

Connecting Humanitarian Cash Transfers Programming & National Social Protection Programs in Liberia & Sierra Leone:

the Case of the Ebola Response Webinar

Facilitator: Amandine Frisetti, Ebola Project Manager, CaLP

Presenter: Holly Welcome Radice, Consultant

Co-presenters: Gabriel Fernandez, National Social Protection Coordinator and Head of the Cash Working Group in Liberia - & Jenny Congrave, OPM Consultant

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Webinar Objectives



- To present the case of the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) programs in the Ebola response and the linkages made with the National Social Protection Programs (NSPP) of Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- To discuss the value of the connections to NSPPs, and options/opportunities to build on this in future



CaLP & Social Protection



- **Guidance Note:** *Working with cash based safety nets in humanitarian contexts. Guidance note for humanitarian practitioners (CaLP)*
- **Training Materials:** *Introductory and project design modules - Face to Face and E-Learning (to be released soon) – based on the Guidance Note*
- **Working Paper:** *Conceptualizing Shock-Responsive Social Protection (OPM)*
- **Webinar:** *A Framework and Practical Guidance on Linking Humanitarian Cash Transfers with Long-Term Social Safety Nets (OPM & CaLP)*



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Agenda



1. Cash Transfer Programming and the Ebola response in Sierra Leone & Liberia
2. Cash Transfer Programming and its connections with the NSPP in Sierra Leone & Liberia
3. NSPP and the different type of connections
4. Ebola NSPP connections, successes and the 'way forward'
5. Q & A



Webinar Presenters



Presenter: Holly Welcome Radice has 18 years' experience in humanitarian & development work with diverse groups in Africa, Latin America & the USA. She is a food security & livelihoods expert with extensive cash-based programming experience. She is the author of the forthcoming CaLP report *"Cash Transfers for Food Security in epidemics – A review of the Food For Peace Response to the Ebola crisis (Sierra Leone, Liberia)"*



Webinar Presenters



Republic of Liberia

Gabriel Fernandez is currently the National Social Protection Coordinator in the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection in Liberia with over 14 years' experience in social protection. He supports the Ministry in its oversight role, coordination and policy guidance for social protection in Liberia. During the recent Ebola crisis in 2014, he played a lead role in coordinating over 17 humanitarian partners who provided cash transfers to about 166,000 households to restore livelihood and build resilience. At the policy level, he coordinated the development of Liberia's national social protection strategy and policy, and assisted with the integration of social protection as a sector in Liberia's National Development Plan (Agenda for Transformation: 2012-2017). At the regional level, he is a member of the Steering Committee of the Africa Community of Practice on Cash Transfers, facilitated by the World Bank and UNICEF established since 2012.

Webinar Presenters



Jenny Congrave: Jenny has eight years' experience in international development, in the field in Ghana and in various UK-based organisations. She has been a consultant at Oxford Policy Management for the past three years where she has worked on a range of research and evaluation projects. Jenny is working as a Research Assistant on the OPM-managed shock-responsive social protection systems research project, funded by DFID UK. Of the six country case studies, her focus has been the Mali and Sahel region studies.



CaLP Ebola Project



- **OBJECTIVE:** Document CTP implemented during Ebola recovery phase
- **ACTIVITIES:**
 - Documentation Report
 - Case Study
 - CTP outcome analysis (coming in 2017)
 - Video
 - Learning Events
 - Webinar



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Overview CTP in the Ebola response



CTP in Liberia & Sierra Leone



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CTP: Ebola Response



- Over 30 organizations implemented CTP
- CWG activated in each country
- Mix of Unconditional & Conditional
- Delivery mechanisms varied
(direct cash, financial institutions
E-transfers)



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RESPONSE CONNECTIONS TO NSPPs





SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone



- Ministry of Labor implemented pilot NSPP in 2007
- Draft NSPP policy produced in 2009
- Through 2014 setting up systems, tools & coordination mechanisms
- NaSCA began implementation November 2014



Standard Operating Procedures



- RE-SSN finalized May 2015
- SOP included guidance on:
 - Targeting
 - Grievance redress mechanism
 - Transfer values & mechanism
 - Duration & transition
 - Stakeholders' responsibilities & roles





