The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on
Linking Humanitarian Cash & Social Protection

Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #40 (17 – 31 January 2021)

**Highlights from 1 – 16 January 2021**

**Recent webinars and remote events:** On 19 January the Global Cash Working Group (GCWG) held a meeting on turning recipient feedback into action. Ground Truth Solutions, Save the Children and the IFRC provided interesting insights into different approaches to community engagement and the Nigeria CWG and Turkey CBI TWG presented practical examples from their countries. You can find the recording of the meeting [here](https://www.endsdf.org) (password: @Hdt9yYN).

- The recent Economic Policy Research Institute's (EPRl) Global Webinar: Coordinating Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems in Humanitarian Settings considered some of the opportunities and challenges in relation to coordination between humanitarian and development actors, moving onto a discussion on the objectives of coordination, and the inputs, outputs and outcomes associated with this. Click here to access the webinar recording. Click here to access the webinar presentation.

**Informal and online discussions:** Approaches to troubleshooting and mitigating the risks of enhancing tension when providing rapid humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) in communities where there is a prevalence of polygamous marriage has been a discussion topic online in the last two weeks. Whilst the focus has been on the provision of rapid, one-off HCT, some of the approaches discussed are also relevant when linkages with social protection systems are considered. Other discussions have centred around how to ensure the inclusion of undocumented populations in HCT interventions and social protection schemes. You can contribute to these discussions via the CaLP D-Group [here](https://www.endsdf.org).

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

**Publications:** Joint research by the Durable Solutions Platform and CAMEALEON Pinning Down Moving Targets looks at adapting humanitarian cash transfer programmes to the multi-pronged crisis in Lebanon. The research intends, in part, to capture learning, not only to help equip the Lebanon refugee response going forward in a difficult operational and socio-economic climate, but also to contribute to global learning about cash programme adaptations to economic and health crises and to do so in a manner that supports future sustainability of social protection systems. The additional research note also highlights medium-term priorities for cash assistance in the country.

- Two recently published reports by CaLP provide overviews of humanitarian cash and social protection in Iraq and in Yemen, offering recommendations on how improved coordination and collaboration between the two systems could improve outcomes. You can access the reports here: Yemen and Iraq.

- A recent report and policy brief by Kiza Magendane, Mariëlle Karssenberg and Yannicke Goris for The Broker discusses how, and to what extent, cash transfers can be an effective way of realizing food security in fragile settings. The paper, which you can find [here](https://www.endsdf.org), highlights a number of examples of the link between humanitarian cash transfers and social protection. For those interested in a policy perspective you can find the policy brief [here](https://www.endsdf.org).

- The recently published State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021 references the importance of both building on existing efforts to develop social protection systems as well as linking humanitarian interventions (including HCT) with economic inclusion efforts.

- CARE and Key Aid Consulting’s study “Better Gender Outcomes in Food Assistance through Complementary and Multi-Modal Programming” reviews Food for Peace (FFP) Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) and Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) projects that explicitly or implicitly incorporated gender-focused programming. More specifically, the research seeks to answer the following research question: How can the design, implementation, and monitoring processes of projects using a combination of modalities maximize gender outcomes? Tip sheets linked to the study (available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish) can be found [here](https://www.endsdf.org).

**Media, News Articles and Op Eds:** In Somaliland, CARE International has partnered with GSMA and Telesom to use voice recognition when verifying recipients of mobile money. You can read more [here](https://www.endsdf.org). A recent article by Reuters reports that in Venezuela OCHA has suspended humanitarian cash transfer programmes, including via national and local NGOs, in order to ensure that HCTs can be provided in accordance with the country’s financial/banking regulatory framework. You can read the article: [here](https://www.endsdf.org).

