## Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #43 (1-14 March 2021)

### Highlights from 1 – 14 March 2021

**Recent webinars and remote events:** You can find the recording of the call to action on reaching financial equality held by Women's World Banking, the World Bank, the Better Than Cash Alliance, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund [here](#). The ten-point action plan upon which the remote event was based can be found here: [Reaching Financial Equality for Women](#).

- You can watch the streaming of the webinar hosted by CaLP, the ICT4D Conference, and the Grand Bargain Cash and Risk sub-workstream on data collection and how to mitigate them: [here](#). The webinar coincided 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 (the link for this is below under Publications).

- Two recent Digital Dilemmas Debates held by the ICRC looked at: “Digitalized Assistance and Data Protection – A Commissioner’s perspective” at which the newly appointed Data Commissioner for Kenya, Ms Immaculate Kassait, discussed the role of state authorities in securing the protection of humanitarian and social protection data, and on the possible synergies between these different actors to foster the protection of vulnerable populations’ data. You can find the recording [here](#). The second debate considered “Balancing Visibility and Vulnerability in Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection Programmes.” – you can find the recording: [here](#).

**Online and informal discussions:** Data protection has been a hot topic of late, with a number of publications, webinars and blogs highlighting the opportunities and risks around the provision of digital cash. Online discussions have centred around this issue, particularly considering the pros and cons from a humanitarian perspective.

**Publications:** The IRC’s recent research on how standard MPCA programmes contribute to health outcomes among extremely vulnerable populations in Pakistan and Cameroon can be found at this [link](#). The results of the study point to a number of recommendations for cash and health actors aiming to design cash transfer programmes to enable households to access the required care and/or to avoid negative coping strategies due to a high-cost burden of healthcare.

- The Markets in Crisis discussion group has put together a very helpful compendium of frequently asked questions covering market analysis in both emergency and non-emergency settings. You can access the document: [here](#).

- The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty has published its first newsletter which you can find: [here](#).

- WFP’s annual State of School Feeding Worldwide report has been released. The report highlights how, over the past decade, countries have massively stepped up their financial and policy commitments to school feeding programmes, and how these efforts have translated into more children receiving meals in school than ever before. But it also identifies the challenges which lie ahead. Even before the pandemic, WFP estimated that 73 million vulnerable children do not have access to the school meals they need to realize their potential. The report provides up-to-date data and a global policy outlook to inform and support governments, to enhance national strategies and programmes, and to promote global learning so vulnerable and hungry children have a chance to go to school.

- WFP has also published a note which provides twelve key lessons to help enhance the positive effects of cash-based programmes, and to reduce any risks which might impede effectiveness. It also identifies six main effects of cash transfer programmes implemented by WFP. You can access the note: [here](#).

- UNESCAP’s [Samoa Policy Brief](#) is the first in a series comprising ESCAP’s inputs to the implementation of the Strengthening Resilience of Pacific Islands through Universal Social Protection Project. The aim of this series is to inform ongoing efforts in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to review and design social protection systems. The focus of this issue is on Samoa, and introduces the key issues that need to be considered across the five strategic interventions of the Programme.

- SPACE has recently released a number of new publications: One focuses on: Inclusive Information Systems for Social Protection: Intentionally Integrating Gender and Disability and the second on: How Targeting Mechanisms Can Identify People With Disabilities for Inclusion in Social Protection Programmes. A third publication - [COVID-19 and the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE) programmes](#) - assesses the impact of COVID-19 on the principal cash vehicles active in Turkey: (ESSN) and CCTE programmes, both funded by the EU through the EUR 6 billion Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT) programme and managed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UNICEF respectively.

- IPC-IG has drawn up an easily-accessible one-pager on [South Africa’s social protection response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#) which summarises the key components of the country’s social protection response as well as some of the challenges faced.

- In another one-pager IPC-IG highlights the use of mobile payments for emergency cash transfers during the pandemic. You can find it: [here](#).
The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash & Social Protection

Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

- CaLP has recently published a set of publications on data protection as follows:  
  Data Responsibility Toolkit: A Guide for CVA Practitioners - A much needed updated version of the very widely read 2016 Data Starter Kit by ELAN. Structured around the data lifecycle, the toolkit offers a ‘gold standard’ to which organizations should aspire in their data treatment, and identifies both legal and ethical implications to keep in mind.  
  Case study: Data responsibility and digital remote targeting during COVID-19 - This case study explores innovative digital remote targeting approaches that GiveDirectly have used for cash assistance delivery in Togo. As we all adapt and respond to the challenges of delivering cash in a pandemic, this case study provides practical ideas, as well as outlining GiveDirectly’s approach to addressing data responsibility.  
  Case study: responsible data sharing with governments - The growing emphasis on linking humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and government-led social protection systems has contributed to an increase in concerns about data sharing with governments. This case study addresses these commonly held concerns, with a particular focus on fragile settings or conflict environments. You can find all the publications here.

