

Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) Theory of Humanitarianism

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Article History	Abstract
Original Research Article	<p><i>This study investigates the adaptive social protection (ASP) theory of humanitarianism. Adaptive Social Protection encompasses three key aspects of practice: social protection (SP), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate change adaptation (CCA). These aspects have evolved from diverse origins, driven by the goal of reducing susceptibility and building resilience. These interrelated groups of practice distribute, reduce vulnerability, and build resilience. In 2014, the ASP initiative began, which took place in six countries in the Sahel region: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. It was completed in 2019.</i></p> <p><i>ASP reflects hazardous procedures and climate changes that eradicate the origin of susceptibility, lack, and inequality. This concept is important because of the difference between handling and the ability to adapt. This reduces the adverse influences of worldwide encounters and transformation in terms of poverty, food insecurity, and climate change, which contribute to natural disasters.</i></p> <p><i>Adaptive social protection builds the resilience of deprived and susceptible households through the ability to prepare, handle, and adjust to shocks. It protects people's well-being and safeguards them from poverty because of the shock effects. ASP systems are instruments used to reduce poverty and mitigate the effects of shocks. The following building blocks establish the ASP system: adaptive information, adaptive programmes, and adaptive financing.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Adaptive Social Protection, Resilience, Social Protection, Theory, Humanitarianism</p>
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<p>Copyright © 2025 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.</p> <p>Citation: ALO, Folake Sekinot. (2025). Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) Theory of Humanitarianism. UKR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (UKRJAHSS), volume 1(issue 7), 185-192.</p>	

INTRODUCTION

The term Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) was coined by scientists in the Institute of Development Studies in the UK. They understood that there are three key aspects of practices, which are referred to as the social protection (SP), the disaster risk reduction (DRR), and the climate change adaptation (CCA), that had grown from diverse origins, which were connected to the decrease in susceptibility and building resilience (World Bank 2011). ASP was conducted in six nations in the Sahel region, which were Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. This element began in 2014 and was completed in 2019.

According to Cornelius (2018), 'Adaptive social protection' was developed from the recognition that social protection (SP), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and

climate change adaptation (CCA) are seen as three interrelated groups of practice that distribute, reduce vulnerability, and build resilience. In 2008, Davies et. al, projected the ASP framework, which was built on the perception of transformative social protection, that was presented by Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004).

ASP deliberates on the dangerous measures and climate changes that eliminate the root of vulnerability, long lasting scarcity, and disparity. This concept was used for rural vulnerability, climate excesses, and inconsistency in agricultural areas. ASP is important because of the difference between handling and the ability to adapt, which changes social protection from a responsive shock wave to an adaptable and transformable approach (Béné et al., 2018).

This is to reduce the adverse influences of worldwide encounters and transformation in terms of poverty, food insecurity, and climate change, which affect natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.

Social protection programmes like health, unemployment, insurance, etc., are improved to protect against wounds, salary losses, and effects emanating from natural disasters and climate change. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk management programmes are essential to discover the role that social protection mechanisms play in climate change to avert, mitigate, respond to, and recuperate from calamities (Boon 2020).

Adaptive social protection builds the resilience of deprived and susceptible households by building their ability to prepare, handle, and adjust to shocks. This looks at how it protects their well-being and safeguards them from poverty or being trapped in poverty because of shock effects (Bowen et al. 2020). ASP systems are instruments used in reducing poverty and mitigating the effects of shocks, which require a double method. First, it aims to reduce poverty and build resilience before shocks occur through predictable allocations, community asset building, and promoting livelihoods. And secondly, it balances interventions in retort to shocks (World Bank, 2018).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development played a crucial role in social protection (SP), which has been used as a support instrument for people who were affected by disaster (Béné et al, 2014; Johnson et. al, 2013; O'Brien et al., 2018). Scientists have measured SP as an indispensable planned instrument to report hazardous climate (Béné et al., 2014; Coirolo et. al, 2013; Davies et al., 2013; Davies et al, 2014; Heltberg et al, 2009; Kurakose et al., 2013; Schwan & Yu, 2018; Ulrich et al, 2019; Wood, 2011)

In late 1800s and early 1900s, humanitarianism was perceived as a social reform in the economic confusion of the Industrial Revolution in England. Humanitarianism is an informal philosophy of practice that leads to the promotion of human welfare (WordNet 2007). It is founded on the opinion that humankind deserves admiration and self-esteem, which ought to be accorded to them. Also, it is a dynamic confidence in the worth of human beings, whereby they practice compassionate treatment and help others to decrease suffering and expand the situations of humankind

for good, selfless, and expressive explanations (Götz et al, 2020). Humanitarianism is used to define the rationale and principles behind the alternative retort to humanitarian emergencies.

