Social Protection (SP) and Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT)
Update #48 (10 - 23 May 2021)
Highlights from 10 - 23 May 2021

Recent webinars and remote events:

- The Digital Frontiers Institute interactive webinar which showcased highlights from the recent GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation report included representatives from Concern Burundi, Cassava Fintech Burundi and Ground Truth Solutions. They discussed human-centred design methodology, how user perspectives can be used to improve humanitarian cash programming, and how these findings are being implemented in Burundi. You can view the recording of the webinar here.
- You can find the recording and presentation’s from EPRI’s recent webinar on “Financing Social Protection in the context of COVID-19 and other crises” here.
- The Asian Development Bank and IPC-IG’s recent webinar on Emerging practice on coverage and inclusion of migrant workers in social protection systems in Asia-Pacific during COVID-19 provided the opportunity for discussions on the role of regional cooperation networks in increasing access to social protection by migrants, measures adopted by specific countries, and implications involving migrants’ access to vaccines. You can find the recording: here.

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

Publications and Research

- FCDO Turkey commissioned SPACE to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the principal cash vehicles active in Turkey: Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (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. The learning exercise was divided into four key areas of investigation: (i) Impact/Disruption caused by COVID-19; (ii) Adaptations in programming; (iii) Coordination; and (iv) Future Direction/Alignment with Government of Turkey social protection approaches. You can find the paper: here.
- The Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (RCWG), in collaboration with CashCap, has carried out a capacity needs analysis covering the Asia-Pacific region. The main objective of this study was to map out the capacity needs to achieve coordinated, quality CVA in countries throughout the region. The findings of the study are intended to enhance the capacity of various stakeholders, regional organisations, and national and local actors (where required) to respond to CVA capacity needs in a timely and effective manner by liaising, advocating, and flagging needs at various levels including within donor communities.
- Published by the World Bank, Ugo Gentilini et al’s new living paper v15 on global social protection responses is out alongside the accompanying excel file. The paper provides an update on issues such as the scale, scope and duration of SP responses to the pandemic.
- ALNAP and CaLP have published a discussion paper exploring the challenges faced when evaluating cash assistance: Cashing in: Turning challenges into opportunities when evaluating humanitarian cash assistance. The findings go into detail on issues that humanitarian teams and evaluators should pay special attention to including linkages between cash assistance and social protection.
- UNICEF, WFP and IPC-IG’s recent study of Social protection and Venezuelan migration in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of COVID-19 reviews and analyses the inclusion of migrants in social protection systems in the context of the Covid-19 crisis and provides a set of policy recommendations to build more inclusive systems.
- The case studies developed by Grand Bargain Sub Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection, looking at linkages between HCT and SP in light of COVID-19 are now available. The studies, which are intended to be light-touch and “live” cover different aspects including: Policy (legal and policy frameworks, governance, coordination and capacity building, and financing); Intervention design (vulnerability and poverty assessments, informing eligibility/targeting design, transfer value and frequency, and conditionalities); and Implementation (outreach and communications, information systems, registration and enrolment, payments/ delivery, grievances and community feedback mechanism, transition and/or exit, and monitoring and evidence). You can find the three studies as well as a synthesis note and country annex here: Grand Bargain - Linking SP and Humanitarian Cash
- The Inter-American Development Bank has published a study on the impacts of the Solidarity Income programme in the face of the COVID-19 crisis in Colombia. You can find the study (in Spanish) here: Impactos del programa Ingreso Solidario frente a la crisis del COVID-19 en Colombia
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

- ILO’s compendium on Building social protection systems: International standards and human rights instruments contains a selection of the most relevant international instruments that establish the human right to social security and provide guidance for comprehensive social security systems at national level.
- This note from SPACE - Drivers of Timely and Large-Scale Cash Responses to COVID-19: what does the data say? - compares the experiences of 53 low- and middle-income countries to identify drivers of timely and large-scale government social assistance responses to COVID-19. The analysis covers cash responses only and focuses on the capacity of the social protection sector and beyond.
- The Gender and Cash Sub-Workstream identified three case studies that illustrate how Cash Working Groups, GBV Sub-Clusters, gender focal points (e.g. Gender in Humanitarian Action Working groups at country and regional level) and humanitarian partnerships can enable meaningful and wider engagement on gender equity and GBV response in CVA. The case studies all show different aspects of linking gender, GBV and CVA: Enablers and Gaps: Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence Response and Mitigation in Cash and Voucher Assistance at Response levels.
- In the face of increasing climate volatility and stretched aid budgets, more effective ways to support households in times of crisis are needed. This paper by Ashley Pople, Ruth Hill, Stefan Dercon, and Ben Brunckhorst examines the welfare impact of an anticipatory cash transfer provided to households forecasted to experience extreme floods in Bangladesh. You can find the paper here: Anticipatory cash transfers in climate disaster response.

Guidance and Tools:
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has produced a set of “Guidance for Mainstreaming Cash and Voucher Assistance – Cash Preparedness for Effective Response”. The guidance, which is currently available in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and soon in Russian, aims to strengthen national humanitarian capacity and operational readiness to provide scalable and timely cash assistance. Although targeted towards national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the guidance can serve as a useful tool for all cash actors.
- Plan International’s Step-by-Step Guidance on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Programming serves as a knowledge management tool, and provides guidance and recommendations for management of CVA initiatives, relevant for all staff engaged in design, implementation, M&E, and overall CVA decision-making. The guidelines include advice on linking CVA with social protection.
- SPACE’s recent operational guidance paper on Transfer Values: How Much Is Enough? Balancing social protection and humanitarian considerations follows on from two blogs published by SPACE on the subject (here and here). This note dives even deeper into the topic, highlighting some key elements that could be considered when setting transfer values for emergency response, while navigating the complexity of differing ‘pressures’ across sectors.

