



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Save the Children

unicef 
for every child

SOCIAL PROTECTION & CHILD PROTECTION:

**Working together to protect
children from the impact of
COVID-19 and beyond**

SUMMARY



THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND HOW IT LINKS TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The resulting economic crisis from **COVID-19** has **rapidly exacerbated some of the biggest threats to child survival and well-being** such as hunger, reduced access to health, education, social, and child protection services. **Public health mitigation measures** like domestic lockdowns and school closures **have had a direct impact on income security**, in addition to **heightening the risk of children's exposure to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect**, including early and adolescent pregnancy, child marriage, other sexual abuse, and family separation and abandonment.

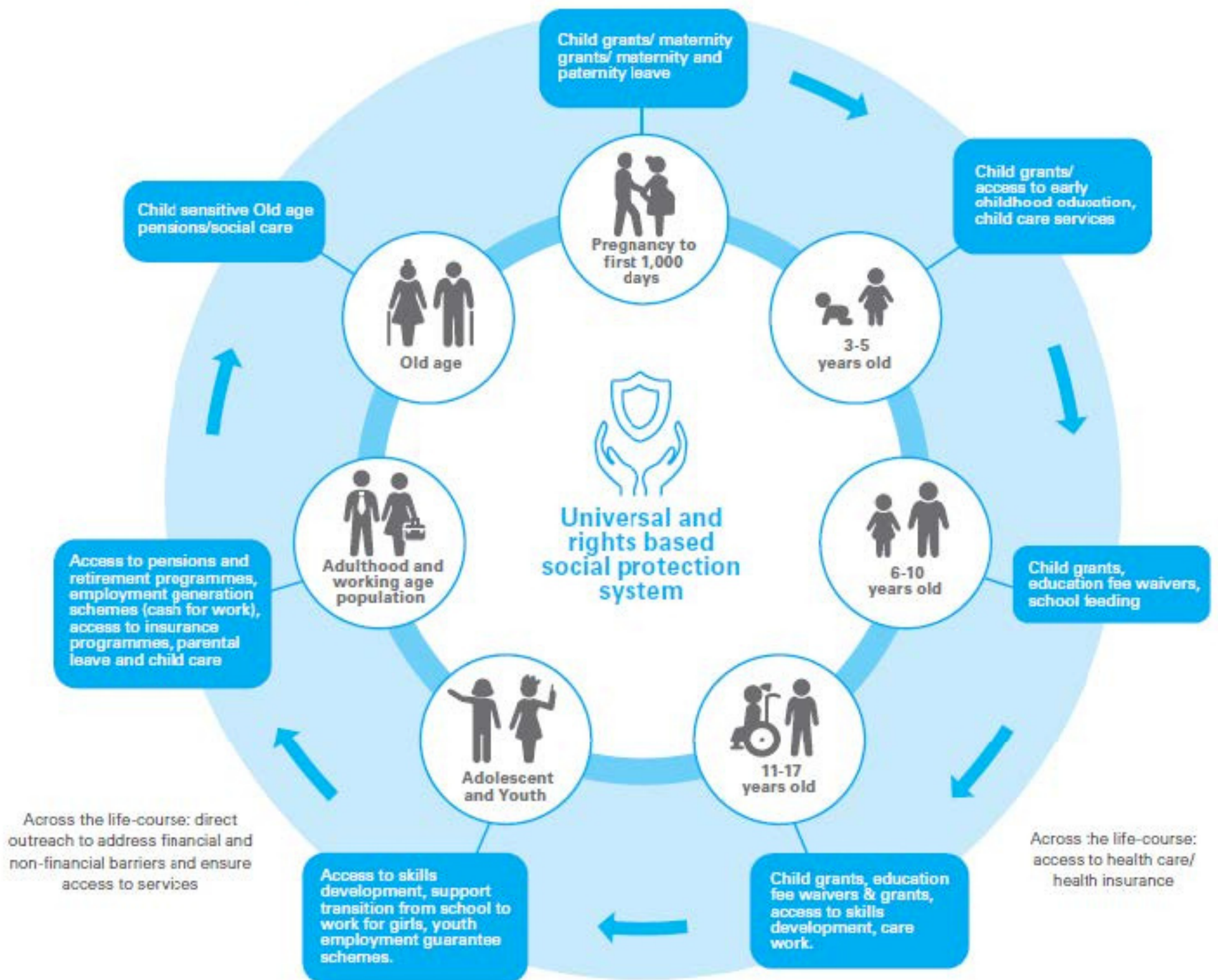
WHAT IS SOCIAL PROTECTION (SP)?

