

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Links - Update #04 (20-26 April 2020)

Highlights this week

- **Good practice**

- **Action Against Hunger, Nigeria:** Contact [Aneel Memon](#) for more info (and see GB sub group series [past webinar](#) for further background information). There is a continuation of humanitarian cash transfer for social protection in Yobe State with more vigilance and placing extra preventive measures. SEMA- Yobe (State Emergency Management Agency) has also issued directives to implement the preventives measures related to COVID-19 in all cash disbursement stations. They have deployed their staff to support AAH in disbursements in communities. They have also supported in the following ways:
 - Sensitised communities on preventives measures at cash stations/ sites.
 - Provided medical support via Ambulance and Health staff available during the cash disbursement.
 - Supported in crowd control and to maintain social distance at each cash distribution site.
 - Support to the field team in joint monitoring and supervision and provide recommendations on improvements
 - Ensure activity is in line with COVID-19 guidelines by the state Ministry of Health
- **Egypt:** Example of a civil society organisation complementing government programming. Excerpt: The Egyptian Food Bank announced the launch of its new electronic portal to register individuals and associations in the databases of the food bank to obtain its services. It also announced the launch of a new phase of the initiative to support daily employment, to reach one million five hundred thousand families. This is based on the Food Bank's successes of the initiative launched March 9, to support the efforts of the Egyptian state in combatting COVID 19, by supporting affected daily employment
- **Jordan:** GoJ working with the 'social protection team' and different civil society organisations to ensure coverage and delivery (of food parcels—which can be an excellent entry point as well for HCTs). Excerpt: The PM stressed the necessity of directing this aid through a unified list in the Ministry of Social Development containing the names of families in need, poor or at risk, pointing to the need to adopt them in the process of distributing food parcels.
- **Gaza:** The Palestinian Minister of Social Development, Ahmed Majdalani, announced that the ministry intends to disburse 500 NIS in financial aid to newly registered families with the ministry before Ramadan. This is highlighted here as there are humanitarian actors who are already working on the SP/HCT links and there are opportunities here that can be built upon.
- **Using Joint Funds:** The UN joint [SDG fund](#) (being piloted in 17 countries,) is a good one to watch for lessons learned; in St Lucia, the 'pivot' to COVID has been made and funds repurposed for response. Further background is [here](#) and paper lists links to humanitarian action.

- **The gaps in linking SP/CVA for humanitarian actors** (light touch and gathered from various sources):

- The gaps highlighted in previous newsletters still remain (leadership, coordination, delivery, joint funding, the need for hum and dev actors to understand how each side functions. [The added nuance this past week](#) has been that cash is a tool; it's imperative that this is understood as social assistance is not the only aspect to consider but rather the whole system of social protection).

Blogs/Articles/Research

- **Development Pathways** [“The IMF show support for Universal Transfers as a temporary tool during COVID-19 crisis”](#). 24 April. This blog provides a good primer on targeting (poverty targeting versus seeing social protection as a tool for all, which is in line with the ILO definition most commonly used for social protection. Read for background.
- **World Bank paper on impacts of COVID:** This is a good [briefing note](#) to complement any needs analysis that agencies are currently undertaking to ensure all aspects have been thought of for response options (and where we can add value).
- **IDS opinion piece:** [Adapting social protection in the wake of COVID 19](#). It explores how shock responsive social protection is/can be used and has some very useful 'mantras' that the team of experts supporting governments have come up with. Mantra two is: *share the burden – divide roles and responsibilities where social protection cannot engage, working across government ministries, humanitarian actors, donors and NGOs in an aligned way*. The piece ends with stating: *Done well, enhanced SRSP systems could be one positive legacy from this crisis*.
- **UNICEF Innocenti:** [Caring in the time of COVID-19: Gender, unpaid care work and social protection](#). This important piece talks about how social protection programmes can be more inclusive and gender responsive. Many agencies look at 'cash plus' and the article provides ways and useful examples from countries (including for cash transfers) on how to do this. Inclusion is a big topic and also see [recent CaLP d groups](#) lively discussion on the topic.

Mapping Updates

- **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 humanitarian response. We're contacting people in country to fill it in (or please reach out to us). 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). **New this week:** Many thanks to OCHA colleagues in the field for making onward connections to CWGs/other actors. Quite a bit is happening in the field so keep an eye on the mapping for updates as they are able to be shared; whomever filled out [Bangladesh](#), thank you! 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). As of **April 23, 2020**, a total of 151 countries (18 more since last week) have planned, introduced or adapted 684 social protection measures in response to COVID-19. Social assistance transfers are the most widely used class of interventions (60% of global responses). These are complemented by significant action in social insurance and labor market- related measures (supply-side measures). Among safety nets, cash transfer programs remain the most widely used safety net intervention by governments. Overall, cash transfers include 222 COVID-related measures representing one-third (32.4%) of total COVID-related social protection programs.

Cash transfers are being adapted to COVID-19 response in three ways. This includes **expanding coverage, increasing benefits, and making administrative requirements simpler and more user-friendly**. Administrative adaptations are occurring in 25 countries. For example, anticipation of payments due at later date (e.g., Malaysia); flexibility in the time of collection (e.g., Algeria); home delivery of cash for seniors (e.g., Armenia); postponement of recertification (e.g., Georgia); and waiving of conditionalities (e.g., Philippines). Increases in benefits among preexisting programs are implemented in up to 33 countries, including transfer value being increased in 24 countries (e.g., Egypt); additional payment cycles taking place in 11 countries (e.g., Chile). Some countries have done both (e.g., Turkey). Finally, coverage extension is underway in 72 countries: this includes expanding coverage to those not in programs, but still in social registries (e.g., Indonesia), or extending coverage to those partially or not listed in social registries, such as informal sector, self-employed workers (e.g., in two-dozen countries).

- 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

- **NEW: HRP revisions** are taking place (final deadlines coming up this week). Please reach out to relevant OCHA colleagues in the field to input (especially from the SP/HCT side).
- [Socialprotection.org](#) has set up a space on [Social protection responses to #COVID19](#) with a whole series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. GB sub group has a dedicated community page. Check it out [here](#).
- **CaLP** has 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. Also see [CaLP produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID](#). Page 9 is specific to SP/HCTs
- **CCD** has a page on [Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash](#) with country case studies and guidance.
- **Foundational webinars:** The [first webinar](#) from GB sub group series to demystify the concept of linking social protection and HCT; good introduction and primer to the topic. Second: How can SP Systems respond to the COVID 19 crisis? sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments themselves are facing. Includes a practical breakdown to understand SP systems in the current crisis (and to find entry points; [recording here](#)). And thirdly, Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic. Access the [recording](#) and the [slide presentation](#). A healthy part of the webinar was dedicated to Q&A and examples were presented by the panellists within the context of COVID what measures could be taken on linking SP/HCT.

Looking Ahead		
DATES	ACTIVITY	Organiser
Wed, 29 Apr	Hangout on SP/HCTs. 0800 EDT. Join here (password: 754170)	Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier
April	Grand Bargain Cash Sub Group paper to be launched	GB cash sub group
May 21	GB sub group series webinar (tbd)	TBD

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Please email Zehra Rizvi (f.zehrarizvi@gmail.com) for feedback/amendments/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 which consists of humanitarian and development actors from a wide range of agencies. It is co-led by IFRC, UNICEF and DFID.

