

## Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #14 (29 June – 5 July 2020)

### Highlights from the week of 29 June to 5 July 2020

- **Webinars:** Hosted by [socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org), last week's webinar on *Migrants and COVID-19 – Emerging Practices*, showcased INGO and government efforts to alleviate the socio-economic impacts and risks from COVID-19 on migrants. This was the third webinar in a series looking at the issue from a forced migration perspective. Find the [recording](#), and access the [slide presentation](#) through these links.
- The Red Cross and Red Crescent Cash Hub and their CEA hub continued the theme of community engagement and accountability seen in webinars the previous week, hosting a webinar on *CVA & CEA - Adapting to COVID19: the Use of Cash and Markets in the RCRC Movement*. Interesting examples were presented from Kenya and Bangladesh, highlighting practical and effective approaches that have been adopted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in these countries. A link to the recording will be available in next week's newsletter.
- **In conversation and online discussions:** Last week's Markets in Crisis (MiC) online discussion series on market-based programming in the COVID era focused on protection, inclusion and market interventions. One of the weekly questions posed to the online group is directly linked to the issues of linkages between humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) and social protection (SP), asking "What adaptations/interventions are happening in your programming that link inclusion and market-based interventions?" Keep an eye out for responses that may help to inform your own interventions.
- Informal discussions this week focused on specific countries including Somalia and how the country's recently developed social protection policy might be brought to life in relation to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19; and the challenges of designing effective responses to the pandemic during a time of transition in Sudan.

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

- **Blogs:** A recent IMF blog highlights the need to address inequalities in terms of access to healthcare and basic services in Asia. The blog calls for an expansion of social safety nets to extend unemployment insurance coverage to informal workers whose income-earning capacities have been severely affected by the pandemic. Find the blog [here](#).
- **Calls for action:** The Regional Platform on SP and the Regional CWG for West and Central Africa have put out a call to increase the uptake of cash transfers to ensure rapid response in case of shocks. The paper, which can be found [here](#), emphasizes the relevance of CVA whilst also recognizing the need to build and strengthen SP systems in the region in order to mitigate the short and long-term impacts of COVID-19. The paper goes on to talk of some of the challenges that humanitarian actors have faced in trying to upscale humanitarian CVA in response to the needs emanating from the pandemic.
- **Research: Innovation for Poverty Action** has launched a hub called *Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVR)*. The hub aims to generate rigorous evidence, advising governments and bringing together partners across the research-to-policy sector to rapidly provide decision-makers with data and evidence to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. The research focuses on seven key areas some of which are of significant relevance for humanitarian and development actors including: improvement of social safety net responses; keeping children safe, healthy and learning; improving women's health, safety and economic empowerment; building resilience and protecting the financial health of families and individuals; and improving humanitarian response. Further information can be found [here](#).
- **Media features, articles and Op Eds:** Quartz Africa published an interesting article at the end of June highlighting the development of social welfare programmes by a number of African governments in relation to the pandemic. The article, which can be accessed [here](#), sheds light on approaches adopted including the provision of cash transfers, prize freezes and food distribution schemes in a number of countries including Chad, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, the Seychelles, South Africa and Togo.
- The Brookings Institution highlights some of the immediate and longer-term social safety net gaps that have been unearthed in light of COVID-19 in the USA in a brief article which can be found [here](#) and which may be of relevance in other countries.
- **Guidance:** CaLP has provided an update of its [Readiness Checklist for CWGs in light of the COVID-19 response](#) (the original version was published in May). Amongst other topics there is a specific section dedicated to working with and alongside social protection systems.
- 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 #15](#)

- The [SP links weekly email](#) came out on Friday and provided a compilation of reading from the previous 2020 weekly newsletters, highlighting research and practice from the world of social protection with a specific section dedicated to COVID-19.
- **Learning opportunities:** Developed by the Centre for Social Protection (CSP) at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) with support from Irish Aid and in collaboration with TRANSFORM, a new online course – Social Protection: A Primer - which provides a basic understanding of social protection is now available. For those less familiar with social protection, the course will help provide an understanding of SP concepts and remits with insights from across the world. Having a knowledge of these issues is critical when considering potential linkages with HCT. Find out more about the course on the course page: [here](#)

### 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 is light touch and the initial focus is countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. The mapping has been developed in coordination with other mapping initiatives. Contact [Lois Austin](#) (KML consultant for the GB Cash Workstream sub group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection) for info/to set up a call. And please do go ahead and add missing information from your country/region into the mapping in order to ensure that it is a helpful tool for practitioners.
- **ILO Social Protection Monitor:** This presents the latest global social protection policy trends based on media announcements. This [live tracking](#) is updated weekly.
- The [IMF Policy Responses to COVID-19 Tracker](#) provides a summary of the key economic responses that governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the pandemic providing information which is of relevance to humanitarian and development actors, particularly in the design and modification of their COVID-19-related responses.

### 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. [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).
- A multi-country cash transfer research initiative – [The Transfer Project](#) – provides a quick-access round-up of COVID-19 related resources [click here](#)
- **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 couple of exciting webinars. One hosted by REACH and focusing on the importance of market monitoring to identify the secondary impacts of COVID-19 on food insecurity – of relevance to both humanitarian and SP actors. The second webinar of the week will provide insights into the adaptation of cash transfers in Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19. And make sure to mark 16 July in your schedules for the next monthly webinar of the Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking HCT and SP which will be co-hosted with SPACE. This event will bring to life experiences from different contexts showing successes and challenges in relation to linking HCT and SP under the strands of Policy, Programme Design, and Administration/Delivery.

DATES	ACTIVITY	Organiser
Monday 6 July	Leveraging market monitoring and analysis systems to identify the impact of COVID-19 on acutely food insecure populations Registration: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Yyy1wl">https://bit.ly/2Yyy1wl</a>	REACH

**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

<b>Tuesday 7 July</b>	<b>Adaptación de programas de transferencias de efectivo en América Latina y el Caribe para responder a la pandemia COVID-19</b> <a href="#">Register here</a>	WFP   IPC-IG   GIZ   DFAT
<b>Wednesday 8 July</b>	<b>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout</b> at the following time: 09.00 EDT/13.00 GMT/14.00 UK/15.00 Geneva/16.00 Amman. Join <a href="#">here</a> (password: 754170)	Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier
<b>Thursday 9 July</b>	<b>Institutionalisation of Social Assistance in African Countries</b> <a href="#">Register here</a>	UNDP
<b>Thursday 16 July</b>	<b>Unbundling the delivery chain: practical examples of linkages between humanitarian cash transfers and social protection from across the globe</b> Registration details can be found in next week's newsletter	Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Sub-Group on Linking HCT with SP and SPACE

Contributions: With thanks to *Chang Yong Rhee, Yomi Kazeem, Daniel Longhurst, Carla Lacerda, Ric Goodman, Henry J Aaron, Nathalie Klein, Emily Henderson, and Daniel Dalgado.*

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://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.*