Social Protection is **“a set of policies and programmes aimed at preventing or protecting all people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout their life-course, with a particular emphasis towards vulnerable groups.”** *

Child-sensitive social protection refers to the objective of ensuring that social protection systems and interventions are **designed with the rights and needs of children at their core.**

*Definition developed by SPIAC-B as part of Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPA) tools development. SPIAC-B is an interagency coordination mechanism composed of representatives of international organizations and bilateral institutions to enhance global coordination and advocacy on social protection issues and to coordinate international cooperation in country demand-driven actions.

SOCIAL PROTECTION ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE



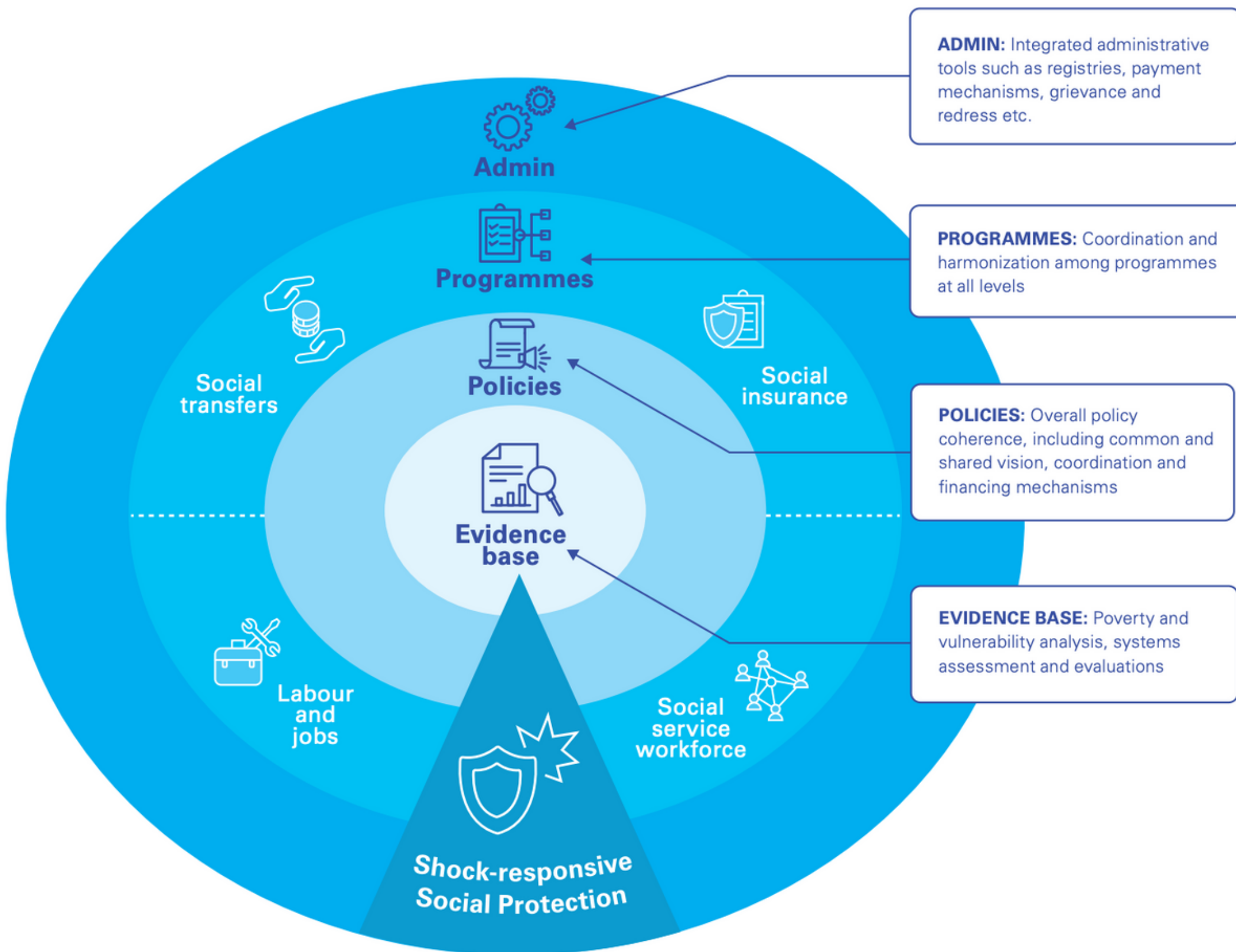
Source: [UNICEF Global Social Protection Programme Framework](#)

