

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Links - Update #05 (03 May 2020)

Highlights this week

- **Good practice**
 - **Local action (aka: localisation):** A [Bangladeshi migrant rights organisation](#) is advocating for the inclusion of migrant workers who have returned home (mainly from MENA and parts of S. Asia), in the expanded SP schemes. This hits on themes of coverage/inclusion, and advocacy within SP/HCT links ('software' is equally important).
 - **Latin America and integration of Venezuelans into SSN:** As above, advocacy efforts are important. From the [RV4 Flash update of 24 April](#): The Regional Integration Sector is aiming to make visible governments' social and economic measures to employ refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the national COVID-19 response, for example in Argentina and Peru, and to provide monetary support for those who had been working in the informal sector. The sector has identified food delivery as one of the only jobs that is not affected by the restrictions and has in fact been essential to many during the pandemic. In a number of countries, many Venezuelan refugees and migrants take on this work, however it exposes them to further risk of contagion.
 - **Gaza CWG Tip Sheet for CVA:** Excellent inclusion of SP links into a very humanitarian product; gentle (and practical) nudges to actors to consider how to link within their existing programming such as for [registration](#) (databases exist; govt ministries have indicated they are happy to share information, [delivery and FSP options](#) (two of the options are SP related; for house to house social services is open to supporting the process and a financial inclusion option that can be considered for the longer term since it takes time to set up for now but can link to the SP system later) and a reminder at the end of the tip sheet to look for the opportunities to link. It also reiterates lessons that we're hearing from the SP side: Use a good enough approach for now and figure out how to repurpose existing programmes and funds to respond. Good examples on the government side from S. Asia on using what you have can be [found here](#) from CG Dev.
- **Challenges**
 - How can a country include migrants and other populations into safety net schemes? We have an [excellent example from Portugal](#) where they changed legislation (till July) to include anyone with a pending immigration application (including asylum seekers) into their SP expansion and pre-Covid attempts in Cameroon, Greece and other examples via UNHCR for inclusion of refugees ([see here for examples and guidance](#)) plus the example from Argentina/Peru above with regards to Venezuelan refugees. Any other 'live' examples/emerging practice and attempts people have to share would be useful for advocacy purposes realising that 'linking' cannot always happen and doesn't have to happen; coordination on and taking into account what government expansions or 'regular' systems look like are important and can be used as starting (and for now end) points in order to 'do no harm'. This is the other big theme emerging this week in various forums/discussions.
 - **Competition for resources:** Not focused on money but on human resources. One of the findings from the KML assessment carried out late last year was that not enough 'mixed profile' specialists exist; this issue is exacerbated with the current crisis. [Suggestions from various](#) (informal) fora are seen as opportunities for agencies to share the limited resources i.e: joint funding for one person sitting across agencies; global, regional or country level), increased sharing of information/products that are being created (and for more joint creation of overall products that can be adapted for agency specific needs in house) and a scheme for 'learning on the job' to increase the pool of specialists within agencies and independent consultants.
- **The gaps in linking SP/CVA for humanitarian actors** (light touch and gathered from various sources):
 - The gaps highlighted in previous newsletters still remain (leadership, coordination, delivery, joint funding, the need for hum and dev actors to understand how each side functions). [The conversations are moving to solutions](#) (see above on challenges). Also, on funding: see below in looking ahead section for a webinar on this topic for SP.
 - If you/your agency are experiencing a need not listed above, please get in touch. We are gathering needs of humanitarian actors in this space in order to (jointly) develop solutions; in order to do so we need the evidence that it IS a need across multiple stakeholders and thus requires resources (time) dedicated to providing solutions.

Articles/Blogs/Research

- **World Bank Blogs:** [COVID-19 will hit the poor hardest. Here's what we can do about it.](#) April 23. The number of extreme poor in the poorest countries that are served by the World Bank's International Development Association is projected to increase by 17 million. At the same time, 22 million of the projected new poor will be in middle-income countries. There are projected to be 10 million new extremely poor people in fragile and conflict-affected economies. The blog offers a few ways in which to tackle this (including social safety nets which it acknowledges won't get the coverage required and hard to reach places will be a struggle) but forgets to mention 'the nexus' or the need for partnerships to tackle such enormity as part of

the solutions. As an important partner to governments and thus at the table, the World Bank is a well-positioned actor in country to create the space for different stakeholders at the table (i.e; humanitarians).

