Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #25 (13 - 19 September 2020)

Recent webinars and events: The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection held its September webinar last week. Breaking away from the standard webinar structure, the event was instead more of a conversation between experts from Somalia, the Philippines (UNFPA); the occupied Palestinian territories (Oxfam); and Syria (UNICEF) who were able to shed light on the challenges and successes of avoiding exclusion and ensuring inclusion in linked HCT and SP responses to the pandemic. You can find a recording of the discussion here.

- The slides and recording of the recent webinar on “GBV & Social Protection in COVID-19 and beyond – evidence & emerging practice” hosted by IPC-IG; DFAT; and GIZ which provided an in-depth look at the role of social protection in responding to gender-based violence during COVID-19 are available here.
- The recording of the NRC and PHAP webinar - “Make or break: the implications of COVID-19 for crisis financing” can be found here. The webinar was held in order to launch NRC’s study on the topic, which highlighted how the pandemic has demonstrated that the international response system needs to be prepared for a new order of crises where large-scale systemic shocks may overlay and aggravate existing risks and long-standing humanitarian needs. You can access the report here.
- Please find here the recording and slides from the virtual launch of the Stocktaking Paper on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Protection, which took place on 2 September 2020. The Stocktaking Paper and its Executive Summary are available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish: here.
- In conversation and online discussions: Informal discussions between humanitarian and social protection actors this week touched upon a variety of issues including socialprotection.org’s upcoming global e-conference which will look at “Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?”

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

- Publications: BRAC has produced its monthly humanitarian update which gives an overview of its cash-based assistance to try and help low-income host community households recover from the economic hardship they experienced during the district-wide lockdown in Cox’s Bazaar. The grants were combined with refresher livelihoods training. Read more here.
- CaLP, UNICEF and OCHA have published a tip sheet to support the linkages between humanitarian cash and voucher assistance and national social protection systems. In light of the increased use of social protection systems for emergency response during the pandemic, the tip sheet aims to support country-level coordination efforts to strengthen the engagement between humanitarian coordination groups that implement cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and existing social protection or disaster risk reduction coordination actors and groups. In particular, it seeks to offer inter-cluster and cash working group coordinators some practical tips for engaging with social protection coordination mechanisms in an effort to increase information-sharing.
- The World Bank has released the Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19. The update shows how current health and education outcomes shape the productivity of the next generation of workers, highlighting the critical nature of investing in human capital, by governments and society in general. The update emphasizes the need for policymakers to protect and extend earlier human-capital gains, by expanding health service coverage and quality among marginalized communities, boosting learning outcomes together with school enrolments, and supporting vulnerable families with social protection measures adapted to the scale of the COVID-19 crisis. Examples are given of a number of links between humanitarian and government cash-based and social protection responses to the pandemic, including work by WFP in Pakistan looking at options to complement a cash transfer with nutrition specific interventions, comparing the impact of market-based interventions with a free provision of Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNF), and SNF provision in combination with food vouchers.
- Briefings and Briefing Notes: Oxfam’s recently released cash and markets brief - Stepping up CVA with COVID-19 - Paving the way we respond to future crisis – provides some examples of how Oxfam and partners have designed and adapted CVA initiatives responding to the pandemic. The brief illustrates positive shifts occurring in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including directly working with and in support of national social protection systems.
- Last week, the ICRC, Mercy Corps and MSF gave evidence to the UK International Development Committee answering questions in relation to how COVID-19 is affecting humanitarian operations. Whilst not focused on CVA and social protection responses, the brief note and video (click here) remind us of the additional challenges for humanitarian agencies in responding to ongoing needs, including those arising from the pandemic. Attention is brought to countries including Mozambique where escalating violence has forced the displacement of people to Pemba – already a COVID-19 hotspot; and Mali where the destruction of healthcare facilities compounds the difficulties for the provision of treatment to those in need.
**Weekly Social Protection Links blog** focuses on the latest version of the “living paper” - Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures. Highlights include the increase in the number of countries that have introduced, or planned to do so, social protection responses to Covid-19. Over the past six months, a total of 212 countries or territories, 12 more since the last update in July, have planned or put in place 1,179 social protection measures. The latter includes an additional 124 interventions compared to version 12 of the paper. The paper also presents a comparison by region; an overview of spending on social protection by country; as well as programme level analysis on the state of implementation of cash transfer programmes. The paper also provides an in-depth update of key innovations and challenges in recipient identification, selection, registration and payments from a large number of countries.

**News articles, press releases, Op Eds, and media publications:** The Brookings Institution draws attention to the fact that some countries are better equipped to deal with the pandemic than others, particularly in light of a potential spike in cases with upcoming seasonal change. This Op Ed provides interesting thoughts on the unfinished agenda of financing Africa’s COVID-19 response.

