Ghana readiness assessment: delivering anticipatory social protection
Introduction

Climate change poses severe and urgent risks, especially to vulnerable communities. Social protection programmes, which historically focused on poverty alleviation and basic services, are increasingly seen as vital tools for building climate resilience. Proactive, anticipatory measures in social protection can offer cost-effective resilience against climate shocks, reducing poverty, enhancing access to services, and preventing distress migration. These programmes contribute to long-term sustainable development by tackling multiple dimensions of vulnerability, from raising living standards and human development to empowering individuals and fostering economic growth.

However, despite potential, vulnerable countries grapple with challenges in delivering anticipatory and risk-responsive social protection. These challenges include ineffective targeting of beneficiaries due to limited data and poor information systems, inconsistent social protection coverage caused by resource limitations and policy gaps, sometimes resulting in programme duplication, underdeveloped early warning systems (EWSs) that lack comprehensive climate hazard coverage, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), inefficient decision making and delivery mechanisms, and difficulties in coordination among various stakeholders and sectors during crisis.
Anticipatory Social Protection Index for Resilience (ASPIRE) Tool

The ASPIRE diagnostic tool offers a multi-layered approach to evaluate a country’s readiness and effectiveness in delivering anticipatory and shock-responsive social protection. It assesses the maturity, readiness and gaps within existing social protection programmes by considering diverse national contexts, which include varying climate risks, institutional capacities and policy frameworks. The tool assesses a country’s policy domain, covering aspects such as policy objectives, innovation, risk definition, target specification and assistance types, which identify areas that require attention to enhance the anticipatory risk-responsiveness of social protection programmes. The ASPIRE tool assesses the systems domain, and covers aspects such as financial capacity, administrative capacity, fiscal space, infrastructure, technology and information systems, and institutional mechanisms. Overall, using the ASPIRE diagnostic tool can allow governments to identify gaps and challenges that impede the effective integration of anticipatory response in social protection programmes, including insurance-linked responses. Funding agencies can leverage ASPIRE’s detailed analysis to allocate resources more effectively, focusing on the most urgent gaps and impactful opportunities. More details about the ASPIRE tool and how it can be used can be found at www.iied.org/21901iied.

The applicability and effectiveness of the ASPIRE tool has been rigorously tested through the analysis of eight countries: Malawi, Ghana, Senegal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Uganda, Ethiopia and India. These countries were selected to represent a diverse range of climate risk contexts. Within each country, three social protection programmes were further chosen for the assessment — representing different delivery mechanisms, such as public works, food and in-kind assistance, and cash transfers. By applying ASPIRE to these eight countries, the analysis offers valuable insights into how social protection programmes can be tailored to meet diverse climate risks and vulnerabilities. The end goal is to strengthen these countries against climate risks by enhancing their readiness, filling policy and system gaps, and facilitating the successful incorporation of insurance-linked anticipatory payout mechanisms. The complete analysis of the 8 countries and 24 programmes can be found at www.iied.org/21896iied.
Country analysis: Ghana

This document provides the full analysis of Ghana’s social protection policies, systems and programmes in terms of their readiness in delivering anticipatory climate resilience, using ASPIRE tool. The secondary sources and evidence used for the review are listed in the Annex.
## POLICY AND SYSTEMS

### Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy innovation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk definition</td>
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<td>Target specification</td>
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### Systems

<table>
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## PROGRAMMES

### Design

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<th>Programme efficacy</th>
<th>Programme effectiveness</th>
<th>Innovative DRM instruments</th>
<th>Climate-focused approach</th>
<th><strong>Design total</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) programme</td>
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<td>63%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)</td>
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<td>40%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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### Function

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<th>Promotion</th>
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<td>55%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) programme</td>
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<td>83%</td>
<td><strong>78%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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Policy framework

Policy objectives

<table>
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<th>POLICY OBJECTIVES</th>
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<tr>
<td>The country’s social protection policy has a clear vision, goals and objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>The policy explicitly mentions building resilience to climate shocks as an objective</td>
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<tr>
<td>The policy prioritises anticipatory response to climate shocks (ie preparedness and proactive measures to mitigate impacts)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The country uses systematic policy planning cycle mechanisms to manage the design and delivery of social protection programmes</td>
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Clear vision, goal and objectives: Ghana’s social protection policy has a clear vision, goals and objectives aimed at poverty reduction, food security and equity building. It includes flagship programmes such as Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) programme, and the Ghana School Feeding Program (GSFP) to provide support for vulnerable groups. The policy adopts a lifecycle approach to address risks at different stages of life. It guarantees the right to social security and prohibits discrimination. Efforts are made to promote efficient targeting and avoid errors of exclusion and inclusion through various measures, although there are concerns about the legal framework, institutional mechanisms, structure and implementation. The policy aims to empower the target population and encourages active engagement in livelihood opportunities. It emphasises the importance of integrated governance, management tools and monitoring and evaluation systems. However, challenges in accurately targeting beneficiaries exist, and the government is working to improve efficiency. The policy seeks to prevent and protect against risks faced by vulnerable people and acknowledges the role of emergency preparedness and disaster risk management. It promotes resilience building and addresses the root causes of poverty and inequality. The policy does not create a culture of dependency but encourages active participation in livelihood search. The government is piloting the Productive Inclusion programme to provide vocational skills training and start-up grants for entrepreneurship. The Ghana National Productivity and SafetyNet Programme gives livelihood opportunities to active poor individuals as a means of exiting them from the LEAP to reduce dependency on the LEAP programme.

Building resilience: Ghana’s social protection policy recognises the importance of building resilience against climate shocks and includes climate resilience features in programmes such as LIPW. The policy aims to enhance communities’ resilience by investing in the construction and rehabilitation of assets like roads, dams and rainwater harvesting systems. Other programmes like LEAP and the GSFP also acknowledge the role of social protection in reducing vulnerability to climate change. However, there are mixed results regarding the quality and long-term resilience of assets constructed under LIPW, indicating the need for improved maintenance and monitoring. Studies suggest that social safety net programmes like LEAP could become more effective by integrating community-driven development, reducing human influence in the selection of participants and promoting behavioural change through awareness-generation and information access.

Anticipatory response: The social protection policy recognises the importance of anticipatory response and preparedness for shocks, including economic and environmental ones. It emphasises the need to build resilience and integrate disaster preparedness and climate resilience into social protection programmes. The policy mentions the role of the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) in disaster prevention, risk reduction and post-emergency rehabilitation. However, in practice, there is limited coordination between NADMO and social protection programmes. The NADMO lacks a centralised system for disaster management, including an EWS, which hinders its ability to prepare and communicate effectively with communities. The World Bank also highlights the need for adaptive social protection systems to improve preparedness for natural disasters and food security emergencies. There is a consensus among various reports on the importance of enhancing coordination and preparedness to effectively respond to shocks.