- [The UN sets out a plan for socio economic recovery](#) and it's based on a recognition of the nexus (SDG funds being repurposed), importance of partnerships and leveraging resources which are and will remain limited for the scale required. Social protection linkages/support and cash transfers feature as approaches and tools within the plan.
- [CALP twitter thread on role of cash \(including SP links\) in the response](#): Good one to review (you don't need to be on twitter to do so); the 10 points within the thread are taken from across the CaLP network and are being drafted into a position/advocacy paper and reference part of the UN plan above.
- [Digital public works; A viable policy option?](#) This blog from [jobsanddevelopment.org](#) (they are World Bank affiliated—and share quite a few donors and target populations with humanitarians) makes a good argument on how we can prepare for this. We have already seen many big government run public works programmes being repurposed (vehicles for unconditional cash to support physical distancing and ensure people continue to be paid). Food for thought here not just on the CFW side but also livelihoods/markets (and other cash plus) options. The SP/HCT links tend to focus on social assistance (and MPCA) but the social insurance and labour market aspects of country SP systems are just as important for us to link to with HCT.
- [Twitter thread on protecting workers](#): If you missed the SP.org webinar last week on informal workers, Valentina Barca has put main points (with screen shots of slides and links to readings) in this thread. Great for examples, projections and key takeaway is that there will still remain a gap in coverage.

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's light touch. Initial focus is on countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. It is done in coordination with other mapping initiatives. We're contacting people in country to fill it in (or please reach out to us). In some cases, we're facilitating calls between the different actors in country to start that process of discussion. **New this week**: Updates from Iraq, Myanmar, S. Sudan, Haiti and Yemen to be added soon (active information collection is on-going with the humanitarian actors in country). Contact [Zehra](#) for info/set up a call.
- The [SP links weekly email](#) This lists the social protection programmes (social assistance, social insurance and labour markets) being expanded in response to COVID. **As of May 1, 2020**, a total of 159 countries (8 more since last week) have planned, introduced or adapted 752 social protection measures in response to COVID-19. This week's new entries include [Congo](#), [Dominica](#), [Gambia](#), [Somalia](#), [South Sudan](#), [Sudan](#), [Turks and Caicos](#), and [Tuvalu](#).

Social assistance transfers keep remaining the most widely used class of interventions (60% of global responses). These are complemented by significant action in social insurance and labor market-related measures (supply-side measures). Among safety nets, cash transfer programs remain the most widely used safety net intervention by governments. Overall, cash transfers include 244 COVID-related measures representing one-third (32.4%) of COVID-related social protection programs.

There is a lot of rich information within the first few pages (including guest editor reflections on social insurance and labor market responses). Highly recommended to take the 15 minutes to go through this. Also, important to note the entries of Somalia and S. Sudan; Somalia has launched its first social safety net (with provisions for COVID forthcoming) and S. Sudan is extending coverage of their existing scheme.

- The **IMF has a [policy tracker](#)**; it is different from the SP links above. It gives an overview of the COVID situation in country and lists out the fiscal, monetary/macro financial and exchange rate/balance of payments interventions being discussed or implemented.
- **Social registries**: Charlie Goldsmiths and Associates have [google.doc to crowd source](#) to map social protection information management systems (Sub Saharan Africa information only).
- The **WFP office in the Caribbean** has a [dashboard \(for the Caribbean\)](#) on what SP measures countries are taking.

Resources Update

- [Socialprotection.org](#) has set up a space on [Social protection responses to #COVID19](#) with a whole series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. The [newsletter](#) is a great resource to be able to see what's being reported in your region/country. The GB sub group has a dedicated community page. Check it out [here](#).
- **CaLP** has a dedicated space on [CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions](#) and there is a CaLP [crowd sourced document](#) which has a section on SP/Cash. Also see [CaLP produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID](#). Page 9 is specific to SP/HCTs. See also this [excellent and practical tool](#) to assess the connection between CVA and SP.

- **CCD** has a page on [Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash](#) with country case studies and guidance. **NEW:** [Ethiopia case study](#) with really great granular level details, lessons and results from a year into the project.
- **Foundational webinars:** The [first webinar](#) from GB 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. Access the [recording](#) and the [slide presentation](#). A healthy part of the webinar was dedicated to Q&A and examples were presented by the panellists within the context of COVID what measures could be taken on linking SP/HCT.

Looking Ahead

| DATES | ACTIVITY | Organiser |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|
| 05 May | Webinar: Social Protection Financing in the wake of COVID 19 and Beyond. 9 am EDT. Register here . | SP.Org/GIZ/DFAT/IPC-IG |
| 06 May | Weekly SP/HCT Hangout 0800 EDT. Join here (passwd: 754170) | Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier |
| Early May | Product: Grand Bargain Cash Sub Group paper launched | GB cash sub group |
| 19 May | Webinar: Caribbean: CVA considerations for Hurricane Preparedness (includes SP links within broader CVA). 10 am EDT | CaLP Americas |
| 21 May | Webinar: GB sub group series webinar “Linking SP and humanitarian CVA – what do we really know and where to start? Findings from the CaLP commissioned high level briefing paper at the time of COVID-19” | GB cash sub group/CaLP/GFFO |

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Please email Zehra Rizvi (f.zehrarizvi@gmail.com) for feedback/amendments/contributions. You can also [join the CaLP d groups](#), where many of these discussions are taking place. They are cross posted, as possible, on the [SP.org Crisis in Community page](#).

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.

