

## Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfer Links - Update #09 (25 to 31 May 2020)

### Highlights this week

- **Grand Bargain Cash Sub Group on Linking Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers Statement on increasing links between SP and HCTs in response to C-19:** The four [pager](#) (under key documents on the GB sub group page in the OC for SP in crisis contexts) builds on the GB sub-group 1 pager from last week. It's signed by a collective of UN agencies, INGOs, RCRC Movement and donors and makes recommendations to governments, donors, development and humanitarian partners:
  1. To increase provision of cash assistance, where appropriate, to help populations directly or indirectly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
  2. For the cash response of humanitarian organisations to consciously align with, build on, complement and fill gaps in national social protection programmes and systems, where appropriate, taking into account humanitarian principles, in order to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable, leaving no one behind.
- **Grand Bargain Cash Workstream's Subgroup on Gender and Cash Statement:** This call at the time of COVID-19 is for ensuring response is gender disaggregated and gender sensitive. It includes a specific mention on social protection.
- **Resource (Social Protection Approaches to COVID—SPACE):** excellent resources that you can read about in this useful [twitter thread by Valentina Barca](#). The resources can all be [found on SP.org](#) as well.
- **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).
  - **Solutions:** The need for coaching and mentoring is being discussed widely as required along with 'technocratic' solutions. The discussion is increasingly about soft skills (how do you teach someone to be nice?), and agencies are trying to develop 'trainings' around this (more technocratic solutions). Some suggestions have included looking at diversity trainings for ideas that can be adapted along with paying very close attention to the World Economic Forums work on the "[Reskilling Revolution](#)" that was launched at the start of 2020 and is being accelerated because of C-19. As it states: *There's a common misconception that we'll all need to develop highly technological or scientific skills to succeed. Yet while it will be necessary for people to work with technology, **we're also seeing a growing need for people to develop specialized skills for how they interact with each other.** These include creativity, collaboration and interpersonal dynamics, as well as skills related to specialized sales, human resources, care and education roles.*

### Articles/Blogs/Research

- **Blog:** [What makes the World Bank so influential—its money or its ideas?](#) Excellent blog introducing the WB report and important for humanitarians to keep in mind what an influencing role can look like (and...it's the ideas that makes the WB so influential as per the findings)
- **Report from GSMA:** Policy and regulatory recommendations to facilitate mobile humanitarian and social assistance during COVID-19. Important report to check out especially with the explosion of mobile money and the increased used to enforce and aid in physical distancing measures.
- The [SP links weekly email](#) which has been tracking SP interventions has been on a break and this past week was back to its pre-C19 function of providing an excellent round up of the research, papers and resources on social protection at large. Recommended to check out as it's short and already offers highlights to look for (we aren't going to summarise a summary).
- **Report from Inter-American Development Bank:** [LAC Post COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities for the Caribbean Countries](#). The report identifies the medium and long-term priorities for each of the Bank's borrowing countries in a post-COVID-19 region, structuring them along three areas: (i) productive policies; (ii) social policies and (iii) macro-fiscal policies. See page 11, Bahamas. This is a 'development' side publication and on readiness for disaster response, it mentions investments on this aspect along with shock responsive social protection.
- **Video. SDG Joint Fund Launch:** From the Caribbean as well. The COVID-19 response work plans now also include:
  - Scaling up existing public assistance to increase both the reach and level of support offered to those who need it most;
  - Conducting assessments to assist in determining the indirect impacts of COVID-19 (rapid assessments in both countries, plus microsimulation model for different/vertical expansion scenarios in St. Lucia) and identifying those in need and respective response activities (e.g. data collection and coherence in St. Lucia for social assistance programmes);

- and strengthening the National Insurance Scheme of Barbados to determine the impacts on its financial sustainability, enhance its information management and monitoring capacity and facilitate public access and improve communication.

## 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. Contact [Zehra](#) for info/set up a call. **NEW:** This past week Uganda has provided updated information.
- **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: Course.** A short **4-hour** course that provides concrete and practical guidance on social protection to bridge the humanitarian and development interventions through effective short- and long-term response to multivariate shocks, protracted crises and displacement. The European Commission (EC) has created the [Guidance Package \(GP\) on Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus \(SPaN\)](#). The SPaN GP is based on the current body of knowledge, including brief definitions, and processes of social protection approaches in most challenging settings. The variety of contexts covered by the GP also includes countries where social protection systems are nationally led and those without any structures in place. Designed to provide insights and strategies for humanitarian and development staff, this e-learning course introduces and reflects knowledge from the GP's materials. A link to the course is provided, among other channels, by two online communities related to the SPaN initiative on [Socialprotection.org](#) and [Capacity4dev.eu](#). They also provide further reading and serve as forums for discussions to build practitioner's knowledge on this evolving subject.
- **New: Webinar. Impact of COVID-19 on public works programs: policy options in the short and medium term.** [Catch the recording](#) especially if you work in cash for work programmes geared towards infrastructure but also, so much more explored on how to leverage existing public works programmes and the entry points for social protection more broadly.
- **New: Webinar from UN Disaster Risk Reduction Office in Asia Pacific.** This webinar explored how countries in the region are leveraging social protection systems in relation to the COVID pandemic, highlighting the challenges and successes to date. It looked at lessons from the current crisis, including how to ensure social protection systems are in place before a shock occurs. It explored financing options to expand social protection coverage, especially to help reduce disaster-related vulnerability. Cash transfer a key feature within the webinar.
- [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
02 June	<b>Webinar:</b> Identification and registration of beneficiaries for SP responses in the wake of COVID-19: challenges and opportunities 9 am EDT. Register <a href="#">here</a>	Sp.org COVID series
03 June	<b>Webinar: Red Cross Cash Hub SP and Cash.</b> 8 am EDT. Register <a href="#">here</a>	Red Cross Movement.
03 June	<b>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</b> 8 am EDT. Join <a href="#">here</a> (passwd: 754170)	Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier

**Contributions:** With thanks to *Marie Christina Dankmeyer, Zena Mouawad, Valentina Barca, Daniel Longhurst, Simon Levine, Catherine Chazaly, Yiannis Theodoru, Sopihe Pongracz, Laura Giles Alvarez, Nupur Kukrety, Ana Pantelic, Loretta Heiber Girardet, the CaLP team and others* for providing information and ideas for the newsletter, mapping and needs.

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://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](https://socialprotection.org) platform.*

