

3rd June 2020 Cash Hub Webinar Summary Points

Topic: Social Protection Linkages with Humanitarian CVA

Speaker	Summary Takeaways
<p>David Peppiatt - Director of Humanitarian Cash Assistance, British Red Cross</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the Grand Bargain (GB) commitments the Red Cross Red Crescent is committed to increase the use and scale of humanitarian cash assistance. Where appropriate and relevant linking CVA to social protection (SP) systems is part of this. IFRC co-leads the GB sub-working group linking humanitarian cash to SP with DFID and UNICEF, and you can get an excellent SP weekly email on this topic highlighting key resources and updates, by emailing Zehra Rizvi and asking to be added. • What do we mean by social protection? Government led/operated systems that are setup to alleviate poverty and help vulnerable people cope with crisis and shock. These programmes typically cover social assistance / safety nets / social insurance / labour market protection. • Potential for linkages have been acknowledge for a long-time between SP and humanitarian assistance and this has grown with the increasing use of cash transfers, and we have the opportunity to build on the discussions of linking humanitarian action to development, linking relief to recovery and development, and linking humanitarian cash to SP is part of this discourse. • NS have strategic relevance in Social Protection as auxiliaries to the government, but also through their local network of branches and volunteers. We should be a partner of choice, and a growing number of NS are playing an active role in SP (from targeting to registration, community outreach to cash delivery). • The Socio-Economic impact of COVID19 is significant across the world, so many governments are seeking to expand and adapt their SP measures to address the crisis, so the linkage of SP and humanitarian cash is particularly relevant at this time and to NSs.
<p>Orhan Hacimehmet – Cash-based Assistance Coordinator, Turkish Red Crescent (Türk Kızılay, TRC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey is currently hosting the largest refugee population in the world, and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) programmes through the Emergency, Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme and the Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE) provide the social protection assistance to the refugee population in coordination with government. This is delivered through the Kızılaykart, a debit card. • Turkey has a broad social welfare system which is managed by the Social Assistance Directorate-General under the Ministry of family, labour and social services (MoFLSS) and is implemented through the 1003 Social Assistance Solidarity Foundations spread throughout Turkey. MoFLSS manages all the social welfare data from the different institutions and this helps to facilitate all components of the social welfare system on a national scale.

	<p>There are 43 categories of support, assisting 45 million people. TRC is an auxiliary to the government with 342 branches and plays a role in social protection that can be considered complimentary to government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC engages through advocacy at the leadership level with government and donors on social protection, especially related to the Kizilaykart. And TRC implements the ESSN social protection programme through the Kizilaykart.• MoFLSS has an integrated social protection information system that is comprehensive and stores the live data of the host community and refugees. TRC uses relevant data and plays a hub role with its own information management system, integrated with several institutions, to allow multiple and simultaneous cash programmes (many related to social assistance) to be delivered, through card systems.• TRC helped to guide the selection criteria related to the refugees (including Syrians) for the ESSN project, which was different to the national domestic social assistance eligibility criteria, because of the lack of socio-economic data related to the refugees and different vulnerabilities. TRC also engaged in actively along with MoFLSS and international partners regarding the transfer amount for the ESSN which was different to the domestic social safety net transfer amount, with additional top-up payments to address the needs of specific vulnerabilities.• Analytics related to the ESSN displayed on a dashboard helps to utilise the outreach data to ensure vulnerable groups are included in the ESSN.• The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education is specifically targeted at children, this is about increasing school attendance but also about child protection (reducing protection risks and child labour by keeping children in education), and connects into the MoFLSS and the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) systems.• TRC and IFRC study on the COVID19 impact on lives of refugees benefiting from the ESSN, showed more deaths, many lost jobs and there were increased expenses. But no additional difficulties using the Kizilaykart nor accessing markets. TRC and IFRC are having discussions with the MoFLSS and international stakeholders to make COVID19 top-up payments under the ESSN similar to what is happening to Turkish households under the social welfare programme to help refugees meet basic needs during COVID19.• With COVID19 there has been some changes in the programme implementation: using more remote means such as SMS notifications; delivery of cards to homes of the elderly rather than asking them to travel to collect; PPE to staff and refugees in TRCS services centres and physical distancing; and training of feedback call-centre staff to respond to COVID19 queries.
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Adapting to COVID19 - The Use of Cash & Markets in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement**