Systematic planning cycle: The policy development process for Ghana’s social protection policy involved evidence-based policymaking, public consultations and engagement with various stakeholders. The policy drew on evidence from surveys and studies to inform its design and objectives. However, there are concerns about the extent of beneficiary/community-level consultations in the policy development process, with some studies highlighting limited consultation with the intended beneficiaries. Mechanisms for review and monitoring of the policy exist, including the use of M&E reports, regular assessments and the development of a management information system. However, there are also reports of gaps in updating the social registry information and in review and monitoring processes, particularly in the implementation of specific programmes such as LEAP.
Evaluations on the effectiveness of the policy are regularly conducted, and the policy itself emphasises the importance of monitoring, evaluation and review mechanisms. The World Bank has provided support in strengthening the social protection system in Ghana, including the development of management tools, governance frameworks and capacity-building initiatives.

The policy has been revised at least once in the last five years, with the 2015 version being the most recent. However, revisions to individual programmes and initiatives under the policy have been implemented, reflecting the evolving nature of social protection in Ghana.

Overall, while there are mechanisms in place for evidence-based policymaking, public consultations and engagement, review, monitoring and evaluation, there are areas where improvements could be made to ensure greater stakeholder engagement and effective implementation of social protection programmes.

Policy innovation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY INNOVATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rights-based regulatory provisions are given for the social protection of vulnerable communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>The policy offers portable benefits for migrant populations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The policy emphasises universal access to a range of benefits by vulnerable communities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The policy acknowledges community, CSO, NGO and private sector engagement in social protection interventions</td>
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</table>

Rights-based entitlement: The Ghana National Social Protection Policy prioritises rights-based regulatory provisions for the social protection of vulnerable communities. The policy aims to create an inclusive and socially empowered society by providing sustainable mechanisms for the protection of persons living in extreme poverty and vulnerability. It recognises different broader vulnerability categories, including the chronically poor, economically at risk and socially vulnerable groups. While the policy prioritises a rights-based regulatory framework, the social protection bill (2020) has yet to be passed into law.

To ensure effective implementation, the policy highlights the importance of comprehensive and coordinated M&E frameworks. A Rationalisation Study recommended establishing a unified targeting mechanism and coordinated beneficiary selection for social protection programmes. The government has established the Ghana National Household Registry to facilitate this process. The registry lacks the associated data coverage needed to provide social protection across the country.

The policy recognises the specific vulnerabilities faced by disabled people and the need for their inclusion in social protection programmes. The government has established a Disability Fund to provide financial support to disabled people, enabling their participation in socioeconomic activities.

Evaluation studies have shown the positive impact of social protection programmes such as the GSFP. These programmes have led to improvements in child schooling, cognition, nutrition and academic achievement, particularly among disadvantaged groups.

The Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) works to improve the wellbeing of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups through social development initiatives. Programmes such as LEAP, NHIS and the GSFP aim to enhance equity and access to social welfare services. Limited resources hinder the implementation of social development initiatives; constraints including human, logistical and financial capacity.

Geographic targeting is employed in programmes like LEAP and LIPW to ensure equal access to social protection. However, challenges exist in implementing and coordinating the targeting mechanisms.

Awareness of social protection rights among beneficiaries is assessed in various studies. LEAP beneficiaries show a good understanding of the programme’s purpose and conditionalities, but adherence to the conditions is limited. Beneficiaries of LIPW primarily receive information from District Assembly officials, while GSFP awareness among farmers and parents is not comprehensive.

Overall, there is a need to strengthen the legal framework, improve access to social protection in marginalised and remote communities, reduce targeting errors, strengthen targeting mechanisms, and enhance information dissemination to ensure that rights holders have sufficient and accessible information about their entitlements.

Portability of benefits: Portability benefits for migrant populations are mentioned in the policy document, highlighting the need to protect the labour rights of migrant workers. The NHIS aims to include informal workers, including migrants, by linking community-based entities with the central NHIS fund, allowing for nationwide coverage and financial sustainability.

LEAP payments were initially made in cash but transitioned to electronic payments using the Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement system and e-Zwich platform. While this theoretically allows beneficiaries to receive entitlements even after they move, the portability of LEAP benefits in practice remains uncertain and requires further investigation.
Ghana is signatory to multilateral agreements, such as the General Convention on Social Security within the ECOWAS, which regularise the portability of social security rights for migrant workers within the region. The Convention ensures that workers in the formal sector and their families are entitled to portable social security rights during their residence within ECOWAS countries. Overall, while portability benefits for migrant populations are acknowledged in the policy document and through multilateral agreements, the evidence on practical implementation and effectiveness of these measures in Ghana is limited.

**Universal access:** The Ghana National Social Protection Policy aims to achieve universal access to a range of benefits for vulnerable communities throughout their lifecycle. The policy recognises the importance of universal access and considers universal categorical transfers as an efficient and cost-effective approach. Programmes like LEAP and LIPW have seen increasing coverage over the years, reaching thousands of beneficiary households and providing short-term employment to people living in extreme poverty.

The NHIS aims to promote universal access to basic healthcare and protect the poor and vulnerable against financial risk. The NHIS has increased access to healthcare for all categories of Ghanaians, and efforts are being made to advance the national agenda of attaining universal health coverage.

The GSFP targets the extreme poor and aims to encourage school enrolment and attendance. However, there are concerns about the mismatch between potential beneficiaries and current beneficiaries, indicating potential political interference. The GSFP also faces problems, including payment arrears to caterers.

While progress has been made in expanding coverage, none of the social protection programmes have achieved coverage of 75% or more of the intended population. The policy document acknowledges the aspiration of universal social protection and continuous efforts are being made towards this goal.

**Stakeholder engagement:** The National Social Protection Policy in Ghana acknowledges the importance of community and civil society engagement in the design and implementation of social protection interventions. The policy emphasises the need for collaboration between regional and local authorities, private sector entities and civil society organisations.

Institutional arrangements are in place to facilitate this engagement. Regional Coordinating Councils and local authorities have responsibility for implementing social protection programmes in their respective areas and collaborate with private and civil society entities. These collaborations aim to ensure coordination, information sharing, joint planning and complementary support activities.

Examples of institutionalised consultations and engagements include:

1. The GSFP is involved in monitoring and engagement with district assemblies, focal CSOs — largely represented by NGOs, and citizens’ monitoring committees to improve service delivery, infrastructure, agricultural services and health and education services.

