Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #41 (1 – 14 February 2021)

Recent webinars and remote events:
- EPRI’s second global webinar in its social protection series explored how comprehensive and integrated social protection approaches can contribute to achieving food security and nutrition outcomes. You can access the recording here and the webinar presentation here.
- The New Humanitarian’s recent online conversation asked leading thinkers in the humanitarian space what should demand our attention in the coming year. The recording is now up on YouTube and TNH Director Heba Aly, who moderated the discussion, has also posted some takeaways and reflections on Twitter.
- The presentation slides from the recent webinar on the COVID-19 response to broader social protection in Barbados and St Lucia held by the Joint SDG Fund Programme for Universal and Adaptive Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean can be found here. Discussions focused on the strengthening of social protection systems to mitigate the impacts of shocks and to expand towards universal access.

Recently published: Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs
- The INCLUDE Platform has published a literature review-based paper - Implementation of cash transfers and cash-based approaches - that looks at the versatility of cash transfers both as part of humanitarian and social protection programming, taking into account the different modes of delivery, monitoring and targeting systems used and how they influence inclusiveness.
- A recent review by OCHA’s Centre for Humanitarian Data based on basic datasets key to working in 27 emergency situations, shows that aid agencies have only half of the basic data they need. The data has to meet a minimum level of detail (not just country-wide numbers, for example) and freshness to qualify. Data on malnutrition and schools is particularly weak. You can read more here: The State of Open Humanitarian Data 2021 (humdata.org)
- In its February Cash and Economic Inclusion update, UNHCR Nigeria provides and update on it cash for food programme which injected over 150 million Naira (some 375,000 USD) into the local economy. This gave a boost to the development of markets and exchange of goods in refugee-hosting areas. Now, UNHCR is gradually replacing the cash for food programme by multipurpose cash grants for basic needs (with an equal amount as the national social safety net standards foresee for most vulnerable Nigerians). You can find the update here.
- The announcement that the new US government will revoke the previous administration’s designation of Ansar Allah as a terrorist organization has been covered in a number of news articles. One view from the New York Times highlights the chilling effect the designation had on the commercial importation of food and concerns that humanitarian aid workers had if their assistance fell into the hands of those designated as terrorists. You can read more here.
- Relevant for both humanitarian and social protection actors, please find here (in Spanish) a recently completed Rapid Market Assessment report for Honduras: Informe de Evaluación Rápida de Mercados Honduras
- Writing for the ICRC, Cristina Quijano Carrasco explores “Humanitarian engagement in social protection: implications for principled humanitarian action”. The importance of the principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence, and humanity in humanitarian action (NIIHA) are emphasized, stressing that if these are compromised this could in turn impact the trust of parties to a conflict or affected populations, as well as access to the latter, making it essential – particularly in this digital age of interoperable systems – that humanitarian organizations consider these challenges in assessing their engagement in social protection programmes.
- Also writing for the ICRC in a blog linked to the one above, Jill Capotosto tells us about The mosaic effect: the revelation risks of combining humanitarian and social protection data highlighting that while coordinating efforts between humanitarian programmes and social protection systems may help support individual and community resilience, it also creates the risk of new threats to data protection.
- Nathalie Klein and Nynne Warring’s blog for CaLP on Demystifying the Minimum Expenditure Basket reflects on the information and discussion points which emerged from a series of five ‘MEBinars’ organised by WFP and CaLP last October and November.
- CGDEV’s blog on Social Protection in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico During the Pandemic written by Merike Blofield, Nora Lustig and Mart Trasberg, is linked to the recent paper on the same topic (find it here). They discuss what programmes governments launched and how effective they were in reaching recipients of social security systems and existing cash transfer programmes, and in providing safety nets for households outside existing systems. The blog goes on to consider the potential effect of safety net policies on inequality and poverty, highlighting that the response appears to have been heterogeneous across the countries considered.
- David Malpass’ blog for the World Bank - COVID crisis is fueling food price rises for world’s poorest - highlights the importance of bolstering social safety nets to increase food security as well as strengthening preparedness actions. COVID-19 saw social
transfers reach 1.1 billion people, and innovative delivery mechanisms being used to reach new groups but there remain question marks over the adequacy of the response. Many interventions were seen to be short-term, limited in scope and small in value.

**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 15 - 27 February 2021**

In the next two weeks you can attend a number of interesting events including:

- **On Wednesday 17 February** the ICRC is hosting a discussion with the IFRC exploring cash transfer programming and social protection mechanisms. They will consider how humanitarian organizations can ensure that their work remains neutral, impartial, and independent and to ensure that the data collected, or generated, is used for exclusively humanitarian purposes.
- **Also on Wednesday**, EPRI’s webinar as part of a global series will delve into the targeting lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, including the accelerated trend towards universalism.
- **On Thursday 18 February** the Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection is holding its first webinar of the year. Experts from The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action; World Vision; and Save the Children will share their learning in relation to linking child protection, social protection and humanitarian cash.
- **Thursday 18th also provides the opportunity to attend the US and Canada Cash Working Group hosted by CaLP.**
- **On Tuesday 23 February**, the UN University’s webinar will see a discussion on the impact of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic on poverty and inequality and insights into the policy impacts of the pandemic.
- **On Thursday 25th February**, UNICEF is holding a virtual side event as part of the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission, at which consideration will be given to the extent for which for millions of children, the world delivers on the promise of the Global Goals and how this will determine the course of their lives – and their lives determine the future of the planet. Five years in and with COVID-19 reversing much progress, are we on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for children?

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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 February</td>
<td>A humanitarian look at Assistance Programming and Social Protection Systems <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
<td>ICRC</td>
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<td>Wednesday 17 February</td>
<td>Social protection targeting lessons from the COVID-19 crisis <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
<td>EPRI</td>
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<td>Wednesday 17 and 24 February</td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join <a href="#">here</a></td>
<td>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</td>
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<td>Thursday 18 February</td>
<td>US and Canada Cash Working Group <a href="#">Sign up here</a></td>
<td>CaLP</td>
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<td>Tuesday 23 February</td>
<td>The impact of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on poverty and inequality <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
<td>United Nations UNU-WIDER</td>
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<td>Thursday 25 February</td>
<td>How has COVID-19 changed the world for children? Launch of the UNICEF SDG data portal and COVID-19 hub <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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**Looking further ahead**

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<td>8 March</td>
<td>Reaching Financial Equality - A Call to Action (panel discussion)</td>
<td>Women’s World Banking, the World Bank, the Better</td>
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The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on
LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

Contributions: With thanks to Cristina Quijano Carrasco; Jill Capotosto; Ugo Gentilini; Nynne Warring; Nathalie Klein; Merike Blofield, Nora Lustig and Mart Trasberg; David Malpass; and Zehra Rizvi.

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.