## Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #16 (13 – 19 July 2020)

### Highlights from the week of 13-19 July 2020

### Webinars:

- **The Grand Bargain Sub-Group’s monthly webinar** which was held last week was framed around the humanitarian cash and social protection delivery chain (developed along three key areas – Policy, Programme Design, and Operations). The webinar provided the opportunity for a variety of agencies - CARE USA, OCHA, Oxfam, UNICEF and WFP - to present learning and practical examples from a diverse set of contexts from around the world, bringing to life evolving areas of technical interest and flagging for discussion when linkages between humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) and social protection (SP) may or may not be appropriate, as well as key success and challenges. Click to access the [webinar recording](#) and [slides](#). In addition, the panellists provided numerous [useful resources](#) that you can find [here](#).
- **CaLP’s webinar** on remote registration and verification brought together humanitarian and private sector actors to highlight approaches adopted in the COVID-19 response. If you missed it, you can find the webinar recording and updated slides with speaker contact details and additional technical resources [here](#).
- **Hosted by Development Pathways, UNICEF and UNILAC**, last week’s webinar on the importance of human rights considerations in social protection responses to COVID-19 drew together panellists who brought the topic to life by providing examples from Latin America, the Caribbean, and South Asia. Find the [webinar recording](#) and [slides](#) [here](#).
- **In conversation and online discussions:** Last week’s informal chats saw a continuation of discussions started earlier in the month, focusing on refugee contexts and approaches to aligning the provision of humanitarian cash with government social safety nets in terms of duration and value. Different country contexts were discussed, including Cameroon, Mauritania and Greece.
- **Another discussion topic** was next week’s Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Annual Meeting. This will consist of a series of virtual workshops through the week (July 20-24). The sessions are open, and anyone can join to listen/participate. The workshop for the Sub-Group on linking HCT and SP will be held on Tuesday 21 July (see below under webinars/events for a Zoom link for the event.)

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

- **Blogs:** A recently published blog by Nisjar Majid for LSE provides an interesting example of the provision of vouchers and food assistance to families in need in the Somali diaspora in the UK in the absence of state-level COVID-19-related social protection interventions. The blog focuses on the diaspora’s vulnerability to food insecurity and poverty as a result of the pandemic noting that this is mirrored in Somalia itself. [Read the blog here.](#)
- **Publications:** SPACE has published an updated brief which examines the relationship between humanitarian assistance and social protection in response to COVID-19. Whilst a variety of guidance is being developed to support humanitarian practitioners around the response to the pandemic, less material exists that guides humanitarian practitioners on how to practically link their responses to social protection (SP) systems and programmes in the COVID-19 response, or that provides key emergency response considerations for social protection practitioners. It can be accessed [here](#).
- **Although not specific to HCT and SP**, it is worth taking a look at ACAPS’ recently released [Humanitarian Access Overview](#) which provides an insight into how COVID-19 has impacted people’s access to humanitarian services and assistance as well as the access of humanitarian organisations to those in need in different countries and regions.
- **DFID has released a review and analysis of identification and registration systems in protracted and recurrent crises** which offers a number of recommendations to governments, donors, practitioners and coordination stakeholders, a number of which relate to greater collaboration between the humanitarian sector and social protection systems.
- **Funding appeals:** At the end of last week, the UN launched a record [updated appeal](#) calling for $10.3 billion to address the direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The appeal highlights the importance of pre-positioning both food and cash and calls for the increased use of multi-purpose cash and voucher assistance. In addition, Specific Objective 2.3 emphasises the need to continue to explore the linkages between social protection systems and humanitarian assistance in crisis contexts. Since the initial appeal, contained in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, was launched on 25 March some $1.7 billion has been raised to date.
- **Media features, articles and Op Eds:** BRAC has published an article highlighting how the organization is fighting poverty during COVID-19 by continuing to implement its Ultra-Poor Graduation approach. Read the article [here](#) and find out more about how BRAC has adapted its graduation approach in response to the pandemic [here](#).
- **Guidance:** Plan International has released a one-page guidance sheet providing links to helpful resources for cash and voucher assistance (CVA) interventions in response to COVID-19 which can be found [here](#).
Programmatic updates: WFP’s emergency response for those affected by COVID-19 in Nairobi’s informal settlements provides an example of aligning humanitarian cash with government social protection systems as well as highlighting approaches to strengthening and expanding existing government safety nets to better respond to the pandemic. A recently released information brief gives a succinct operational overview as well as an update on achievements and next steps.

