## Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #35 (22 - 28 November 2020)

<table>
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<th>Highlights from the week of 22 – 28 November 2020</th>
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| **Recent webinars and events:** CalP held their final webinar in the MEB series at the beginning of the month. Focusing on identifying trigger points for MEB review and update you can find the recording here.  
| - The webinar recording from PHAP’s recent event, which saw discussions on the UN Secretary General’s Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World, can be found here.  
| **Informal and on-line discussions:** Informal conversations this week pondered over the effectiveness and benefits of horizontal versus vertical expansion of social protection systems during the pandemic and the extent to which preparedness actions (often built on the experience of humanitarian interventions) have paid off in the last nine months.  
| **Recently published:** Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs |
| **Publications:** IFPRI’s recent discussion paper “COVID-19 and Food Security in Ethiopia: Do social protection program's protect?” assesses the impact of Ethiopia’s flagship social protection programme, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food and nutrition security of households, mothers, and children. Operational since 2005 most PSNP recipients are employed in public works activities for six months per year with a small fraction of recipients (approximately 15 percent) receiving unconditional cash transfers. The assessment finds that participation in the PSNP offsets virtually all of the adverse change brought about by the pandemic and that the protective role of the PSNP is greater for poorer households and those living in remote areas.  
| - A study on the “Efficiency, Legitimacy, and Impacts of Targeting Methods: Evidence from an Experiment in Niger” provides an analysis of targeting performance through an experiment embedded in the country’s national safety net cash transfer programme. Building on the humanitarian household economy analysis, three methods were tested – proxy means testing; community-based targeting; and food consumption scores. The study highlights the benefits of the different approaches tested.  
| **Guía para el manejo de Proyectos de Transferencias Monetarias (PTM) por Covid-19** |
| **Resources:** The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Livelihoods Resource Centre provides a set of resources (in multiple languages) in relation to pandemic interventions. A recent inclusion is a household survey tool to assess the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and food security. You can find more here.  
| **Briefing notes:** The ACAPS briefing note on the Impact of multiple crises in Sudan highlights the worrying humanitarian situation in the country, including for humanitarian cash and social protection actors, with the recent declaration of a state of emergency due to the depletion of cash stocks in the country and continued limited access to social services.  
| - For more on social protection in Sudan you can access the recent FAO and IPC-IG case study here.  
| - ODI’s briefing note on Bridging humanitarian digital divides during COVID-19 highlights the call for humanitarian agencies to work more closely with governments during the pandemic, including in strengthening social protection systems that are built on digital infrastructure. Togo and Jordan are given as examples. The paper finds that early predictions that the pandemic would change how digital technology is used in humanitarian action have not yet materialised. The most effective tools have been those already known to work at scale, such as providing digital cash through mobile money. The briefing note recommends that humanitarian agencies work more closely with a wider range of actors when using digital technology, including governments and the private sector, and understand both the opportunities and risks that this presents.  
| **Coordination:** The Cash Consortium Yemen, a collaboration between DRC, NRC, ACTED, and IOM, which was formed as a response to the need for harmonized tools and approaches and a cohesive Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) strategy for the most vulnerable conflict-affected households in Yemen, has announced its creation in this brochure. The CCY is, amongst other things, working on integrating recipients into longer-term social safety nets in the country. In-depth discussions are planned with the majority of the actors currently working on social protection programmes and the ultimate goal of the collaboration is to ensure inclusion and mitigate exclusion of the most vulnerable individuals in long term social protection programmes.  
| **Financing:** Reporting on the recent UK Aid cuts, DEVEX notes that poverty reduction is missing from the new UK aid strategy. Read more here.  
| **Blogs:** Writing for UNICEF, Sanjay Wijesker discusses the links between gender-based violence (GBV) and social protection in a blog titled: Are we missing a game changer? Gender-based violence and social protection. The blog talks of the shadow pandemic of GBV that has been seen during COVID-19; the reduction seen in intimate partner violence when households are provided with cash transfers; and the importance of linking transfers with other services.  

## Mapping Updates
**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/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.

- **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 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 Gentiloni’s [Weekly Social Protection Links](#) newsletter. Pack 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 30 November – 4 December 2020

In the coming week you will have the opportunity to sign up to, and attend, the following events:

- **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.

- **Also taking place on 1 December**, The European Union — in partnership with the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors – is hosting a virtual conference to mark the launch of the programme "Improving Synergies Between Social Protection and Public Finance Management”.

- **On Thursday 3 December** the World Bank’s webinar on Social Protection in Response to COVID-19 and Beyond, will highlight some of the emerging lessons from country experiences with delivering social protection benefits in response to the pandemic and broader experiences on the importance of delivery systems to help build back better, drawing from ongoing programs and the World Bank’s recent publication, the Sourcebook on the Foundations of Social Protection Delivery Systems.

- **On Friday 4 December**, ODI’s “Humanitarian Reset” webinar will ask: “how will the combination of a global recession, greater attention to racism in the humanitarian sector and restrictions on international aid actors, shift international humanitarian systems and champion local humanitarian leadership?” – whilst not focused on links between HCT and SP, this question and the changing humanitarian environment will likely impact on the potential for such links going forward.

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<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Organiser/Host</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 30 November</strong></td>
<td>High Level Panel on the State of Social Protection in the COVID-19 Era</td>
<td>NRC, Global Protection Cluster, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, PHAP</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 1 December</strong></td>
<td>Improving synergies between social protection &amp; public finance management</td>
<td>European Union with ILO, UNICEF and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 1 December</strong></td>
<td>What does quality CVA mean in East Africa? By whose standards are we measuring quality?</td>
<td>CaLP</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 2 December</strong></td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman</td>
<td>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 3 December</strong></td>
<td>Social Protection in Response to COVID-19 and Beyond - Emerging Lessons on the Foundations of Delivery Systems</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 4 December</strong></td>
<td>A Humanitarian Reset: Impacts of a Historic Year</td>
<td>ODI</td>
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Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

Contributions: With thanks to Zehra Rizvi; Pauline Perez; Valentina Barca; Marga Ledo; Catherine Chazaly; Celine Sinitzky; Ekram El-Huni; Georgios Frantzis; Rachid Moujaes; Samantha Sercovich; Thomas Byrnes; and Francesca Reinhardt

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.