The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection –
Linking humanitarian cash and social protection for an effective cash response to the COVID-19 pandemic - Weekly Update
Online community SP in Crisis Contexts

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #20 (10 - 16 August 2020)

Highlights from the week of 10 – 16 August 2020

Webinars and events:

- The Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Sub-Group on Linking HCT and SP held its monthly webinar last week, highlighting the role of local and national actors in linking humanitarian cash and social protection in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar provided the opportunity to hear some fascinating insights from the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Women’s Promotion in Madagascar; from the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society; and from the Municipality of Korca in Albania. The speakers were able to highlight the different points at which engagement between humanitarian and social protection actors/systems was made in response to increased needs emanating from the pandemic and some of the challenges faced. If you missed the live session, click to watch the recording, and access the slide presentation.

- Last week also saw a webinar looking at Disaster Risk Finance for a Better Response to COVID-19 and other risks. With panelists from the World Bank and Center for Disaster Protection, the webinar discussed the following questions: How does this crisis and disaster risk finance agenda link to the social protection agenda? What impact does COVID-19 have on the DRF agenda? In which ways can we support countries to plan better for and financially respond to shocks, including health shocks like COVID-19? What key lessons have we learnt to date from DRF for social protection and how should this inform mechanisms for Covid-19 response? How can we assess the readiness of SP systems for the next crisis? How does the World Bank identify, anticipate and monitor potential compound risks and severe complex crises? How can we ensure that money reaches those who need it the most? The slides and a recording from the presentation are available here.

- Held at the end of July, the slides and recording from the webinar focusing on Social Protection and Child Marriage: Evidence, Practice and Opportunities are now available. Click here to access them. At the webinar, speakers from ODI, UNICEF and Girls not Brides were able to present the current evidence base on the role of social protection in preventing child marriage, and where there are gaps in knowledge. The discussion also focused on how social protection can address child marriage, and what programme design characteristics might support better results in this area, particularly for adolescent girls. Finally, the speakers put forward thoughts on how more effective links between child marriage, child protection, and social protection programming can be made.

- The recording of the FAO and ILO webinar on Reaching rural areas in the social protection response to COVID-19: Opportunities and challenges webinar which was also held at the end of July is now available here. The webinar provided a platform for countries to discuss how social protection can be best leveraged as a tool to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 for rural communities, as well as challenges and opportunities for building back better in terms of longer-term social protection responses, enhancing coordination between social protection and agriculture.

- In conversation and online discussions: Last week’s informal chats unsurprisingly centred on the horrifying explosion in Lebanon, adding yet another crisis in a country already suffering economically and as a result of the pandemic. Conversations included speculation on how stakeholders could ensure the rapid development of a linked HCT/SP response to support those affected and scale up assistance to those already covered by existing systems targeting refugees or those in receipt of social protection support.

Conversations also considered how COVID-19 has forced a monumental shift from face-to-face interaction to remote interaction in order to share knowledge and learning. Improved ways to engage people were discussed as time, capacity and energy to attend the vast range of on-line events and meetings is slowly being eroded.

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

- Publications: A recently published paper reflects on an ongoing initiative of the Regional UN Issue-Based Coalition on Social Protection (IBC-SP). The Group, co-chaired by ILO and UNICEF, was established in June 2020, bringing forward the activities started under the previous Regional UNDG group. The IBC-SP gathers regional experts from ILO, UNICEF, ESCWA, FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, WHO, UNRWA, WFP and the RCO to share knowledge, think and work together on the development of effective and inclusive social protection systems in the MENA/Arab States region, as a key pathway for reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience to shocks and stresses, reducing poverty and achieving the SDGs. The mapping was conducted online starting in March 2020 by regional UN agencies (under the former Regional UNDG Group) and was updated until June 22 by a research team from the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG). Find the paper here.

- Held at the end of July, you can find the notes from the East and Southern Africa Cash Working Group Leads and Co-Leads meeting here. Among a number of interesting topics discussed, the group raised the issue of the different transfer values being provided through government social protection systems and via humanitarian cash transfers and how this could be resolved.

- Briefing notes: Two briefing notes on multi-purpose cash transfers and health among vulnerable Syrian refugees have been published, one for Jordan and the second for Lebanon. The briefing notes summarise findings from a research study.
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conducted from May 2018 through July 2019 to evaluate the impact of MPC on health care-seeking and expenditures by Syrian refugees in both countries. Findings in the two countries differed, with the Jordan study revealing varied impacts of MPC on health stating that MPC should not be considered as a stand-alone health intervention. In Lebanon, the study results reveal that while MPC showed some positive effects, findings were mixed and MPC appears insufficient on its own to address health utilization and expenditures.

- **Technical notes**: UNICEF has recently published a Technical Note on Social Protection for Children and Families in the Context of Migration and Displacement during COVID-19. Amongst other issues, the note recommends that UNICEF and other actors: Ensure inclusive social protection programmes for all children and families on the move – whether they are migrants, refugees, returnees or internally displaced. Where this is not possible, direct assistance should be provided.