- Writing for Geneva Solutions, Pip Cook highlights the importance of "putting social protection at the centre of pandemic recovery", emphasizing that developing countries in particular need support to move beyond short-term emergency measures to build durable systems that meet the needs of everyone, not just the most vulnerable in society.
**Guidance:** The British Red Cross has released its recently updated Household Economic Security (HES) Technical Guidance for Assessment and Analysis. The guidance highlights in a number of places where and how linkages can be made with humanitarian food security and livelihoods interventions (including those involving cash transfers) and social protection. You can access it [here](#).

**Blogs:** Writing for the INCLUDE Platform, Hannah Itcovitz reflects on the last year and asks, "**What about the successes? Positive lessons from Africa’s COVID response in 2020.**" The blog highlights some key learnings including in relation to social protection and digital transfers.

- Using an example from **Kenya,** Keren Weitzberg writes about the dangers and risks of exclusion posed by centralized biometric systems which have often resulted due to the push for humanitarian-development data consolidation and interoperability across refugee and national systems. Find the blog here: [Gateway or barrier? The contested politics of humanitarian biometrics.](#)
- Zehra Rizvi and Cecile Cherrier’s blog **Fail Forward: Building the foundations for innovation** shares inputs from the discussion held as part of the October 2020 socialprotection.org global e-Conference ‘**Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity: What’s next for social protection?**’, highlighting the need for innovation, creativity, adaptability, risk taking, and… perseverance. The blog offers a reflection on critical points when it comes to doing things differently, learning from our failures, and enhancing our individual and collective ability to fail forward.

### 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 – 14 February 2021

Remote events for the next couple of weeks seem mainly to fall on Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 February as follows:

- **EPRI’s second global webinar in its social protection series will explore how comprehensive and integrated social protection approaches can contribute to achieving food security and nutrition outcomes.** This event will be held on Wednesday 3 February.
- On Wednesday and Thursday, **CaLP is hosting a workshop in Spanish which will look at challenges and progress in the field of humanitarian cash transfers.**
- Under the Joint SDG Fund Programme for Universal and Adaptive Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean, the UN Multi-Country Office is supporting Barbados, Saint Lucia, and the OECS to strengthen social protection systems to mitigate the impacts of shocks and to expand towards universal access. They will discuss needs, obstacles, and opportunities at a webinar on Thursday 4 February, asking “What does responding to COVID-19 today mean for social protection tomorrow?”
- Another event on Thursday is **The New Humanitarian’s online conversation which will ask leading thinkers in the humanitarian space what should demand our attention in the coming year.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Organiser/Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Wednesday 3 and 10 February** | Weekly SP/HCT Hangout  
11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join [here](#) | Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier |
| **Wednesday 3 February** | Food Security and nutrition-sensitive social protection [Register here](#) | EPRI |
| **Wednesday 3 – Thursday 4 February** | Programas de Transferencias Monetarias: Retos y avances en el ámbito de la acción humanitaria / Cash Transfer Programmes: Challenges and progress in the field of humanitarian action [Register here](#) | CaLP |
| **Thursday 4 February** | From COVID-19 Response to Broader Social Protection Reform – Regional Experiences [Register here.](#) | Joint SDG Fund Programme for Universal and Adaptive Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean and the UN Multi-Country Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean |
| **Thursday 4 February** | Behind the Headlines: Crises to Watch in 2021 [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#) | The New Humanitarian |
### Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Organiser/Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Thursday 18 February** | Interactive Learning Webinar: Connecting Child Protection, Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash – Working Together to Protect Children from the effects of COVID-19 and beyond  
Registration link will be provided in the next newsletter | Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking HCT and SP |
| **Thursday 18 February** | US and Canada Cash Working Group  
Sign up here | CaLP |
| **Tuesday 23 February** | The impact of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on poverty and inequality  
Register here | United Nations UNU-WIDER |

Contributions: With thanks to Holly Radice; Hannah Itcovitz; Keren Weitzberg; Jacqueline Frize; Nigel Ede; Sharon Truelove; Zehra Rizvi; Cecile Cherrier; Holly Radice; Ruta Nimkar; and Sophie Tholstrup

Please email gbsubgroupshcct@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.*