

Social Protection for Stability: A Catalytic Agenda

The High-Level Panel
on Social Protection in
Fragile and Conflict-
Affected Settings

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1



Recognise social protection as a strategic priority in peacebuilding and development

Make social protection central to peace, stability and economic strategies

2



Put people first

Design programmes that uphold dignity, drive gender equality and empower those most affected

The public enquiry showed that

The idea that FCAS cannot provide state-led social protection to their populations is a **myth that needs dispelling**

Engagement with government institutions in these settings **is not only feasible but frequent and effective**

■ On the 2025 hyper-prioritized humanitarian action list





The public enquiry showed that

The case for investing in well designed and conflict sensitive social protection in FCAS **is compelling**

...But we are **doing less well at harnessing the evidence** we have, while **filling any gaps**



NATURE OF THE RISKS ARISING FROM CLIMATE

Direct

Direct

Indirect

Extreme (often 'rapid onset') events
e.g., extreme rainfall

Slow onset events and cumulative impacts of consecutive extreme events

Transition risks (arising as a consequence of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures)
e.g., Job loss, higher energy prices etc.

Human and ecological systems impacts
e.g., disruption of food systems and energy provision

ALL COMPOUNDED BY INCREASED VOLATILITY AND UNCERTAINTY

Wellbeing, poverty and vulnerability



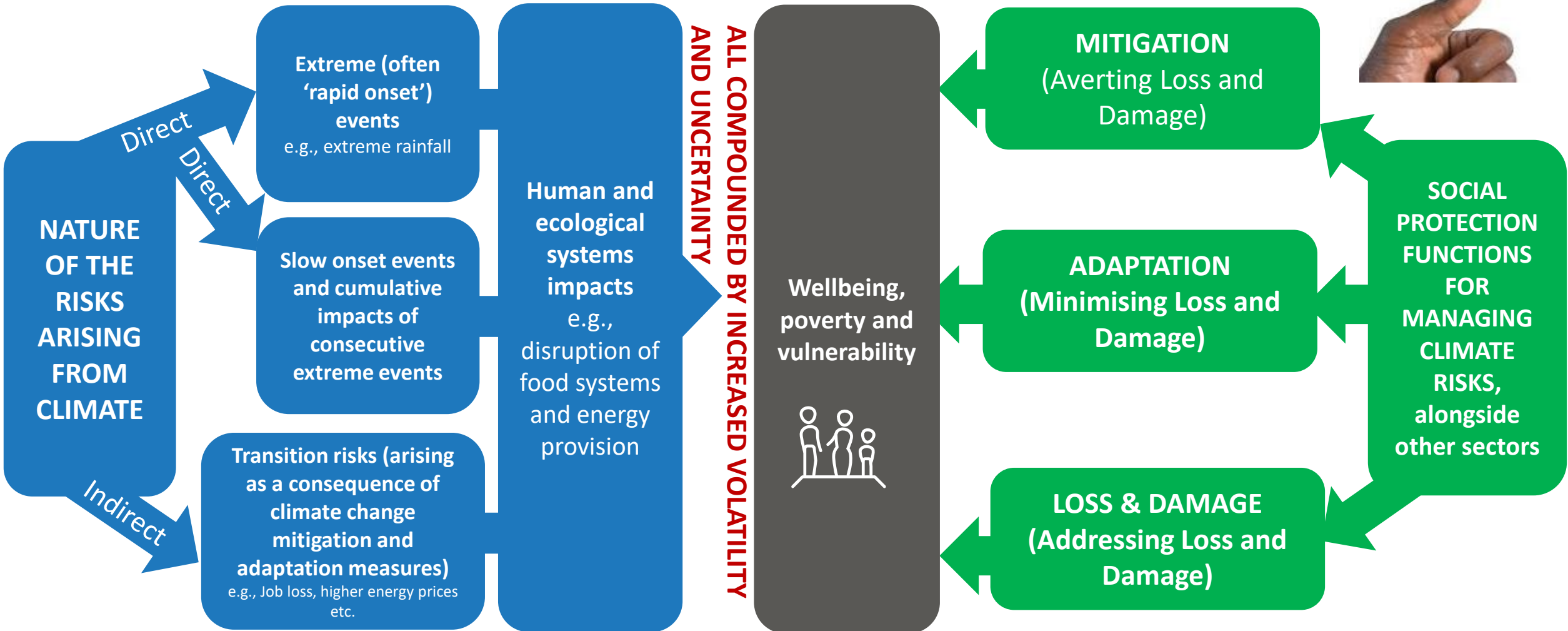
Reduce overall climate vulnerability by reducing income poverty, increasing resilience, contributing to human development and productive outcomes, and increasing equity.

