Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #36 (29 November – 5 December 2020)

Highlights from the week of 29 November – 5 December 2020

Recent webinars and events: Last week’s webinar by the World Bank on “Social Protection in Response to COVID-19 and Beyond – Emerging Lessons on the Foundations of Delivery Systems” highlighted 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 existing programmes and the World Bank’s recent publication, the Sourcebook on the Foundations of Social Protection Delivery Systems. You can watch the webinar recording: here.

- Following the recent launch of the State of the World Cash 2020 report, CaLP organised a webinar for practitioners with an interest in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in East Africa. The event provided space for a candid conversation on the systemic barriers to incorporating recipients’ feedback into programme design, and the shifts that need to happen for CVA programmes to be truly recipient-centred. This drew on examples from the region with the aim of providing practical, context specific recommendations. You can find the recording: here.

- The recent webinar hosted by the Norwegian Refugee Council, supported by PHAP on “The State of Protection in the COVID-19 era” brought together the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Global Protection Cluster. The event drew on findings from a new NRC-Global Protection Cluster report on the current state of play in protection financing and brought to a close the Global Protection Forum. You can find a recording of the webinar: here.

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

Publications: The Cash Consortium of Yemen has recently published a study focusing on the Covid-19 impact on vulnerable households in Yemen. The study looks at the impacts of the pandemic on the economy of vulnerable households in the country. The findings from this study provide an entry point to understand: the potential effects of the COVID-19 crisis and its related containment measures on income and job security; communities’ basic needs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; how communities perceive potential disruptions to market access and changing prices caused by COVID-19. A key recommendation from the study is for humanitarian actors and donors to continue monitoring, supporting, and coordinating immediate cash transfers, ideally integrated with other types of long-term assistance to support communities in Yemen to cope, including supporting vulnerable communities by referrals between cash assistance, community shielding, social safety programmes and/or sector-specific programming to address their complex needs and thus mitigate the adoption of negative and damaging coping strategies.

- A recent working paper published by the Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology titled Rethinking humanitarian aid & making the case for humanitarian social protection: A response to the 2019 Global Refugee Forum highlights the importance of strengthening the linkages between humanitarian aid and social protection, particularly when viewed from a transformative lens, in order to reduce deprivations and enhance resilience among refugee populations.

- UNICEF’s report on COVID-19: A catastrophe for children in sub-Saharan Africa investigates how the pandemic and other shocks have impacted child well-being in sub-Saharan Africa in the last year and the potential role of cash transfers and other resources to help the region’s 550 million children and support economies. The report looks at how giving cash to households can mitigate and prevent many of the current challenges facing children; and how cash transfers can also boost economic growth, build social protection systems and future resilience to shocks, and achieve significant cost-savings over time.

- The CDAC Network’s paper on Improving The Response To Covid-19: Lessons From The Humanitarian Sector Around Communication, Community Engagement And Participation distils the learning gained in the humanitarian aid sector which may help to mitigate or even solve some of the challenges in working with communities in the COVID-19 response. The paper looks at the failure of governments, even those with strong economies and existing social protection networks, to engage and communicate effectively with communities and find means for them to participate actively in the response.

- Financing: UNICEF has launched its Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal for 2021. The appeal seeks support for, among other things, investment in social protection systems that will make communities better prepared for future shocks. You can access the appeal here.

- UNHCR has released its global appeal for 2021 update which includes plans to support and/or scale-up scale up cash assistance, aligned with national social protection systems in a number of countries. You can access the appeal here.

News articles, media, Op Eds: Speaking at an event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development the UN Secretary General spoke about how the pandemic has brought to light some of the inadequacies of existing social protection systems highlighting that the pandemic could spark transformations needed to achieve stronger social protection mechanisms.
### The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

Linking humanitarian cash and social protection - Fortnightly Update

**Online community SP in Crisis Contexts**

- New measures to combat the setbacks faced as a result of COVID-19 have been announced in Jordan including an expansion of the country’s National Aid Fund to include an additional 400,000 people. Read more: [here](#).
- In St Lucia, the government has partnered with UNICEF to provide hygiene and care kits to children with disabilities and those in foster care. The kits were distributed in tandem with recent cash top-ups for vulnerable persons, including families of children accessing the Child Disability Grant and children in foster care. For three months, recipients have benefited from a 50% increase in their usual assistance in order to provide support since the outbreak of the pandemic. Read more: [here](#).

**Blogs:** Writing for the World Bank, Melis Guven and Raphaela Karlen tell us of the vital role played by social protection in Africa’s informal urban economies as a means to prevent the sale of productive assets in case of shocks, and promote savings to build resilience. The blog highlights that with no access to social protection and meager or no savings to fall back on, the COVID-19 pandemic has been decimating informal workers’ livelihoods. The delivery of emergency cash benefits has been the most effective response for short-term relief during the pandemic and the writers call for governments to put in place coordinated policies to protect informal workers against future shocks. 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** 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 Cécile 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.
The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on
LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH & SOCIAL PROTECTION
Linking humanitarian cash and social protection - Fortnightly Update

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- **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 next two weeks 6 - 19 December 2020

The next fortnight appears to be relatively quiet as far as remote events are concerned with just one webinar on the horizon. This will take place on Thursday 17 November, bringing together key practitioners and thinkers to discuss a recently published book on 'Social Protection: Lands of Blossoming Hope’. Written by Usha Mishra Hayes, Chief of Social Policy with UNICEF Nepal, the book, which was written almost real-time, teases out lessons from her work across six countries to provide topical insights into what works when it comes to moving the proverbial needle of policy.

And on Wednesday 9th and Wednesday 16th of December please do join Zehra Rizvi and Cecile Cherrier’s regular weekly informal hangout to discuss with peers any issues on social protection and humanitarian cash linkages that are on your mind.

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<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td>Wednesday 9 and 16 December</td>
<td><strong>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</strong>&lt;br&gt;11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join <a href="https://goo.gl/VYCajT">here</a></td>
<td>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</td>
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<td>Thursday 17 December</td>
<td><strong>From practice to policy: Book Launch- Social Protection- Lands of Blossoming Hope and lessons for policy influencing for stronger COVID response</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/107108916544">Register here</a></td>
<td>• United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF&lt;br&gt;• South Asia Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, SOAS, University of London&lt;br&gt;• Economic Policy Research Institute, EPRI&lt;br&gt;• Network Capital</td>
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Contributions: With thanks to Ugo Gentilini; Julie Lawson-McDowall; Philip Tamminga; Melis Guven and Raphaela Karlen

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.
Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

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.