Socialprotection.org published their weekly Social Protection in Times of COVID-19 newsletter on Thursday, providing a comprehensive overview of upcoming and past webinars, blogs, briefings, reports and media features on social protection issues in light of COVID-19 from around the world. Newsletter #17

Shared at the end of the week, the SP links weekly email brings together a host of information focused primarily on social protection and with some specific signposting to adaptations and approaches in response to COVID-19.

Mapping Updates

SP/humanitarian cash links mapping (GB cash sub group initiative): This can be accessed here. The purpose of this live, shareable mapping is to support humanitarian actors in the field. It is light touch and the initial focus is countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. The mapping has been developed in coordination with other mapping initiatives. Contact Lois Austin (KML consultant for the GB Cash Workstream sub group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection) for info/to set up a call. And please do go ahead and add missing information from your country/region into the mapping in order to ensure that it is a helpful tool for practitioners.

ILO Social Protection Monitor: This presents the latest global social protection policy trends based on media announcements. This live tracking is updated weekly.

The IMF Policy Responses to COVID-19 Tracker provides a summary of the key economic responses that governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the pandemic providing information which is of relevance to humanitarian and development actors, particularly in the design and modification of their COVID-19-related responses.

Regular and Ongoing Resources

Socialprotection.org continues to host a space on social protection responses to COVID19 which provides access to a series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. In addition, the website hosts a number of online communities including one specifically focused on social protection in crisis contexts. Here, as one of the community resources, you can find a page dedicated to the Grand Bargain cash workstream sub-group on linking HCT and SP which will give you links to this newsletter and more.

CaLP has a dedicated space on CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions and CaLP-produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID, (including a section specific to SP/HCTs).

The Cash Hub (hosted by the British Red Cross) has developed a number of tip sheets on delivering CVA and advocating for the use of CVA in response to COVID-19. Whilst targeted towards Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the resources can be adapted to the needs and approaches of other organisations. They can be found here: https://cash.org.

A multi-country cash transfer research initiative – The Transfer Project – provides a quick-access round-up of COVID-19 related resources click here

Resources: Excellent resources that have been developed by SPACE (the DFID/GIZ Social Protection Approaches to COVID team) can be found in this useful twitter thread by Valentina Barca. The resources can all be found on SP.org.

CCD has a page on Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash with country case studies and guidance.

SP/HCT Hangout: This weekly informal hangout via Zoom, hosted by Zehra Rizvi and Cecile Cherrier provides the opportunity for practitioners from across the globe to raise questions and share experience in an open and supportive environment. Details are provided below.

Foundational webinars: The first webinar from GB cash sub group series to demystify the concept of linking social protection and HCT; good introduction and primer to the topic. Second: How can SP systems respond to the COVID 19 crisis? sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments are facing; recording here. And thirdly, Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic. Includes examples within the context of COVID for measures to link SP/HCT.

ALNAP’s COVID-19 Response Portal is a great place to access guidelines; tools; and papers in relation to the pandemic.

REACH COVID-19 Information Thread – data and analysis, primarily for humanitarians (but also of relevance for other actors), on the impact of COVID-19 on affected populations

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events

The week ahead is incredibly busy as far as webinars and events go. Hopefully you can find time to fit some of the following into your schedule:

• WFP/IPC-IG/GIZ/DFAT are hosting a webinar focusing on the continuity and preparedness of school feeding programmes under COVID-19 and the South-South Cooperation role. The webinar will present the global scenario and the tools...
available to support school feeding programmes in Latin America, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa while the crisis’ effects last. (Simultaneous translation in English and Spanish)

