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

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #33 (8 - 15 November 2020)

Highlights from the week of 8 - 15 November 2020

Recent webinars and events: You can find the recording of CaLP’s fourth (out of five) webinars on the topic of Minimum Expenditure Baskets here. The webinar focused on "Turning MEB into transfer value for MPC".
• The recording of the Cash Hub’s recent webinar on monitoring which highlighted experience from Turkey and Zambia, and focused on the issue of outcome monitoring, can be found here and slides here.

Informal and on-line discussions: The topic of public/private sector partnerships was one discussion point this week, with those in the conversation emphasising the importance of these relationships in helping to expand SP systems (linking with HCT where feasible) to cope with pandemic-related needs but cautioning that the role of private sector organisations should be focused on building infrastructure systems to ensure efficient delivery of transfers but not stretch into operational activities.

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

Publications: ILO and WFP’s recent report - Populations at risk: Implications of COVID-19 for hunger, migration and displacement – calls for the promotion and inclusion of migrants in social protection systems, not only to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 but also to combat nutritional deficiencies. At the same time, the report prioritises the need to ensure that migrants can access humanitarian assistance to address their food and other basic needs. The report highlights the plight of other vulnerable groups, raising awareness that the suspension or limited availability of critical social protection services may be isolating those most in need of life-saving interventions – such as survivors of GBV, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied or separated children or other persons in need of protection, leaving them without support and with no escape from recurring threats. The report provides a helpful snapshot of food security trends, broken down by country, in key migration hotspots.

• Published by the World Bank, Children on the Move - Progressive Redistribution of Humanitarian Cash Transfers among Refugees, evaluates the ESSN in Turkey (primarily using data collected pre-COVID-19 but including data from a “post-pandemic” panel survey) finds that the programme has rapidly caused substantial changes in household size and composition, with a net movement of primarily school-age children from larger ineligible households to smaller eligible ones. A sharp decline in inequality was observed within six months of programme rollout and the poverty headcount at the $3.20/day international poverty line declined by more than 50 percent after one year. The evaluation goes on to suggest that to strike the right balance between transfer size and coverage, key parameters in the design of any cash transfer programme, policy makers should consider the possibility that refugee populations may respond to their eligibility status by altering their household structure and living arrangements.

• For those of you who haven’t yet seen it, this paper on Remote Focus Group Discussions highlights how the Turkish Red Crescent adapted its approach during the pandemic when movement, access, and proximity are limited.

• Providing insights from the Central African Republic, Ground Truth Solutions gives cash recipients and traders a voice through findings from its Cash Barometer which has been established to explore the economic impact of the pandemic, as well as how recipients’ perspectives inform cash and voucher assistance (CVA) responses. You can read more about the experiences from CAR here.

• Save the Children’s report - A Foundation to End Child Poverty: How universal child benefits can build a fairer, more inclusive and resilient future - highlights a range of measures governments have taken to create more fiscal space to enhance or implement child focused social protection and benefits, initially aimed at the youngest children. It also calls on donors, private creditors and the wider global community to assist through debt relief, and suspension where possible, by maintaining and expanding their financial and technical support for social protection; and by joining international calls for a global fund for social protection to ensure countries can move towards Universal Child Benefits.

Guidance: The Cash Hub, working with the Asia-Pacific Region Cash Coordinator IFRC, has been drafting some interim guidance for PDMs focusing more on outcome Indicators pulling from the Grand Bargain Outcome Indicators 2019 pilot document. The interim document is draft, but may be of interest to those developing PDMs in relation to unconditional cash. It can be viewed here.

• Taking learning from Uganda, the GSMA, MTN Uganda and Grameen Foundation collaborated to develop the Digital Literacy Training Guide for Mobile Money Agents and Digital Literacy Change Agents. The guidance has been developed to help address barriers refugees face in accessing digital financial services, and possible facilitators to increase access and uptake, especially among women.

Research: Funded by FCDO, IDS has set up a new COVID Collection platform to help develop and pursue research to support recovery from COVID. Find more here.
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

Media, News Articles and Op Eds: The Guardian’s article on digital cash transfers in Vanuatu (the most at-risk country to natural disasters) tells how blockchain technology is being used to provide direct cash assistance for families in need in a project managed by Oxfam. Using this form of technology is reported to cut distribution costs by up to 75%.

Podcasts: Hosted by Poverty Unpacked, you can hear the Ugo Gentilini (World Bank) and Francesca Bastagli (ODI) discuss the expansion of social protection during the pandemic and what can be learned for the future. You can find the podcast here.

Blogs: Drawing on its Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report 2020 (PSPR2020) which highlights the pandemic’s impact on poverty, a recent blog from the World Bank reports of the increase in estimates of global poverty as a result of the pandemic. Read more here.

