Social Protection (SP) and Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT)
Update #51 (20 June – 3 July 2021)

Highlights from 20 June – 3 July 2021

**Recent webinars and remote events:**

- MAINTAINS and Oxford Policy Management’s recent webinar - Towards shock-responsive social protection: lessons from the COVID-19 response in six countries - presented the main findings from the Maintains research and facilitated 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. You can find the recording and slides: [here](#).

- The webinar on “Increased Resilience in the face of Covid-19: RCT results from the Graduation Program Emprendiendo una Vida Mejor in Honduras” held by Social Protection for Employment Community, Fundacion Capital, IDB, Gobierno De La Republica de Honduras (Government of Honduras) and Universidad de los Andes (University of the Andes) presented 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. The evidence shows how graduation programmes can build resilience and support the economic recovery of vulnerable families in the face of major shocks. You can access the slides and recording: [here](#).

- The presentation from the recent event held by the Global Nutrition Cluster which aimed to raise awareness of CVA guidance to support designing CVA programmes to contribute to nutrition outcomes 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 can be found: [here](#).

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

**Publications and Research**

- Development Initiative's [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2021](#), has been published. It contains an analysis of humanitarian crises, needs and funding in 2020. The publication includes an analysis of the 2020 CVA volume calculations, based on data collected by Development Initiatives and CaLP. You can find this first analysis of the data in full [here](#), showing that the volume of CVA has increased again, with the 2020 total more than triple the volume counted in 2015. Highlights of the analysis include: * Overall volume of CVA programming = US$6.3 billion (13% increase from 2019 (5.6 billion) to 2020); * Funds transferred to recipients = US$5.0 billion (16% increase from 2019 (4.3 billion) to 2020); * The volume of CVA implemented by NGOs increased significantly (from US$0.8 billion to US$1.2 billion (25% of the global total)). Anecdotally this can be attributed partially to the COVID-19 response; * UN agencies increased CVA volumes by 7.5% and RCRC by 5.2%; * The breakdown of CVA in 2020 remained the same as in 2019, at 71% for cash and 29% for vouchers; * According to approximate estimates, CVA accounted for almost a fifth (19%) of international humanitarian assistance in 2020.

- The [Social Protection in Crisis Contexts Online Community](#) has created a new community page Social Protection for Refugees, which will serve as a living resource space for members to collaborate with content. Members who wish to collaborate with content can either upload documents to the library of the community or share links and files via dgroupsdiscussion or copy and paste them in the resource basket. A discussion thread has been launched to continuously collect inputs on the subject.

- HelpAge has produced a study looking at the impacts of social protection on social cohesion and reconciliation, focusing on how national social protection programmes have promoted social cohesion and national reconciliation in post-conflict contexts internationally. The study documents and analyses the dynamics of how government-provided social protection programmes in a variety of contexts, with various design features, have contributed to national reconciliation and social cohesion.

- Using the example of Bangladesh, World Vision has produced a note on linking humanitarian cash transfers to social protection through social accountability. In the study, World Vision highlights how humanitarian cash was leveraged to raise awareness about social protection entitlements among women and ethnic minority groups.

- In a study for the World Bank, Elisabetta Aurino and Sara Giunti’s paper - Social Protection for Child Development in Crisis: A Review of Evidence and Knowledge Gaps – recognises that globally, humanitarian needs have reached an historically unprecedented scale, undermining the ability of affected children to survive, grow, and thrive. The study proposes that social protection holds the promise of addressing acute needs and risks faced by children in crisis contexts, while allowing for human capital investments. The study is a review of the evidence of the impact of emergency cash,
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Food, and other in-kind transfers implemented by governments or humanitarian actors on child development in different contexts.

- IPC-IG’s Policy in Focus this month includes a number of articles focused on: Universal child benefits: The pathway to universality in COVID-19 times, by David Stewart, Atif Khurshid, and Aristide Kielem; Gender-responsive social protection in times of COVID-19, by Clare McCrum; Bridging the disability inequality gap: Changes needed for an inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery, by Alexandre Cote; Older people’s income security and access to social protection during COVID-19 and beyond, by Florian Juergens, Usa Khiewrord and Aura Sevilla; and Extending unemployment protection as a response to the COVID-19 crisis and as part of efforts to build back better, by Céline Peyron Bista, Quynh Anh Nguyen and Maya Stern-Plaza. You can access the magazine here.

- WFP has launched a new social protection strategy, marking a significant step forward for how WFP will engage in this critical and growing area of work. The COVID-19 pandemic made the importance of strong national social systems abundantly clear, and this strategy puts WFP on a strong footing to continue its established support to governments in the years ahead. WFP’s two priorities aim at supporting the strengthening of social protection to better help people meet their food security, nutrition and associated essential needs as well as manage the risks and shocks they face. Please access the strategy here: World Food Programme Strategy for Support to Social Protection - 2021

- Also highlighting the work of WFP is this recent report on WFP’s Work in Enabling Social LIVES Protection in the Philippines: Highlights of the World Food Programme’s Contributions to Social Protection in a New Normal. The publication discusses the work of the WFP in the Philippines during the COVID-19 crisis mentioning its main contribution, namely the digital advisory and solutions to the government to ensure continuity of three aspects of national social protection programming: household vulnerability and food security assessments, monitoring of the Social Amelioration Programme (SAP), and registration and distribution of payments in locations where financial service providers were unable to operate owning to lockdown restrictions.

