### Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Links - Update #02 (12 April 2020)

#### Highlights this week

- **Newsletter:** We’re moving it to mail chimp next week. To allow people to subscribe themselves. If you are on the CaLP d groups (English version), you will automatically receive it through there so you do not need to subscribe.

- **How can SP Systems respond to the COVID 19 crisis?** The webinar as part of the SP.org COVID Series was excellent and it is recommended to take the 90 minutes to listen. It sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments themselves are facing. Coverage is a huge challenge (and one that is relevant for us). There was also a call for the SP and humanitarian side to collaborate more as we have approaches (and knowledge, learning, experience) on both sides that need to be deployed just now. Find the [recording here](#).

- **The gaps in linking SP/CVA for humanitarian actors** (light touch and gathered from various sources):
  - The big gap coming up this past week has been on leadership (or the lack thereof) on SP/humanitarian cash links in countries. Humanitarian actors want to coordinate with the SP side but it is unclear who will convene such meetings/discussions. Connected to this: coordination itself remains an issue (see the [CaLP Coordination tip sheet](#) that came out recently. It has very useful lines on the SP/humanitarian cash coordination issues within in
  - The gap in understanding on the humanitarian side pre covid on how govt actually works remains (and is now an even bigger issue).
  - How to register people for all actors (including govt) still an issue.
  - Good points made in the informal hangout on how World Bank funding structures are different as are social accountability measures for hum/SP side and MEB/transfer value determinations and the need for discussions and convos around this at the country level (see resources section for three tools on this).

#### Blogs/Articles/Research

- **CaLP blog:** The blog “Impossible Choices – questioning assumptions behind lock-down in low income and fragile contexts” makes the point on the weakness of the health systems, the capacity of households to survive lockdown and governmental capacity to fund and deliver safety nets – are what determine the appropriateness of broad lock down approaches. There is a call to ensure that if lockdown measures are taken, they should be accompanied by rapid and well thought-out social assistance to mitigate the socio-economic impact on poor populations. It also calls on humanitarian actors to be ready to respond to those not covered by govt programmes, on donors to think about funding plans for a longer term, and for all responders (hum/dev) to work together better and link social protection and humanitarian cash.

- **Somalia, remittances and COVID:** Interesting read on the implications of COVID on remittances in Somalia. There are SP links to cash to be inferred as Somalia is perhaps an example of people to people social protection at a (inter)national level (that might be stretching and over simplifying both concepts).

- **SPAIC B statement:** SPAIC B have put out a joint statement on the role of social protection in responding to COVID and make mention of cash transfers. Good to have this handy on the advocacy side.

- **CCD SP/CVA statement:** The CCD have released an advocacy paper on social protection and humanitarian cash in response to COVID. It’s 3 pages short; it includes the NGO offer, and has advocacy messages for govt, donors, NGOs. You can access it here. Contact Larissa Pelham for any questions, comments.

- **Spain and UBI:** First country in Europe to move in the direction of permanent UBI. It remains interesting and useful for us to watch the UBI space.

#### Mapping Updates

- **NEW addition. SP/humanitarian cash links mapping (GB cash sub group initiative):** This can be accessed here. The purpose of this live, shareable mapping is to support humanitarian actors in the field working in the SP/CVA space. It’s light touch. Initial focus is on countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. Mapping fills the gap of the SP weekly links information from the World Bank (below) which does not include the humanitarian responses (on going or planned). We’re contacting people in country to fill it in (or please reach out to us which would be much easier). In some cases, we’re facilitating calls between the different actors in country to start that process of discussion (and filling in of the information). Contact Zehra for more info/set up a call.

- **The SP links weekly email** This lists the social protection programmes (social assistance, social insurance and labour markets. The social assistance is where our focus tends to be because this is where the social/cash transfers occur).
The highlights from this as of 10 April 2020 include: a total of 126 countries have introduced or adapted social protection and jobs programs in response to COVID-19. This represents a net increase of 20 countries since last week. Within social assistance, cash transfer programs remain the most widely used intervention by governments: these include 143 programs in 81 countries, with 65 new initiatives introduced specifically as COVID-19 response in 43 countries.