2. The Ghana Productive Safety Net Project collaborated with international development partners such as the World Bank to enhance the social protection system and implement safety net programmes. Efforts were made to integrate different social protection programmes, improve grievance redress mechanisms, and build capacity for decentralised management.

3. The WFP collaborated with the NADMO to assess disaster and climate risks, demonstrating ongoing efforts to train local authorities for effective disaster management.

Private sector organisations are encouraged to contribute to social protection initiatives. They can provide financial and in-kind support through corporate social responsibility schemes, assist in apprenticeships and employment schemes, contribute products for social assistance, initiate social employment schemes, monitor the social protection policy, support infrastructural development and promote decent work in their establishments. The outcomes could be enhanced if private sector engagement was linked to productive value chains with financial assistance.

Social audits and accountability mechanisms are employed to review and monitor programme operations. Tools like social auditing, community scorecards and citizens’ satisfaction surveys are used to assess the effectiveness of social protection programmes. Programmes like the GSFP, LEAP and LIPW have strong community participation, complaint and redress mechanisms and transparent communication with beneficiaries. Monitoring data are shared in the public domain to ensure transparency and accountability.

Overall, the policy promotes civil society engagement, collaboration with local authorities, private sector contributions and social audits to improve the delivery and effectiveness of social protection programmes in Ghana.
Risk definition

RISK DEFINITION

The policy identifies types of risk that the most vulnerable communities face

The policy clearly defines trigger points for hazard events (e.g., anticipated drought based on rainfall data) that may activate the anticipatory social protection

The policy sets out contingency plans for social protection measures to come into force when trigger points for hazardous events are reached

**Definition of risk to most vulnerable:** The Social Protection Policy in Ghana aims to reduce vulnerability and poverty among the most vulnerable communities through effective social assistance, productive inclusion and increased access to social security. The policy identifies three main vulnerability categories: the chronically poor, the economically at risk and the socially vulnerable.

The Government of Ghana recognises disability as a form of vulnerability and has established a Disability Fund to provide financial support to disabled people. However, the implementation of the fund faces challenges in terms of management, access and disbursement of funds, which hinders its impact on the lives of disabled people.

Different programmes are implemented to address specific vulnerabilities. LEAP targets orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly poor aged 65 years and above, disabled people, pregnant women and infants. LIPW provides temporary work for rural unemployed individuals. NHIS exemptions focus on those who are financially vulnerable in terms of health risks. The GSFP targets at-risk children in terms of malnourishment, lack of education and child labour.

Despite ongoing expansion efforts, no single programme has been able to reach more than 75% of its intended beneficiaries. The policy acknowledges the need for further progress in reaching the most vulnerable communities and reducing their vulnerabilities and poverty levels.

**Definition of trigger points:** The national social protection policy in Ghana does not explicitly define trigger points of hazard events that may activate anticipatory social protection. However, specific programmes like LEAP have shown responsiveness to climate-related shocks and natural disasters. For instance, the Emergency LEAP programme provides cash grants to victims of floods, storms and droughts. Studies have highlighted the need for anticipatory and improved long-term interventions and behavioural change to enhance the effectiveness of such programmes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LEAP expanded its benefits by providing additional one-off cash transfers to beneficiaries. This adaptation involved contactless transfers and the use of electronic benefit transfer cards. While this serves as a model for adapting social protection programmes, the formalisation and generalisation of trigger points for other programmes have not been implemented. Efforts are underway, with support from agencies like NADMO and the World Bank, to develop a framework for disaster anticipation that can enhance social protection assistance.

**Contingency plans for trigger points:** The national social protection policy in Ghana does not explicitly present contingency plans for social protection measures against trigger points of hazard events such as landscape restoration and adaptation that would provide economic benefits to the target populations. The role of the NADMO is primarily focused on emergency responses, although there is mention of the use of an EWS and monitoring. The policy does mention “emergency assistance” for a transitory phase and supporting affected populations to bounce back.

An evaluation of the LEAP programme in Ghana reveals that it lacks contingency planning for shocks and emergencies. The programme does not include these factors in its targeting criteria or planning. The inability of the LEAP programme to provide support beyond its bimonthly cash payments can leave households vulnerable and force them to adopt negative coping strategies. Many beneficiaries of the programme rely on occupations that are directly impacted by the natural environment, making them particularly susceptible to unexpected shocks. The one-time registration of communities for the programme may exclude individuals who experience poverty or shocks after the registration period, limiting their access to assistance from LEAP. Regular beneficiary portfolio reviews in LEAP are vital to replace deceased members and accommodate new entries.

This highlights the need for the social protection policy, particularly in programmes like LEAP, to incorporate contingency plans that address trigger points of hazard events and provide additional support to vulnerable households facing unexpected shocks.
Target specification

The policy identifies the groups of households or individuals that are most at risk of being affected by shocks or crises, and should be targeted for assistance.

The policy recognises diversity of vulnerability (e.g., women, children, elderly people, displaced people, etc.).

The policy specifies who is eligible for assistance from social protection programmes.

Targeting criteria are transparent, fair and based on objective indicators defining vulnerability.

**Identifies households or individuals most at risk:** The national social protection policy identifies various groups of households or individuals who are most at risk of being affected by shocks or crises and should be targeted for assistance. These include the chronically poor, economically at-risk individuals and socially vulnerable groups such as people living with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence and internally displaced persons. Gender and disability mainstreaming is explicitly recognised across all social protection initiatives.

Specific programmes in Ghana, such as LEAP, have focused on providing assistance to vulnerable groups. LEAP 1000, launched as a cash plus programme, specifically targets pregnant and lactating women to support their children during the crucial 1000-day period. Positive outcomes from the pilot programme include improved economic standing for women, increased enrolment in health insurance and enhanced social support within households and communities.

Children are also a key target group for social protection programmes. Evaluations of programmes like LEAP have shown positive impacts on schooling, reducing the likelihood of missing school and repeating grades. These programmes have also contributed to the reduction of child labour.

The elderly and disabled people are recognised as vulnerable groups in the policy. Ghana has a Disability Fund to provide financial support for disabled people, enabling their participation in socioeconomic activities. The programmes generally do not target youth. However, challenges related to fund management, timely disbursal of funds and access have been identified, requiring urgent action to achieve the goal of poverty alleviation.

The policy also addresses the needs of socially marginalised communities, including those facing racial discrimination. Displaced populations and migrants are among the vulnerable groups identified for social protection assistance.

In the context of specific programmes, evaluations of the public works programme in Ghana, such as the LEAP and LIPW programmes, have shown positive results. For example, in areas where feeder road subprojects were implemented as part of Ghana’s LIPW programme, households receiving these benefits in the northern regions experienced a notable decrease in out-migration.

