### Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #22 (23 - 29 August 2020)

**Highlights from the week of 23 - 29 August 2020**

- **Webinars and events:** For those of you who missed the “Social protection responses to COVID-19: challenges and opportunities in urban settings in Sub-Saharan Africa” webinar last week, please find here the [recording](https://example.com) and the [slide presentation](https://example.com). The webinar aimed to complement a previous one led by the FAO (Reaching rural areas - social protection responses in Covid-19) which addressed the same issue but focusing on rural areas where routine social protection programmes are concentrated in a number of countries in Africa. The webinar included contributions from government and non-government actors, highlighting some of the complexities of urban responses, including the challenges in identifying and reaching urban caseloads.

- At the end of the week the “Gendered Impacts of COVID-19 and social protection responses in rural areas” webinar, (hosted by SPIAC-B/GIZ/DFAT/IPC-IG) presented an overview of the gendered dimensions of the response to COVID-19 in rural areas and highlighted ways in which social protection can be made gender-sensitive in the context of emergencies, specifically COVID-19. The case of The Gambia was used as an example. If you would like to watch the webinar or see the slides you can access them here: [recording](https://example.com) / [slides](https://example.com).

- Held the week before last, discussions at the IPC-IG and UNICEF webinar focused on social protection trends in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The various pre-crisis social protection landscapes were discussed and reflections offered on how COVID-19 has impacted the countries and their emergency responses, as well as potential paths ahead. These discussions were complemented by presentations from UNICEF social protection specialists bringing up-to-date information about COVID-19 responses by national governments and international organisations, and also shedding some light on UNICEF’s agenda for the different countries. Watch the recording and find the presentations [here](https://example.com).

- **In conversation and online discussions:** Last week, practitioners were talking about potential options for the vertical expansion of social protection approaches in response to the pandemic and how those targeted with existing sector-specific humanitarian cash transfer responses can be included in SP systems whilst ensuring sector outcomes. The advantages of humanitarian and SP actors using common registration systems was discussed, whilst acknowledging some of the political and data protection challenges associated with this. Conversations also highlighted the ongoing lack of understanding by humanitarian actors on what social protection actually is – and the fact that this isn’t helped by programmes that are labelled as social protection not always being so, and instead being two-year social transfer programmes (which are useful and beneficial but cannot necessarily be considered as social protection).

### Recently published: Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs

- **Publications:** Anyone who has questions in relation the UN’s Common Cash Statement should be able to find answers in the recently published [Q&A document](https://example.com). Signatories to the UNCCS recognise the primary role of governments in supporting vulnerable populations and aim to build on and utilise existing national social protection systems, where feasible and relevant.

- World Vision’s recent publication - [Covid-19 Aftershocks: Access Denied](https://example.com) – brings attention to one of the outcomes of COVID-19 school closures – the potential for a significant increase in teenage pregnancy. The report estimates that one million girls in sub-Saharan Africa may not be able to return to school and will be denied access to education. The report proposes the provision of cash transfers to those affected in order to provide financial support for their return to education and the importance of ensuring access to key social protection actions such as sexual and reproductive health education.

- UNICEF’s extensive study on Supporting Families and Children Beyond COVID-19: Social protection in Southern and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) is helpful for humanitarian and development actors alike in its findings relating to the child poverty and vulnerability impacts of the pandemic.

- **Programme updates:** WFP has released its [COVID-19 External Situation Report #12](https://example.com) which provides the latest information on its scaled up responses to the pandemic, including approaches to linking humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) with strengthened and expanded social protection systems in a number of countries.

- **Briefing Notes:** The results of World Vision’s recent [assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable families in Afghanistan](https://example.com) suggests that people are struggling to meet basic needs and calls for the immediate distribution of CVA and food as well as social protection actions in the fields of health, education and child protection.

- **Guidance:** Following an impact assessment in April 2020 that showed that 23% of refugee households did not feel like they were receiving enough reliable information about COVID-19, the Turkish Red Crescent and the IFRC have stepped up their efforts to engage with the refugee population in Turkey. They present [top tips](https://example.com) from their learning on engaging with communities at a large scale through the EU-funded ESSN.

- **Blogs:** Maria Elka Pangestu’s recent blog for the World Bank highlights the importance of [digital ID systems](https://example.com) which have enabled government authorities to identify populations reliably and remotely in order to provide them with emergency cash transfers.
as a result of increased pandemic-related needs. Using these systems has helped governments to identify informal workers who are not covered by existing social welfare programmes or social security schemes for formal sector employees. Read more here

- **Harnessing the power-of digital ID**

- **Connected to the above is another World Bank blog, which addresses the issue of designing cash transfers to enhance women’s empowerment**, particularly since the pandemic has threatened women’s livelihoods, safety and agency. Find the blog, written by Greta L. Bull, Caren Grown, Boutheina Guermazi, Michal Rutkowski, Mahesh Uttamchandani, here.

