

# Targeting in Crises: E-Discussion Guide

**Date:** Tues 7 – Fri 10 June 2022

with an Informal Zoom Hangout on Wed 8 June 2022 at 2pm (GMT +1)

## Facilitators:

- **Rachel Sabates-Wheeler**, Research Fellow (IDS), Co-Executive Director of BASIC Research
- **Emily Wylde**, Economist specialising in social policy (independent), BASIC Researcher

Join the Discussion forum on [socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org)

## Overview of Targeting E-Discussion

Join us for a week-long interactive online discussion about **targeting social assistance in situations of crises**, where we hope to connect with humanitarian and social protection practitioners, researchers, and anyone with an interest in this area. The e-discussion will be structured and moderated around four topic areas, with scope to follow other debates that emerge. The asynchronous online discussion will be held throughout the course of the week, with a [one-hour informal webinar hangout](#) on Wed 8 June 2022 at 1pm UTC (9am New York, 2pm London, 3pm Brussels) hosted by [socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org).

The purpose of the e-discussion is to encourage the sharing of ideas and experiences of targeting humanitarian and social protection responses in crisis contexts. By doing so, we aim to promote a realistic and forward-looking research and policy agenda for targeting social assistance in acute and protracted crises situations – through BASIC Research and beyond.

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Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) Research (funded by UKAid) aims to inform policy and programming on how to help poor and vulnerable people cope better with crises and meet their basic needs through more effective social assistance. All costs related to BASIC Research are covered by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

## Key Theme and Questions

### Topic 1: How does targeting enable programme objectives?

In different acute and protracted crisis situations, programme objectives vary. This means that eligibility and targeting criteria will also vary. Where budgets are constrained, limited resources require a trade-off between the number of recipients reached, and how much they each receive.

### Topic 2: What are the criteria for targeting success?

A key concern when implementing targeting is measuring the success of the approach. Under this topic, we will discuss how we might define this success, whether the criteria should vary in different crisis contexts.

### Topic 3: How do institutional orthodoxies impact targeting?

Contestation over targeting happens in global international policy arenas as well as at national levels, with different approaches competing for primacy in policy and programmes. Concerns are the affiliation of different organisations with specific targeting mechanisms, as well as the problem of competing principles and different objectives for targeting in humanitarian situations.

### Topic 4: What is the role of community perceptions and social divisiveness in targeting?

When using targeting in crisis contexts, there are existing social dynamics and beliefs at play which may influence the effectiveness and perception of targeting.

## Key Readings

- Sabates-Wheeler, R. and Szyp, C. (2022) Targeting Social Assistance in Protracted Crises, BASIC Research [Theme Brief](#), Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.10.19088/BASIC.2022.020

Other materials:

- Barca, V. and Kukrety, N. (2021) [Technical Note: Targeting for Social Protection in Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts](#), New York: UNICEF

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- Devereux, S.; Masset, E.; Sabates-Wheeler, R.; Samson, M.; Rivas, A. and te Lintelo, D. (2017) '[Evaluating the Targeting Effectiveness of Social Transfers: A Literature Review](#)', *Journal of Development Effectiveness*
- Grosh, M.; Leite, P.; Wai-Poi, M. and Tesliuc, E. (eds.) (2022) [Revisiting Targeting in Social Assistance: A New Look at Old Dilemmas](#), Washington DC: World Bank
- Gentilini, H.; Laughton, S. and O'Brien, C. (2018) '[Human\(itarian\) Capital? Lessons on Better Connecting Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection|World Food Programme](#)', *Social Protection & Jobs Discussion Papers* 1802: 56, Washington DC: World Bank

## Registration Instructions

1. Log in to the [socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org) platform. If you are not a member yet, please [create an account](#) first;
2. **While logged into your account**, access the [Social Protection in Crisis Contexts](#) online community;
3. To participate in the discussions, click [here](#) to access the Discussion Forum area.

### How to comment, edit and reply in a thread?

- Click on the '[Discussions](#)' area of the community and select a discussion topic to comment on.
- To **reply** to a post, scroll down and click 'Add new comment';
- To **edit** your comment, simply click the '**Edit**' button below your post;
- Note that when uploading a document, you must wait for the document to load. You can add multiple documents if you wish. Supported formats: txt, pdf, doc, docx;
- Click '**Send**' to post your comment.

**Kind reminder:** Discussion content must comply with [socialprotection.org Terms of Use](#): spam, disrespect for other members or offensive language is not tolerated.

Key Contact: [t.nelis@ids.ac.uk](mailto:t.nelis@ids.ac.uk) (Tina Nelis, Moderator)

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