Overall, the policy in Ghana recognises and targets various vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, disabled people, socially marginalised communities and displaced/migrant populations, in its social protection initiatives.

**Policy identifies diversity of vulnerability:** The policy in Ghana recognises the heterogeneity of vulnerability and explicitly acknowledges various target groups such as women, children, the elderly and displaced people. However, there is limited evidence of the policy being effectively implemented.

The major social protection programmes in Ghana, LEAP and LIPW, show mixed results in terms of their coverage of multiple target groups and the challenges faced by these groups. LEAP currently targets the elderly, disabled individuals, and orphan and vulnerable children using various targeting methods. However, challenges related to accessing disability funds restrict the intended protection for disabled individuals. Although the LEAP 1000 programme, which provides additional cash transfers to pregnant and lactating mothers, has shown encouraging results, other vulnerable groups such as disabled people have not benefited similarly. LEAP has also demonstrated potential in reducing distress migration by improving food security and school attendance among children in Ghana.

It is important to note that LEAP primarily addresses vulnerabilities faced by rural populations and does not adequately cover urban vulnerabilities. Replicating the principles of targeting, coverage and transfer amounts from rural to urban areas may not be sufficient due to the higher cost of living in urban areas. Addressing urban vulnerabilities requires income-generating transfers in addition to cash transfers.

The LIPW programme, a public works initiative, targets the 80 poorest districts in Ghana based on poverty incidence. While the programme recognised the importance of women and youth as potential beneficiaries during its formulation, detailed design and implementation considerations were provided only for women, neglecting young people. However, LIPW has shown potential in reducing distress migration by improving food security.
Overall, while the policy acknowledges the heterogeneity of vulnerability and identifies various target groups, the effective implementation and coverage of these groups in social protection programmes in Ghana have encountered challenges and limitations.

**Eligibility defined:** Evidence suggests that there is a lack of alignment between the specified target groups and the actual beneficiaries of social protection programmes in Ghana. Although the National Social Protection Policy explicitly defines the eligible populations for assistance, there is limited evidence of these target groups receiving the intended benefits.

The principle of automatic entitlements between the LEAP programme and the NHIS has been established, but there is a need for better coordination and collaboration among different pro-poor interventions to address extreme poverty comprehensively. Low transfer amounts in the LEAP programme have been identified as a barrier to effective implementation, impacting the risk management and poverty reduction strategies of beneficiaries.

The LIPW programme, designed to provide temporary wage-earning opportunities, faced challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic but managed to continue with adaptations. Emergency cash transfer programmes reached a significant number of people, but there remains a gap between potential beneficiaries and current beneficiaries in various social protection initiatives.

A study on poverty incidence in Ghana revealed a mismatch between potential beneficiaries and current beneficiaries, possibly influenced by political interference and data system issues. While the NHIS has increased access to healthcare for all categories of Ghanaians, the link between the LIPW programme and LEAP households has been limited, indicating a low proportion of households receiving benefits from multiple social protection programmes.

**Targeting criteria transparent, fair and objective:**
While the policy emphasises the importance of fair, transparent and consultative processes for targeting beneficiaries, the actual implementation at the ground level presents a mixed picture. The Rationalisation Study highlighted the lack of coordination and harmonisation in targeting and selection of beneficiaries across ministries and departments, making it challenging to determine the effects of social protection on the poor and identify who the poor are. Lack of favourable legal frameworks is another important limiting factor.

A study on social protection uptake in Ghana found that electoral calculus and competitive clientelism have influenced the coverage of programmes like LEAP, leading to a wider coverage in areas or districts that may not necessarily be the most deserving. The expansion of LEAP has been thinly spread, neglecting the poorer northern regions where it is most needed.

The selection of beneficiary schools for the GSFP is based on wellbeing indicators and food security assessments, but the study revealed that beneficiary/community-level consultation is limited in the design processes and political pressures affect the beneficiary selection. However, programmes like LEAP, School Feeding and Capitation Grants do involve community representatives in selecting beneficiaries.

Overall, while the policy articulates the importance of transparent and fair targeting criteria, the evidence suggests that the adoption and implementation of such criteria have been inconsistent. There is a need for improved coordination, harmonisation preventing interference from political factors, and community-level consultation to ensure effective targeting of poor and vulnerable populations in Ghana’s social protection programmes.

**Assistance type**

<table>
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<td>The policy explicitly sets out the types of assistance provided through social protection programmes (ie income support, food assistance, healthcare, etc.)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assistance specified is comprehensive (ie livelihood support, health, food, shelter, education etc.), depending on local context</td>
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</table>

**Assistance through anticipatory support:**
The policy emphasises the need for preparedness and anticipatory response to shocks, recognising the role of emergency preparedness and disaster risk management in enhancing social protection programmes. It aims to build institutional capacities among various actors to integrate disaster preparedness and social assistance.

However, there is evidence of limited institutional capacity and logistics within the NADMO, hindering effective assessment of potential beneficiaries’ poverty conditions. Outdated census data and a large informal sector population also pose challenges in identifying beneficiaries. The financial capacity of the NADMO is inadequate, restricting comprehensive and integrated disaster risk financing.

While the policy includes provisions for emergency and disaster preparedness, it does not explicitly mention trigger points of hazard events for invoking or expanding social protection. Some studies suggest that social safety net programmes have been scaled up to respond to shocks, but there is a need for better long-term interventions beyond cash benefits, such as community-driven development programmes and behavioural change initiatives.
**Assistance provided is comprehensive:** The social protection programmes in Ghana cover a comprehensive range of themes including livelihoods, education, nutrition, food security, health and employment guarantee. This ensures that vulnerable families have a comprehensive safety net during crises to prevent further vulnerability.

The use of a social registry enables households and individuals to access multiple programmes through a single registry. The Ghana National Household Register (GNHR) is the primary mechanism for selecting beneficiary households for pro-poor social protection interventions and facilitates the integration of programmes like LEAP, LIPW and the GSFP. This national database supports informed decision making on poverty, vulnerability and beneficiary selection. The social registry database needs to be regularly kept up to date.

To break down programme silos, a convergence strategy is employed where different programmes work together. The government has established a multi-sectoral governance framework for social protection, assigning responsibilities to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) to develop strategies, ensure sufficient financing, assess progress and coordinate cross-sectoral committees. This aims to enhance coordination and explore synergies between programmes.

Rights-based access to social protection is emphasised, ensuring that communities have assured access to safety net programmes. The policy takes direction from the Directive Principles of State Policy in the constitution, which promotes equal access to public facilities and services, respect for human rights and prohibition of discrimination.

