### Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #29 (11 - 16 October 2020)

#### Highlights from the week of 11 – 16 October 2020

**Recent webinars and events:** Organized by the World Bank, a seminar on CalP’s State of the World’s Cash 2020 was held at the end of September. The joint event also featured a presentation by Development Initiatives on the Global Humanitarian Assistance report, followed by an overview by CalP of the key changes in the cash landscape focusing on social protection findings. Concrete proposals to strengthen humanitarian-social protection linkages from Yemen and Iraq were also provided. Click here for the recording.

- As part of its Financial Inclusion Week, GSMA hosted a webinar to present Africa’s key mobile money trends for the last year. Data on the digitisation of cash, which was interesting for all actors involved in cash-based interventions, was provided at the event, as was an overview of COVID-related mobile money-specific regulatory, policy, government and provider interventions across the region. Click here for the slides and recording.

- The ILO and the World Employment Confederation (WEC) jointly organized a webinar on “Social Protection for recovery” bringing together partners, representatives from public and private employment services, government policymakers and academia to discuss how safety nets can support recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 Crisis. Find the recording here.

- Click here to watch the recording and see the slides from FAO’s recent webinar which presented case studies of integrated nutrition-sensitive interventions from countries that are supporting vulnerable households to improve their food security and nutrition and reduce poverty. In each case, FAO complemented a pre-existing national cash transfer programmes with provision to recipient households of specially tailored nutrition-sensitive and climate smart agriculture practices, inputs and assets and nutrition education.

- The recordings for all the discussions, round tables, and clinics from socialprotection.org’s recent global e-conference on “Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?” which was held at the beginning of the month are now available. Ugo Gentilini has provided a useful breakdown with individual links to each of the events which you can find in his weekly newsletter here.

**Informal and on-line discussions:** On-line discussions continued a theme from earlier in the month in relation to CVA terminology. Informal chats focused on knowledge management and how to best share learning and experience in relation to linking HCT and SP, bringing together different groups in order to expand opportunities to build on what has worked and avoiding repeating what has not.

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

**Publications:** ESCAP and ILO’s new report titled The Protection We Want: Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific highlights the stabilizing effect that robust social protection systems have had during the pandemic but how the absence of such systems has exacerbated inequality and poverty. The report goes on to say that the pandemic has brought an opportunity to strengthen social protection systems in the future stating that in the region, only 2% of GDP is spent on social protection in comparison with the global average of 11%. Seven policy level recommendations are provided for action by governments.

- Although released a few weeks ago, this two-pager from the INCLUDE Platform gives a succinct overview of the Togolese Novissi Solidarity Fund as an exemplary approach to the provision of cash transfers during the pandemic. The National Solidarity Fund was rolled out by the government in response to COVID-19 to minimize the trade-off between health and income caused by the crisis. The paper gives examples of five distinctive features of the Novissi Scheme which have contributed to its success including: the use of digital ID; registration and payment systems; building the programme from scratch; combining cash transfers with subsidies for essential services; and ensuring the ability for real-time programme adaptations.

**Research:** ACAPS’ report on the secondary impacts of COVID-19 on migrant vulnerability in South Asia highlights emerging impacts including labour shortages within cities that depend on migrant labourers, the stigmatisation of migrant workers who have returned to their home areas, the inability to access any form of social assistance due to lack of formal contracts, and longer-term mental and physical effects of the journey back to their homes.

- Key Aid Consulting has published its research titled Cash Assistance - How Design Influences Value for Money. Drawing from Colombia, Jordan, Kenya, and Turkey the research looks specifically at three design decisions in particular: (1) using a unified delivery platform; (2) using existing social safety nets for delivery; and (3) the consolidation of cash transfers. The report is being launched remotely this week (see below for the registration link).

**Briefings and Briefing Notes:** WHO and the Global Health Cluster Cash Task Team have produced a technical briefing note the Inclusion of Health Expenditures in the MEB, for use by health and cash practitioners. Although not specific to learning from the pandemic, the note provides general guidance on how to reflect health expenditures in MEBs.
The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on
LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

Linking humanitarian cash and social protection for an effective cash response to the COVID-19 pandemic - Weekly Update
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- The World Bank has produced two short briefs, one on Ecuador and the other on Peru, highlighting COVID-19 G2P cash transfer response measures, particularly the expansion of existing social protection approaches to address needs caused by the pandemic.

Media, News Articles and Op Eds: Marking the International Day of Eradicating Poverty, the UN Secretary General has called for a “new generation of social protection”. You can read more and watch the video message here.

