response to crises by developing cost-effective early childhood development services for vulnerable children in rural areas.	2,214,200	Oct 2010–Sep 2012
	Operations and Capacity Development for Nutrition in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo promotes the scaling up of nutrition programs through strategies to enhance awareness, consensus, commitment, and capacity-building.	70,000	Feb 2010–Apr 2012

THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
TAPPING INTO KNOWLEDGE	Cash Transfers and Conditional Cash Transfers in Sub-Saharan Africa—A Community of Practitioners builds a community of practice for cash transfers and conditional cash transfers in six countries.	450,000	Jun 2011–Sep 2012
	Experience of Cash-for-Work in Liberia and Togo draws on the experience of the Liberia Cash for Work Project in assisting the Togo Government in identifying key issues and success factors for a new public works intervention.	90,000	Apr 2010–Feb 2012
	Informal Safety Nets in Eastern and Southern Africa supports the preparation of two case studies, on Rwanda and Zimbabwe, to elucidate the interplay among formal and informal safety nets.	120,000	Feb 2010–Apr 2012
EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA			
BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS	Albania—A Functional Review of the Administrative Processes of Ndihma Ekonomike delineated the program's administrative architecture and mechanics by assessing operational aspects, including diagnostics on information and financial flows, functional responsibilities, and institutional capacity.	49,846	Dec 2009–Dec 2010
	Rapid Assistance to Improve Social Safety Nets in Kyrgyzstan in the Face of Energy Tariff Reforms supports the Agency for Social Protection in reforming social safety nets so the poor and vulnerable households have better access to programs, mitigating potential harm from the tariff increases.	60,000	Mar 2010–Feb 2012
	Kyrgyzstan—Enhancement of Targeted Social Assistance aims to enable rapid expansion and improve the administration and coverage of the poor during periods of economic volatility.	260,000	Jul 2011–Jun 2012
	Tajikistan—Targeting and Enhancing Social Assistance to the Poor helps the government target its safety net protections more accurately to the poor, during crises and at other times, and make it a vehicle through which donors can channel benefits and services to the poor and provide incentives to build human capital, particularly of girls.	2,735,000	Feb 2011–Nov 2012
PROTECTING ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES	Tajikistan—Protecting and Promoting Access to Maternal and Neonatal Health Services assesses the feasibility of conditional cash or in-kind transfer programs, or a combination, to protect access for the poor to health services in parts of Soghd Oblast.	400,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC			
BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS	Monitoring and Evaluation for Mongolia Social Welfare Programs gives technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor in enacting revised parameters, including a new process of modeling baseline projections and alternatives to the current social security scheme; developing a savings program for the herders and the informal sector; potentially expanding and restructuring old-age income assistance; and establishing a social security reserve fund.	70,000	Feb 2010–Feb 2012

THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
	Papua New Guinea—Ensuring Effective Monitoring and Evaluation and Social Accountability for the Urban Youth Employment Project provides capacity-building and oversight so training and public works are targeted to poor applicants and monitored and evaluated rigorously and that social accountability mechanisms are effective.	300,000	Jan 2011–Nov 2012
	Timor-Leste—Innovation in Developing Effectiveness of Safety Nets improves program management of the Ministry of Social Solidarity so it can implement cash-transfer programs more efficiently, reliably, and transparently. Innovations such as standardized information management and stronger management capacity attend to current needs and prepare for future crises.	2,220,000	Mar 2011–Dec 2012
	Timor Leste—Strengthening Social Safety Nets Institutions strengthens the delivery of social assistance, focused on a diagnosis of existing payments systems and policy options for feasible alternative systems; a program to strengthen the MIS in the Ministry of Social Solidarity to facilitate monitoring and evaluation and to enhance oversight of the social protection system; and a review of related institutional issues.	100,000	Jan 2010–Apr 2012
TAPPING INTO KNOWLEDGE	Implementing Social Protection Programs—Asia Learning Forum focuses on the implementation of social protection programs, aiming to enhance low-income countries' capacity to support the poor and respond to shocks.	450,000	Dec 2011–Nov 2012
LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN			
BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS	Honduras Strengthening Social Protection aims to improve the capacity of the government to strengthen its safety net programs to foster investments by extremely poor families in human capital accumulation.	80,000	Jan 2010–Jun 2012
	Nicaragua—Expansion of the Family and Community Based Social Welfare Model with Cash Transfers aims to improve the well-being of extremely poor families with children by supporting expansion of a model program for family and community-based social welfare and cash transfers; and to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of the Family, Youth, and Children to implement the model.	2,750,000	Dec 2011–Sep 2012
	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)—Enhanced Crisis Resilience Project aims to strengthen the OECS secretariat's capacity to support and guide national crisis responses on social protection by promoting evidence-based policy making. The effort is needed because of a lack of available data and policy instruments to defend social protection and safety net quality at the national level in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and to ready country-specific and regional responses to global systemic crises and other external shocks.	500,000	Dec 2011–Nov 2012
PROTECTING ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES	Gender-Based Violence in Post-Earthquake Haiti aims to contribute to preserving the safety of women and girls and addressing the extreme increases in gender-based violence in Haiti through proven community-based interventions.	581,000	Sep 2011–Sep 2012

THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
	Haiti—Household Development Agent Pilot aims to improve family health and nutrition practices and strengthen capacity to deliver social services directly to families in the pilot area. The pilot provides nutrition and health related education to beneficiary families and improve their awareness of available social programs and services; provides basic commodities and select services directly to the families. The RSR will provide additional financing of US\$1,500,000 to the pilot.	1,689,000	Apr 2010–Dec 2012
	Haiti Nutrition Security and Social Safety Nets improves the capacity and effectiveness of nutrition-related safety net programs and addresses acute and chronic malnutrition.	90,925	Nov 2010–May 2012
	Honduras—Improving Nutritional Monitoring and Targeted Response to the Global Crisis improves identification of vulnerable groups during global crises and strengthens the response through social programs that improve targeting.	1,200,000	Dec 2011–Nov 2012
	Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti—Education Sector Rapid Response and Protection of Youth Vulnerable to Violence and Conflict helps those countries experiencing a violence and crime crisis to turn knowledge on youth and organized violence into data for policy setting, planning, and program design to provide timely protection for youth.	379,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
	Improving Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Countries Responses to Protect the Nutritional Status of the Poorest and Most Vulnerable in Times of Crises and Emergencies focuses on improving the capacity of Bolivia, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, St Lucia, St Vincent to protect the nutritional status of the poorest and most vulnerable during emergencies and crises, especially food price volatility.	256,000	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
TAPPING INTO KNOWLEDGE	Listening to LAC—Mobile Phones as Instruments for Rigorous Surveys tests use of a low-cost, quick method of gathering data in Latin America and the Caribbean to give timely information on poor and vulnerable populations. Near-real-time data would be valuable at any time but especially during a shock or crisis or its immediate aftermath, enabling faster diagnoses of poverty and vulnerability and raising warnings for policymakers and donor institutions so they can respond more effectively.	250,000	Apr 2010–Jun 2012
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA			
BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS	Djibouti—Employment for the Poor Project supports the scale-up and improves the design and effectiveness of the Djibouti Social Development Agency workfare program as a key component of Djibouti's response to crises that undermine its human development.	174,000	Jan 2010–Apr 2012
PROTECTING ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES	Yemen—Targeted Delivery of Early Childhood Nutrition Interventions. Though the pilot project was cancelled due to prevailing security concerns in Yemen, the grant supports a short household survey to monitor the economic and social impact of instability, including food security; further design work on a conditional cash-transfer program reflecting lessons from the ongoing program and the current situation; and technical assistance for design of an impact evaluation for the pilot and plans to scale up.	215,575	Oct 2010–Sep 2012

THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
TAPPING INTO KNOWLEDGE	Lessons from Successful Education Administration under Difficult Circumstances captures lessons from the success of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, which provides education to Palestinian students in the Middle East. A common data tool has been developed, and the lessons will be disseminated to benefit schools for the displaced and refugees across the globe.	400,000	Nov 2010–Nov 2012
SOUTH ASIA			
BUILDING SAFETY NET SYSTEMS	Afghanistan—Results-Oriented Approach in the Pro-Poor Program Design and Implementation aims to strengthen the institutional capacity in the monitoring and evaluation of government programs and of mechanisms for the delivery of benefits, so poverty-oriented interventions become more effective, efficient, and able to respond rapidly to crises.	530,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
	Bangladesh—Improving the Payment and Monitoring System for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest aims to make the beneficiary payment and record keeping mechanisms for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest more efficient.	1,097,666	Jun 2011–Dec 2012
	Bangladesh—Piloting Conditional Cash Transfers for Human Development through Local Governments aims to protect extremely poor families from harm from higher unemployment and food prices. The pilot tests the mechanisms for delivering conditional cash transfers through local governments to improve children's nutrition and education.	2,987,400	Sep 2010–Dec 2012
	India—Broadening the Urban Safety Net Dialogue aims to streamline and improve the effectiveness of urban safety nets to rationalize the operation of various safety nets programs.	100,000	Mar 2010–Feb 2012
	India—Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation System of Selected Social Protection Programs in the State of Rajasthan assists the government of Rajasthan in strengthening and integrating systems for monitoring and evaluation of selected social protection programs.	250,000	NA–Dec 2012
	Maldives—Building a Common Platform for Identification of the Poor assists the government in designing and implementing a common platform for identification of the poor.	220,016	Jan 2010–Jun 2012
	Nepal—Strengthening Safety Nets in Nepal: Piloting Targeted Conditional Cash Transfers aims to improve the delivery of cash-based safety nets in pilot districts through technical assistance and capacity building to the Ministry of Local Development.	2,177,650	Dec 2010–Sep 2012
	Pakistan—Financial Inclusion and Literacy Outcomes of Cash Transfers through the Banking System studies the virtuous cycle of cash transfer programs and their effects on financial literacy and safety net graduation of beneficiaries. It aims at improving the design and implementation of the payment side of cash transfer programs in Pakistan and beyond.	810,000	May 2011–Jun 2012
	Sri Lanka—Skills Development for Unemployed Youth examines the impact of the economic crisis on vulnerable groups, especially unemployed or underemployed youth, in the formal and informal labor markets, provides the government with analysis of critical policy issues on skills development, and engages policymakers in an informed dialogue on options for skills development strategies that lead to employment creation and economic growth.	245,000	Jun 2011–Sep 2012

THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
PROTECTING ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES	Sri Lanka—Strengthening Targeting, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Safety Nets finances the scaling up and evaluation of an improved targeting and MIS system that is being developed for the Samurdhi safety net program. The goal is to improve the overall institutional capacity of Samurdhi to improve identification of beneficiaries and monitor and evaluate the program's performance.	200,000	Jun 2010–Sep 2012
	India—Critical Analysis of the Institutional Arrangements for Improving Nutrition Outcomes analyzes existing institutional arrangements for organizing, coordinating, and delivering nutrition services in India and provides recommendations for strengthening them.	99,750	Feb 2010–Apr 2012
	Maldives—Technical Assistance to the National Social Protection Agency on the National Health Insurance Scheme aims to strengthen the capacity of National Social Protection Agency to improve the design of the Madhana, the country's nascent social health insurance system; to develop the agency's implementation capabilities; and to build a robust monitoring and evaluation system that enhances the system's efficiency and effectiveness.	60,000	May 2011–Sep 2012
	Pakistan—Health Shocks to the Poor aims to increase the resilience of the population against health shocks caused by natural disasters through increasing the knowledge base and preparing a comprehensive health-sector response to the health-expenditure shocks due to the recent crises of floods in Sindh and Punjab.	400,000	Jan 2012–Nov 2012
GLOBAL			
TAPPING INTO KNOWLEDGE	Public Works Learning Forum—Social Protection South-South Learning Forum 2010 , organized and held in June 2010, in Arusha, Tanzania, provided opportunities to the 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.	520,370	Feb 2010–Dec 2011
	The South-South Learning Forum—Building Resilient Safety Nets in Low Income Countries and Fragile States focused specifically on promoting resilient safety nets, following the recent wave of food, fuel, and financial crises and natural disasters. The event, completed in June 2011, helped to shape social protection & learning sector approach to South-South exchange, as a continuously evolving learning and training tool.	760,000	Nov 2010–Nov 2012
	South-South Learning Forum—Labor Market Policy Response to the Global Jobs Crisis is scheduled for November 2012 and will focus on labor and social protection policies during the recent economic crisis and recovery to bolster effective policymaking on labor markets and social protection in response to economic crises.	450,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
	Resilience in the Face of Crisis—Multi-Sector Actions to Achieve Nutrition Results improves the capacity of practitioners across sectors to plan and implement programs to protect and improve nutrition outcomes for the poorest and most vulnerable people, and to buffer at-risk populations against future shocks in times of crisis.	250,000	Jan 2011–Nov 2012