WHAT IS CHILD PROTECTION?

Child protection is **the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children.**

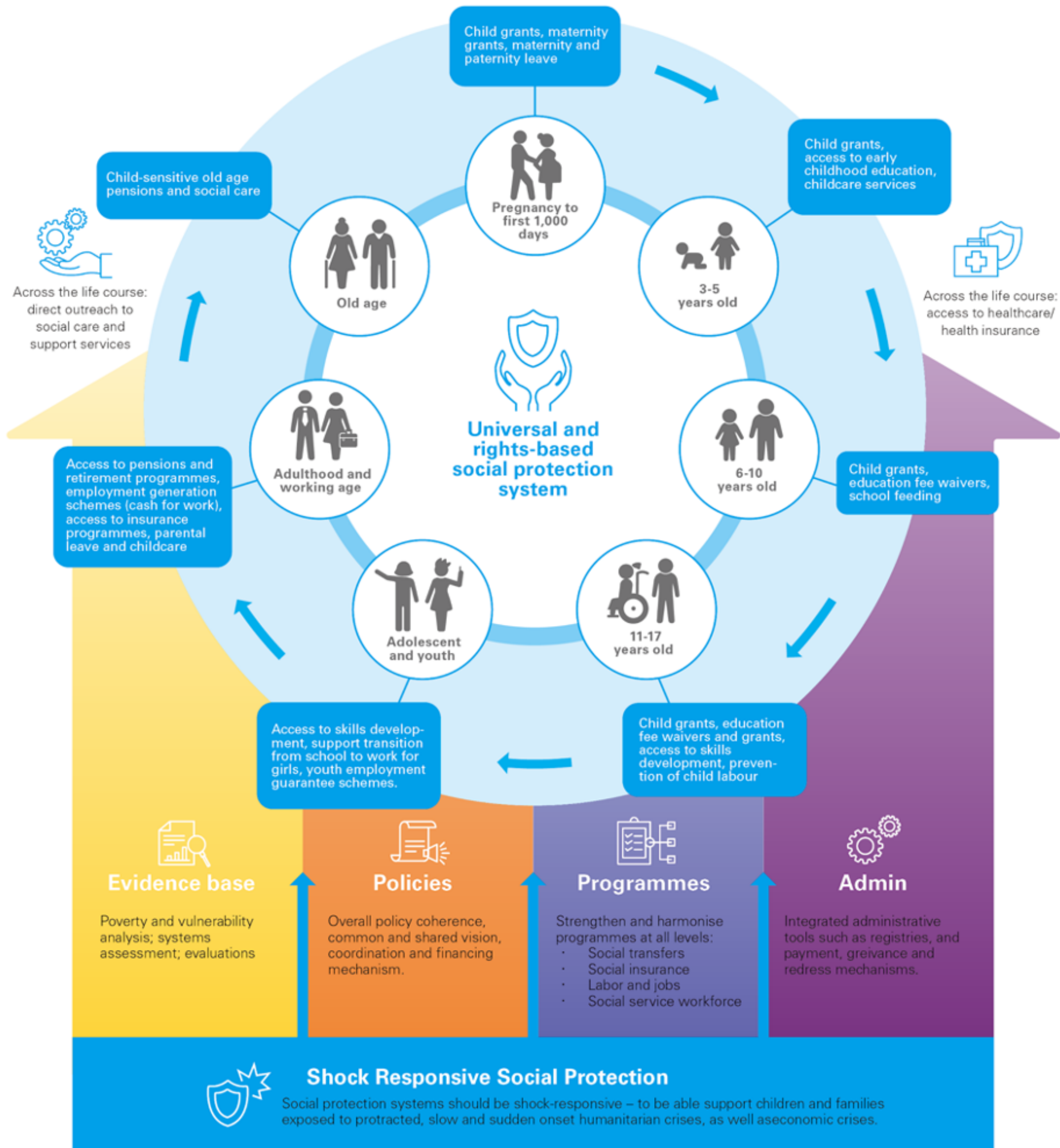
The protection of children during and beyond emergencies requires child protection measures with clear linkages to social protection systems, such as a coordinated approach to strengthening the social welfare workforce, strengthened referral pathways, provision of parenting programmes, information sharing on preventative and mitigating measures, linkages with community-level child protection mechanisms, etc.

