10 Things You Wish You’d Always Known about Shock-Responsive Social Protection

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1. Good social protection programmes are already helpful for reducing crises.

2. But some things called ‘shock-responsive social protection’ are about responding after disasters, in which case be aware of the implications.

3. Improving the shock-responsiveness of a programme isn’t a one-off exercise.

4. Shock-responsive social protection isn’t just about supporting households after disasters—it’s about building their resilience, too.

5. When using social protection programmes for post-disaster response, there are other options besides ‘flexible scale-up’.

6. Having a shock-responsive social protection system goes beyond having shock-responsive programmes.

7. Some key factors help identify when it’s a good idea to use social protection for disaster response (clue: speed isn’t everything).

8. If covariate shocks seem to merit special attention in social protection, it’s particularly because of their impact on overall service provision (more than their impact on households).

9. There may even be options for disaster response that don’t use social protection at all... for now.

10. If we can maintain a rational and evidence-based approach to shock-responsive social protection, we can maximise our positive impact.

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For further information on WFP’s work in social protection:

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