### Social Protection (SP) and Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT)
#### Update #55 (26 September – 9 October 2021)

#### Highlights from 26 September to 9 October 2021

**Recent webinars and remote events:**
- The ICRC’s 7th digital dilemmas debate saw experts from the humanitarian, technical and operational fields discuss what the introduction of biometrics might mean for humanitarian programmes. The focus was on the specific mitigation measures (both technical and policy-related) that humanitarians should implement to use biometrics as responsibly and as safely as possible. You can find the recording [here](#).
- WFP’s recent webinar provided the opportunity to gain an overview of how social protection programmes in the LAC region have incorporated migrants. An overview of regional trends and key findings was shared, concentrating presentations on the role of international organizations and humanitarian agencies in these programmes. In addition, the experiences of inclusion of migrants in the Cadastro Unico in Brazil and inclusive social protection in Colombia were explored in more detail. You can find the recording and slides: [here](#).
- UNICEF, ILO, UNPRPD, DFAT and ADB’s recent webinar provided participants with an overview of how social protection can support development of community support services and systems for persons with disabilities across the life cycle. Speakers shared lessons from reforms for care and support for children with disabilities in Europe and Central Asia. You can find the recording and slides: [here](#).

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

**Publications and Research**
- To respond to the urgent need for digital payments and prepare for the next pandemic or natural disaster, the United Nations has released a set of [Principles for Responsible Digital Payments](#).
- SPACE has published an [Adaptive social protection and decentralisation: conceptual framework](#) to provide an entry point for discussion of, and practical engagement with, the potential for linking the Adaptive Social Protection and Decentralisation agendas, in the first instance by technicians and practitioners within the German Development Cooperation.
- In September 2021, senior leaders gathered to discuss progress since the submission of the Call for Action, consider the proposed formation of a cash caucus and hear about some coordination options. You can find here the [meeting report and slides](#).
- A number of country studies providing practitioners with examples of different approaches to linking CVA and social protection can be found on the CaLP website as follows:
  - Lebanon
  - Occupied Palestinian Territories
  - Turkey
- GSMA’s recent research working paper presents a new index for the global mobile money industry – [the Mobile Money Prevalence Index (MMPI)](#). It is the first time a global index has been created with the purpose of measuring the prevalence of mobile money at country level. The MMPI considers a set of mobile money metrics in order to facilitate comparisons between markets, thereby enabling third parties to gauge whether engagement would lead to expected impact. The purpose of the index is to support decision making for public and private stakeholders alike. provides an index.
- The recent [UN Common Cash Statement Progress Report](#) outlines key progress and challenges under the UN Common Cash Statement (UNCCS) and the vision and priorities ahead. It builds on more than two years of implementation, the UNCCS Q&A and a number of surveys and lessons learned workshops conducted with countries in 2021. While the focus has largely been on implementation in the seven focus countries, the UNCCS continues to grow globally, leveraging the experience gained in recent years, building on existing common guidance.
- CaLP and SPACE have released a number of [Good Practice Reviews on Cash Assistance in Contexts of High Inflation and Depreciation](#) as follows:
  - South Sudan
  - Lebanon
  - Yemen
The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on
LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

- Zimbabwe
  - The Turkish Red Crescent’s (TRC) Kızılaykart Cash Based Assistance Programmes Coordinatorship continues to work relentlessly with the aim of developing shock responsiveness and continue to alleviate human suffering caused by conflicts, involuntary migration and socioeconomic challenges in the face of the constantly evolving situation. Despite the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, TRC has maintained its operations without disruption by adapting and aligning them with the preventive measures implemented across the country. A recent study by the TRC provides information on the adaptation of operational activities to the programme.
  - UNFPA’s case study on vouchers to meet the urgent needs of families with fragile economic conditions and women at risk of gender-based violence in Gaza and East Jerusalem shows high levels of satisfaction among recipients as well as positive impacts on mental health. You can access the report in Arabic: [here](#).

Media, news articles, newsletters and Op Eds

- Reuters reports that [cash airlifts are planned to bypass Taliban and help Afghans](#). The article states that the cash runs are a trial for larger air deliveries of dollars from Pakistan. A senior diplomat said two approaches are under consideration that would inject cash into the Afghan economy. Both are in the planning stages. According to the article, under the first plan, the World Food Programme would fly in cash and distribute it directly to people to buy food, expanding on something the agency already has been doing on a smaller scale. The second approach would see cash flown in to be held by banks on behalf of the United Nations. That would be used to pay salaries to the staff of U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations, the diplomat said. A third person said U.N. officials had talked with Afghan banks about opening up cash distribution channels. The article goes on to say that separately, the European Union, Britain and the United States have discussed setting up an international trust fund to bypass the Afghan government and help finance local services, according to two officials with knowledge of the matter.

Blogs, podcasts, discussions and videos

- In her recent blog, Valentina Barca, the Team Lead for the FDCO-GIZ-DFAT-funded [SPACE service](#) shares reflections on Social protection and COVID-19 – the emerging story of what worked where... and what it all means for future crises.
- The SPACE service has released a helpful video which showcases how and why social protection systems and programmes have been used or adapted in countries across the globe to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, setting out clear lessons to inform how we prepare for future shocks. You can find the video [here](#).
- Nissa Bersten (REACH) and Crys Chamaa’s (CaLP) blog on [Mapping Financial Service Providers for CVA](#) follows up on a recent mapping exercise conducted in Yemen to highlight four factors that can lead to a successful FSP mapping, emphasizing that while a collaborative and inclusive approach to CVA and FSP mapping takes more time, the results are richer and more useful as a result.

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: 11 - 27 October 2021

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

- The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection is holding its final webinar in a series which has been running since December 2019. This webinar will provide a practical example of the processes and partnerships required to support the transition of caseloads from humanitarian cash interventions to government social assistance programmes in situations of protracted crisis, using the case of Iraq.
- ALNAP’s 2021 Meeting is being held on 19 and 20 October with an agenda centred on ‘Learning from disruption: evolution, revolution or status quo’. A number of sessions will look at the role of digital technology in managing and leading disruption, focusing on the new opportunities and possibilities emerging over the last 18 months.
- On Wednesday 27 October the Joint SDG Fund’s online event will feature gender and social protection experts’ discussion panels marking a milestone towards further assessing the UN Joint SDG Fund’s contribution to integrated social protection to leave no one behind (LNOB) as an effective means to contribute to the acceleration of the progress on multiple SDGs and producing catalytic results at scale within reduced timeframes.
Socialprotection.org has set up an e-Vent which will take place from 28 September to 23 October, and you will be able to participate at any time during this period. This provides an opportunity to honestly discuss the challenges of the past year, and to collectively reflect on how these factors help or hinder improvements in the outcomes we are collectively aiming to achieve.

**DATES** | **ACTIVITY** | **Organiser/Host**
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Thursday 14 October | Transitioning from humanitarian cash to social protection in protracted crises – the case of Iraq | Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection - UNICEF, FCDO, IFRC
Tuesday 19 to Wednesday 20 October | ALNAP 2021 Meeting | ALNAP
Wednesday 27 October | Gender Equality and Social Protection: Innovation, SDG Acceleration and Catalytic Effect of Joint Programmes Supported by the UN Joint SDG Fund | Joint SDG Fund
28 September – 23 October | Vent here! | Socialprotection.org

**Contributions**
- **With thanks to:** Valentina Barca, Pauline Perez, Nissa Bersten, and Crys Chamaa

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 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.*