GB cash sub-group
Online community SP in Crisis Contexts
SP HCT Links

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfer Links - Update #07 (11 to 17 May 2020)

Highlights this week

- **What is the Grand Bargain Cash Sub Group on Linking Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers?** Given the readership of this newsletter (and the explosion of work in this area), we thought it would be useful to give a short (re) introduction to the GB cash sub group. A workshop was held in April 2019 for the group (report here) and the ToRs for the group are here (for 2018-2019). The co-leads are IFRC, UNICEF and DFID.
  - Purpose: To establish a central point of discussion and engagement to define, coordinate, advocate for stronger links between humanitarian cash and social protection in preparedness and response across the humanitarian sector and its implications for development ex-post and ex-ante crisis.
  - Description: An informal core group of humanitarian cash and social protection actors, stemming from the Grand Bargain cash workstream, which meets as peers to collaborate on encouraging and equipping the humanitarian sector to embrace and increase capacities in linking humanitarian cash and social protection systems in crises. This group will consult, inform and provide guidance to the cash workstream of the Grand Bargain.
  - What: There is a work plan which is being revised (see workshop report for initial work plan). KML is **one aspect** of the work plan and work has included: this newsletter, the webinar series, discussion threads, light touch mapping (all linked below). Planned work includes continuation of the above and the development of case studies (please reach out if you have ideas on themes/examples to showcase/require support to develop your own), and linking to other initiatives as required. *The KML work is meant to amplify and support the work of members (and any actors working in the space) so please do reach out if we can provide that service.*
- **Good practice**
  - **The SP links weekly email** (summarised below each week), has a section on how governments are tackling the challenge of reaching people (beneficiary lists). Brazil, Ecuador, Jordan, Pakistan and Peru are highlighted as short case studies. Coverage, adequacy and comprehensiveness of existing lists have a lot to do with how quickly a government can reach people. As noted in the paper, *the crisis has highlighted the need to address gaps in coverage and in particular, the large 'missing middle' that falls between social assistance and insurance.* There is a case to be made (as per the examples from the CaLP twitter thread below and the article on machine learning for all actors to be working together to support the efforts on coverage (the missing middle and in places with incomplete lists, everyone who is being left off). Another aspect to explore through the case studies is how eligibility is being determined; mostly it seems to be on very basic socio economic indicators. Useful to take note as humanitarians are used to strict eligibility criteria and some flexibility in this case is warranted.
  - **This CaLP twitter thread** from the Geneva Based Cash working group meeting where different Cash Working Groups from Ecuador, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Philippines and Bangladesh, presented on their work; MANY great examples from the field on partners across the spectrum working together to deliver cash such as humanitarian actors engaging with the World Bank to inform social safety net transfer value & negotiate lighter KYC regulations with the Central Bank to ensure quick scale-up, the Mali cash working group is working with the government to connect humanitarian cash transfer with social protection initiatives to ensure that coverage expands and much more.
- **The knowledge gaps in linking SP/HCT** (light touch and gathered from various sources):
  - The gaps highlighted in previous newsletters remain (leadership, coordination, delivery, joint funding, the need for hum and dev actors to understand how each side functions). New: As cash transfers are the go-to response for both governments and international actors, the space is becoming 'crowded' and duplication of efforts (at the global level) is occurring. There's a call for better and more systematised ways of sharing information and leveraging efforts.

Articles/Blogs/Research

- **Podcast: How can we best protect the most vulnerable in the developing world during the COVID-19 pandemic? 24 April.** A short podcast (20 minutes) from VoxDev on how governments can look at alternative ways of targeting; relevant for both SP and humanitarian actors. Quote: *Countries must build on the unique structures and programmes that they already have in place to guarantee a timely response. This being said, there are a number of concepts that policymakers should take into account including community-based targeting, self-targeting, and temporary insurance subsidies for the poor.*
- **Article: Machine learning can help get COVID-19 aid to those who need it most. By Josh Blumenstock. 14 May.** Examples of governments of Togo, Uganda and Bangladesh looking at mobile money as an option to scale quickly but also, big data/machine learning and how to reach people. The article, correctly, points out the data protection risks and the need for partnerships, communication and coordination across the board (i.e In Uganda, the non-governmental organization

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GiveDirectly is working with the local phone company to help direct government assistance to subscribers who live in certain vulnerable communities---LinkedIn conversation happening on it as well to connect to partners)

- **Blog: Going Remote: Learning from Aid Practices in Somalia and Sudan for the Covid-19 Crisis** by Susanne Jaspers. 4 May: There is a massive push on agencies wanting to use mobile money and conduct remote programming. This blog makes us stop and consider the implications of this with a Do No Harm lens. Also, as colleagues at GSMA have noted elsewhere: mobile money is not always the solution. Not every place can be a Kenya (forthcoming, CaLP Caribbean Lessons Learned).

