Social Protection (SP) and Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT)
Update #50 (6 June - 19 2021)

Highlights from 6 – 19 June 2021

Recent webinars and remote events:
- The recent Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection webinar provided the opportunity to hear from one of the world’s leading humanitarian donors – DG ECHO – and partners in relation to implementing DG ECHO’s vision for linking humanitarian cash and social protection in two different contexts – Somalia and Jordan. The recording and presentation are now available.
- The second webinar of the African Dialogue on COVID-19 and the Future of Social Protection series looked at the state of social protection in Africa and the social protection response to the COVID-19 crisis. Governments provided an overview of the actions they have taken to expand social protection to different population groups. Click here to watch the recording and access the slide presentation.
- One of the topics covered at the June 2021 Global Cash Working Group was the experience of multi-purpose cash integration in response planning. You can find the slides from the presentation – during which the linkages between humanitarian cash and social protection were raised a number of times - here.
- CaLP’s webinar on CVA for Health Outcomes: From evidence to practice in MENA discussed how cash and voucher assistance can be used to improve health outcomes for vulnerable people caught up in humanitarian crises and how using CVA for health is different to other forms of humanitarian cash programming. You can find the recording and slides: here.
- For those of you who missed the Cash and Voucher Assistance for Clearance, Land Release, and Survivor Assistance NDM-UN24 Side Event you can find the recording here.

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

Recent webinars and remote events:
- The recent Regional Learning Event focusing on "Linking cash transfers with social protection systems", convened by REDLAC and the R4V Working Group on Cash Transfers in May, identified the need to improve dialogue and the exchange of knowledge between humanitarian and social protection actors. The documentation from the event which seeks to contribute to this in Latin America and the Caribbean can be found here in Spanish or here in English.
- ODI has been looking at the evidence on including refugees in government-led social protection responses in the Congo Lisungi project, Ingreso Solidario in Colombia, the NAF in Jordan, and the UNHCR-implemented cash transfer programme in Pakistan. The study identifies a number of key messages including that whilst refugees have been supported by innumerable cash or voucher interventions implemented by international humanitarian and development actors during the Covid-19 pandemic, only a few of these have explicitly aligned or integrated with government social protection responses; the pandemic does not appear to have meaningfully shifted social protection approaches to refugees but has led to marginal changes, including in removing some barriers to access and intensifying collaboration between humanitarian, development and government actors, which may contribute towards more effective future responses; and that there are trade-offs between the inclusion in and alignment with government responses and providing effective and tailored support for refugees, which require close consideration by international humanitarian and development actors and governments.
- As part of the same series (Social protection responses to Covid-19 and beyond) ODI’s paper on Operational lessons learned for social protection system-strengthening and future shocks (looking at Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka and Togo), amongst other key messages finds that there is an opportunity to build on the operational learning and capacity developed during the Covid-19 crisis, to strengthen implementation systems for both routine provision and future shock responses. This includes filling identified gaps in core delivery systems and improving their adaptive capacity, as well as considering the potential of pandemic innovations to enhance longer-term operational approaches. You can find the paper here.
- IPC-IG has issued a 12-article compilation on “what’s next” in social protection which includes an article on “Opportunities for strengthening the links between humanitarian cash transfers and social protection: Lessons from COVID-19 responses” which brings examples from Jordan and the Philippines.
- The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have conducted a large-scale survey to better understand the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by different refugee groups in Turkey; identify further information needs and help improve the ESSN programme and accountability to the refugee population. The Intersectoral Vulnerability Survey has found that the socio-economic situation brought on by COVID-19
has significantly eroded the ability of refugees to meet their basic needs. Cash assistance through ESSN is providing refugees with an important financial buffer compared to ones who do not receive assistance; however, the economic pressures have affected everyone significantly.


- 95 organisations have sent a letter to the outgoing and the incoming Emergency Relief Coordinator to move the issue of cash coordination forward. You can find the letter here. The letter pushes for effective coordination in order to maximize the potential and impact of humanitarian cash on crisis-affected populations. The signatories are seeking an agreement that provides accountable, predictable coordination of humanitarian cash, including how it relates to response analysis, within the broader humanitarian coordination architecture.

- ODI has just published its five-year review on progress against the Grand Bargain’s agenda since it was launched in 2016. The review states that “The use of cash assistance (workstream 3) has continued to expand, both in volume and scope, driven by strong collaboration among a range of aid actors, consistent leadership from the co-conveners, the UK and WFP, and substantial investments from other signatories. By 2020, every operational aid organisation signatory reported using cash assistance in some form and several had adopted ‘cash first’ policies. Operational collaboration among aid agencies continues to evolve, and there was a rapid expansion in terms of integration of humanitarian or emergency cash in social safety net programmes in 2020, related largely to the Covid-19 pandemic.”


