Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #45 (29 March – 11 April 2021)

Highlights from 29 March – 11 April 2021

Recent webinars and remote events:

• The side event held in the run-up to the Brussels V Conference for the Future of Syria and the Region “Leaving no one behind: leveraging partnerships, technology and cash-based interventions for the Syria response”, was co-led by USAID and WFP with the participation of CARE, UNFPA, UNICEF, Save the Children Jordan and GOAL. The event showcased cash-based interventions as an effective modality of assistance for refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable populations in achieving food security and related sector outcomes. Whether it is a complex emergency such as Syria or a host country such as Jordan, speakers highlighted the importance of cash-based transfers, associated risks and how these can be managed. To access the resources, please click here.

• You can find the recording of the recent FAO and ILO webinar on innovations in extending social protection to rural populations here.

• EPRI’s recent webinar which discussed the political economy of gender-sensitive social protection, drew upon empirical research in various countries to outline recommendations for a gender-sensitive social protection system drawing from the lessons of the pandemic. You can Click here to access the webinar recording. The following links provide access to the presentations of the different speakers: Ms Rebecca Holmes - ODI Dr Zahrah Nesbitt-Ahmed - UNICEF-Innocenti Mr Juan Gonzalo Jaramillo Mejia - WFP Ms Karishma D'Mello - EPRI

• You can find the recording from the launch of the SPACE paper on the economics of early response and resilience to COVID-19 here and the slides here. The paper looks at what the economic gains could have been of the COVID-19 social protection and humanitarian response, primarily focusing on the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia.

• CRS held a webinar on the revised MARKit tool which involved staff from FEWS NET, USAID/ BHA, CRS, IRC, University of Texas, and recent participants of a Training of Trainers. The webinar recording and PPT can be accessed here. The tool itself is here in English and here in French.

Online and informal discussions:

An ongoing topic of conversation in the last two weeks has been how agencies are dealing with banking regulatory issues and the impact on markets and prices. The situation in Myanmar was central to the conversations.

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

Publications and Research

• CaLP has released a series of case studies on how cash assistance can support the goal of improved health outcomes in situations of extreme poverty and vulnerability. The studies are focused on Jordan, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh and can be found: here.

• The Maintains Programme has produced a set of reports which examine how social protection responses in six countries – Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Uganda – were adapted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: Towards shock-responsive social protection

• The Centre for of Excellence for CVRS systems has launched a compendium on civil registration and social protection systems. The compendium highlights the efforts over time of five countries, Argentina, Chile, Namibia, South Korea and Tunisia, to improve public sector service delivery based on universal civil registration. The case studies provide information and guidance on the link between civil registration, identity verification, and social programs for politicians, policymakers, organizations, and development professionals working to improve the delivery of social protection services. The compendium is available to download for free in English, French, and Spanish. You can find links to the compendium and case studies: here.

• IOM’s publication: Migrant Protection and Assistance during COVID-19: Promising Practices includes a specific section on cash-based interventions during the pandemic as well as highlighting opportunities and challenges in other areas including assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations; counter-trafficking; return; reintegration; stranded migrants; and assessments and data collection.

• Save the Children’s global survey of children and their families aims to determine the impact of COVID-19 on child poverty and social protection. It is the most complete and exhaustive survey conducted on children and their families since the outbreak of the pandemic. The research was carried out with families participating in Save the Children programmes in seven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Recommendations emanating from the survey results include: Vulnerable households, both in rural and urban areas, benefit from social protection systems, and other specific support for the pandemic context, including cash or food assistance, and support for livelihoods so that families can meet basic needs during the pandemic and that current investments in social protection are protected and special mechanisms are adopted with an inclusive approach to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized families, including through temporary cash assistance. You can find the survey findings: here.
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• IDS’ March Bulletin Building a Better World: The Crisis and Opportunity of Covid-19 asks some fundamental questions about the kinds of challenges now manifesting due to the pandemic around health, food equity, social protection, gender equality, governance, and freedom of religion or belief. It explores, through a range of analyses and focused case studies, what vulnerabilities are being experienced in specific contexts, but also assesses the value of different responses to these vulnerabilities.