THEME		FUNDING AMOUNT (US\$)	TIMELINE
	Development of a Global Action Plan for Scaling-up Nutrition aims to influence political leaders at global and country levels and to contribute towards a common agenda and platform for action among those engaged in scaling-up nutrition investments.	39,690	Feb 2010–Feb 2012
	Food Crisis Monitoring System aims to develop a simple 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 will categorize each IDA country's exposure to shocks and its capacity to react.	75,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
	Monitoring the Health Outcomes and Financial Vulnerability of the Poorest sought to enhance access to health services and reduce financial vulnerability to health shocks by training policymakers and researchers in analysis of financial protection and equity, using ADePT Health software, and by producing country-specific reports on financial protection, vulnerability, and equity in the health sector.	160,535	Apr 2010–Sep 2011
	Policy Levers to Protect Health and Enhance Financial Protection aims to protect access to health services and reduce household financial vulnerability in times of crisis by improving the capacity of governments, the World Bank, and the international community to monitor the health outcomes of the poor and their vulnerability to health shocks, and also to design health systems and policies more effectively to provide protection during future crises.	450,000	Aug 2011–Sep 2012
	Preparing Social Protection Systems for Natural Disasters and Climate Change aims to enhance the capacity of officials and practitioners in client countries and World Bank task teams to improve safety net programs so they respond more effectively to natural disasters and the impact of climate change.	375,000	Jul 2011–Sep 2012
	Development of the ADePT Crisis Module supports the application of the ADePT software platform to crisis diagnostics and the design of policies for crisis prevention.	250,000	Mar 2011–Sep 2012
	Impact of Financial Crises on Children and Youth—Protecting Human Capital of Future Generations sheds light on the effect of systemic shocks on the acquisition and use of human capital among children and youth and identifies evidence-based crisis responses to protect their well-being during systemic shocks.	250,000	Dec 2010–May 2012
	The Health Sector and the Poor in a Financial Crises—Identifying and Managing Risks ensures that important operational lessons are captured and shared with the global health community through two reports as well as established and innovative capacity building and knowledge-sharing instruments.	450,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
	Development of a Management Information System for Social Protection aims to develop a high-quality, reliable client registry system to allow for the timely design and delivery of systems of social protection. The MIS also will allow the World Bank and its clients to deploy systems of social protection that could be scaled and adapted to changing conditions or crises.	350,000	Nov 2011–Nov 2012
		56,794,094	

RSR-funded Projects Formally Associated with IDA Operations

COUNTRY	RSR ACTIVITY NAME	RSR Amt (US \$M)	IDA Amt (US \$M)	Status of IDA Project	Support from other sources	IDA Project Name
IDA FINANCING CONFIRMED						
Afghanistan	Results-Oriented Approach in the Pro-Poor Program Design and Implementation	0.20	7.5	Approved FY10		AF: Pension Admin and Safety Net
Albania	Social Protection Diagnostics and Dialogue (<i>Albania became an IBRD country after RSR Catalyst Fund was granted</i>)	0.05	25.0	Approved FY11	IBRD	Social Sector Reform DPL
			40.0	Pipeline FY12	IBRD (amount included part of 'Follow-up') below	Social Assistance Modernization Project
Bangladesh	Improving the Payment and Monitoring System for the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest	1.00	150.0	Approved FY11		Employment Generation Program for the Poorest
DRC	Capacity Building of Ministry of Social Affairs to Provide Services for Vulnerable Groups	2.00	10.0	Approved FY10		DRC-Street Children Project
Ethiopia	Strengthening the Early Warning System in Ethiopia	0.95	30.0	Approved FY08		Ethiopia Nutrition
Honduras	Improving Nutritional Monitoring and Targeted Response to the Global Crisis	1.20	20.0	Approved FY06		Nutrition and Social Protection project
			3.6	AF approved in FY11		Nutrition and Social Protection project (AF)
Kenya (2 activities)	Support to the Government of Kenya for Social Protection Programming / Support to the Kenya Private Sector Alliance	2.80	60.0	Approved FY10		Youth Empowerment Project
Kyrgyz Republic	Enhancement of the Targeted Social Assistance Program to Allow Rapid Expansion, Improved Administration and Better Coverage/Protection of the Poor during Periods of Economic Volatility	0.26	15.0	Approved FY05	KFW (20m)	Health & Social Protection Project
			15.0	Pipeline FY13		HEALTH & SP 2
Liberia	Vulnerable Youth: Enhancing Economic and Social Resilience	0.24	6.0	Approved FY10	Africa Catalytic Growth Fund (10m)	Youth, Employment, Skills Project
Nicaragua	Expansion of the Family and Community Based Social Welfare Model with Cash transfers	2.75	19.5	Approved FY11		Nicaragua Social Protection
Nigeria	Strengthening Social Safety Net in Nigeria	0.40	300.0	Pipeline FY13		Youth Employment & Social Support Operation
Papua New Guinea	Ensuring Effective M&E and Social Accountability for the Urban Youth Employment Project	0.30	15.8	Approved FY11		Urban Youth Employment Project
Pakistan	Financial Inclusion and Literacy Outcomes of Cash Transfers through The Banking System in Pakistan	0.81	60.0	Approved FY09		PK: Social Safety Net TA