- ACAPS’ report on Post-COVID-19 scenarios looks back at the COVID-19 response including by humanitarian actors and the use of cash, as well as government scale up of social protection systems.

Media, News Articles and Op Eds: As the EU announced its new aid strategy which saw a budget increase of 60%, Commissioner Janez Lenarčič (the European Commissioner for Crisis Management) highlighted in an interview with TNH the aim to increase the use of cash assistance and the need for humanitarian aid actors to work more closely with development, peace and security actors. You can find the article here.

- Reuters reports that Brazil's lower house approves bill allowing renewal of pandemic aid to poor families – this will revive the federal cash transfer programme to benefit millions of poor families whose income has been hit by the pandemic.

Blogs: ICRC published a blog this week “Cashless cash: financial inclusion or surveillance humanitarianism?” continuing the conversation in relation to the use of digital payments, looking through the lens of principled humanitarian action and do no harm. The blog highlights the huge benefits of (digital) cash, and some of the “dark side of digital solutions” both with CVA and more broadly.

- Linked to this is a recent article by James Shepherd-Barron Hot Frogs and the Monetization of Money – Cash Essentials in which he highlights some of the ‘unintended’ consequences of electronic payments, some of which actually do harm.

- Writing for the World Bank, Mari Elka Pangestu highlights the importance of social protection measures and cash transfers in a blog on: Economic inclusion programs: A springboard out of extreme poverty.

- Rebecca Holmes, writing for the FCDO-GIZ-DFAT SPACE service asks Can the COVID-19 crisis be a catalyst for gender-responsive and inclusive social protection? and sets out six practical actions for making these visions a reality, within any operating context.

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.

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

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during coming weeks 14 – 29 March 2021

Just two remote events on the horizon for the next two weeks but do keep an eye on the socialprotection.org website in case others come up at the last minute (Webinars | socialprotection.org)

- **Tuesday 16 March** the Asian Development Bank is hosting an online event on social protection for economic inclusion, which centers on the Graduation approach as a key strategy for addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequality in Asia and the Pacific.

- **Thursday 25 March** ODI and GIZ are hosting an event to bring together leading experts and policymakers to discuss the findings emerging from the recent ODI-GIZ study which examines social protection adjustments since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, their crisis response effectiveness and implications for longer-term social protection systems building efforts.

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16 March</td>
<td>Social Protection for Economic Inclusion: Adapting the Graduation Approach in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>ADB and BRAC</td>
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<td>Thursday 25 March</td>
<td>Taking stock at the one-year mark: social protection during COVID-19 and beyond</td>
<td>ODI and GIZ</td>
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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**

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<td>Wednesday 17 and 24</td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</td>
<td>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</td>
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<td>11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join <a href="#">here</a></td>
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**Looking further ahead:**

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<td>Thursday 1 April</td>
<td>Innovations in extending social protection to rural populations: Perspectives for a common FAO and ILO approach</td>
<td>FAO and ILO</td>
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<td><a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<td>Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 April</td>
<td>Virtual symposium to explore the financial integration of refugees, drawing on recent research conducted in Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, and Uganda.</td>
<td>Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU), Tufts University, and the International Rescue Committee, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF).</td>
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<td><a href="#">Click here for more information</a></td>
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Contributions: With thanks to Jo Burton; James Shepherd-Barron; Mari Elka Pangetsu; Pauline Perez; Jessica Alexander; Simon Little; Calum McLean; Elayn Sammon; Valentina Barca; Madhumitha Hebbar; Alexandre Cote; Emrys Schoemaker; Susan Enfield; Rebecca Holmes; Rebecca Holmes; and Emily Wylde

Please email [gbsubgroupspshct@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://goo.gl/VYCajT)
2. Join the online community on ‘Social protection in crisis contexts’: [https://goo.gl/aRzVqb](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.*