Respond to climate shocks, limiting the impacts (loss and damage) and protecting from specific climate shocks

Compensate the negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures (offsetting these and making reforms more socially acceptable)

Actively facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation responses, facilitating adaptation and mitigation behaviours and practices, and supporting livelihood transformations

SOCIAL PROTECTION FUNCTIONS FOR MANAGING CLIMATE RISKS, alongside other sectors



3



Back National Systems

Work with and through national systems as the default, where feasible

4



Plan transitions from the outset

Design humanitarian and social protection systems with clear pathways to and from nationally led or hybrid arrangements

The public enquiry showed that

Social protection systems exist in over

90%

of the countries in the 2025 hyper-prioritized humanitarian action list, with differing levels of maturity and coverage.

There are *always* options to engage with these.

Embedded in global legal frameworks

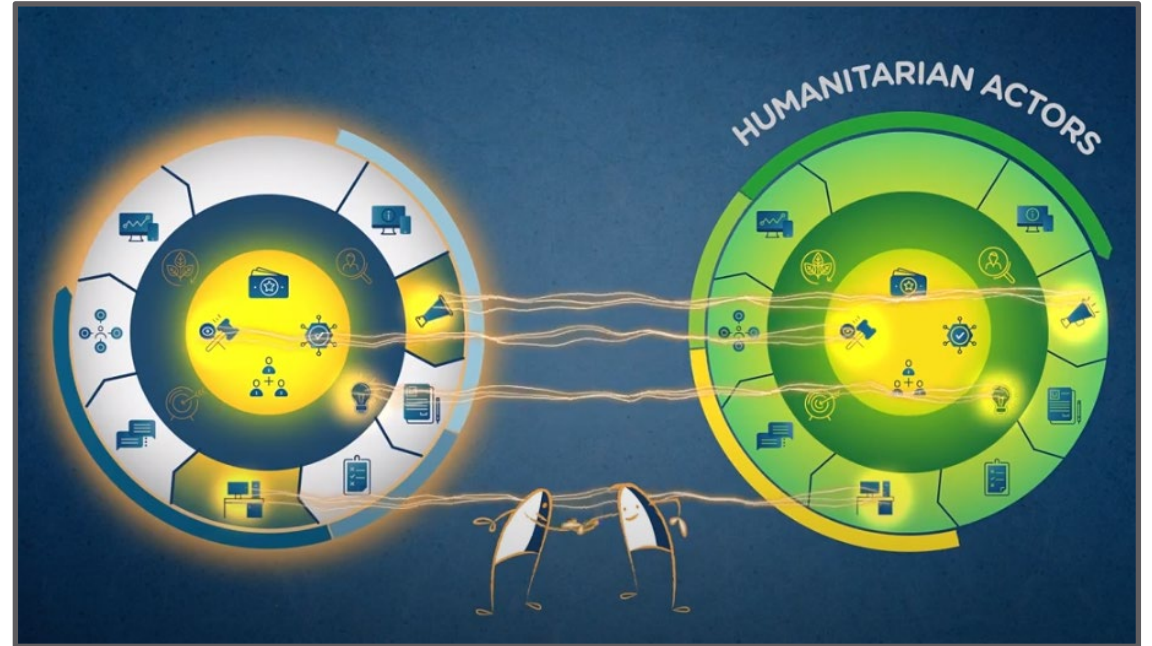


The public enquiry showed that



There are many ways to **shift from risk aversion to risk anticipation and mitigation...**

The **occurrence of 'conflict' per se is NOT A 'RED LINE'** for engaging with state social protection systems



...and many **constructive ways of working that enable maximising joint outcomes across sectors**

The Catalytic Agenda

'HARNESSING FINANCING'

5



Diversify and sustain financing

Invest in long-term financing strategies to support nationally led systems

6



Expand domestic financing

Increase domestic contributions by linking social protection to the social contract and demonstrating its value to economic stability and recovery

7



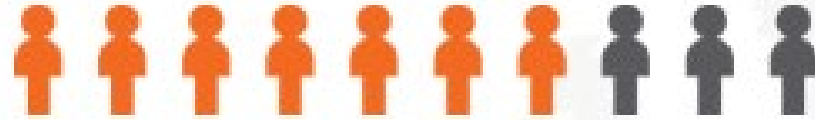
Maintain systems during turbulence

Support social protection systems to withstand shocks and continue functioning during crises

The public enquiry showed that

Despite a context that desperately calls for social protection...