- This collection of Country Reviews of Social Assistance in Crises: A Compendium of Rapid Assessments of the Nexus Between Social Protection and Humanitarian Assistance in Crisis Settings brings together brief overviews of the social assistance landscape in eight fragile and conflict-affected settings in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. These overviews were prepared as part of Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) Research. BASIC Research aims to inform policy and programming on effective social assistance in situations of crisis, including for those who are experiencing climate-related shocks and stressors, protracted conflict and forced displacement.

- Published by SPACE, this paper on Overcoming barriers to coordinating across social protection and humanitarian assistance – building on promising practices presents a synthesis of global learning from efforts to coordinate shock responses linked with social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in response to other shocks, to inform dialogue and future action.

**Tools and Guidance**

- A new Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment tool has been developed to support national and sub-national governments and other stakeholders in understanding how social assistance instruments and programmes can achieve a greater positive impact on food security and nutrition at country level.

**News/Media/Op Eds**

- In the wake of UNDP’s Mitigating Poverty assessment which offers fresh data on how social assistance spending has cushioned the unparalleled economic shock triggered by the pandemic, preventing around 12 million people from falling below the poverty line, out of 15 million in danger, UN News highlights that although the pandemic triggered the roll-out of an unprecedented number of new and innovative social protection measures, it was unable to stem the gap between rich and poor countries. You can access the article here.

**Blogs, podcasts, discussions and videos**

- Throughout June and July, the Social Protection Podcast is hosting a special series in partnership with ODI and GIZ. Across six episodes, guest host Francesca Bastagli, Director of the Equity and Social Policy programme and Principal Research Fellow at ODI, will moderate conversations around the guiding question: “Covid-19: a turning point for social protection?”. The latest episode explores social protection implementation and delivery: National cash transfer responses to Covid-19: operational lessons. The guests on this podcast were Christy Lowe, Research Officer – Equity and Social Policy Programme, ODI and Madhumitha Hebbar, MAINTAINS project Lead Researcher, Independent Consultant.
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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: 3 – 31 July 2021

Over the course of July you can sign up to attend the following events:

- On **Tuesday 7 July**, as part of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) that will take place from July 6 to 15, 2021, virtually / in New York, UNICEF and Save the Children in collaboration with the governments of Indonesia and Guatemala will organize a high level side event focusing on the role of child-sensitive social protection (CSSP) in the sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19, and its crucial role in accelerating progress towards the SDGs.
- Jointly hosted by UNICEF, ILO, DFAT, IDA and UNPRPD this event on **Thursday 8 July** seeks to take stock of the social protection response in support of persons with disabilities, the lessons learned based on case studies, consultation and engagement with social protection professionals and organisations of persons with disabilities.
- On **Tuesday 13 July**, the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Environment, and Climate Change Community of Practice, currently led by CaLP and the Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice, is organizing a webinar in **English** showcasing the potential role of CVA in addressing climate change and environmental degradation. The event will feature different perspectives, identify opportunities and challenges in CVA programming relating to the subject-matter, and includes a call to action for proactive planning in the fight against climate change.
- The official high-level launch of "The COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker: Global Observatory on Social Protection Policy Responses" will also take place on **Tuesday 13 July**. The Observatory is a dynamic interactive platform that presents COVID-19 policy responses of governments and central banks for 194 countries around the World.
- On **Tuesday 27 July** UNESCO and UNPRPD are hosting an online discussion to foster disability rights at all governance levels, and in collaboration with a wide array of stakeholders, including advocates from the sport and creative sectors. It will address the importance of ensuring inclusive approaches in providing services to persons with disabilities in the multidimensional context of the COVID-19 crisis and will highlight good practices across regions.

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<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 7 July</strong></td>
<td>High-Level Political Forum 2021 Side Event</td>
<td>UNICEF, Save the Children, the Government of Guatemala and the Government of Indonesia</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 8 July</strong></td>
<td>Lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis: moving towards inclusive social protection for persons with disabilities?</td>
<td>UNICEF, ILO, DFAT, IDA and UNPRPD</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 13 July</strong></td>
<td>High-Level Panel Discussion and Launch of the COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker: Global Observatory on Social Protection Policy Responses</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 13 July</strong></td>
<td>CVA, the environment, and Climate Change in Humanitarian Response</td>
<td>CaLP and the Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 27 July</strong></td>
<td>Cities leaving no one behind: COVID-19 responses for persons with disabilities, from policy to practice</td>
<td>UNESCO and UNPRPD</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesdays through July</strong></td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</td>
<td>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</td>
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**Dates and Times**

- Wednesday 7 July: 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join [here](#)
- Thursday 8 July: 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join [here](#)
- Tuesday 13 July: 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join [here](#)
- Tuesday 27 July: 11.00 NY/ 16.00 UK/ 18.00 Amman - Join [here](#)
Contributions

With thanks to: Valentina Barca, Ugo Gentilini, Elisabetta Aurino, Sara Giunti, Lígia Benevides Batista, Juan Gonzalo Jaramillo Mejia, and Gabrielle Smith,

Please email gbsubgroupspchct@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.