Coordination among schemes, ministries, and departments is ensured to translate policies into practice. Regional Social Protection Monitoring Teams, District Social Protection Committees and Community Social Protection Committees are established to facilitate coordination. The Community Social Protection Committees are voluntary, and according to evaluation reports, they are inactive. The creation of the National Targeting System in MoGCSP and the national registry of households support coordination and effective implementation of social protection programmes.

By implementing these measures, Ghana aims to enhance the delivery mechanism of social protection, ensuring coordination, rights-based access and effective translation of policies into practice.

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### Systems framework

**Administrative capacity and fiscal space**

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<td>Country income category</td>
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<th><strong>ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY</strong></th>
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<td>Corruption perception index</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FISCAL SPACE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spending on social assistance programmes as a % of GDP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special allocation of contingency funds for anticipatory risk financing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The country has access to extra-budgetary resources, including international financial institutions and donor organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies incorporate the use of private sector financing (such as green bonds, resilience bonds, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The country integrates and uses disaster risk financing instruments (eg crop insurance, health insurance, contingent credit, catastrophe insurance, reinsurance, catastrophe bonds, etc.)</td>
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The Social Protection Bill introduces the Social Protection Fund for funding social protection. However, it has remained a bill since 2020, awaiting enforcement. When it becomes law, the bill will require the government to establish the Social Protection Fund, along with supporting legislation, for implementing social protection initiatives.

**Financial capacity:** The country’s income category is lower middle; the economic dependency index is 1.2, based on INFORM. Spending on social protection as a percentage of GDP is 0.45%.

**Administrative capacity:** The government effectiveness index is 5.3, and the corruption perception index is 5.7, as per the INFORM Report.

**Contingency funds for anticipatory risk financing:** The Ghana National Social Protection Policy recognises the need for stronger linkages between disaster preparedness, climate resilience and anticipatory interventions. However, there is no evidence of a special allocation of contingency funds for anticipatory risk financing in relation to the social protection schemes.
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's Risk Sensitive Budget Review for Ghana shows that a significant amount of funding has been allocated to disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities. However, there is no evidence of these funds being specifically allocated to anticipatory risk financing planning, preparedness or the social protection programmes such as LEAP, LIPW and the GSFP.

While grants have been approved for resilience projects in Ghana, such as resilient power infrastructure and risk-resilient network infrastructure, there is no explicit information on how these grants will operationally affect the specific social protection schemes.

Access to other sources of finance: Ghana has accessed extra-budgetary resources from international financial institutions and donor organisations to support its social protection programmes.

Funds from extra-budgetary resources have been sourced for at least one major social protection programme in Ghana. Donor support for Ghana's LEAP programme, for example, has varied over the years, ranging from 10–12% to nearly 40–50% of the programme's financing.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ghana sought additional financing from international development partners, including the World Bank, through the Ghana Productive Safety Net Project. This project aims to enhance the social protection system and support the implementation of social safety net programmes like LEAP.

However, it is worth noting that donors have shown a preference for supporting new programmes rather than existing ones. This could be due to limited existing urban programming and concerns about creating expectations for permanently serving urban beneficiaries within rural-focused schemes.

Private sector finance: There is a policy framework in place that encourages private sector financing and engagement in supporting social protection initiatives in Ghana. The policy outlines various ways in which the private sector can contribute, such as through corporate social responsibility, apprenticeships, employment schemes and infrastructure development. However, there is a lack of evidence regarding the actual role of the private sector in financing major social protection programmes. Private sector financing, even in areas like healthcare, is limited due to differing goals and approaches between the private and public sectors. There is a need to build trust and transparency to attract private sector financing and involvement in social protection programmes.

Integration of DRF instruments: The integration and use of DRF in social protection in Ghana is not well-documented. While there is a mandate for collaboration between the MoGCSP, Ministry of Finance and NADMO for emergency preparedness, there are challenges in implementing integrated risk financing due to limited institutional capacity and resources. Ghana lacks sovereign risk transfer solutions, and ad hoc social assistance interventions are deployed during disasters with limited resources.

There is a need to improve the structure and adaptive capacity of social protection systems to enhance preparedness for natural disasters and food security emergencies. NADMO mainly engages in post-disaster interventions and lacks the budget and coordination capacity to prevent or assess natural disasters. District governments receive financial resources for emergency response, but there is no evidence of broader stakeholder engagement in targeting DRF for vulnerable groups.

Infrastructure, technology and information systems

Infrastructure:

- Communication index: 2
- Physical connectivity: 4

Technology and Information Systems:

- A national database/social registry exists: 2
- Climate-smart information systems are used for different purposes including for social protection: 1
- Early warning systems for major climate hazards are available: 1
- Early warning systems are applied in social protection programmes: 1
- Artificial intelligence (AI), risk modelling, etc. are used to implement the programmes: 1
- Platforms for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of social protection entitlements are used (eg mobile-based payment): 2

Infrastructure:

- The communication index of the country is 3.1 and the physical connectivity is 6.5 according to INFORM.

National database/social registry:

- The GNHR was established in 2015 under the MoGCSP to create a single national household register for social protection programmes. The registry aims to facilitate unified targeting across programmes, including LEAP, LIPW, GSFP, NHIS, pensions and disability schemes. The GNHR employs a proxy means testing questionnaire and electronic household enumeration for beneficiary registration.
Data collection has made progress, with a significant number of beneficiaries registered in the Central and Volta regions. Efforts are underway to expedite data collection in remaining regions and expand coverage. The inclusion of urban beneficiaries in national social registries is also being considered to enhance urban shock responses.

However, funding availability poses a challenge in selecting beneficiaries, with LEAP covering only a fraction of the estimated extremely poor households. Assessing the poverty situation of potential LEAP beneficiaries can be challenging due to limited information, budget constraints and the institutional capacity of the LEAP Secretariat.

There are linkages and leveraging of existing data between LEAP and LIPW programmes, with eligibility rules favouring LEAP households in the LIPW programme.

**Climate-smart information system:** There is currently no evidence of climate-smart information systems being used in the social protection programmes of Ghana. The LEAP programme aims to address various conditions and processes to mitigate shocks and reduce poverty, but it does not specifically assess climate risks or have updated data on vulnerability to such risks.

However, the Ghana Country Partnership Framework plans to introduce climate-smart information systems and technologies in order to promote climate resilience in agriculture, cocoa farming, environmental regulations and infrastructure through the LIPW programme. This suggests a future focus on integrating climate-smart approaches into social protection initiatives.

**Availability and application of EWSs and AI:** There is currently no evidence of EWSs, such as those based on risk modelling, being employed in the social protection programmes of Ghana.

