### Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #42 (15 – 28 February 2021)

#### Recent webinars and remote events:
The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection held its first webinar of the year earlier in the month. Experts from The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action; World Vision; and Save the Children shared their learning in relation to linking child protection, social protection and humanitarian cash. Here are the links for the recording and presentation.
- You can find the recording of EPRI’s webinar which looked at targeting lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, including the accelerated trend towards universalism here and the speaker presentations in three different links here: Presentation 1; Presentation 2; Presentation 3.
- ODI and GSMA’s recent webinar on “Covid-19 and the future of digital humanitarianism” discussed themes including the impact of Covid-19 on the use of digital technology in humanitarian crises and implications on digital divides. For those of you who missed the event or would like to watch it again, the recording is now available here or you can click on your podcast provider to listen to the recording Apple | Google | Soundcloud. Both of the reports that were discussed during the event can be found here: Covid-19 and digital humanitarian action: Trends, risks and the path forward by GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation and Bridging humanitarian digital divides during Covid-19 by HPG.
- The ICRC recently hosted a discussion with the IFRC exploring cash transfer programming and social protection mechanisms. Consideration was given to 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. You can find the recording here.
- You can find the link to the UN University’s webinar discussing the impact of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic on poverty and inequality and insights into the policy impacts of the pandemic here.

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

- UNFPA has published a case study on Linking the Rapid Response Mechanism to the Provision of Cash Assistance and Women’s Protection in Yemen. Led by WFP and UNFPA the RRM in Yemen aims to provide a minimum package of critical life-saving assistance for newly displaced persons. The RRM serves as an entry point not only for the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance but as a trigger to facilitate access to other life-saving assistance including addressing the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) particularly among women and girls who are displaced.
- The UK’s DEC Coronavirus Appeal - Real Time Response Review - Somalia & Somaliland highlights some of the approaches adopted by humanitarian agencies to respond the pandemic including the provision of humanitarian cash. One of the review recommendations is to pursue efforts to support food security through CVA and the injection of cash into the economic system (cash for work, etc.) with a specific focus on the elderly although there are no links highlighted with social protection specifically.
- Writing for the University of Manchester, Luke Kelly’s Monthly Humanitarian Evidence Summary includes a section on humanitarian cash transfers.
- WFP shares highlights from the organisation’s contributions to social protection in 78 countries in “WFP’s Work in Enabling Social Protection Around the Globe” in the last year. Drawing on examples from 10 countries, the report sheds light on WFP’s work in five different areas: Building social protection systems in fragile contexts; Inclusive social protection to leave no one behind; Shock-responsive social protection; Enhancing the food security and nutritional impact of social protection; and Digital advisory and solutions services.
- UNICEF has shared its Round 3 Report of A Cash Plus Model for Safe Transitions to a Healthy and Productive Adulthood which shares learning from “Ujana Salama” (“Safe Youth” in Swahili) - a cash plus programme targeting adolescents in households receiving the United Republic of Tanzania’s Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN).
- A recent study by Erica Field and Elisa Maffioli asks whether behavioral change interventions needed to make cash transfer programmes work for children. Experimental evidence was used to evaluate the impact on child malnutrition of a maternal cash transfer programme in Myanmar that was supplemented with Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) in a subset of villages. Among other findings, the study concluded that the combination of interventions significantly reduced the proportion of children stunted, while cash alone had no impact on stunting. You can find the study here.

#### Media, News Articles and Op Eds:
As part of its “Unblocked Cash Stories” series, Maja Tonning writes about Oxfam’s use of blockchain technology in Vanuatu to mitigate the risks of gender-based violence and strengthen women’s economic empowerment. You can read more here: UnBlocked Cash — designing for gender equality.
Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

- In Cambodia, UN News reports of a newly strengthened government social protection scheme to support families whose economic security has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Read more here: [Lifeline for vulnerable Cambodians as poverty doubles during COVID-19 pandemic](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1021433).
- The UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, has encouraged governments to improve social protection systems as they have shown their value during the pandemic. You can read more here: [Pandemic pushing people ‘even further behind’, UN rights chief warns](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1021494).

**Guidance:** An Interagency [Cash and Risk Assessment](https://www.cashincrisis.org/) for Gedaref, Sudan (hosting some 60,000 refugees from Tigray) has been undertaken in order to assess the risks that any new or continued cash-based initiative would need to consider before and during implementation. The main focus has been on GBV/PSEA risks.

**Blogs:** Writing for the New Humanitarian, Paul Currion puts forward some arguments for [the case against cash-based aid](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2021/03/04/the-case-against-cash-based-aid), suggesting that most of the benefits of going cashless in humanitarian settings accrue to the service providers providing the technology.

### 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](https://www.cashincrisis.org/).

You can also join the newly created social protection in crisis discussion group which is hosted by [socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org) here: [discussion group](https://socialprotection.org) (joining instructions are [here](https://socialprotection.org)).

#### Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during coming weeks 1 – 14 March 2021

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

- On Wednesday 3 March EPRI is hosting a global webinar looking at lessons from the pandemic in relation to single and social registries. The webinar will use the case studies of Nigeria and Cambodia and how they have expanded their social registries to include vulnerable populations and it will also incorporate lessons from Namibia, South Africa, Thailand, the Philippines, and India.
- On Thursday 4 March the ICRC is holding a Digital Dilemmas Debate which will look at “Balancing Visibility and Vulnerability in Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection Programmes.”
- On Monday 8 March you can attend a panel discussion where 10 key actions will be presented for governments, companies and civil society to lead the way on financial equality and COVID-19 recovery. This will be followed by a facilitated discussion with high-level government and private sector speakers.
- On Wednesday 10 March, Key Aid Consulting has organized a webinar to present a DanChurchAid (DCA) commissioned guideline and tools for the design, implementation and monitoring of Group Cash Transfers as well as a discussion on the opportunities and barriers affecting uptake.
- On Thursday 11 March, CaLP, the ICT4D Conference and the Grand Bargain Cash and Risk sub-workstream are jointly hosting a webinar on data collection risks and how to mitigate them. The webinar will coincide with the publication of CaLP’s "Data Responsibility Toolkit: A Guide for CVA Practitioners", which builds on and updates previous guidance to account for GDPR and the very rapidly evolving data ecosystem.

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3</td>
<td>Single and social registries - lessons from the COVID-19 crisis</td>
<td>EPRI</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cashincrisis.org/">Register here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 4</td>
<td>Balancing Visibility and Vulnerability in Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection Programmes</td>
<td>ICRC</td>
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<td>Monday 8</td>
<td>Reaching Financial Equality - A Call to Action (panel discussion)</td>
<td>Women’s World Banking, the World Bank, the Better Than Cash Alliance, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cashincrisis.org/">Register here</a></td>
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<td>Wednesday 10</td>
<td>Design, Implementation and Monitoring of Group Cash transfers</td>
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<td>Thursday 11</td>
<td>Data simplified. Protection amplified. An essential conversation for CVA practitioners</td>
<td>CaLP The ICT4D Conference The Grand Bargain Cash and Risk sub-workstream</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cashincrisis.org/">Register here to book your place</a></td>
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### Contributions:
With thanks to Maja Tonning; Paul Currion; Luke Kelly; Daniel Johnson; Ugo Gentilini; Erica Field; and Elisa Maffioli.

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.*