BASIC CONCEPTS

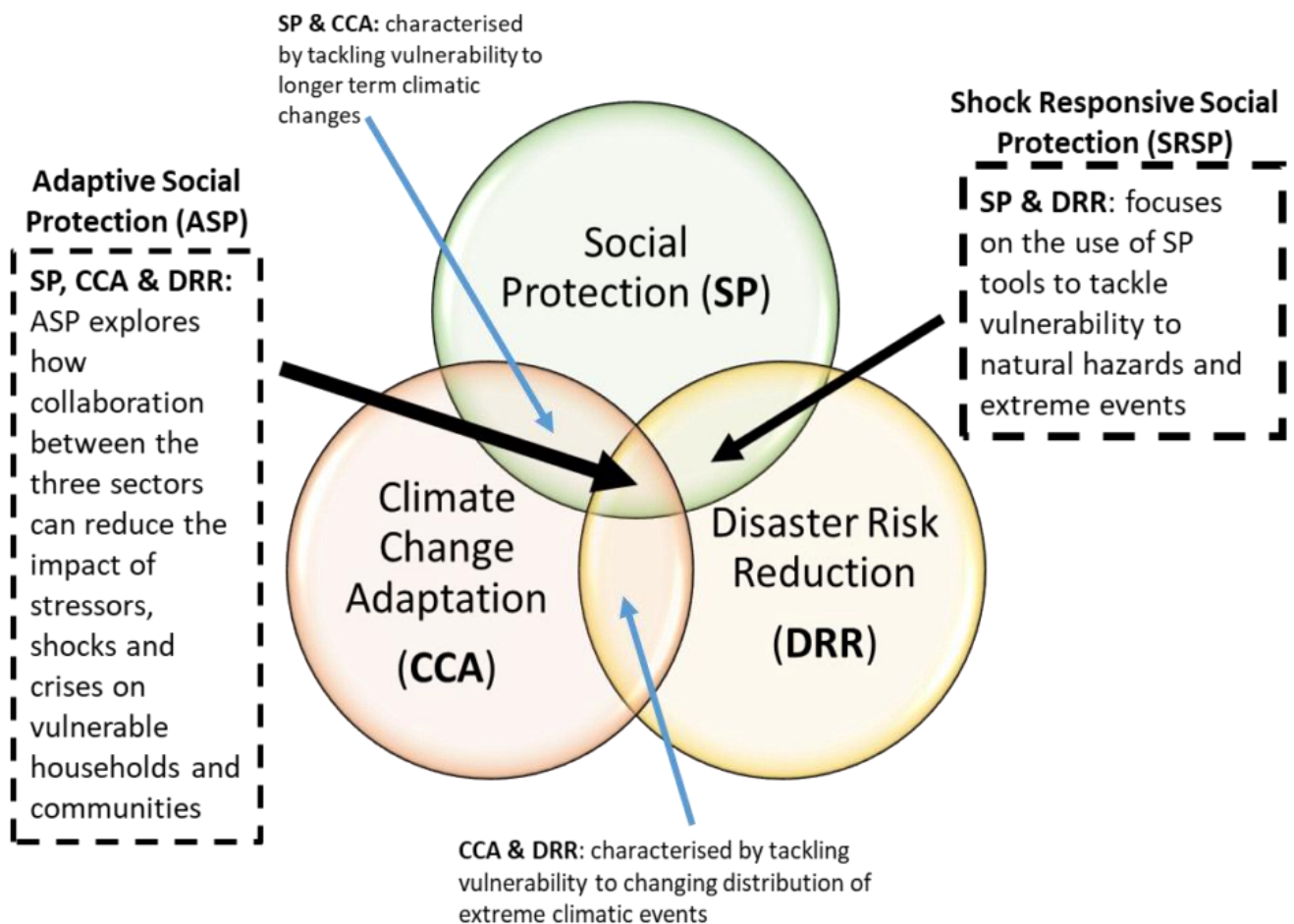
Adaptive Social Protection: means the process of reducing the adverse effects of global encounters and change, in areas such as poverty, food insecurity, climate change, and their interface with natural disasters like downpours, storms, or earthquakes (Bonn, 2020).

Resilience: This means the capability of persons, families, and societies to fix, handle, and adjust to shocks in a way that will protect the wellbeing of all, making sure that poverty is reduced to the bare minimum because of the impacts sustained during a disaster.