**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** continues to host a space on [social protection responses to #COVID19](https://www.socialprotection.org/covid19) 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/topics/social-protection-in-crisis-contexts). 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/topics/grand-bargain-cash-workstream-sub-group-on-linking-hct-and-sp) which will give you links to this newsletter and more.

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

- **The Cash Hub** (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.org.uk/cwa-covid-19).
The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection –
Linking humanitarian cash and social protection for an effective cash response to the COVID-19 pandemic - Weekly Update

Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

- The Cash Hub platform also provides quarterly updates which provide a useful consolidation of CVA-related topics. Subscribe by clicking on this link.
- A multi-country cash transfer research initiative – The Transfer Project – provides a quick-access round-up of COVID-19 related resources click here.
- 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.
- CCD has a page on Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash which includes country case studies and guidance.
- SP/HCT Hangout: 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: The 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? sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments are facing; recording here. And thirdly, Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic. Includes examples within the context of COVID for measures to link SP/HCT.
- ALNAP’s COVID-19 Response Portal is a great place to access guidelines; tools; and papers in relation to the pandemic.
- REACH COVID-19 Information Thread — provides data and analysis, primarily for humanitarians (but also of relevance for other actors), on the impact of COVID-19 on affected populations.
- Group 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.
- Click the link to access Ugo Gentilini’s Weekly Social Protection Links newsletter. Packed with valuable information, focusing on social protection developments and action across the globe but also referencing humanitarian action where relevant, the newsletter is a helpful resource for practitioners and policymakers alike.

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the week 21 – 26 September

Tuesday is the day for remote events this week with the following discussions and webinars being broadcast:

- SPACE is hosting a webinar focusing on embedding localisation in COVID-19 responses. As well as looking at opportunities and challenges for local actors in the pandemic response, the webinar will ask the question “To what extent is localisation in the cash response to COVID-19 resulting in devolution of decision-making as well as implementation?”
- CaLP is holding a Zoom call to share recent research undertaken by Linda Raftree in relation to responsible data management for CVA. The call will provide an opportunity to test out a Theory of Change around data incident sharing to help to articulate potential paths that the CVA community might use to move away from the current “walled garden” approach to data incident management.
- As part of their field voices webinar series, IDEAL is hosting a discussion on applying the Ultra-Poor Graduation Approach in food security programmes in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Uganda. Panelists from AVSI, World Vision, and CARE, will share highlights on strategies used to incorporate the Ultra-Poor Graduation Approach in their programs, and reflect on factors influencing the effectiveness of the approach, as well as the challenges and opportunities of applying the methodology in light of COVID-19.

Planning ahead: Please sign up for socialprotection.org’s upcoming Global e-Conference “Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?” The conference has been developed as a virtual live space for learning, interaction, collaboration and knowledge-sharing on social protection, leveraging the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity to build stronger and more efficient policies. To ensure the active participation of a wide and diverse audience, the event will take place on three different days and across three different time zones. Sessions in English, French and Spanish will be provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Organiser/Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 September</td>
<td>Embedding localisation in the COVID-19 response</td>
<td>SPACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="#">Register now</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 September</td>
<td>Community Call: Data Incident Management in CVA</td>
<td>CaLP and Linda Raftree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="#">Zoom link</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 September</td>
<td>Field Voices: Emerging Evidence &amp; Lessons on Ultra-Poor Graduation</td>
<td>IDEAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="#">Register here</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection –**

**Linking humanitarian cash and social protection for an effective cash response to the COVID-19 pandemic - Weekly Update**

*Online community SP in Crisis Contexts*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wednesday 23 September</strong></th>
<th><strong>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</strong></th>
<th><strong>11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join <a href="#">here</a></strong></th>
<th><strong>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Looking further ahead**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>5, 6, 8 October</strong></th>
<th><strong>Global e-Conference “Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?”</strong></th>
<th><strong><a href="#">Sign up here</a></strong></th>
<th><strong>Socialprotection.org</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Contributions:** With thanks to Brahima Sangafow Coulibaly; Ngozi Okoni-Iweala; Vera Songwe; Tidiane Thiam; Donald Kaberuka; Trevor Manuel; Abderrahmane Benkhalifa; Strive Masiyiwa; Julie Lawson-McDowall; Christina Dankmeyer; Stefano Battain; Cecile Cherrier; Zehra Rizvi; Nupur Kukrety; and Ugo Gentilini.

Please email gbsubgroupspshct@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](https://goo.gl/VYCajT)
2. Join the online community on ‘Social protection in crisis contexts’ : [https://goo.gl/aRzVqb](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.*