**Efforts for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in delivery:** Platforms for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of social protection entitlements have been employed in at least one major social protection programme in Ghana. The country’s flagship safety net programmes, such as LEAP, LIPW, GSFP, NHIS and Education Capitation Grant, have undergone system-level reforms to address fragmentation, duplication, inefficiencies and limited coverage.

These improvements have led to expanded social protection coverage and income support for poor households, surpassing the target of 390,000 beneficiaries set in the Country Partnership Strategy. Notably, the programmes have made significant progress in reaching orphaned/vulnerable children and the elderly, with 57% of beneficiaries being female. The LIPW programme has also provided employment opportunities for unskilled individuals, with about 61% of them being women.

By strengthening the coverage of the LEAP programme, household resilience to various shocks can be improved. The use of platforms has played a role in achieving these outcomes, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering social protection entitlements in Ghana.

**Institutional mechanisms**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bodies and mechanisms exist for social policy coordination across ministries and departments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bodies and mechanisms exist for multistakeholder engagement at the grassroots level</td>
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</table>

**Cross-ministry/department coordination:** Bodies and mechanisms exist for social policy coordination and technical-level integration at the ministry and policymaking bureaucratic levels. However, it is noted that these bodies and mechanisms are not currently active or effective. A World Bank evaluation emphasises the need to strengthen institutional arrangements and coordinating mechanisms to enhance the efficiency of Ghana’s social protection system.

The recently approved governance framework for social protection at the national, regional, district, and community levels is seen as a positive step. It is important to clearly define the responsibilities of key players and significantly strengthen the District Social Development Departments, which play a crucial role in delivering social welfare services. Additionally, the MoGCSP should develop coordination tools such as a social protection vision and policy, a medium-term programme with an action plan and budget, and M&E systems to track programme implementation progress.

By strengthening these bodies and mechanisms, and ensuring effective coordination and synergies among ministries, districts and service organisations, Ghana’s social protection system can be more efficient and responsive to the needs of the population.
**Multistakeholder engagement in delivery:** Bodies and mechanisms exist for harmonised action among different departments at the grassroots level. However, it is noted that these bodies and mechanisms are currently not active or functioning effectively. According to a World Bank report, there is a need to better define the functional responsibilities of different levels of government and ensure that intergovernmental financial transfers provide sufficient resources to the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to effectively carry out their responsibilities.

While social welfare and community development functions have been devolved to MMDAs, some related functions are still being carried out by the operational departments of MoGCSP. Additionally, the central government retains control over personnel decisions and salary payments for MMDA staff. New legislation has been reviewed to support the retooling of MMDAs' functions, but there is an urgent need to expedite efforts to provide MMDAs with the necessary human and budget resources to effectively fulfil their functions. Decisions related to the personnel need to be transferred to MMDAs and District Assembly Consolidated Fund resources need to be directly allocated to the district assemblies.

By activating and empowering these bodies and mechanisms and ensuring effective decentralisation of responsibilities and resources, harmonised action among different departments at the grassroots level can be achieved, leading to more efficient and coordinated implementation of social protection initiatives.

**Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)**

LEAP is a social intervention programme in Ghana that provides cash transfers to extremely poor households. It aims to alleviate poverty and enhance livelihoods by providing regular income support to vulnerable individuals and households.

**Programme design features**

LEAP offers cash transfers to the most vulnerable households in Ghana. While it's not an innovative disaster risk management tool in itself, it contributes to strengthening the safety nets for these households, thereby enhancing their capacity to cope with shocks, including disasters.

Nonetheless, it doesn’t incorporate a specific anticipatory disaster risk management mechanism in its design. This means that while the programme provides assistance that could potentially be used to respond to disasters, it does not adjust its operations or scale up in anticipation of disasters. It also lacks triggers or parameters that would lead to programme adaptations or changes in response to disaster predictions or forecasts. This is an area of potential improvement for the programme.

The selection process for LEAP households involves a thorough and consultative procedure, starting from the national level and flowing through regional, district, community and household levels. The process includes data review, collection, processing and scoring, using a proxy means testing questionnaire and national poverty maps.

Beneficiaries of the LEAP programme receive electronic payments through the e-Zwich platform provided by Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GhIPSS) via participating financial institutions. Biometric fingerprint verification is required for cash-out or payment.

LEAP eligibility is based on poverty and having a household member in one of three demographic categories: orphan or vulnerable child, elderly poor, or a person with extreme disability unable to work. The initial selection is community-based and verified centrally through a proxy means test. LEAP beneficiaries also receive free health insurance through the NHIS.
LEAP, in its current form, doesn’t have a specifically climate-focused approach. However, indirectly, the cash transfers can aid households in their fight against climate-related challenges. Yet, without direct measures promoting climate-resilient practices or specific guidelines on using the cash transfers for climate adaptation/mitigation strategies, there’s a gap in its design. To enhance resilience against climate change, the programme could be complemented with initiatives that increase awareness about climate risks and promote sustainable practices.

Programme functions

Prevention: In terms of prevention, the LEAP programme does not specifically mention insurance-linked anticipatory support service interventions. However, LEAP 1000, a variant of the programme, provides beneficiaries with free access to NHIS, resulting in higher possession rates of valid NHIS cards among adults and children in LEAP households. This has been a significant benefit despite challenges related to time and travel costs for renewal. The focus of LEAP is primarily on cash transfer as the primary intervention, with immunisation and the NHIS serving as complementary services. Through its regular cash transfers, LEAP helps in preventing extreme poverty among vulnerable households in Ghana. This financial aid helps to ensure that these households can afford basic necessities and are not pushed further into poverty, particularly in times of a shock or stress. It is worth noting that there is no mention of resilience awareness in the literature we have reviewed for LEAP.

Protection: LEAP also serves as a safety net to protect vulnerable households from shocks. The cash transfers can cushion the impact of economic shocks, natural disasters or other crises. For example, in the event of a drought or flood that impacts the household’s livelihood, the cash transfers can provide a means of sustenance and recovery. The programme also provides free health insurance, protecting the beneficiaries from health shocks that could push them into poverty. The LEAP programme targets extremely vulnerable populations and offers bimonthly cash payments to households with orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly without productive capacity, persons with acute disabilities, and, through the LEAP 1000 pilot, pregnant women and children under 12 months of age. An evaluation report highlights a significant improvement in asset creation among the beneficiaries due to the programme interventions.