One of the new emerging themes is support to informal workers. Cash transfers are currently being leveraged to reach informal workers in several ways, for example by building on existing national social registries (e.g., Brazil); introducing new online platforms (Thailand), connect to databases in health (Morocco) and energy (El Salvador) sectors; making cross-checks with taxation information (Colombia, Argentina); establishing city-level schemes (Germany); and introducing one-off cash transfer payment programs (Cabo Verde, Ecuador, Malaysia, Namibia, North Macedonia, Philippines and Vietnam). These programs are also provided on a universal basis in Serbia, Hong Kong and Singapore. Because of the prevalence of informality in urban and peri-urban areas, countries like China, Uganda and Trinidad and Tobago are taking steps to introduce and adapt schemes to those contexts.

- The IMF has a policy tracker; it is different from the SP links above. It gives an overview of the COVID situation in country and lists out the fiscal, monetary/macro financial and exchange rate/balance of payments interventions being discussed or implemented.
- Social registries: Charlie Goldsmiths and Associates have google.doc to crowd source to map social protection information management systems (Sub Saharan Africa information only)
- The WFP office in the Caribbean has a dashboard (for the Caribbean) on what SP measures countries are taking.

Resources Update (any new additions and running list of others)

- NEW: With thanks to Cecile Cherrier on taking the initiative, the Grand Bargain Cash Sub Group on linking SP/CVA has a dedicated community page on SP.Org. Check it out here.
- NEW: WVI, UNICEF and World Bank all have social accountability frameworks (pre-covid). This is useful from the development side as communication and accountability on CVA is something we already focus on and these guides can help when having this discussion with government when working together.
- Socialprotection.org has set up a space on Social protection responses to #COVID19 with a whole series of events, newsletters, mappings etc.
- CaLP has opened a dedicated space on "CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions" and there is a CaLP crowd sourced document which has a section on SP/Cash.
- CCD has a page on Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash with country case studies and guidance.
- Cash forums in countries where we commonly work are trying to figure out the pivot to COVID and you can check out S. Sudan CGW’s risk matrix, and the CCI in Iraq for examples (or to help fill in parts of it). NEW: Cash Consortium of Yemen has put out a statement (not connected to SP per se but has points to be taken into consideration such as value of Yemeni Rial, what a new MEB would need to look like, how to keep the hawala system going).
- The first webinar GB cash sub group did on the topic to demystify the concept of linking social protection and humanitarian cash. We recommend that you take the 90 minutes to go through it and look at the Q&A document as well.

Looking Ahead

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<td>Tues 14 April</td>
<td>Webinar 0930 EDT: G2P Payments in COVID-19 context: Key areas of action &amp; experiences from country emergency actions. Register here</td>
<td>Sp.org</td>
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<td>Wed 15 April</td>
<td>Hangout on SP/CVA. 0800 EDT. Join here (password: 754170)</td>
<td>Zehra/Cecile</td>
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<td>Thurs 16 April</td>
<td>Webinar 0800 EDT: Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic. Register here</td>
<td>GB cash sub group/CalP/SP.org</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Grand Bargain Cash Sub Group paper to be launched</td>
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**Contributions:** With thanks to Carla Lacerda, Kathryn Taetzsch, Maria Jimena Peroni, Catherine Chazaly for sending information for the newsletter.

Please email Zehra Rizvi (f.zehrarizvi@gmail.com) for feedback/contributions. You can also join the CalP d groups, where many of these discussions are taking place. They are also cross posted on the SP.org Crisis in Community page.

*This newsletter is an initiative of the Grand Bargain Cash Sub-Group on linking Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers co led by IFRC, UNICEF and DFID.*