Social protection (SP): The International Labour Organization (ILO) describes social protection as a combination of guidelines and programmes that seek to decrease lack, susceptibility, and disparity during the lifespan (ILO, 2017). "SP systems support the underprivileged and susceptible to cope with emergencies and shocks, get jobs, participate in the well-being and education of children, and guard the elderly population." (World Bank 2018).

According to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, social protection is averting, handling, and overcoming circumstances that harmfully disturb people's well-being. (UNRISD 2010). It comprises guidelines and programmes planned to decrease lack and susceptibility by encouraging well-organized labour markets, reducing people's experience to hazards, and improving their ability to cope with financial and societal dangers, e.g., being without a job, prohibition, disease, incapacity, and elderly (World Bank 2001).

Adaptation denotes the method of change to real or predictable weather and its effects on human structures. Adaptation seeks to sensibly or circumvent damage or achieve valuable prospects (IPCC, 2014). Climate change adaptation activities are said to be on the increase, where the fundamental objective is to preserve the essence and honesty of a structure or method at a specified measure (IPCC, 2014).



Source: Davies, Guenther, Leavy, Mitchell, and Tanner, 2009

The above diagram shows the different concepts in terms of interaction and shows the modifications in their purposes. **Shock-responsive social protection** deals with actors who are included in humanitarian retort and emphasizes that the fundamentals of SP are successfully organized and quickly extended during a shock. **Adaptive social protection** acknowledges and retorts to climate change as well as stressors and shocks to people, sectors, and society. ASP works on an integrated approach, which builds understanding and teamwork among actors from SP, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction to deliver extended time explanations to address the original reasons of susceptibility and support individuals in preparing for the effects of climate change.

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR ASP

Three building blocks constitute the ASP system, which are the following:

1. Adaptive information,
2. Adaptive programs and
3. Adaptive financing.

Adaptive information looks at getting information on which vulnerable people (those exposed to shocks) are and where they live.

Adaptive programmes, on the other hand, look at programmes that will build resilience before a disaster; and how to respond after a disaster occurs.

Adaptive financing looks into the financing that is needed for the smooth running of the work at hand. There should be institutional coordination between DRM and SP systems for the building blocks to work effectively.

PRINCIPLES FOR ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMING

There are five important principles for adaptive social protection programming which are good for the system to develop successfully. They are the following

1. Promote institutional coordination.
2. Guarantee the success of the programme.
3. Target households are vulnerable to shocks and disasters.
4. Design a programme that can be adapted to capacity.
5. Safeguard the pace of the retort using an existing SP programme (ITAD 2016).

1. Promote institutional coordination

This brings together several organizations, contributors, and NGOs, who, by tradition, functioned as distinct practical disciplines, with diverse groups of hazards and specific collections. One of the greatest significant essentials for establishing an effective ASP programme is to substitute partnership and teamwork between areas (Davies et al, 2013).

2. Guarantee the success of the programme

The success of a programme states its skill that will enlarge horizontally or vertically in terms of hostile events. The question of success is accessible as a vital prerequisite of the structure. A significant feature of shock-responsive social protection programmes is their success. (Béné et. al, 2018).

3. Target households are vulnerable to shocks and disasters

This is the ability to precisely target households that are susceptible to climate change and natural disasters. People who are affected by hostile measures like natural disasters or climate change are referred to as the poor and vulnerable groups, which include the elderly, orphans, the handicapped, or households known to be habitually poor (Béné et. al, 2018).

4. Design a programme that can be adapted to capacity

This denotes the need for a social protection programme, that will be adaptable to households and communities. There should be activities and involvements that will promote and shape the capacity of its recipients. The justification behind this is that there should be an increase in intensity in the resilience of poor households, which will improve their capacities through suitable involvement (Béné et. al, 2018).

5. Safeguard the pace of the programme

This is the ability to distribute transfers of money or additional methods of sustenance in a moderately brief period, and a response is vital after a disaster occurs. In quickness, appropriateness is key, which is an essential component of an active ASP programme, and the agreement throughout the prominence of this quickness is effective (Béné et. al, 2018).

ASP SOCIAL PROTECTION CATEGORIES

According to Davies et al. (2013), there are four ASP social protection categories, which are the following:

Protective (coping strategies) – these coping strategies are basically for ex-post involvements that support susceptible people in managing the impact of climate shock,

Preventive (coping strategies) – these coping strategies are meant for ex-ante measures to mitigate risk.