Promotion: LEAP supports economic and social inclusion by promoting access to basic services and facilitating productive inclusion. It helps in promoting resilience by enabling households to not just meet their basic consumption needs, but also to invest in human capital (through improved access to health and education services) and potentially income-generating activities. This can lead to improved livelihoods over time. In terms of promotion, social accountability plays a crucial role in monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes. Programmes like school feeding, LEAP and LIPW demonstrate strong community participation and mechanisms for citizen feedback and redress. These programmes have established complaint and redress mechanisms and maintain strong communication with the community and beneficiaries. These efforts ensure greater transparency and accountability in programme implementation.

However, the extent to which LEAP can effectively contribute to prevention, protection and promotion also depends on other factors like the regularity and adequacy of the cash transfers, the reach of the programme, and the quality of the complementary services like health and education.
## GHANA: PROGRAMMES

### PROGRAMME DESIGN

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<td>Average per capital transfer</td>
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### PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS

| Benefit cost ratio | 3          |

### INNOVATIVE DRM INSTRUMENTS

- The programme uses early warning systems to provide anticipatory support to target groups
- The programme uses anticipatory risk financing instruments such as contingency funds, catastrophe bonds, parametric insurance, weather derivatives, etc.
- The programme adopts a layers of risk approach (ie assessing the probability and severity of risks) that reflects a continuum from frequent but less damaging events through to rare but catastrophic disasters and then manages this risk through a variety of instruments
- The programme uses a national database/registry for its operations
- The programme uses platforms that enhance delivery efficiency and effectiveness of delivery (eg mobile-based payments)

### CLIMATE-FOCUSED APPROACH

- The programme maps geographical areas, livelihood groups, social groups, etc., which are vulnerable to climate change impacts and uses these different dimensions of vulnerability to plan scaling up and resource allocation
- The programme undertakes environmental conservation and restoration of degraded landscapes (eg biodiversity conservation) to help protect natural resource-based livelihoods
- The programme undertakes interventions on improving water management (eg rehabilitating water bodies) that can lead to water security for domestic and agriculture purposes
- The programme undertakes interventions that lead to climate-proofing of physical infrastructure (eg roads, bridges, etc.)
- The programme envisages constructing community-based disaster risk reduction assets (eg storm shelters)

### PROGRAMME FUNCTION

<table>
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<th>PROGRAMME FUNCTION</th>
<th>Total: 65%</th>
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#### PREVENTION

- The programme offers anticipatory support
- The programme offers services to protect health, livelihoods and incomes before crises hit
- The programme encourages community-level advance planning and interventions (eg evacuation planning)
- The programme offers subsidised health, food or education before crises hit
- The programme offers skills training, capacity building or awareness generation to prepare crisis response
- The programme supports individual or community-level asset creation (eg cyclone shelters) to protect from future crises
- The programme promotes awareness, particularly among marginalised people, to achieve their representation in decision-making processes

#### PROTECTION

- The programme offers cash transfer, food aid or livelihood support during a crisis
- The programme offers rapid additional humanitarian support to tide communities over a crisis
- The programme supports access to health facilities or relief assistance (eg food, water) after a crisis
- The programme provides income-earning opportunities through public works programmes or protection against livelihood loss or non-economic loss and damage (NELD) though insurance or other compensatory mechanisms
- The programme offers waiver/relaxation/subsidy benefits to target populations in the event of climate hazards

#### PROMOTION

- The programme offers support for livelihood diversification
- The programme supports improved income opportunities via building entrepreneurial skills, access to higher education or community/individual asset creation
- The programme promotes new livelihood opportunities
- The programme implements planned labour mobility, migration and placement interventions
- The programme improves access to markets, natural resources, government departments, financial inclusion, community infrastructure, etc.
- The programme encourages target populations to participate in decision-making processes
Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) programme

The LIPW programme in Ghana focuses on creating employment opportunities through public works projects. It provides temporary jobs to unemployed individuals, especially in rural areas, by engaging them in activities such as infrastructure development and environmental conservation.

Programme design features

The LIPW programme does not mention the implementation of EWSs or anticipatory risk financing in the literature we have come across. However, recent government reforms have focused on strengthening transparency and objectivity in social protection delivery. The introduction of the GNHR has played a central role in these reforms by collecting data on households for transparent programme selection. Electronic systems, such as e-payments and e-attendance with biometric verification, have been implemented in LEAP and LIPW to improve programme efficiency. Additionally, a unified citizen engagement service has been initiated by the MoGCSP.

LIPW has primarily focused on a smaller subset of communities, targeting basic infrastructure improvement and agricultural productivity, particularly through climate change mitigation measures. To facilitate the overlap of LEAP and LIPW, LEAP districts are given priority for selection into the LIPW programme. Within these districts, LEAP communities and households expressing interest in LIPW are prioritised for selection. The impacts of the overlap of these programmes on beneficiary households’ graduation will be studied as part of the project’s impact evaluation.

Regarding environmental considerations, the LIPW subprojects, including the rehabilitation and construction of small water harvesting structures, rehabilitation of feeder roads and provision of community plantations, are categorised as having a moderate environmental and social impact.

Investing in small earth dams and dugouts is emphasised on the official LIPW website as crucial for improving access to irrigation and agricultural productivity, particularly in the Savannah belt where underground water sources are insufficient during the dry season. This investment becomes increasingly important due to the growing frequency and intensity of droughts resulting from climate change.

Overall, the LIPW programme aims to enhance infrastructure and agricultural productivity, address climate change challenges and ensure transparency and objectivity through reforms such as the GNHR and electronic systems. Environmental and social impacts are considered, and measures are recommended to mitigate potential risks.

Programme functions

Prevention: LIPW is engaged in the creation or improvement of community infrastructure that can help prevent the negative effects of future disasters, thereby increasing community resilience. Additionally, by providing income opportunities, it can prevent households from falling into poverty or employing harmful coping strategies during difficult times or during the agricultural off-season. Beneficiaries engage in activities such as the creation, rehabilitation and maintenance of public or community assets. Feasibility and market viability studies, information and sensitisation campaigns, skills training, start-up grants, mentoring and coaching, access to market opportunities and financial inclusion activities are among the support services provided.

Protection: LIPW programmes protect vulnerable populations by providing them with a reliable source of income in times of economic or climatic shocks. This is especially valuable for households that depend on climate-sensitive livelihoods, like subsistence farming. The income from the LIPW provides a safety net that enables these households to maintain their consumption levels in the face of shocks.

Promotion: LIPW aims to promote inclusive economic growth, reduce poverty and create job opportunities for all Ghanaians. The programme supports the creation, rehabilitation and maintenance of public or community assets, providing temporary wage-earning opportunities during the agricultural off-season. The government has prioritised investments in core infrastructure and launched flagship programmes to enhance access to jobs, promote entrepreneurship and reduce constraints to growth.

