

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #13 (22 – 28 June 2020)

Highlights from the week of 22-28 June 2020

- **Webinars:** Hosted by Ground Truth Solutions (GTS), last week's webinar on "*What can people-centred CVA look like during a pandemic?*" gave some useful insights into different approaches to accountability. During the webinar CaLP highlighted that whilst there is an increase in attempts to link large scale CVA with social protection systems the need for improved accountability remains. This was echoed by GTS who called for strengthened recipient voices, potentially through empathy mapping, as part of responding to the pandemic with an emphasis on the need for both rigour and practicality with large scale CVA. World Vision International shared its approach to "vertically integrating" citizen centred data, and the model used to link locally-driven monitoring and data to higher-level decision makers – an essential approach when linking HCT and SP.
- **Learning events:** United Edge (Indonesia) held a learning event with panelists from CaLP; UNHCR Bangladesh; GoodDollar; and Planet Indonesia where discussions focused on innovations in relation to the provision of cash as part of a universal basic income scheme as well as for emergency transfers. Find the panelist presentations [here](#).
- **New HCT and SP links:** On 25 June the World Bank approved a US\$374 million project to provide cash support to 270,000 poor and vulnerable households, including those who have recently lost their source of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in Jordan. [The Emergency Cash Transfer COVID-19 Response Project](#) benefits from co-financing from the DFID. The emergency cash transfers will use the delivery platform built for Takaful, a digitized cash transfer programme for the poor launched in May 2019 alongside Jordan's National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) for 2019-2025. Emergency cash transfer recipients will be selected from the Takaful database, which includes up-to-date and verified socio-economic data for over one million households, using the data exchange platform of the National Unified Registry (NUR). Further information can be found [here](#).
- **In conversation and online discussions:** In the last week, informal discussions on linking humanitarian cash transfers and social protection have centred on medium term concerns relating to assuring livelihoods protection and trying to connect shorter and longer-term funding to ensure continuity of support. The gaps which have featured in previous newsletters (coordination, delivery, common understanding by development and humanitarian actors of how each other functions) remain ongoing subjects of discussion.
- The Markets in Crisis (MiC) online discussion series on market-based programming (MBP) in the COVID era continues this week. Concerns were raised in relation to humanitarian actors in some contexts struggling to access funding to respond to the crisis with cash and via MPB (which would facilitate links with existing and emerging SP systems) and instead providing in-kind/direct assistance. A number of contributors suggested core messages for key stakeholders to try and encourage increased support for MBP.

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

- **Blogs:** A recent blog by the IMF showcases the speed at which CVA transfers have been made during COVID-19 responses in Togo and Morocco and goes on to discuss approaches adopted by governments providing individual and household support via cash transfers when trying to boost social protection systems and expand coverage. The blog draws attention to the effectiveness of mobile money to support transfers at scale – an approach with which the humanitarian sector is well familiar. You can access the blog [here](#).
- In another blog later in the week, the IMF shared its outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean raising awareness of the intensification of the pandemic in the region. The blog reports of some 100,000 deaths to date with infections and deaths per capita increasing to levels similar to Europe and the USA. The blog stresses the immediate need for fiscal policy to continue protecting both lives and livelihoods – issues of significant importance to the work of humanitarian and development actors alike – calling on policy makers to find ways to reach different segments of society. Click [here](#) to link to the blog (in English and Spanish).
- Isabel Whisson's blog on [socialprotection.org](#) discusses a collaborative approach to expanding graduation programming for the poor, acknowledging the rapid roll-out of cash transfers in response to the pandemic and pointing out the simultaneous need to consider working with governments to adapt SP systems to address the longer-term question of how households will be equipped to enter (or return) to sustainable livelihoods. Find the blog [here](#).
- The International Institute of Social Studies has also focused on the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods, presenting some of the challenges faced in the Philippines with the government's emergency social protection response. Read more [here](#).

