

## Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfer - Update #11 (08 to 14 June 2020)

### Highlights

**World Refugee Day is 20<sup>th</sup> June** and the next two newsletters will highlight issues in forced displacement in the context of COVID 19. With the expansion of SP systems, there are different rights and legal frameworks that offer differing levels of inclusion for forcibly displaced populations. COVID 19 has been either a blockage or an accelerator for inclusion ([the topic of our webinar on 18<sup>th</sup> June!](#)). An excellent primer on the main issues (for our SP audience especially) can be found in this [interview from The New Humanitarian](#) that was conducted in 2018 with George Okoth-Obbo (who now heads the [UN Secretary General's Panel on Internal Displacement](#)).

- **Webinars:** [Three webinars are upcoming \(links below to register\) on SP.org](#) on the topic of displacement, all of which include presentations from members of the GB Sub Cash.
- **Good practice examples (all in forced displacement contexts).**
  - **Guyana. Ministry of Social Protection and UNICEF. [Shock-Responsive Social Protection \(SRSP\) Initiative with Cash Transfer to Venezuelan Migrant Families](#):** Partnering with UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Protection has responded at the end of 2019 (Pre Covid) to ensure that immediate needs are met to lessen the impact of multiple deprivations that are faced by migrant families and host communities. To this end, the existing social protection system (cash transfers) has been expanded to include 70 Venezuelan families. A recommended next step is to apply a similar transfer mechanism as part of the social package to support the most deprived and/or marginalized children and families affected by COVID-19 as well as to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the restrictive measures and lockdown. For further information please contact: Sylvie Fouet, UNICEF Representative for Guyana- Suriname, [sfouet@unicef.org](mailto:sfouet@unicef.org).
  - **Brasil:** One of the main measures implemented by the Brazilian Government to prevent the growth of poverty due to the pandemic, especially for informal workers over 18 years of age, was a temporary transfer of income of 600 reales for up to two people per family. [Women, heads of household receive double \(1,200 reales\)](#). Like all Brazilian social policies, [this measure is also available to migrants](#). However, there are inconsistencies in design and implementation that [prevent part of this population from accessing it](#). Most of the difficulties are related to documentation, either because migrants and refugees do not always have all the documents at hand, either due to validity, loss or theft, or due to the lack of knowledge of public officials on the characteristics of the documentation of migrants. With the closure of public services due to the COVID-19 situation, many migrants cannot request a duplicate of the Brazilian documents. To mitigate these difficulties, UN agencies and the Ministry of Citizenship have created information booklets in Spanish, French, English and Warao that explain how to apply for the benefit, the requirements and the documents required to be presented. At the same time, other initiatives aim to expand information on financial and banking inclusion, in addition to actions aimed at the continuation of essential services for that public, such as granting refugee status. Other challenges refer to the continuity of services in general, which also have a negative impact on the migrant population, such as for regularization, naturalization, and requests for refuge, among others.
  - **Turkey ESSN:** The Emergency Social Safety Net continues with this past month (May) including an additional top up (it's shock responsive!). Read the [brief monthly report](#) for other measures taken to ramp up communication with communities and the administration of the programme to keep physical distancing measures in place.
- **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). The discussion this past week has been on: Is now the time for reform? There are talks of reform (and it is needed) but it is felt this may be coming from actors who may not themselves understand social protection. There are also talks of an SP Cluster as the leadership and who coordinates is not clear.

### Articles/Blogs/Research

- **Blog: [COVID-19 — it's time to take cash to the next level](#). By Caroline Holt (Global IFRC lead on cash).** This important opinion piece states: *Delivering cash to the people in most need and in close coordination with national social protection systems is the most appropriate way to respond to the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 around the world* and ends with the following call for action: *Despite the current sense of urgency, the humanitarian sector should resist the temptation to replace or duplicate national governments' social protection systems but rather collectively invest in existing systems and help to reinforce them. We must advocate to make social protection systems more flexible, relevant, and inclusive.*

- Report: [UNDP. 04 June. Addressing the COVID-19 economic crisis in Asia through social protection.](#) Though not specific to cash and social protection, this is an important read as we begin to move on from the short term impacts and start to think about the medium and longer term and how SP systems can be better prepared to mitigate for shocks.
- The [SP links weekly email](#) is back with issue #11 on tracking the SP expansions in response to COVID with excellent analysis on the social assistance side of things (subscribe to it by sending an email to [Ugo Gentilini](#)). Currently, 195 countries and/or territories have planned or introduced social protection measures in response to Covid-19.

Social assistance accounts for most of the social protection response. A total of 621 measures were recorded, accounting for 60% of the response. Nearly 50% of those safety net measures, and about 30% of global measures, are various forms of cash-based transfers.

Of note are the 36 countries under the fragile and conflict situation categories. There is an overlap with HRP countries and 8 of the 10 that [NRC has listed as the most neglected](#) displacement crisis. In a hum/dev nexus world, these are the places where coverage remains an issue and will require multi partner collaborative efforts to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID. Highly recommended to read through the 11 pages of analysis.

- **Research: UNICEF Innocenti:** [The summary](#) highlights key points from last week's Leading Minds Online event on Social Protection + Support for Families during and after COVID19. *Social protection is an investment for the future Developing human capital through investing in children is a global public good that the world cannot afford to ignore. Social protection not only supports this, but it also promotes social cohesion, closes equity gaps, and secures the well-being of future generations. What's more, it has an economic benefit: for every \$1 spent on cash transfers, up to \$2.52 is added to local economies.*

### 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 [Zehra](#) 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.

### Resources Update

- **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.
- [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
16 June	<b>Emerging field practices to COVID-19 in refugee contexts. Register <a href="#">here</a>.</b> Esta sesión será traducida simultáneamente del inglés al español	SP.org COVID 19 Series. GIZ/UNHCR/WFP
17 June	<b>Weekly SP/HCT Hangout 8 am EDT.</b> Join <a href="#">here</a> (passwd: 754170)	Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier
18 June	<b>Webinar:</b> Covid as an accelerator or blocker in inclusion of forcibly displaced in linking Social Protection and humanitarian cash transfers. <b>8 am EDT. <a href="#">Register here</a>.</b>	GB Sub Cash Group/UNHCR/SP.org COVID 19 series.
30 June	<b>Migrants and COVID-19 – Emerging Practices. Register <a href="#">here</a>.</b> Esta sesión será traducida simultáneamente del inglés al español.	SP.org COVID 19 Series. GIZ

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