- , including humanitarian cash transfers, that can strengthen and influence social protection systems; and, where functioning social protection systems do not exist, new or scaled up humanitarian cash transfers should be designed to address the distinct challenges migrant, displaced and returnee populations face.

### 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 live tracking presents the latest global social protection policy trends based on media announcements. The monitor 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.

- The **Oxford COVID-19 Supertracker** is an online platform established to help policy-makers around the world to navigate the policy responses to tackling the pandemic, and its aftermath around the world. The Oxford ‘Supertracker’ project has compiled data from over 100 sources and made it freely available within one tool.

- The **COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker** monitors policy measures enacted by governments worldwide to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, and highlights responses that have integrated a gender lens. It includes national measures that are directly addressing women’s economic and social security, including unpaid care work, the labour market and violence against women. The tracker is coordinated by UNDP with substantive leadership and technical contributions from UN Women.

### 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: here.

- The Cash Hub platform also provides quarterly updates which provide a useful consolidation of CVA-related topics. Subscribe by clicking on this link.

- 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.

- **CDD** has a page on Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash which includes 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.
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- **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** – provides data and analysis, primarily for humanitarians (but also of relevance for other actors), on the impact of COVID-19 on affected populations.

- Groupe URD has set up a “real-time evaluation observatory” in order to produce synthesis reports, analysis and recommendations in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. The observatory takes lessons from previous years’ analysis of epidemics and explores different components of the current pandemic. Access the observatory [here](#).

**Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the week 16 – 21 August**

The webinars relating to humanitarian cash and social protection links continue at the same pace as seen in recent months. Next week you can attend the following:

- On Wednesday 18 August, SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT will host a webinar exploring the potential role of social protection to respond to the “shadow pandemic” of violence against women and girls during COVID-19 in the Indo-Pacific. It will specifically look at intimate partner violence (IPV), and cash transfers, the most common form of social protection, and focus on research to date.

- Also on 18 August, the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC), NORCAP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) are officially launching the Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies.

- Thursday 19 August sees the second in the series of webinars organized by J-PAL and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, at which Seema Jayachandran will present descriptive data related to COVID-19 that was collected as part of an ongoing evaluation in Punjab that will assess the effectiveness of conditional cash transfers in reducing crop burning, thereby, improving air quality and child health.

- And to end the week, on Friday 20 August, IPC-IG and UNICEF will host a webinar, building on research already presented earlier in the year ([find the webinar recording here](#)). This webinar will discuss social protection trends in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The various pre-crisis social protection landscapes will be discussed, and reflection provided on how COVID-19 has impacted the countries and their emergency responses, also presenting potential paths ahead.

The following week you can sign up for two more webinars:

- The first seeks to complement [the one led by the FAO on rural areas to address these issues](#), building on experiences of COVID-19 responses in some selected Sub-Saharan African countries from both government and non-government actors.

- The second, on Thursday 27th, will look at the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and social protection responses in rural areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Organiser/Host</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18</td>
<td>Launch of the Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher</td>
<td>GNC, NORCAP, and SDC</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies. Zoom Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18</td>
<td>Social Protection and Violence against Women and Girls in the Indo</td>
<td>SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Pacific region: Responding to COVID-19 <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18</td>
<td>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout 8 am EDT. Join <a href="#">here</a> (passwd: 754170)</td>
<td>Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19</td>
<td>The Effects of India’s Covid-19 Lockdown on Agricultural Households</td>
<td>J-PAL and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td><a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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<td>Friday 20</td>
<td>Profiles of the social protection systems of Nepal, Sri Lanka and</td>
<td>UNICEF and IPC-IG</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Afghanistan prior to COVID-19 and snapshot of their responses to the</td>
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<td>pandemic <a href="#">Register here</a></td>
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**Looking further ahead**
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 August</td>
<td>Social protection responses to COVID-19: challenges and opportunities to urban settings in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>IPC-IG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Click <a href="#">here</a> to register.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27 August</td>
<td>Gendered impacts of COVID-19 and social protection responses in rural areas</td>
<td>SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Click <a href="#">here</a> to register.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 2 September</td>
<td>Virtual launch of the Stocktaking Paper on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Protection Please RSVP by emailing Manisha Thomas: <a href="mailto:genevarepresentative@wrcommission.org">genevarepresentative@wrcommission.org</a></td>
<td>European Union, UNHCR, IRC, and WRC/Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection</td>
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Contributions: With thanks to Catherine Chazaly; Thomas Byrne; Jacqueline Frize; Rachid Mouajes; Danger Nhlabatsi; Siphele “KB” Mkhonta; Patricia Rakoninitra; Ilir Zguri; Alketa Zazo.

Please email [gbsubgroupsphct@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 DFID and the Online Community for Social Protection in Crisis Contexts which is an unbranded, member-based online space on the socialprotection.org platform.