72%



of the world's extreme poor
live in fragile and conflict-affected settings



80% of internally displaced people
come from these contexts

The public enquiry showed that

Social protection is **critically under-funded** in fragile and conflict-affected settings

Domestic financing

International financing

FCAS countries access disproportionately low volumes of climate finance

Even where financing for social protection is available, it is **not maintained when it is needed the most** *e.g. Yemen, Sudan, Burkina Faso and Niger*

Financing for the sector remains low and unstable

In 2023, only **3.4%** of total aid to FCAS went to social protection, compared to 26.5% for humanitarian assistance

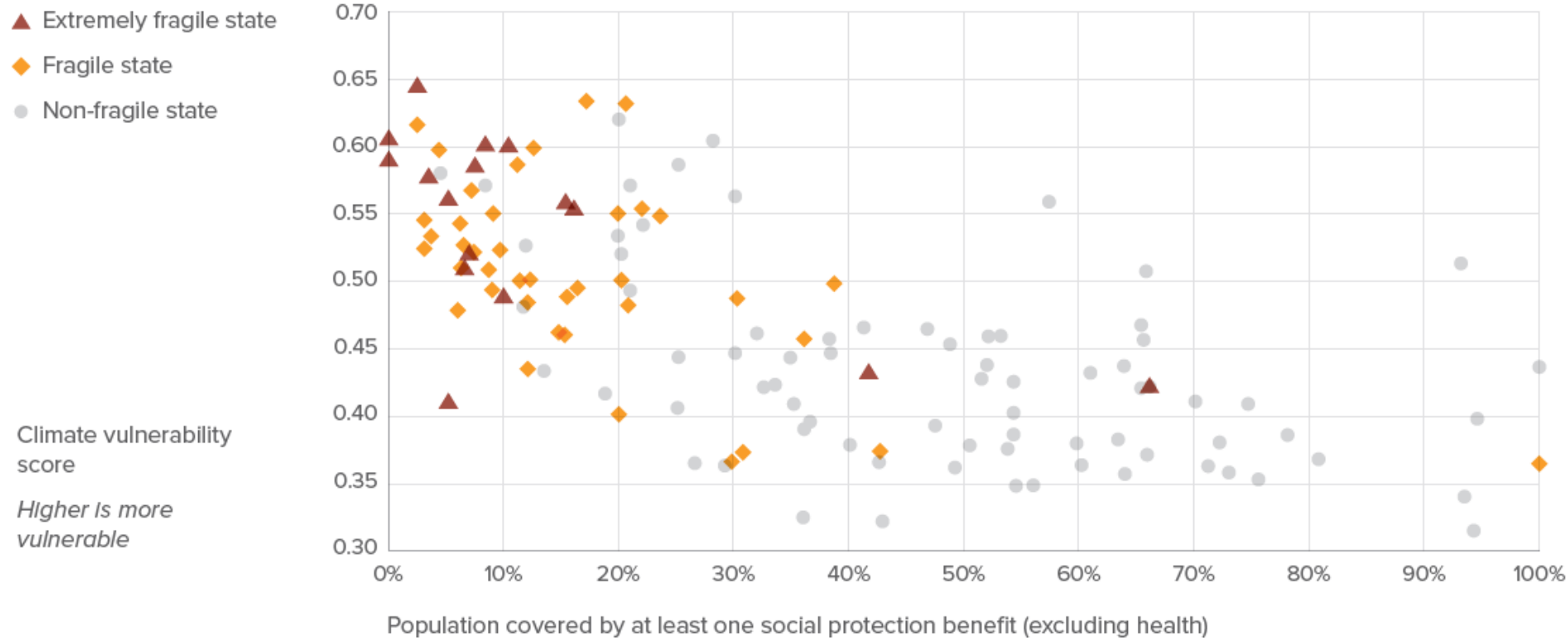
Over **25%** of protracted crisis countries had **support to government suspended by the World Bank** between 2018 and 2022

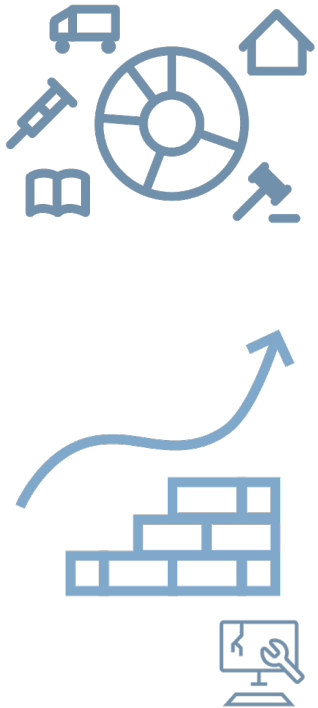
In countries experiencing extreme fragility, only **13%** of the population is covered by any form of social protection, compared to 17% in fragile countries and 49% in other low- and middle-income countries.

Worse where climate vulnerability is highest.

The public enquiry showed that

...This leads to severe gaps in social protection coverage and expenditure





8



Strengthen core systems

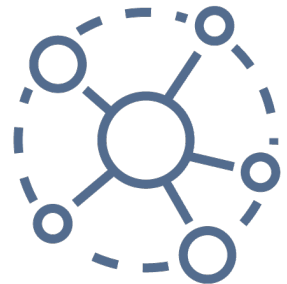
Invest in the foundations of social protection, including legal and policy frameworks and digital solutions

9



Harness local partners and capacities

Recognise and strengthen the role of local governance structures, frontline workers and civil society actors





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