Social Protection (SP) and Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT)
Update #56 (10 - 23 October 2021)
Highlights from 10 – 23 October 2021

Recent webinars and remote events:

- Earlier this month the Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection held its October webinar in a series which has been running since December 2019. This webinar provided 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. Expert speakers Matthew Wai-Poi and Lokendra Phadera from the World Bank and Virginia Leape from the Cash and Livelihoods Consortium for Iraq shared their experiences in transitioning from humanitarian cash to social protection. If you missed the webinar please find here the links to the recording and presentation slides.

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

Publications and Research

- The Cash Consortium and Livelihoods Consortium for Iraq (CLCI) has shared a Policy Paper — From Alignment to Integration: Lessons from Iraq on Linking MPCA and Social Protection Programming. As some governments struggle to expand social protection systems, non-governmental actors continue to deliver assistance. This paper offers insights into how the two systems can collaborate, looking at the Four Pillars of MPCA-SSN Integration: (1). Scale – The formation of key MPCA coordination mechanisms, including the Cash Working Group and the CLCI; (2). Harmonised Programming – The harmonization of all programme design across MPCA actors, including the roll out of a robust targeting system; (3). Convening Power – The mediation of the collaboration via a multilateral, the World Bank in this case, with the required relationships with government and technical expertise; (4). Donor Support – The provision of financial and programmatic support that is of quality and at scale.

- Inclusive Futures has published a series of reports in relation to Improving disability inclusion after COVID-19, one of which focuses on what was learned in the pandemic in relation to inclusion in humanitarian responses in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria and Tanzania. The papers fill vital gaps in evidence about the impact of the pandemic on the most marginalised people with disabilities as well as revealing how representative organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) addressed shortfalls in provision and provided urgent support.

- ODI’s recent report on Digital identity, biometrics and inclusion in humanitarian responses to refugee crises shares the perspectives of (mostly Syrian) refugees in Jordan on their experiences with biometrics, alongside analysis of the larger issues of digital identity, focusing on the perspective of how end users understand and experience using this technology to receive aid.

- Oxfam’s Learning Brief on humanitarian social protection approaches in the context of COVID-19 showcases 12 of Oxfam’s humanitarian programmes and how they applied a social protection approach within the context of COVID-19, including piloting and learning, advocacy and influencing, advising and aligning, and working towards inclusive and accountable shock-responsive social protection systems. An interactive pdf (clickable map on page 5) is meant to spark conversations and ideas on how to think about social protection in humanitarian work and the different directions this can take, to provide a simple framework for applying a social protection approach, and, guide others by sharing the work of Oxfam and partners across the world.

- As part of its thematic analysis series about the aftermath of the May 2021 conflict escalation in the occupied Palestinian territories, ACAPS has released two reports. One looks at the Social impacts of the humanitarian situation, highlighting that the National Cash Transfer Programme is only reaching some 40% of the extreme poor out of an estimated 1.5 million extreme poor. In the wake of high level of social and protection needs, humanitarian organisations have had to respond with increased programmes and service provision. However, the response is limited by several legal, political, and funding constraints.

- The Collaborative Cash Delivery Network’s recent publication: Responding to Shocks Using Social Protection: Principles and a Framework for NGOs provides an initial operational framework to guide decision-making as NGOs engage with SP systems and programmes. It outlines key guiding principles and specifies the added value of NGOs engaging with social protection systems. It aims to complement and balance the considerable existing work aimed at, where possible and appropriate, supporting government system strengthening and the UN to
Contribute to and complement SP in humanitarian contexts.

- Recent research looking at whether unconditional cash transfers as part of Turkey’s Emergency Social Safety Net can keep refugee children in school and out of work finds that being a beneficiary household reduces the fraction of children working from 14.0 percent to 1.6 percent (a decrease of 88 percent) and the fraction of children aged 6–17 not in school from 36.2 to 13.7 percent (a reduction of 62 percent). By unpacking the mechanisms at play, Aygun et al. show that ESSN cash transfers become a significant part of a household’s income, substantially alleviate extreme poverty, and reduce a family’s need to resort to harmful coping strategies. You can find the study here.