- **Also writing for the World Bank, Cesar A. Cancho and Tejesh Pradhan report on some of the policy actions and reforms underway in Afghanistan, to help reduce the potentially devastating poverty impact of the pandemic where the lack of a social safety net increases the risk for some of sliding into poverty. Read more here.**

- **A recent blog by Dr Ellen Ehmke for Oxfam reminds us of some of the significant steps taken in a number of countries to support those affected by the pandemic through adaptations to existing social protection systems (many of which have helped to avert increased humanitarian crises) but also calls for massive expansion of benefits in cash and kind to millions of people currently without or with too little social protection. Read the blog here.**

- **The work of the government of Burkina Faso in expanding its social safety net cash transfers in response to the pandemic is discussed in a recent blog by Rebekka Grun, Amina Semlali and Frieda Vandeninden. Read more in English here and ici en français.**

- **News articles, press releases, Op Eds, and media publications**:

  - Also focusing on Burkina Faso (but with a slightly different angle), a recent news release from FAO focuses on the need for urgent humanitarian assistance combined with longer-term investment in rural livelihoods and social services as more than 3 million people face severe food insecurity due to the pandemic. Find more here.

  - **Basic Income Today** has published an interesting article highlighting the immediate and long-term impacts of the pandemic which has left increased numbers in poverty but not covered by social protection measures. The article proposes a role for a temporary basic income to help those most at risk. Read the article here.

  - **In Iraq, the UN and Ministries discuss cooperation on enhancing social protection** – discussions focused on some of the challenges faced by the national social protection system in responding to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of collaborating on an inclusive, comprehensive social response to the pandemic.

  - For those of you not already familiar with it, African Arguments is a pan-African platform for news, investigation and opinion. The platform has a section dedicated to COVID-19 which explores the impact of the pandemic in Africa on health, the economy, politics, social issues and culture and includes a link to an Africa-focused pandemic tracker.

  - **Funding**: The UN’s COVID-19 data portal provides a helpful overview of the countries that have a national COVID-19 socio-economic response plan and provides funding updates and other associated data in an easily accessible way.

  - In Jordan, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance has contributed an additional $13.1 million to ensure WFP support to an additional 41,000 vulnerable refugees with a monthly cash transfer for food and nutrition assistance in response to COVID-19. Read more here.

### 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. It is light touch and the initial focus is countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. The mapping has been developed in coordination with other mapping initiatives. Contact Lois Austin (KML consultant for the GB Cash Workstream sub group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection) for info/to set up a call. And please do go ahead and add missing information from your country/region into the mapping in order to ensure that it is a helpful tool for practitioners.

- **ILO Social Protection Monitor**: This live tracking presents the latest global social protection policy trends based on media announcements. The monitor is updated weekly.

  - The IMF Policy Responses to COVID-19 Tracker provides a summary of the key economic responses that governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the pandemic providing information which is of relevance to humanitarian and development actors, particularly in the design and modification of their COVID-19-related responses.

  - **The Oxford COVID-19 Supertracker** is an online platform established to help policy-makers around the world to navigate the policy responses to tackling the pandemic, and its aftermath around the world. The Oxford ‘Supertracker’ project has compiled data from over 100 sources and made it freely available within one tool.

  - The COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker monitors policy measures enacted by governments worldwide to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, and highlights responses that have integrated a gender lens. It includes national measures that are directly addressing women’s economic and social security, including unpaid care work, the labour market and violence against women. The tracker is coordinated by UNDP with substantive leadership and technical contributions from UN Women.
Regular and Ongoing Resources

- [Socialprotection.org](https://www.socialprotection.org) continues to host a space on [social protection responses to #COVID19](https://www.socialprotection.org/) which provides access to a series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. In addition, the website hosts a number of online communities including one specifically focused on [social protection in crisis contexts](https://www.socialprotection.org/crisis-context). Here, as one of the community resources, you can find a page dedicated to the [Grand Bargain cash workstream sub-group on linking HCT and SP](https://www.socialprotection.org/crisis-context) which will give you links to this newsletter and more.

- [CaLP](https://caldapt.org/) has a dedicated space on [CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions](https://caldapt.org/cva-and-covid-19/) and [CaLP-produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID](https://caldapt.org/cva-and-covid-19/), (including a section specific to SP/HCTs).

- The [Cash Hub](https://www.cashhub.info/) (hosted by the British Red Cross) has developed a number of tip sheets on delivering CVA and advocating for the use of CVA in response to COVID-19. Whilst targeted towards Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the resources can be adapted to the needs and approaches of other organisations. They can be found here: [here](https://www.cashhub.info/).

- The Cash Hub platform also provides quarterly updates which provide a useful consolidation of CVA-related topics. Subscribe by [clicking on this link](https://www.cashhub.info/).

- A multi-country cash transfer research initiative – [The Transfer Project](https://www.transfersproject.org/) – provides a quick-access round-up of COVID-19 related resources [click here](https://www.transfersproject.org/).

- [Resources](https://www.sp.org/resources): Excellent resources that have been developed by SPACE (the DFID/GIZ Social Protection Approaches to COVID team) can be found in this useful twitter thread by Valentina Barca. The resources can all be [found on SP.org](https://www.sp.org/).