- In another publication WFP looks at The role of food security and nutrition-sensitive social protection in bridging the humanitarian-development divide in the Southern African region.

- Two new reports from HelpAge International - *Bearing the brunt: The impact of COVID-19 on older people in Africa – insights from 2020* – and the same topic covering *Eurasia and the Middle East* - present an overview of emerging insights from research in different settings. The findings and recommendations are intended to inform HelpAge, UNFPA and other actors’ efforts to ensure that the response and recovery effort is fully inclusive of older people and that they are able to meaningfully participate as we work to build forward better.

- OPM have produced a cross-country analysis, drawing from its reports which documented the use of social protection programmes, processes, and delivery systems in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Uganda of these social protection responses, to identify common enabling and constraining factors for shock-responsive social protection, best practices, and areas for future investments. You can find the analysis here.

**News/Media/Op Eds**

- The New Humanitarian reports on the Grand Bargain 2.0, sharing an interview with the Grand Bargain’s new Eminent Person Jan Egeland. Talking about the progress made in the last five years, Egeland highlights the increased use of cash assistance stating “Today, cash assistance empowers people to make their own choices. So there’s one example of something that has moved fast.”

- The Thomsons Reuters Foundation reports that Lebanese banks swallow at least $250m in U.N. aid with the purchasing power of refugees and poor communities receiving humanitarian cash assistance in Lebanon having been severely reduced as a result.

**Blogs, podcasts, discussions and videos**

- Writing for the New Humanitarian, Jessica Alexander looks back at the origins of the Grand Bargain commitments and the circumstances driving a rethink to the ways aid was financed. Read Part 1 [here](#). Part 2 ([here](#)) explores what has prevented progress in some of the key priority areas – localisation, agile funding, and the participation of affected communities. She also looks ahead at the main challenges the Grand Bargain 2.0 must now address.

- Anastasia de Santos and Camille Parker discuss USAID’s work in relation to Cash Transfers and Economic Resilience highlighting interventions in a number of countries including Brazil, Colombia and Togo.

- Lars Peter Nissen (ACAPS) hosted a recent podcast discussion on cash coordination at which four guests discussed why cash coordination is so difficult and what to do about it. You can listen to the podcast here - [Trumanitarian | The weekly humanitarian podcast](#).
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

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 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: 21 June – 3 July 2021

Over the next two weeks you can sign up to attend the following events:
- On Thursday 24 June the Global Nutrition Cluster is holding a remote session aims to raise awareness of the “Cash and Voucher assistance: Designing CVA programmes to contribute to nutrition outcomes” guidance, resources and support available for using cash as a modality for nutrition programming, with a focus on the GNC Guidance note of the use of CVA in emergencies and the launch of a new CVA Working Group to promote knowledge sharing with regional and country networks. The CVA WG will use session findings to identify key gaps and topics of interest for its quarterly workshops, which aim to strengthen capacity in CVA for nutrition outcome programming and for informing the workplan for the CVA GTWG.
- Also on 24 June OPM and Maintains are hosting a webinar to present the main findings from recent Maintains research and facilitate a discussion between Maintains researchers, FCDO (Kenya), and SPACE to situate the findings within the broader context within study countries and the global literature on shock-responsiveness from before COVID-19 and lessons from social protection responses to COVID-19 in other countries.
- The webinar on Tuesday 29 June will see a presentation of the fresh results of the Emprendiendo una Vida Mejor RCT, a Graduation Programme implemented through a partnership between the Government of Honduras, the IDB, and Fundación Capital.
- On Thursday 1 July WFP and OPM’s webinar will provide the opportunity to present the findings of a recent study on the emerging evidence from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. It will provide insights into the alternative measures that were undertaken by governments and partners to mitigate the impacts of the unplanned school closures on SF programmes, the lessons learned from the adaptations by governments and development partners and what the implications are for school feeding amidst the ongoing pandemic.

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<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 June</td>
<td>Cash and Voucher assistance: Designing CVA programmes to contribute to nutrition outcomes</td>
<td>Global Nutrition Cluster</td>
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<td>Thursday 24 June</td>
<td>Towards shock-responsive social protection: lessons from the COVID-19 response in six countries</td>
<td>Maintains and OPM</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 June</td>
<td>Increased Resilience in the face of Covid-19: RCT results from the Graduation Program Emprendiendo una Vida Mejor in Honduras</td>
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<td><a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<td>Thursday 1 July</td>
<td>School Feeding Programmes amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>WFP and OPM</td>
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<td><a href="#">Register now</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23 and 30 June</td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</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: Ugo Gentilini, Jessica Alexander, Pauline Perez, Roberta Brito, Patricia Velloso Cavallari, Lars Peter Nissen, Anastasia de Santos and Camille Parker

Please email gbsubgroupsphtc@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.