• A recent World Bank study examining Social Protection at the Humanitarian-Development Nexus finds that while there are important differences between humanitarian and development approaches in Yemen, there are also many areas of convergence. While the total number of people covered by all humanitarian and development assistance programmes exceeds the national population, we also find evidence of likely exclusion of many poor households, suggesting that there is significant scope to reduce exclusion through improved coordination. The paper concludes with a discussion of areas and specific proposals for enhanced humanitarian-development coordination in the social assistance space at the strategic, program, and delivery-systems levels.

• The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the Turkish Red Crescent issued a new report that shows the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees living in Turkey. The report explores the current socio-economic circumstances refugees are facing under COVID-19 in Turkey as well as the impact of the cash assistance provided through the ESSN. You can access the report: here.

Guidance and Tools:
The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action has launched its new toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Child Protection When Using Cash and Voucher Assistance. It aims to assess, address and monitor 1) Direct and indirect impact on child protection concerns – including, for example, child labour, separated or unaccompanied children, or children at risk or experiencing harm; 2) Inequality and discrimination – intentionally or unintentionally excluding certain groups of children, including due to gender inequality; and 3) Child protection benefits associated with the introduction of CVA.

News/Media/Op Eds
The ILO and the Cash Consortium for Iraq have signed an MoU to develop the humanitarian-development nexus and improve economic opportunities for vulnerable populations. You can read more here.

Blogs
• Writing for CaLP, Andre Durr sheds light on how cash actors delivered assistance to refugees in Jordan to adapt to the COVID-19 crisis, what challenges were faced and how they were overcome: Cash in a COVID-19 crisis: Adapting approaches to assisting Jordan

• In a recent blog for SPACE, Elayn Sammon talks about inclusive social protection and how commitments to people with disabilities can be honoured.

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)
UNDP and UN Women launched the update of their Covid-19 Global Gender Response Tracker

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the coming weeks: 12 - 25 April 2021

A busy week ahead as far as remote events are concerned:
• On Monday 12 April CaLP is hosting a webinar to launch its Jordan case study on adapting humanitarian CVA in times of Covid-19.
• On Thursday 15 April, the Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection is holding it’s bi-monthly webinar and this month is on outreach and communication. Expert speakers from GIZ, Ground Truth Solutions, UNICEF, and the Serbian Red Cross will share their experiences from Somalia, Nigeria, Kenya and Serbia.
• Also on Thursday, the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and USAID Advancing Nutrition are hosting a webinar on the new Modality Decision Tool Nutrition Addendum. The Addendum will enable implementing partners to apply a nutrition lens to the selection of appropriate modalities (cash, vouchers or in-kind) when designing interventions for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance sub-sector.
• On Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 April you can participate in a virtual symposium to explore the financial integration of refugees, drawing on recent research conducted in Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, and Uganda.

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Organiser/Host</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12 April</td>
<td>Adapting humanitarian CVA in times of Covid-19 – experiences and learning from Jordan</td>
<td>CaLP</td>
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The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

Linking humanitarian cash and social protection - Fortnightly Update

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Organizer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 April</td>
<td>Keeping recipients of humanitarian cash and social protection informed – the importance of outreach and communications</td>
<td>Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 April</td>
<td>Modality Decision Tool Nutrition Addendum</td>
<td>USAID</td>
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<tr>
<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>Wednesday 14 and 21 April</td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join here</td>
<td>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</td>
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Looking further ahead:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4 May</td>
<td>Making Market Assessments Fit for Your Purpose</td>
<td>CaLP, UNHCR, NRC, SEEP</td>
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Contributions: With thanks to Pauline Perez; Valentina Barca; Ugo Gentilini; Andre Durr; Yashodhan Ghorpade; Ali Ammar; and Elayn Sammon;

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 IFC, 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.