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# Poverty and Social Protection: DFID Approach

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## Abstract

**S**ocial policies are central in DFID support to poverty reduction. There is increasing recognition that economic growth and social justice are interdependent. Social protection consists of policies that assist people, households and communities to protect themselves against shocks and risks. It is one component of the effort to enable people to take control over their own livelihoods, and achieve their human rights. It helps to achieve peoples' rights and reduce poverty, and contributes to economic growth and social integration. This note emphasises that social protection ought to be seen as a cross-cutting issue: Social protection should be integral to wider policy formulation and implementation, since policies should be informed by an awareness of potential future shocks. Preparedness can reduce the negative effects of shock, and enable quicker recovery. Social protection policies need to be based not only on an understanding of peoples' vulnerability and needs, but also of their assets and capabilities. It should support informal support networks. For different groups, and under different circumstances, different kinds of policies are called for. The state has an important role in providing social protection, and guaranteeing rights. But many other actors have crucial roles to play, including community based and religious organisations.

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