A significant proportion of WFP operations include some form of support to national social protection, or have supporting national social protection as a priority focus. In addition to its role in directly implementing safety nets, WFP has a technical support role in as many as 60 countries, including in areas such as adapting SP to build resilience to shocks; reinforcing countries’ ability to reach & respond to people affected by shocks; building/strengthening core implementation processes, e.g. payment, identification of beneficiaries/targeting; improving nutrition sensitivity; and optimizing supply chains.

The new WFP corporate results framework acknowledges the relevance of social protection to WFP’s mandate, and vice versa, and includes for the first time an SDG1.3-related indicator on coverage. The further significance of this is that WFP conceives of its work in terms of how it contributes to national SDG targets, which implies a focus beyond direct implementation, on being a useful partner to governments and other agencies for supporting and strengthening national systems/programmes.

WFP has an ongoing interest in contributing to the global knowledge base and dialogue on ensuring effective social protection in difficult contexts. Recent publications are on the subject of shock-responsive social protection (with Oxford Policy Management, FAO, UNICEF, ILO, UNISDR); and linking humanitarian assistance and social protection (with World Bank, ECHO). Many SPIAC-B members were at a learning event on ‘better connecting humanitarian assistance and social protection’ in late November at WFP in Rome. Publications are shared on socialprotection.org.