- The Center for Disaster Protection has released a [blog](#) presenting tracking data on humanitarian and development funding flows for the COVID-19 response (see below for further info). The analysis shows that countries with the highest expected poverty impacts from the crisis have received less per capita, showing that to date, funds have been directed towards economic losses as opposed to those places where poverty is likely to increase as a result of the pandemic.
- **COVID-19 funding flows:** The last week has seen the release of data in relation to funding for humanitarian and development responses to the pandemic. Firstly, the UN's FTS has released an update of contributions to the COVID-19 humanitarian response which includes contributions specific to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) which is 19% funded to date. More detail can be found [here](#).
The Center for Disaster Protection followed this up with its first update shedding light on commitments to humanitarian (UN appeals, based on FTS data) and development responses to the pandemic and related financial disbursements. The data, which can be found [here](#), shows that 52 of the 54 countries targeted in the UN's COVID-19 GHRP have received funding to date (although the appeal target is far from being reached).
- **Research:** Innovision Consulting has undertaken some interesting primary research on low-income occupational groups in **Bangladesh** (including micro-merchants; artisans; people with disabilities; migrant male workers; and ready-made garment workers) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on their livelihoods. The research also reviews the Government of Bangladesh's COVID-19 economic stimulus package and the impact of the pandemic on agent banking which shows that some agents have had to close down during the pandemic, impacting their customers based in remote locations. While other agents have continued to work they have struggled to physically access banks. Agents have noted an increase in the need for cash withdrawals and loans in remote areas and a reduction in the receipt of remittances. The impact on bank agents and their ability to access cash and transfer it to remote areas where digital transfers aren't possible is significant for HCTs and SP transfers alike. Find the research [here](#).
- **Media features, articles and Op Eds:** Although not directly focused on the links between HCT/SP systems, the broader impact of government emergency relief transfers and how these have had a positive impact in boosting consumption and stimulating markets in Korea, the USA and Japan is discussed in an article on Korea.net. [Here](#). IFPRI highlights similar findings from India: [Op-Ed here](#)
- World Vision has published an [article](#) emphasizing that only socially accountable SP assistance beyond humanitarian CVA will protect generations of children from the aftershocks of COVID-19, and that substantive investment is required now, before it is too late. This has been followed up with a **policy brief** calling for the establishment and enhancing of child-sensitive social protection measures, such as cash-transfer schemes, in order to reach the most vulnerable children and families, regardless of status in the light of COVID-19. The brief calls for flexible funding to allow implementing agencies to adapt programming to accommodate needs in rapidly changing local contexts. [Child-Sensitive Social Protection Policy Brief](#)
- **Guidance:** In an effort to share strategies and examples for field practitioners in the light of COVID-19, CaLP in collaboration with Plan International and with contributions from field offices of WFP, CRS, Plan International, UNHCR and the Cash Working Group of Colombia, has produced a second video in the series discussing Remote Market Assessment and Monitoring. The video can be viewed in English <https://youtu.be/FWlpGJUO3RE> and in French https://youtu.be/_18b27NtMV0 (and if you missed the first video, please find it here [adapting CVA delivery mechanisms](#))
- Socialprotection.org published their weekly newsletter on Thursday, providing a comprehensive overview of upcoming and past webinars, blogs, briefings, reports and media features on social protection issues in light of COVID-19 from around the world - [Newsletter #14](#)
- The [SP links weekly email](#) came out on Friday highlighting research and practice from the world of social protection. Of particular shared interest to humanitarian and development practitioners will be the links to 3 new safety net blogs; guidance and data on humanitarian assistance; the COVID-19 effects in urban Africa; and an impact evaluation of cash grants for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
- **Webinars:** For those of you who missed the webinar on *Strengthening CVA and COVID-19 Responses* jointly hosted by CaLP and Community World Service Asia on 17 June, please find here a link to a recording of the webinar [here](#). The webinar highlighted some of the basic issues around CVA in general and also emphasized the increased alignment of humanitarian CVA and social protection systems underscoring the need for increased coordination between humanitarian and development actors as a prerequisite to ensuring effectiveness.

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 countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. It is done in coordination with other mapping initiatives. Contact [Lois Austin](#) (who recently replaced Zehra Rizvi as the KML consultant for the GB Cash Workstream sub group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection) for info/set up a call.
- **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.

Regular and Ongoing Resources

- **Socialprotection.org** has set up a space on [Social protection responses to #COVID19](#) which provides access to a whole series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. Their [newsletter](#) is a great resource to be able to see what's being reported in your region/country. 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](#). (page 9 is specific to SP/HCTs).
- **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](#).
- **CCD** has a page on [Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash](#) with 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. (Note the permanent change in time to one hour later than previous hangouts.)
- **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 – Webinars/Events

The week ahead sees a number of webinars (listed in the table below) continuing to highlight issues relating to migration that have been the focus of the last two weeks. The topic of digital payments in **Colombia** will be the subject of a webinar hosted by the Better than Cash Alliance early in the week, looking at how Colombia has so rapidly provided digital financial transfers to nearly 3 million households, which have been severely affected by the pandemic, of which 1 million are first time users of mobile money. Then mid-week, as part of its "Adapting to COVID19 - The Use of Cash in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement" series, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Cash Hub will host a webinar to explore the links between Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) for CVA during the COVID-19 pandemic, with examples from **Kenya** and **Bangladesh**. This ties in nicely with last week's webinar hosted by Ground Truth Solutions on people-centred CVA during a pandemic.

DATES	ACTIVITY	Organiser
Tuesday 30 June	Migrants and COVID-19 – Emerging Practices. Register here . Esta sesión será traducida simultáneamente del inglés al español.	SP.org COVID 19 Series. GIZ
Tuesday 30 June	Public-Private Collaboration in COVID-19 Emergency Digital Payments Response: Lessons from Colombia Click Here to Join	Better than Cash Alliance
Wednesday 1 July	Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Register here	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
Wednesday 1 July	Weekly SP/HCT Hangout at the following time: 09.00 EDT/13.00 GMT/14.00 UK/15.00 Geneva/16.00 Amman. Join here (password: 754170)	Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier
Tuesday 7 July	Adaptación de programas de transferencias de efectivo en América Latina y el Caribe para responder a la pandemia COVID-19 Register here	WFP IPC-IG GIZ DFAT

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

Contributions: With thanks to *Simon Levine, Evan Inniss-Springer, Christine Dankmeyer, Scherrie Griffin, Linda Raftree Sonja Davidovic, Glenn Gottselig, Alejandro Werner, Delphine Prady, Herve Tourpe, Isabel Whisson, Emma Lynn Dadap-Cantal, Andrew M Fischer, Charmaine G Ramos, Nupur Kukrety, and CaLP's Global Capacity Building Team.*

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.