COUNTRY	RSR ACTIVITY NAME	RSR Amt (US \$M)	IDA Amt (US \$M)	Status of IDA Project	Support from other sources	IDA Project Name
Rwanda	Technical Assistance and Capacity Building to the Vision 2020 Umurenge Program	2.00	40.0	Approved FY12		RW-Support to Social Protection System
	TA for Strengthening Social Safety Nets	0.08				
Tajikistan	Targeting and Payment of Social Assistance to the Poor	2.55	3.2	Approved FY11	JSDF Emergency Window (2.98m)	Social Safety Net Strengthening Project
Tanzania	Enhancing Tanzania’s Crisis Response for the Most Vulnerable Children and Poor Elderly	2.00	150.0	AF approved in FY10		Second Social Action Fund
Togo	Support to SSN Development in Togo	0.22	14.0	Approved FY12		Community Development and Safety Nets
Togo	Promotion of Innovative Crisis Response Social Protection Measures	0.29	17.2	Approved FY08		Community Dev. Project ERL
Subtotal	18 Activities – 17 Countries	19.85	936.8	1,001.80 if Albania (IBRD) is included		

FOLLOW-UP IDA OPERATIONS IN THE PIPELINE

Benin & Malawi	Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Design, Implement and Monitor Nutrition Security Programs	0.39		IDA Pipeline (FY12-Malawi)	JSDF (Benin)	"Malawi - Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Project/Benin – Community Nutrition Project"
Burkina Faso	Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises	0.50		Pipeline FY14		Social Safety Net project
Cameroon	Strengthening Safety Net Response to Crises	0.55		Pipeline FY13		Social Safety Nets
Djibouti	Employment for the Poor Project	0.16		Pipeline FY12		Crisis Response-SSN project
Guinea	Strengthening Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises – The Case of Guinea	0.40		Pipeline FY12		GN- Safety Net Project
Haiti	"Haiti-Household Development Agent and Haiti Nutrition Security and Social Safety Nets"	1.59		Pipeline FY13		Ensuring Health Nutrition and Social Services for the Vulnerable
India	Critical Analysis of the Institutional Arrangements for Improving Nutrition Outcomes	0.09		Pipeline FY13		Integrated Child Development Services System Strengthening & Nutrition Improvement Program
Mozambique	Developing the Building Blocks for Effective Crisis Response: Piloting a Public Works Program	2.00		Pipeline FY13		Social Safety Net project
Subtotal	8 Activities – 9 countries	5.68	395.8	1,397,60 if Albania (IBRD) is included		
Grand Total	26 Activities – 26 Countries	25.52	1,332.6	1,397,60 if Albania (IBRD) is included		

RSR Multi-Donor Trust Fund and Catalyst Financial Report



Table 1: RSR-MDTF and RSRC Contribution Paid-in and Financial Summary (in US\$ million)

Contribution Details	RSR-MDTF	RSRC	Total
Donor Contributions	58.57	3.24	61.81
Financial Summary			
Contribution Paid-in	58.57	3.24	61.81
Investment Income	0.59	0.02	0.61
Administrative Fee	0.59	0.16	0.75
Grant Amount	56.42	3.08	59.50
Pending Grants	1.75	0.00	1.75
Disbursements *	14.31	2.78	17.09
Commitments **	21.23	0.18	21.41
Available Balance***	0.41	0.00	0.41

*Disbursements represent the cash payment to a recipient or vendor based on a commitment by the Bank.
 **Commitments represent the contractual obligations of the Trust Fund to provide funds. Commitments are recorded in the full amounts in the system, pending disbursement against the allocated goods and services.
 ***RSR total available balance represents funds available for allocation after subtracting total grant amount, in addition to two approved pending grants in an amount totaling to US\$ 1.75 million.