- A joint statement from ILO, FAO, IFAD and WHO called for immediate and purposeful action to save lives and livelihoods by (among other things) extending social protection, recognizing that countries dealing with existing humanitarian crises or emergencies are particularly exposed to the effects of COVID-19. The statement went on to say that responding swiftly to the pandemic, while ensuring that humanitarian and recovery assistance reaches those most in need, is critical. Read more here.

Blogs: Writing for IMF, Gita Gopinath’s blog - A long, uneven and uncertain ascent – warns of a deep recession before the year is out. The blog highlights the need to expand safety nets where gaps exist, to ensure the most vulnerable are protected while supporting near-term activity.

- In her latest blog, Valentina Barca shares three practical lessons on responding to the growing and evolving shape of needs emerging from the pandemic and its economic fall-out. Read more here: Cutting through complexity to shape COVID-19 cash response

- Gabrielle Smith’s blog for CaLP provides five practical insights on linking humanitarian assistance and social protection. The blog explains: that what is understood by ‘linking’ humanitarian assistance and social protection, in practical terms, is still evolving, and advises practitioners to systematically analyse and think through options before taking decisions; analyse the trade-offs inherent in each option on the table; identify and engage all actors strategically from the outset; and to think carefully about what aspects of national social protection implementation systems it makes sense to use, as well as what the humanitarian sector could contribute in order to enhance national social protection provision. The blog provides links to relevant SPACE resources and guidance.

- WFP’s Juan Gonzalo Jarmillo Mejia has shared video blogs from 14 prominent voices in social protection, food security, and nutrition. Click here to access the blogs on "overcoming the food security and nutrition roadblocks to social protection responses to COVID-19"

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 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. 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 which will give you links to this newsletter and more.
The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on  
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- CalP has a dedicated space on CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions and CalP-produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID, (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 in English and Spanish.
- 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 Risvi 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.
- 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.
- 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 18 - 24 October 2020

This week is a bit calmer than last week in relation to webinars although Thursday seems to be a busy day. Remote events you can join include:

- Key Aid Consulting’s launch of its value for money research from Colombia, Jordan, Turkey and Kenya which asks: In a context where the needs are increasing and funding is likely to drop in relation to the global COVID-19 pandemic, how do we make sure that every penny is bringing value to the users?
- Dedicated to Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives, the last webinar of the IPC-IG and UNICEF series on Covid-responsive Social Protection Landscapes in South Asia will discuss a vast set of features ranging from social expenditure profiles, legal frameworks for child sensitive social protection, the actual design of flagship initiatives and how child and gender sensitive they are.
- Sphere’s webinar on Thursday (which will be held in English, Spanish and Portuguese) will focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people on the move within the South American region. Providing high quality humanitarian assistance in the framework of displacement – whether caused by violence, disasters, or climate change is becoming increasingly difficult in light of the current pandemic. During the webinar, local communities and first responders will share their learning and expertise with other humanitarian actors facing the same challenges.
- CalP and WFP have initiated a webinar series focusing on one specific aspect of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and this kicks-off on Thursday. They will provide the latest information and developments in the field, and also explore and review the tools which can assist practitioners to develop quality MEBs.

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<tr>
<td>Monday 19 October</td>
<td>Cash assistance: how design influences value for money</td>
<td>Key Aid Consulting</td>
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## The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH & 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**

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| Wednesday 14 October | Weekly SP/HCT Hangout  
11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join [here](#)                                      | Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier                  |
| Thursday 22 October | Human mobility and COVID-19: Lessons from South America  
Register here                                                                                     | Sphere                                       |
| Thursday 22 October | Profile of pre-COVID-19 social protection system of Bhutan, Bangladesh and Maldives and a snapshot of their COVID-19 responses  
Register here                                                                                  | IPC-IG and UNICEF                            |
| Thursday 22 October | Improving our work on Minimum Expenditure Baskets  
Register here                                                                                  | CaLP and WFP                                 |

### Looking further ahead

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| Thursday 29 October | Addressing disability-related costs through social protection systems  
Register here                                                                                     | DFAT, UNPRD and UNICEF                       |
| Tuesday 10 November | Launch of the State of the World’s Cash Report 2020 (French)  
Register here                                                                                     | CaLP                                         |

Contributions: With thanks to Zehra Rizvi; Gita Gopinath; Juan Gonzalo Jaramillo Mejia; Ugo Gentilini; and Valentina Barca.

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
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.*