- [CCD](https://ccd-cc.org/) has a page on [Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash](https://ccd-cc.org/social-protection-and-humanitarian-cash) which includes country case studies and guidance.

- [SP/HCT Hangout](https://www.humanitarianplatform.org/) This weekly informal hangout via Zoom, hosted by Zehra Rizvi and Cecile Cherrier provides the opportunity for practitioners from across the globe to raise questions and share experience in an open and supportive environment. Details are provided below.

- [Foundational webinars](https://www.humanitarianplatform.org/): The [first webinar](https://www.humanitarianplatform.org/first-webinar) from GB cash 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?](https://www.humanitarianplatform.org/how-can-sp-systems-respond-to-the-covid-19-crisis) sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments are facing; [recording here](https://www.humanitarianplatform.org/recording). And thirdly, [Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic](https://www.humanitarianplatform.org/lessons-learned-and-opportunities-linking-sp-systems-humanitarian-cash) includes examples within the context of COVID for measures to link SP/HCT.

- [ALNAP’s COVID-19 Response Portal](https://covid19responseportal.org/) is a great place to access guidelines; tools; and papers in relation to the pandemic.

- [REACH COVID-19 Information Thread](https://covid19informationthread.org/) – provides data and analysis, primarily for humanitarians (but also of relevance for other actors), on the impact of COVID-19 on affected populations.

- Groupe URD has set up a “real-time evaluation observatory” in order to produce synthesis reports, analysis and recommendations in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. The observatory takes lessons from previous years’ analysis of epidemics and explores different components of the current pandemic. Access the observatory [here](https://covid19informationthread.org/).

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the week 31 August – 6 September

Webinars are coming back on the agenda again with three of relevance to linking humanitarian cash and social protection in the coming week. To kick off September, the first webinar will focus on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social protection for COVID-19 recovery and beyond; on Wednesday the EU, UNHCR, IRC, WRC and the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection will be hosting a virtual launch of the Stocktaking Paper on CVA for Protection – please make sure to RSVP to Manisha Thomas (details below) if you want to attend. On Thursday, BRAC is hosting a webinar on re-thinking economic inclusion for the poorest in the light of COVID-19.

The informal weekly HCT/SP hangout hosted by Zehra Rizvi and Cecile Cherrier has moved to later on a Wednesday than before. From now on, the hangout will take place at 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman. A new zoom link is provided below.

**Planning ahead:** On 5, 6, and 7 October socialprotection.org is holding a [Global e-Conference on “Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?”](https://www.socialprotection.org/). If you would like to Would you like to contribute to the conference by suggesting a panelist or a topic interest to be addressed during the event then please [complete the form here](https://www.socialprotection.org/). Deadline is **30 August**.

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 1 September</strong></td>
<td>Inclusion of persons with disabilities in social protection for COVID-19 recovery and beyond</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 September</td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</td>
<td>11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Wednesday, 2 September</td>
<td>Virtual launch of the Stocktaking Paper on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Protection</td>
<td>Please RSVP by emailing Manisha Thomas: <a href="mailto:genevarepresentative@wrcommission.org">genevarepresentative@wrcommission.org</a></td>
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<td>Thursday 3 September</td>
<td>Rethinking economic inclusion for the poorest in the COVID-19 context</td>
<td>BRAC</td>
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<td>Thursday 10 September</td>
<td>GBV &amp; Social Protection in COVID-19 and beyond – evidence &amp; emerging practice</td>
<td>Register <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 September</td>
<td>Extending social protection to migrant workers in Africa: a South-South Virtual Conference</td>
<td>Register <a href="#">here</a></td>
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Contributions: With thanks to Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez; Mari Elka Pangestu; Heidi Patmore; Thomas Byrnes; Zehra Rizvi; Simon Levine; Greta L. Bull; Caren Grown; Boutheina Guermazi; Michal Rutkowski; Mahesh Uttamchandani; Dr. Ellen Ehmk; Cesar A. Cancho; Tejesh Pradhan; Rebekka Grun; Ruta Nimkar; Maya Faisal; Amina Semlali; and Frieda Vandeninden.

Please email gbsubgroupshc@gmail.com and/or Cecile Cherrier for feedback/amendments/contributions. You can also join the CaLP d groups, and/or the SP.org Online Community for Social Protection in Crisis Contexts (joining instructions below) where many of these discussions are taking place.

HOW TO JOIN THE ONLINE COMMUNITY ON ‘SOCIAL PROTECTION IN CRISIS CONTEXTS’
1. Become a member of socialprotection.org: https://goo.gl/VYCajT
2. Join the online community on ‘Social protection in crisis contexts’: https://goo.gl/aRzVqb

Your feedback is important; it allows us to iteratively tailor the newsletter to your needs and to make decisions on what KML products are needed/useful.

This newsletter is an initiative of the Grand Bargain Cash Sub-Group on linking Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers which is an inclusive space consisting of humanitarian and development actors from a wide range of agencies. It is co-led by IFRC, UNICEF and DFID and the Online Community for Social Protection in Crisis Contexts which is an unbranded, member-based online space on the socialprotection.org platform.