- Ana Carolina Romano’s blog summarises the findings, insights and recommendations shared by the expert panel in the webinar ‘Inclusion of persons with disabilities in social protection for COVID-19 recovery and beyond’. You can find the blog here.
- Similarly, Yannik Markhof’s blog provides a summary of the recent webinar on Profiles of pre-COVID-19 social protection systems in Bhutan, Bangladesh and Maldives and a snapshot of their COVID-19 responses which you can read here.
- In her blog Economic recovery begins with children and older people and people with disabilities - Louise Moreira Daniels discusses the potential for universal cash transfers as a response to COVID-19, drawing on examples from Sri Lanka where UNICEF is advocating for the establishment of emergency universal child, disability and old-age benefits.
- A similar call for universal child benefits is put forward by Save the Children in a blog written by Yolande Wright stressing that children are on the frontline with COVID and the climate crisis.

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 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.

- **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.
**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

- **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.

- **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.

- **You can find information** and guidance on COVID-19 here at the UN’s COVID-19 information page which provides updates and news releases in relation to UN agency responses to the pandemic.

### Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the week 16 - 20 November 2020

Last week was quite quiet as far as remote events go - the week ahead is far busier:

- **On Monday 16 November** the global Food Security Cluster Cash and Market Working Group is holding a webinar on improving the design of CVA to contribute towards nutrition objectives. Examples from Somalia and Burundi will be shared.

- **On Tuesday 17th, DFAT, UNPRD, UNICEF and ILO’s webinar** will initiate a conversation on a practical framework for disability assessment and determination in line with CRPD standards and adapted to LMICs contexts.

- **On Wednesday** you can attend Zehra Rizvi and Cecile Cherrier’s informal hangout to discuss HCT and SP issues – this is open for all.

- **On Thursday 19 November** you can attend the Grand Bargain Sub-Group’s webinar on “Donor perspectives: What is the potential for forging stronger links between humanitarian cash and social protection”. Donor agencies that will be inputting into the discussion are: DEVCO, FCDO, Irish Aid and USAID.

- **On Friday,** as part of its webinar series on inclusive cities, PHAP will be hosting a conversation between the UCLG Africa, UNHCR, a refugee representative and city authorities to discuss the commitment to create inclusive cities despite the challenges that COVID-19 presents.

### Further ahead:

- On 24 November you can attend the virtual launch of the World Social Protection Data Dashboards.


- On 30 November, together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Global Protection Cluster, and with support from PHAP, the Norwegian Refugee Council is bringing together a High-Level Panel to reflect the state of protection in the COVID-19 era. The event will draw on findings from a new NRC-Global Protection Cluster report on the current state of play in protection financing and bring a close to the Global Protection Forum.

- On Tuesday 1 December CaLP is hosting a webinar targeting practitioners with an interest in CVA in East Africa. This will focus on quality in CVA, considering what quality programming means to different people, and how we can continue to collectively make progress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Organiser/Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16 November</td>
<td>Improving the design of Food CVA to contribute towards nutrition objectives</td>
<td>gFSC Cash and Market Working Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The login for this webinar is:  
https://zoom.us/j/98613474625?pwd=a25NeFVoNmR5dGZLaStkUW84S1Jsdz09  
Passcode: 735671
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Organizers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 November</td>
<td>Disability identification, assessment, and determination in social protection systems: barriers to access and gateways to support</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Wednesday 18 November| Weekly SP/HCT Hangout  
11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join here | Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier                    |
| Wednesday 18 November| Please join here:  
here  
Password: redcross | Cash Hub                                      |
| Thursday 19 November| Donor perspectives: What is the potential for forging stronger links between humanitarian cash and social protection | Grand Bargain Sub Group |
| Friday 20 November| Creating inclusive cities in South Africa amidst COVID-19  
Register here | PHAP                                           |

Looking further ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Organizers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tuesday 24 November| World Social Protection Data Dashboards Virtual Launch  
Register now | ILO                                           |
Register here | ADD International                         |
| Monday 30 November| High Level Panel on the State of Social Protection in the COVID-19 Era  
Register here | NRC, Global Protection Cluster, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, PHAP |
| Tuesday 1 December| What does quality CVA mean in East Africa? By whose standards are we measuring quality?  
Register here | CaLP                                           |

Contributions: With thanks to Catherine Chazaly; Sarah Blin; Cecile Cherrier; Zehra Rizvi; Pauline Perez; Ugo Gentilini; Valentina Barca; Simon Levine; Thomas Brynes; Nishant Yonzan; Christoph Lokner; Daniel Gerszon Mahler; R. Andres Castaneda Aguilar; Haoyu Wu; Ana Carolina Romano; Yannick Markhof; Louise Moreira Daniels; Ekram El-Huni; and Yolande Wright.

Please email gbsubgroupsphct@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 FCDO and the Online Community for Social Protection in Crisis Contexts which is an unbranded, member-based online space on the socialprotection.org platform.