<p>Glenn Francis, Director of Montserrat Red Cross, MRC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montserrat Red Cross CARE for Children Program. Currently Montserrat is virus free but borders closed which has huge impact on tourism and the economy. CVA is new for MRC. • The government first started to deliver food packages and has shifted to cash. Government is paying 900USD per month for 3 months to each unemployed adult in a household. But a single mother with 5 kids will get 900USD per month whereas 2 adults with no kids would get 1800USD per month. So more vulnerable can get less. Kids at home are also more expensive. So MRCS intends for selected families with children to give a food voucher programme for 100 USD per month for 3 months per child so a targeted and restricted top-up of the governments social assistance programme. • Why vouchers and not cash? There were issues with the government’s cash programme. Some families went into dispute with the person who got the money deposited into their account (whomever made the application on behalf of the households). • MRC has a seat on the government’s welfare board and safe guarding board. So there has been close collaboration for many years. We wanted the social services data on their clients. Social services agreed to share, but with legal restrictions, social services called up their clients and asked if they could share the data with MRCS. In nearly all cases they agreed. We verify the data to check they meet our criteria. • One significant challenge is that we have raised some expectations, through the social services department who may have told their clients when they were checking they could share the data that MRC would be giving them money, and not all will be eligible. But we will manage this.
<p>Danger Nhlabatsi - Secretary General and Siphelele KB Mkhonta, National Disaster Management Coordinator of Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national society for administrative purposes liaises with the deputy prime-ministers (DPM) office. • Pre-COVID19 the country was faced with a lot of challenges which included food insecurity and HIV/AIDs. • Pre-COVID19, on a quarterly basis the government was providing social protection payments to the elderly and disabled people, through a cash-in-envelope transfer mechanism on the whole. Although a few did receive through bank transfer. • BERCS has been working on food insecurity programmes with CVA for the last few years. WFP and WVI has also been undertaking cash transfers. But government has previously not been in favour of cash transfers. BERCS has been advocating with government for Cash over in-kind to best support communities. • There have been economic impacts of COVID19 due to the lockdown, with some retrenchments and some employees of businesses going without pay. Households reporting price increases and loss of remittances also. • Due to the restriction on movement and assembly, the government tapped into the knowledge of BERCS CVA to look at transfer mechanisms for their normal cash-in-envelope social

	<p>protection programme (elderly and those with disabilities) and decided to adopt mobile money, as BERCS has been using. They have also changed from quarterly payments to monthly payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government was considering in-kind for food distributions in response to COVID19 but through discussion with BERCS has decided to adopt CVA (through mobile money also). – 39 USD per household per month for a period of 3 months. • The national society has worked very hard to advocate for CVA with government, BERCS has been lobbying members of parliament towards cash rather than in-kind by inviting MPs to join BERCS activities and learn more about cash transfers. We talk about cash transfers as the modality we should adopt as a country. We work closely with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and invite them to CVA lessons learned workshops, and since then they have been inviting us to discuss with their superiors and their board on the benefits of CVA over in-kind. The staff from the social welfare department and the Deputy PM has also been invited to understand first hand from the NS activities on the benefits of the CVA modality. Beneficiaries are also invited to share their experience of programmes and express their opinion on modality preferences to MPs and staff from the social welfare department. • BERCS is now known as one of the main players in CVA in the country.
<p>Marga Ledo - British Red Cross CVA/HES roster delegate / previously Cash and Social Protection TWG Chair / previously IFRC Cash, Livelihoods and Social Protection Adviser</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have already heard some good examples of the key role NS are playing in linking Humanitarian CVA with Social Protection. • We have heard through the different presentations a number of different ways that NS can link with social protection system. Whether it is <i>vertical expansion</i> – supporting the same number of people but with an increase benefit, <i>horizontal expansion</i> – when we expand the coverage of the SP system to new people or within the same area select new people to target. <i>Piggybacking</i> delivering humanitarian CVA in parallel, so we capitalise (piggyback) on some elements of the social protection infrastructure to deliver some elements of humanitarian CVA, <i>Design tweaks</i> – where we advise on adjusting the design of existing social protection programme. • The Movement has a new Cash and Social Protection Technical Working Group (TWG) that will be in place for 2 years. Now with COVID19 there are over 180 countries delivering COVID19 support through social protection systems. Many NS are playing a key role as auxiliaries to the government in this. The SP TWG will be mapping what NS are linking humanitarian CVA with SP (outside of COVID19 and during COVID19), highlighting learning and disseminating this knowledge via the Cash Hub platform and other means.

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Prepared by David Dalgado based on what was said in the Webinar and the takeaways may not reflect the top takeaways of the speaker as they see them.