LIBERIA

Liberia-Background



- 2008 - assessment of social protection in Liberia conducted by UN
- 2009 - launch of pilot cash transfers program in Bomi (UNICEF/EU)
- 2011- National Social Protection Steering Committee established
- 2012 - findings from BU evaluation lead to expansion pilot cash transfer program to Maryland
- 2012 - UNICEF mid-term evaluation of Bomi pilot cash transfers and Diagnostic Study of Social Protection by World Bank contribute to inclusion of a Social Protection as a Sector in Liberia's National Development Plan (2012-2017) and development of Social Protection policy;
- 2013 Establishment of a new Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
- 2014 Ebola Crisis



Ebola crisis: Coordination



- TWG on Cash Transfers under ER&L Cluster established in November 2014 under leadership of Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection facilitated by existence of SP Secretariat;
- TOR was developed drawing on Haiti CaLP model defining parameters of coordination, cash transfers and guiding harmonization;
- Definition of cash transfers defined in Liberian context but allowing for humanitarian flexibility of cash transfers within less than 6 months defined as “livelihood boosters”;
- Mapping partners implementing of cash transfers 3Ws ➡ 4Ws + D (development);
- 3 Sub-TWG established: (i) Targeting; (ii) Payment Modalities; (iii) M&E;

TYPES OF CONNECTIONS



Types of Connections

Maturity of a social protection system

	Category of maturity	Description
1	Non-existent	No state interest in developing long-term social protection, and only ad-hoc foreign aid / humanitarian interventions
2	Internationally led	No clear progress in state policy, but emerging foreign aid interventions shaping up towards a system with some elements of harmonisation or coordination
3	State-led interest	Some state interest to expand social protection (to the most vulnerable), with some elements shaping up, eg. scaled-up aid-supported interventions or an outline of what could become a national flagship programme
4	State-led commitment	Commitment to expand social protection (as articulated in eg. national strategy), with some flagship initiatives for the poor (co-)funded by the state
5	State-led expanding	Clear state policies / laws and a growing set of social protection schemes
6	State-led mature	Well established system with high coverage of populations and needs.

Types of Connections

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Adapting social
protection systems
for humanitarian
crises



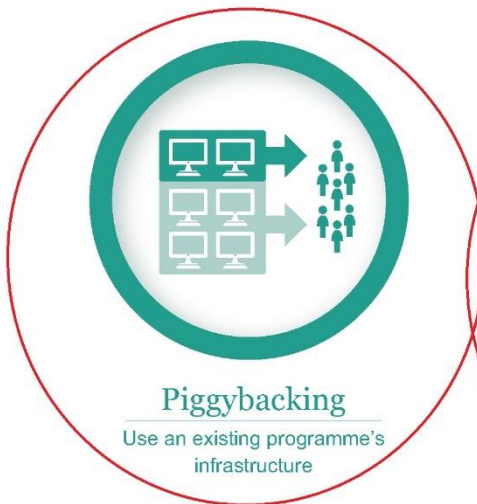
Vertical Expansion

Increase the value or duration of
benefit for existing recipients



Horizontal Expansion

Increase the number of beneficiaries
flexibly in the event of a crisis



Piggybacking

Use an existing programme's
infrastructure



Shadow Alignment

Humanitarian system runs parallel
to social protection programme



Refocusing

Reprioritise existing resources

KEY SUCCESSES



Key Successes connected to NSPPS

- Strong coordination with & by government
- Harmonization of critical elements such as targeting, monitoring and transfer amounts with connection to National Social Protection Programs' frameworks
- Flexibility and adaptive management





WAYS FORWARD

Looking to the Future



- Potential of shock-responsive capability within the NSPPs
- Institutionalization of CTP
- Preparedness & coordination
- Setting transfer rates; ease vs. impact?



Liberia Post Ebola: Resilience



- 2015 GOL launches an Economic Recovery and Stabilization Plan with focus on post Ebola economic recovery; reviving livelihood and building resilience against future shock;
- 2016 World Bank approves a \$10 million for building a social safety net system (SSN) to mitigate lifecycle risks and build resilience against shocks;
- 2017 USAID provides a Grant to establish a national Households Single Registry as a key component of the SSN system.



Resources



- <http://www.cashlearning.org/news-and-events/news-and-events/post/379-social-protection-webinar-recording-now-available>
- <http://www.opml.co.uk/sites/default/files/WP1%20-%20Shock-resp%20SP%20concept%20note.pdf>
- <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/calp-humanitarian-pratitioners-guidance-notes-en-web-.pdf>



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