Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #38 (20 - 31 December 2020)

Highlights from 20 - 31 December 2020

Recent webinars and events: Held in early December, the ISSA Social Security Virtual Summit for the Americas brought together more than 500 administrators, managers and experts in the field from across the region. Under the theme *Towards a new normal: Challenges and opportunities*, the Virtual Summit was an opportunity to take stock of the dynamic social security responses to COVID-19 and to assess the long-term challenges and lessons learnt in this region. You can find a summary of the different sessions [here](#).

- **IPA’s webinar on “Impact of Cash Transfers During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa”** held earlier this month considered a number of issues including whether cash transfers help people to cope when a pandemic hits on top of the lean season; how cash assistance affects food security and public health behaviour within refugee populations; the extent to which universal basic income programmes help recipients navigate unforeseen shocks; and whether COVID-19 disrupted markets in rural areas, and the extent to which cash cushioned the blow. If you missed the webinar you can watch the recording: [here](#).

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

**Publications:** Published in the BMJ, a review and meta-analysis of *cash transfers and child nutritional outcomes* looks at nutrition-responsive social protection programmes to improve child nutrition and makes recommendations to inform the design and implementation of future interventions. Data is drawn from development and humanitarian contexts.

- Co-sponsored by UNICEF and Save the Children, *The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action* has published a policy paper which lays out key arguments for close collaboration across the social protection and child protection sectors to address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children and families towards reduction of adverse child protection outcomes. A key message is that children urgently need sustainably financed social protection systems linked to properly resourced child protection services. You can access the paper: [here](#).

- **IRC’s policy brief - COVID-19 And Refugees’ Economic Opportunities, Financial Services And Digital Inclusion** – puts a spotlight on the realities of the pandemic in humanitarian settings. The brief looks at four refugee contexts in Jordan, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, which show that digital services such as mobile money can in theory be more accessible for refugees than standard bank accounts, and highlights how in practice refugees continue to face barriers.

- A second Technical Note which reviews the social protection measures implemented by the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) countries to respond to the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 has been published by UNICEF and IPC-IG. This is an update of the original which was published in March 2020. You can find the document: [here](#).

- **Media, News Articles and Op Eds:** UN News looks back at 2020 with an article which reflects on the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy and highlights a number of emergency and humanitarian cash transfer programmes that were initiated as a result. You can find the article here: [The virus that shut down the world: Economic meltdown](#).

**Blogs:** You can find the summary blog from last month’s Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash (HC) and Social Protection (SP) webinar on donor perspectives on the potential for forging stronger links between HC transfers and SP [here](#).

- Writing from Cape Verde, the UN Resident Coordinator, Ana Patricia Graça, reports how COVID-19 is threatening development gains. In a country where free access to social protection is on the rise, the pandemic has struck a blow to the economy and the UN Country Team has had to shift to emergency development mode resulting in the provision of cash transfers (among other forms of support) to 100,000 people. You can read the blog: [here](#).

- In her blog on "Expanding Social Protection to Decrease Inequality", Ulrika Lang emphasizes that social protection is an essential investment and highlights examples from Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan.

Regular and Ongoing Resources and Mappings

There are a number of regular and ongoing resources, including mappings, related to linking humanitarian cash and social protection which can be found: [here](#).

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during coming weeks 1 - 20 January 2021

- Kicking of the start of the 2021 remote events season, on Wednesday 13 January ODI, in partnership with Irish Aid, will be hosting a half-day conference which will bring together experts, leaders, activists and policy makers, to discuss a pathway forward that places inequality and a new social contract at the front and centre of COVID-19 recovery efforts.

- Also on Wednesday 13 January, the Mouvement d’Action Paysanne (MAP) is hosting a webinar at which two experts will put forward arguments for a food-based social security system.
- On Thursday 14 January, Development Pathways and ACT Church of Sweden’s webinar on the social contract and the role of social protection in building trust in government will explore how countries across the Global South could learn from history and use universal social protection to build a virtuous circle of enhanced trust in government, a stronger social contract, and a greater willingness of citizens to pay tax so that they can generate the fiscal space that enables progressive governments, over time, to offer high quality universal public services to all of their citizens.

- The following week, on Wednesday 20 January the UN University is hosting a webinar looking at its examination of the impact of the United Republic of Tanzania’s Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) on child work and education. The programme supports extremely poor households with cash transfers that are partly conditional on their use of health and education services, along with a public works component that guarantees 15 days of paid work per month for up to four months.

And on Wednesday 6 and Wednesday 13 January 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>
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| Wednesday 6 and 13 January | Weekly SP/HCT Hangout  
11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join here | Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier          |
| Wednesday 13 and 20 January 2021 | Global Reset: time for a new social contract  
Register here | ODI in partnership with Irish Aid     |
| Wednesday 13 January 2021 | Food Social Security webinar  
Register here | Mouvement d’Action Paysanne, MAP     |
| Thursday 14 January | The social contract and the role of social protection in building trust in government and strengthening the nation-state  
Register here | Development Pathways and ACT Church of Sweden |
| Wednesday 20 January | Conditional cash transfers, child work and schooling: mixed methods evidence from the United Republic of Tanzania  
Register here | United Nations University, UNU-WIDER |

Contributions: With thanks to Nupur Kukrety; Zehra Rizvi; Ana Patricia Graça; Enkhzul Altangerel; Marina Brunale; and Ulrika Lang.

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