COMPONENTS OF A CHILD-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM



Source: [UNICEF Global Social Protection Programme Framework](#)

A child-sensitive social protection system

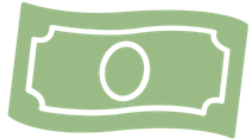


WHY BRING SOCIAL PROTECTION & CHILD PROTECTION TOGETHER?

There are three primary reasons for leveraging social protection approaches to enhance child protection:

- **The emerging evidence** indicates that social protection can offer much in support of child protection outcomes, with strong child-sensitive and gender-responsive design and implementation;
- There are **clear synergies to be had from finding ways to link or integrate social protection and child protection systems** and mechanisms to deliver better results for children; and
- Consistently **bringing together expertise from both sectors** yields substantially better results for children.

EXAMPLES FROM THE EVIDENCE



Social protection measures like **cash transfers** have been shown to **address some of the different drivers** of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence including reducing monetary poverty, increasing women's empowerment, and improving school enrolment and attendance



Adjustments to employment guarantee schemes to ensure the provision of safe, quality childcare may prevent women from exiting the workforce and/or putting children in unsafe care situations



A direct way of increasing access to Child Protection and GBV services is to **strengthen the capacity of Social Protection frontline workers** (for example, colleagues distributing cash in a cash transfer programme) **to provide referrals.**

HOW DO WE JOIN SP & CP IN PRACTICE?

Financing, Policy & Coordination

1.

- Include child protection components into social protection projects and finance expanded coverage in the recovery phase from COVID-19, such as universal child benefits.
- Map and assess the joint policy and programme landscape to identify gaps and opportunities and to inform collaborative planning / coordination.

Programme Design & Implementation

- Ensure safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and protection mainstreaming, and the participation of children and other programme participants in design and implementation process.
- Ensure a focus on Child Protection at the design stage of COVID-19 social protection projects

2.

HOW DO WE JOIN SP & CP IN PRACTICE?

Monitoring & Evaluation

3.

- Develop clear and safe monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Gather sex, age, and disability disaggregated data.
- Study and analyse the key bottlenecks and accelerators to align social protection and child protection services in humanitarian and fragile context.

Taking a Systems-Wide Approach

- Design social protection programmes and systems to be child-sensitive, gender-responsive, inclusive, and shock-responsive.

4.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Social Protection and Child Protection: Working together to protect children from the impact of COVID-19 and beyond** (Full guidance)
- **Social Protection and Child Protection Case Studies** (Annex I)
- **The United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children: Agenda for Action** (Focused on social and child protection systems with special attention to the most vulnerable children)
- **UNICEF social protection framework**
- **UNICEF Gender-responsive social protection during COVID-19** (Technical note)
- **UNICEF Conceptual framework on gender-responsive and age-sensitive social protection**
- **Inter-agency Cash & Voucher Assistance and Gender-Based Violence Compendium** (Guidance)