- As part of the Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Webinar Week, the Sub-Group on Linking HCT and SP’s remote workshop will focus on finalizing the sub-workstream workplan building on the draft established at the workshop in 2019 and on consultations over the past months.
- IPC-IG and UNICEF will host a webinar to discuss the main findings and takeaways of a number of papers focused on social expenditure, legislative frameworks and findings of impact evaluations of social protection in South Asia.
- For those of you located in north east Nigeria, ACF is co-hosting a workshop on social protection and humanitarian cash transfers with the aim of identifying social protection actors and reviewing social protection activities in Borno State. The workshop will provide the opportunity to raise awareness of the unified social register and database and discuss its expansion in Borno State. (Please contact Aneel Ahmed Memon, ACF, on +234 (0)907 040 5025 | 703 177 9363/hodfsl@ng-actionagainsthunger.org if you need any more information.)
- Development Initiatives (DI) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) are holding ‘A stocktake of global humanitarian assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic’. The webinar will include a panel discussion on humanitarian support to the pandemic response and will mark the launch of DI’s Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020.
- The Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Cash Hub is holding a webinar in Spanish, focusing on adapting to COVID-19 and the use of cash transfer programming within the RCRC Movement, bringing examples from Colombia and Ecuador.
- CaLP will be launching its new the State of the World’s Cash Report.
- CaLP is also organizing a Spanish webinar on findings and lessons learned in the provision of CVA in Colombia and Ecuador in response to the Venezuela refugee and migrant crisis this week. Please note, if you registered for the original scheduled date, you do not need to re-register.

On the same day, CaLP and WFP are hosting another webinar under the Grand Bargain cash workstream annual virtual meeting umbrella – Is cash assistance risker than in-kind? The panel will bring a diverse range of perspectives on the issues at play, and knowledge of relevant research and operations in high-risk environments such as Somalia, DRC and Niger.

Later in the month, the following event is taking place:
- CaLP’s regional event on Linking Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Assistance in MENA where CaLP will be hosting a panel discussion with representatives from UNICEF, WFP, DFID, the Lebanese Red Cross and the Government of Jordan. It will present its State of the World Cash 2 Report; High-level Social Protection Paper; Country case studies from Yemen, Iraq and Lebanon.

Please note, USAID’s Food For Peace’s online discussion in relation to its Interim Guidance for Applicants Engaging in COVID-19 humanitarian response which was scheduled for 30 July has been cancelled.

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Organiser/Host</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21</td>
<td>Managing continuity and preparedness of school feeding programmes under COVID-19 and the South South Cooperation role</td>
<td>WFP</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Register now</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21</td>
<td>Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Webinar: Sub-Group on Linking HCT and SP</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Zoom Meeting ID: 948 3041 7650 Password: 5M%suS</td>
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<td>Wednesday 22</td>
<td>Workshop on “Social Protection/ HCT” in Forshams Hall, No. 3 Dipcharima Road, Old GRA, at Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.</td>
<td>ACF</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22</td>
<td>Webinar “A stocktake of global humanitarian assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic”</td>
<td>Development Initiatives</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Register</td>
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<td>Wednesday 22</td>
<td>Adaptándonos al COVID-19: El Uso de PTM en el Movimiento de la Cruz Roja y Media Luna Roja</td>
<td>Red Cross and Red Crescent Cash Hub</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Thursday 23</td>
<td>Launch of the State of the World’s Cash Report</td>
<td>CaLP</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Register here</td>
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<td>Thursday 23 July</td>
<td>Social expenditure, legislative frameworks and findings of impact evaluations of social protection in South Asia</td>
<td>IPC-IG</td>
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<td>Friday 24 July</td>
<td>Findings and lessons learnt on the provision of CVA in Colombia &amp; Ecuador in response to the Venezuela refugee and migrant crisis</td>
<td>CaLP and the CBI Regional Working Group</td>
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<td>Friday 24 July</td>
<td>Is cash assistance riskier than in-kind?</td>
<td>CaLP</td>
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<td>Tuesday 28 July</td>
<td>Panel discussion on linking social protection and humanitarian cash assistance in MENA.</td>
<td>CaLP</td>
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Contributions: With thanks to Muhammad Musa; Nisar Majid; Marina Brunale; Karin Seyfert; Thomas Byrnes; Cecile Cherrier; and Guiseppe Simeon.

Please email gbsubgroupshct@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 DFID and the Online Community for Social Protection in Crisis Contexts which is an unbranded, member-based online space on the socialprotection.org platform.*