**Media, news articles, newsletters and Op Eds**

- Google recently announced that it was Collaborating with the UN to accelerate crisis response through a $1.5 million commitment to OCHA’s Center for Humanitarian Data. Over the next two years, Google.org will support the Center in scaling up the use of forecasts and predictive models to anticipate humanitarian crises and trigger the release of funds before conditions escalate – a project which will be of relevance to humanitarian social protection actors alike.

- An article in the Manila Bulletin provides an insight into a social protection programme being implemented by the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARM) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), which has gone beyond cash aid distribution and is set to strengthen social protection in the region by providing technical support to the development of a system for identifying the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. You can read more here.

**Blogs, podcasts, discussions and videos**

- Marina Andrade’s blog highlights the work of the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) and partners in relation to their mapping exercise which documents social protection measures adopted by countries in the Global South in response to the COVID-19 crisis using a shock-responsive social protection lens: Social Protection Responses to COVID-19 in the Global South! The IPC-IG and partners have recently launched the ‘Social Protection Responses to COVID-19 in the Global South: Online Dashboard’, which illustrates the data collected in easy-to-read charts and tables, while also providing direct access to the raw data and related methodological material.

- A blog by Human Rights Watch - Africa: Covid-19 Aid Falling Short – highlights an increase in poverty and hunger pointing to the need for an expansion in social protection across a number of countries.

**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 two weeks: 25 – October – 9 November 2021**

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

- 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.

- Also on **Wednesday 27th** at a webinar hosted by MarketLinks, you can hear from practitioners engaging in the Haiti and Eastern DRC contexts and the different interventions they apply in conflict and crisis-affected environments. Speakers will discuss the challenges they have encountered — including with infrastructure and technology, as well as balancing speed with sustainability — and the adjustments they have made engaging the private sector, particularly as part of humanitarian response and recovery.

- A third webinar for **Wednesday 27th** is being held by the Cash Hub. Two Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies will present their experiences of strengthening community resilience and share examples on the use of group cash transfers to empower community groups to choose and fund their own community resilience activities. The Uganda Red Cross will present on its work supporting Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA), while the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the British Red Cross will present on their work supporting Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC).

- At a fourth webinar for **Wednesday 27th** EPRI will be discussing how government expansion of social protection programmes also addressed the vulnerabilities faced by women and, if not, how can we design and implement gender-
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

sensitive social protection programmes. The session will also focus on the scope of social protection to address multiple dimensions of vulnerability and possibly challenge adverse social norms.

- On Thursday 28 October the co-chairs of the Global Cash Working Group will hold a remote event to share experiences and new tools from GSMA and partners relevant for CWGs to effectively collaborate with the private sector.
- On Tuesday 9 November the Markets in Crises Community of Practice (MiC) and the Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Cash and Market Working Group are co-hosting a real-time learning discussion to showcase case studies and encourage problem solving around the complex issue of liquidity challenges for markets in crisis. With insights from the Afghanistan, Syria and Zimbabwe contexts on ways to address liquidity challenges as well as donor perspectives, we aim to reflect, learn and find solutions together.

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 October</td>
<td>Gender Equality and Social Protection: Innovation, SDG Acceleration and Catalytic Effect of Joint Programmes Supported by the UN Joint SDG Fund</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27 October</td>
<td>Engaging the Private Sector in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Environments: Lessons from Haiti and Eastern Congo</td>
<td>Marketlinks</td>
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<td>Experiences of strengthening community resilience, and share examples on the use of group cash transfers</td>
<td>The Cash Hub</td>
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<td><a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 October</td>
<td>Global Webinar: Social Protection and Gender: Challenging Norms and Facilitating Social Inclusion</td>
<td>EPRI</td>
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<td>Thursday 28 October</td>
<td>Global Cash Working Group: Focus on Financial Inclusion</td>
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<td>Cash Strapped? A Learning Discussion on Market-Based Programming in Liquidity Crises</td>
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Contributions
- **With thanks to:** Virginia Leape, Valentina Barca, Kerrie Holloway, Reem Al Misri, Afnan Abu Yahia, Pauline Perez, Kristin Smart, Maria Andrade and Ugo Gentilini

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.