News/Media/Op Eds
- The IPC-IG has launched an online dashboard of a mapping on social protection responses to COVID-19 in the global South. The ‘Social protection responses to COVID-19 in the Global South’ online dashboard aims to contribute to the evidence base on COVID-19 and social protection, using a shock-responsive social protection lens. You can find more in the article: here.
- Writing for The Nation (Pakistan), Mahroo Arshad asks: Is Covid-19 a turning point in social protection?

Blogs, podcasts, discussions and videos
- Rituparna Sanyal and Shradhha Shrivastava’s recent blog "Making India’s Social Protection Shock Responsive: Lessons from PDS amid COVID-19" discusses a number of ways in which the COVID-19 crisis has seen unique innovations involving piggybacking on India’s most extensive safety net, the PDS, for shock response, reiterating its relevance for SRSP.
- Samir Hafiz (ALNAP) and Ruth McCormack (CaLP) draw on the findings of the study mentioned above (on evaluating humanitarian cash assistance) to highlight five key considerations when evaluating humanitarian cash assistance. Access the blog here.
- Writing for the World Bank, Tesfaye Tilahun Workineh discusses the importance of age-focused social safety nets, drawing on learning from Ethiopia’s social protection interventions including the Ethiopian Rural Productive Safety Net Program, and the Urban Productive Safety Net Program (UPSNP).

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.

In order to provide concrete and practical guidance to social protection to bridge the humanitarian and development interventions through effective short- and long-term response to multivariate shocks, protracted crises and displacement, the European Commission (EC) created the Guidance Package (GP) on Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (SPaN). Designed to provide insights and strategies for humanitarian and development staff, you can sign up for an e-learning course which introduces and reflects knowledge from the GP’s materials. A link to the course is provided, among other channels, by two online communities related to the SPaN initiative on Socialprotection.org and Capacity4dev.eu. They also provide further reading and serve as forums for discussions to build practitioner’s knowledge on this evolving subject.

### Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the coming weeks: 24 May – 6 June 2021

Over the next two weeks you can sign up to attend the following events:

- **On Tuesday 25 May**, IPC-IG, GIZ and the World Bank, in the first of a series of webinars bringing together practitioners, leading experts and policy makers to share and exchange perspectives on Adaptive Social Protection (ASP), are hosting a webinar which will start off with a presentation on the ASP Building Blocks analytical framework as developed by World Bank, and feature diverse voices from practitioners in civil society, academia, international community and state to comment on the conceptual ASP approach by sharing their concrete experiences in its operationalization. The entire series will be wrapped up in an international conference at the end of the Programme.

- As part of the 24th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers, the Global Protection Cluster, Women’s Refugee Commission, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development are hosting an event on **Wednesday 26 May** to look at findings from research on the extent to which CVA has been leveraged to improve protection outcomes in Mine Action.

- The thematic focus of the upcoming Global Cash Working Group (Tuesday 1 June) is “Response Planning”.

- Also on **Tuesday 1 June**, the Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs is hosting a webinar on Social Protection and Inequality in a Pandemic: Evidence from Ghana.

- **On Wednesday 2 June**, CaLP will present and discuss the findings of a recent review of the different approaches used or planned in the MENA region for programming cash and voucher assistance to improve access to health services for people in crisis.

- **On Thursday 8 June** you can attend the Eastern Africa Regional CWG Meeting on CVA for Health Outcomes.

- The INCLUDE annual conference is taking place between **8 and 16 June**. This year, the conference is centred around the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19 on the African continent, linking this with what has been learnt from INCLUDE’s research and dialogue programmes over this past year. The conference, which is called ‘Building forward more inclusively’, will consist of seven thematic sessions, during which the floor will be opened to researchers, experts and policymakers from the Netherlands and Africa to share their experiences and insights.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 25 May</strong></td>
<td><strong>Building back better: How can Adaptive Social Protection ensure better preparedness for future shocks?</strong></td>
<td>IPC-IG</td>
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### Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

| Wednesday 2 June | CVA for health outcomes in MENA  
|                 | Register here  
| Tuesday 8 June  | Eastern Africa Regional CWG Meeting on CVA for Health Outcomes: towards a regional action plan  
|                 | For more information, please click: [here](#)  
| Tuesday 8 - Wednesday 16 June | INCLUDE Annual Conference: Building forward more inclusively  
| Wednesday 26 May and Wednesday 2 June | Weekly SP/HCT Hangout  
|                 | 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join [here](#)  

### Looking further ahead:

| Tuesday 18 May | Social safety nets in MENA: Through COVID-19 and beyond  
|               | Register here  
| Tuesday 1 June | Social Protection and Inequality in a Pandemic: Evidence from Ghana  
|               | Register here  

Contributions: With thanks to Pauline Perez; Ugo Gentilini; Samir Hafaz; Ruth McCormack; Rituparna Sanyal; Tesfaye Tilahun Workineh; Emma Delo; Jacqueline Frize; Valentina Barca; Ashley Pople; Ruth Hill; Stefan Dercon; Ben Brunckhorst; and Shradhha Shrivastava

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.*