Status of Contributions and Total Receipts

A total of US \$58.6 million was received against the RSR-Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), including US \$50.0 million from the Russian Federation and NOK 50.0 million (equivalent to US \$8.6 million) from the Kingdom of Norway. Table 1 shows the total contributions paid-in to the RSR-MDTF and the RSR Catalyst Fund (RSRC) as of March 27, 2012. Contributions represent the total amounts specified in the countersigned administration agreements between donors, IBRD and IDA.

The United Kingdom represented by the Department for International Development (DFID) is the sole

contributor to the RSRC. A total contribution paid-in of GBP 2.0 million (equivalent to US \$3.2 million) was received against the Trust Fund.

The RSR-MDTF and RSRC accruing investment income earned from the two undisbursed balance are used for the same purposes as the contribution funds, as specified in the Trust Fund Administrative Agreements. At present, the RSR-MDTF is valued at US \$59.2 million (US \$58.6 million in donor deposit, plus US \$0.59 million of investment income). The trust fund administrative fee for both Trust Fund programs represents the cost of administration and other expenses, which are in accordance with the terms of the Administrative Agreements.



The RSR-MDTF and RSRC TF Status of Grant Allocations:

The RSR-MDTF and RSRC fund two main types of grants as indicated in Chart 1. Recipient Executed Trust Funds (RETFs) are funds that the World Bank passes on to a recipient, for which the World Bank plays an operational role. Bank Executed Trust Funds (BETFs) finance activities, such as capacity building and technical assistance, implemented by the World Bank. In addition, in accordance with the terms of the Administration Agreement, the RSR-MDTF provides Preparation and Supervision funds (Prep/SPN) to cover actual full costs for World Bank staff and consultants who carry out project analysis, appraisal, negotiation, and supervision of the trust fund for RETFs grants.

The RSR Program funds a total of 83 activities (117 grants) implemented in 42 countries. As shown in table 2 and chart 2 below, Africa receives the largest share of allocations among all the regions, representing 48 percent of RSR-MDTF and RSCR combined portfolio, covering 23 countries and funding 34 activities.

Chart 1: The RSR Program Grant Allocations by Trust Fund Types

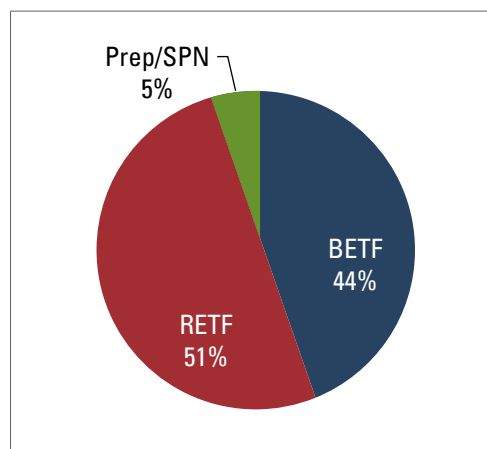


Chart 2: RSR Program Allocations by Regions

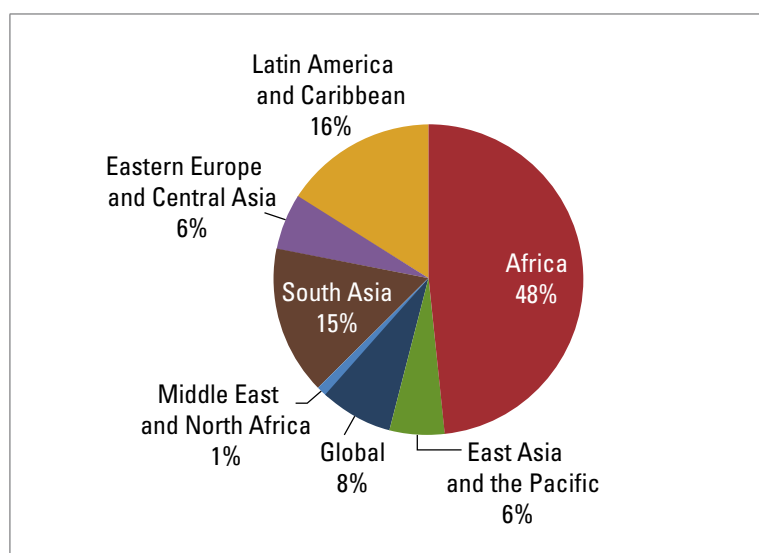


Table 2: RSR Program Number of Countries and Activities by Regions

Regions	Countries	Activities
Africa	23	34
East Asia and Pacific	3	5
Europe and Central Asia	3	5
Latin America and Caribbean	4	10
Middle East and North Africa	2	3
South Asia	7	13
Global	-	13
Total	42	83

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