Promotive (building adaptive capacity) – this builds adaptive capacity in the ex-ante involvements that foster flexibility and establish prospect.

Transformative (building adaptive capacity) – this strategy can change societal relationships among individuals.

INSTRUMENTS OF SP

The current SP piece of equipment can usually be classified into:

(1.) Social Safety Nets (or social assistance) deal with community mechanisms programmes, money transfers which are either restricted or unrestricted, and generous allocations like school eating, payment renunciations that can provide admittance to elementary amenities like schooling, housing, and well-being (World Bank, 2015).

(2.) Social Insurance and Micro Insurance Schemes.

(3.) Social Health Protection; and

(4.) Labour Market Interventions.

Box 1 – Adaptive Social Protection, first framework

SP category	SP instruments	Adaptation and DRR benefits
Provision (coping strategies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social service provision - basic social transfers (food/cash) - pension schemes - public works programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protection of those most vulnerable to climate risks, with low levels of adaptive capacity
Preventive (coping strategies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social transfers - livelihood diversification - weather-indexed crop insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prevents damaging coping strategies as a result of risks to weather-dependent livelihoods
Promotive (building adaptive capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social transfers - access to credit - asset transfers/protection - starter packs (drought/flood-resistant) - access to common property resources - public works programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promotes resilience through livelihood diversification and security to withstand climate-related shocks - promotes opportunities arising from climate change
Transformative (building adaptive capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promotion of minority rights - anti-discrimination campaigns - social funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transforms social relations to combat discrimination underlying social and political vulnerability

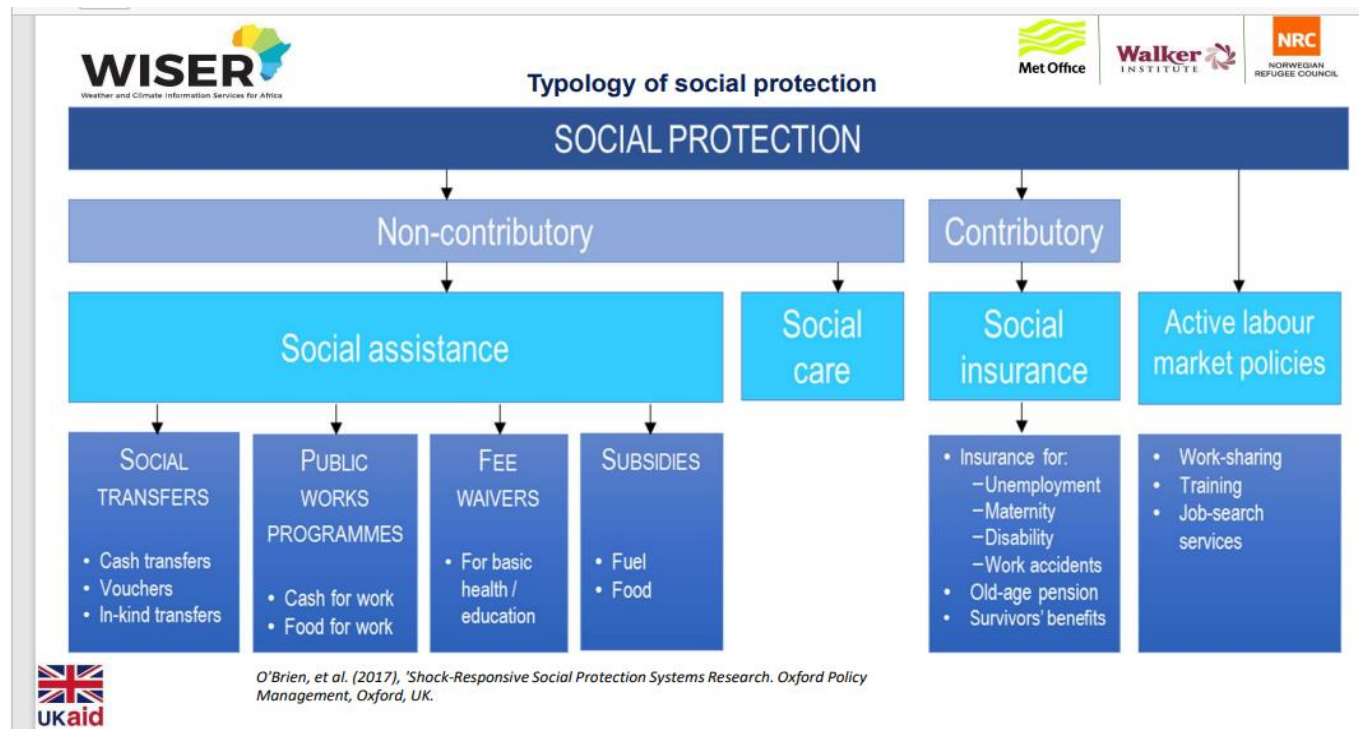
Source: Davies et al. (2009)