- **ILO Policy Brief; COVID 19 Crisis and the Informal Economy, May 2020.** This 8-page note is useful to read for suggestions on what can be done now and what is to come. This is an area that humanitarians work in quite a bit and workers in the informal economy are a big concern for governments and how they can be reached.

- **Article: How to protect women from violence under lockdowns? Send cash. By Yvonne Jooste. 06 May.** The article provides evidence of the use of cash transfers (from government) that have a reduction in violence against women. It also gives current examples of the referrals being set up (which ~~are~~ should be part and parcel for responses that use cash). Excerpt: *Such programmes are needed urgently. As the Centre for Global Development says, if governments and the international community do not act soon, "women and children will pay the price, both now and in the future".*

- **Report: Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Populations Benefitting From the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) Programme. IFRC. 12 May.** The purpose of the survey was to gather data on the economic and social impact of COVID-19 on the lives of refugees benefitting from the ESSN programme to inform future implementation. Pages 8-10 describe the Government's impressive scaling of social protection programming in response to COVID 19 (for citizens) and lays out the effects of COVID 19 for refugees and their increased needs that the current ESSN amount is unable to meet.

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. **Update:** Haiti information has been added. 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 15, 2020,** a total of 181 countries, 10 more than last week, have a total of 870 social protection measures (figure 1). Details on such measures are available in the country briefs section of the paper. This week's new countries and territories include Afghanistan, Maldives, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands (US), Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and West Bank and Gaza.

  Social assistance transfers remain the most widely used class of interventions (60.1% of global responses). **Both cash-based and in-kind transfers have been growing steadily**, with cash accounting for a much larger number of measures. While cash only accounts for half of overall social assistance, this is because other measures such as public works and utility waivers also account for a significant non- cash share (26.5%). Cash-based measures are over twice those of in-kind programs. About 56% of cash transfer measures (148 out of 264) are new programs in 104 countries, while one-fourth of measures (24.6%) are one-off payments. A significant number of new in-kind programs (83) has been also been introduced, accounting for about 69% of total in-kind measures.

  The paper continues to provide information on social insurance and labour market interventions (both area using cash as well), and as highlighted above under good practice, there is an excellent analysis on how the challenge of expanding beneficiary lists is being tackled by governments.

- **The tracker of all trackers:** This started as a twitter thread and now has a github 'home'; it's a collection of COVID-19 policy trackers and data. It covers cross-country research in the areas of non-pharmaceutical interventions, economic and social policy responses, public attitudes, politics and media coverage. Contact Lukas Lehner for more info/to contribute.

- **ILO Social Protection Monitor:** This presents the latest global social protection policy trends based on media announcements. This update covers January to June 2019. And this live tracking is updated weekly.

Resources Update

- **New:** For anyone supporting governments, ILO has a rapid SP calculator for COVID 19. It's excellent as its automated and can support decision makers with quick numbers based on their context.

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- **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 cash sub group has a dedicated community page on the OC: Social Protection in Crisis Contexts.
- **CaLP** has a dedicated space on CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions and CaLP produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID. (page 9 is specific to SP/HCTs).
- **CCD** has a page on Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash with country case studies and guidance.
- **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.

Looking Ahead		
DATES	**ACTIVITY**	**Organiser**
19 May	**Webinar:** Winds of change: Lessons and recommendations on the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for the Caribbean Atlantic Hurricane Season). Register here. 10 am EDT	CaLP Americas
20 May	**Weekly SP/HCT Hangout** 0800 EDT. Join here (passwd: 754170)	Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier
May	**Product:** Grand Bargain Cash Sub Group paper launched	GB cash sub group
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". 8 am EDT. Register here.	GB cash sub group/CaLP/GFFO

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Please email 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
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.*