There is no evidence of provision for labour mobility and migration interventions, access to markets, natural resources, government departments, financial inclusion or community infrastructure in the literature we have come across. The LIPW programme should reassess its design and management aspects to ensure they address the needs of women, provide equal work opportunities for women, and advance gender equality through community-level awareness and dialogue.
Donor initiatives, like the Forest and Farm Facility, aid Ghana’s smallholder farmers in implementing climate change adaptation measures, including solar irrigation, organic farming, and deforestation reduction. These successes may inform government policies, fostering sustainable forest and farm systems while benefiting vulnerable groups and youth.

Overall, the LIPW programme focuses on providing temporary wage-earning opportunities through public works, supporting economic growth and enhancing access to jobs. The programme promotes the creation and maintenance of community assets while ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable households. However, specific interventions related to insurance-linked support, labour mobility, access to markets and other factors are not mentioned in the literature available.
### Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) programme

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Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)

This initiative provides free nutritious meals to school children in public primary schools across Ghana. It aims to improve enrolment rates, attendance and overall nutrition among children, contributing to their educational outcomes and overall wellbeing.

Programme design features

The GSFP has been primarily designed as a social protection intervention, rather than a disaster risk management tool. Its main goal is to provide meals to school children to improve nutrition and school attendance. Therefore, it doesn't traditionally incorporate anticipatory disaster risk management instruments or mechanisms.

However, the system's existing structures can potentially be adapted to respond to crises. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, measures were taken to continue providing meals to children despite school closures. This shows a level of flexibility and adaptability in the face of unforeseen challenges.

The GSFP does not directly incorporate a climate-focused approach into its design. However, indirectly, the programme may contribute to climate resilience. For example, by providing meals sourced from local farmers, it can support local agricultural economies, which could be a part of a broader community resilience strategy against climate shocks.

The GSFP inadvertently contributes to deforestation and carbon emissions since schools often rely on firewood for cooking. To mitigate this and promote climate resilience, schools might be required to create woodlots and explore alternative cooking methods, such as producing charcoal from grass. These strategies, supported by the Forest and Farm Facility, have been tested in Ghana.

Programme functions

Prevention: The GSFP contributes to prevention by ensuring that school-going children have access to at least one nutritious meal each day. This can help prevent malnutrition and related health problems, making children more resilient to health-related shocks. It also discourages school absenteeism, thereby preventing potential declines in educational attainment.

Protection: The GSFP offers protection to children from food-insecure households by ensuring they have consistent access to food, irrespective of their family’s economic situation. During times of economic shocks or crop failure, this can provide a crucial buffer against hunger and malnutrition.

Promotion: The GSFP promotes local agriculture and economic activity by sourcing food locally where possible, thereby supporting local farmers’ incomes and promoting local food production. This can enhance community resilience by strengthening local economies. (However, some evaluations observe that the caterers are largely from outside the communities.) Furthermore, by ensuring children are well-fed and able to focus on their studies, the programme promotes educational outcomes, which can, in turn, lead to better income-earning opportunities in the future.
GHANA: PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMME DESIGN Total: 36%

- **PROGRAMME EFFICACY**
  - Coverage: 2
  - Benefit incidence: 4
  - Benefit adequacy: 1
  - Average per capital transfer: 1

- **PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS**
  - Benefit cost ratio: 5

- **INNOVATIVE DRM INSTRUMENTS**
  - The programme uses early warning systems to provide anticipatory support to target groups: 1
  - The programme uses anticipatory risk financing instruments such as contingency funds, catastrophe bonds, parametric insurance, weather derivatives, etc.: 1
  - The programme adopts a layers of risk approach (i.e. assessing the probability and severity of risks) that reflects a continuum from frequent but less damaging events through to rare but catastrophic disasters and then manages this risk through a variety of instruments: 1
  - The programme uses a national database/registry for its operations: 1
  - The programme uses platforms that enhance delivery efficiency and effectiveness of delivery (e.g. mobile-based payments): 1

- **CLIMATE-FOCUSED APPROACH**
  - The programme maps geographical areas, livelihood groups, social groups, etc., which are vulnerable to climate change impacts and uses these different dimensions of vulnerability to plan scaling up and resource allocation: 4
  - The programme undertakes environmental conservation and restoration of degraded landscapes (e.g. biodiversity conservation) to help protect natural resource-based livelihoods: 1
  - The programme undertakes interventions on improving water management (e.g. rehabilitating water bodies) that can lead to water security for domestic and agriculture purposes: 1
  - The programme undertakes interventions that lead to climate-proofing of physical infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, etc.): 1
  - The programme envisions constructing community-based disaster risk reduction assets (e.g. storm shelters): 1

PROGRAMME FUNCTION Total: 61%

- **PREVENTION**
  - The programme offers anticipatory support: 4
  - The programme offers services to protect health, livelihoods and incomes before crises hit: 4
  - The programme encourages community-level advance planning and interventions (e.g. evacuation planning): 1
  - The programme offers subsidised health, food or education before crises hit: 4
  - The programme offers skills training, capacity building or awareness generation to prepare crisis response: 4
  - The programme supports individual or community-level asset creation (e.g. cyclone shelters) to protect from future crises: 1
  - The programme promotes awareness, particularly among marginalised people, to achieve their representation in decision-making processes: 4

- **PROTECTION**
  - The programme offers cash transfer, food aid or livelihood support during a crisis: 4
  - The programme offers rapid additional humanitarian support to tide communities over a crisis: 2
  - The programme supports access to health facilities or relief assistance (e.g. food, water) after a crisis: 2
  - The programme provides income-earning opportunities through public works programmes or protection against livelihood loss or non-economic loss and damage (NELD) though insurance or other compensatory mechanisms: 3
  - The programme offers waiver/relaxation/subsidy benefits to target populations in the event of climate hazards: 1

- **PROMOTION**
  - The programme offers support for livelihood diversification: 1
  - The programme supports improved income opportunities via building entrepreneurial skills, access to higher education or community/individual asset creation: 1
  - The programme promotes new livelihood opportunities: 3
  - The programme implements planned labour mobility, migration and placement interventions: 1
  - The programme improves access to markets, natural resources, government departments, financial inclusion, community infrastructure, etc.: 1
  - The programme encourages target populations to participate in decision-making processes: 3


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This document presents the country analysis of Ghana and is an extract from the IIED working paper ‘Delivering anticipatory social protection: country readiness assessment’, which uses the ASPIRE tool to evaluate the readiness and effectiveness of social protection systems in eight countries, identifying gaps and opportunities to improve anticipatory measures and climate resilience. The research provides actionable recommendations for enhancing these systems to not only respond but also proactively adapt to climate-related risks, thereby fostering resilience among vulnerable populations.