TYPES OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

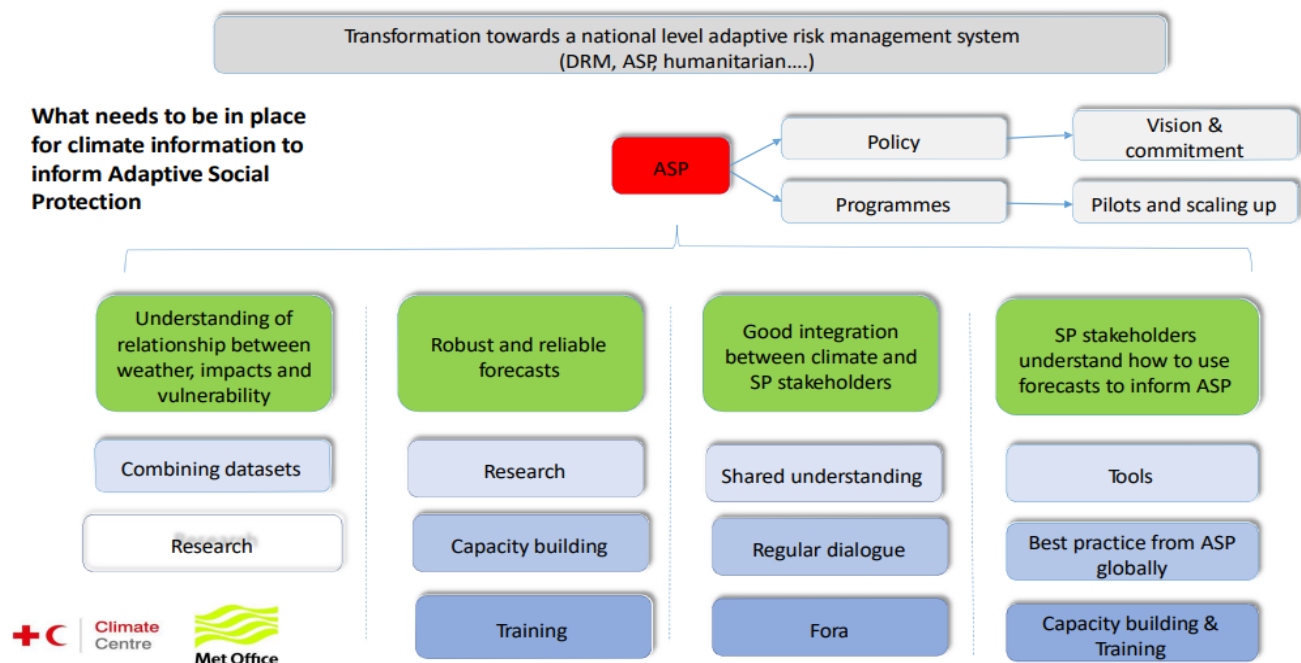
Labour market involvement is a guiding principle and programmes proposed to support occupation, the effective strategy of labour markets, and the safeguarding of workers.

Social protection mitigates risks connected with being without a job, ill-health, work-related wounds, and old age, through services such as health insurance or unemployment insurance.

Social support is when capitals, both in monetary and non-monetary forms, are assigned to susceptible people or families with no additional representation of sufficient provision, for single parents, the displaced, or the bodily or emotionally challenged.



Source: Cheikh Kane, Understanding Risk Abidjan, 20_22 Nov 2019



RECOMMENDATIONS

These are some of the recommendations for this study:

1. Proper coordination of ASP is required across a broader set of actors. All hands must be on deck
2. ASP should promote coordination between individual interventions, where it is necessary
3. ASP cannot work in isolation; all other sectors must be carried along.
4. Policies and programmes must be put in place to have a successful outcome.
5. Finance is key; therefore, it must be made accessible to enable the adjustment of programmes and practices.

CONCLUSION

Several nations have increasingly acknowledged the significant role that ASP plays in controlling funds to the poor and vulnerable people in society, who have invested in ASP interventions and the necessary approach systems. ASP is also a very useful tool in humanitarian assistance, which enables closer integration. In conclusion, deliberate expertise and teamwork connecting the social protection, humanitarian, and DRM areas should be built.

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