

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #17 (20 – 26 July 2020)

Highlights from the week of 20-26 July 2020

Webinars and events:

- The Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Annual Meeting was held remotely throughout last week. The meeting consisted of a series of virtual workshops running through the week. The workshop for the Sub-Group on linking HCT and SP was held on Tuesday 21 July and other workshops discussed a range of topics including an update of the current state of collaboration in cash assistance; accomplishments of the Cash and Gender Sub Workstream; localisation and the future of cash and voucher assistance; cash and risk. IRC and the Systematic Cost Analysis (SCAN) partners shared their experiences with the SCAN tool and CRS gave an overview of its MARKit tool.
- WFP/IPC-IG/GIZ/DFAT hosted a webinar focusing on the continuity and preparedness of school feeding programmes under COVID-19 and the South-South Cooperation role. The webinar presented the global scenario and the tools available to support school feeding programmes in Latin America, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa while the crisis' effects last. Find the recording and presentation [here](#).
- For those of you who missed the presentation of 'A stocktake of global humanitarian assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic', held by Development Initiatives (DI) and OCHA, an event which also marked the launch of DI's *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020*. You can watch the video [here](#).
- Please find the video recording of last week's webinar on Livelihoods and Household Economic Security, jointly hosted by the [Livelihoods Resource Centre](#) and the [Cash Hub](#), [here](#). The webinar brought examples of livelihoods approaches in response to COVID-19 from a number of countries including Afghanistan, the Gambia, and Ukraine.
- CaLP's webinar at the end of last week saw the launch of the State of the World's Cash Report. If you missed the launch, please find the recording [here](#).
- **In conversation and online discussions:** Informal discussions this past week have been on data sharing; the crux of the problem seemingly around the 'trust deficit' facing governments around the world. How and when can humanitarians share data with governments and what does safeguarding actually look like. Consent (to get this correctly from the start) and an agreement amongst non-government actors on any red lines seem to be key solutions along with preparedness (or quick) work on data sharing agreements (realising that at times, even within government entities this can be an issue).
- Over June and July 2020, the Markets in Crises (MiC) community has been discussing some burning questions arising from markets practitioners working on COVID-19 interventions. The group discussed four key topics:
 - Understanding Markets During COVID-19
 - Designing Market Interventions During COVID-19
 - Getting Buy-In for market-based programming During COVID-19
 - Protection and Markets During COVID-19
 You can find details from the discussions [here](#) or by joining or signing in to the [MiC d-group](#)

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

- **Blogs:** Christian Bodewig and Stephane Hallegatte of the World Bank recently published a [blog](#) highlighting the essential nature of adaptive social protection approaches, expanding on a temporary basis to act as an emergency instrument, to protect households affected by the pandemic.
- **Publications:** *"Aftershocks: Out of Time"* recently published by World Vision, focuses on the plight of families and children affected by COVID-19. The study makes a number of recommendations including the need to urgently scale up child-sensitive social protection measures such as cash and voucher assistance and food; and ensuring that humanitarian cash and voucher programmes are linked to longer-term financial inclusion and economic recovery activities.
- IRC's recent report, *"The Cost of living: COVID-19 Humanitarian cash transfers to prevent hunger and hardship"*, assesses the implications of economic downturn for hunger in countries affected by fragility, conflict and displacement. The report includes recommendations on linking humanitarian assistance and social protection in line with the [Grand Bargain Sub Group paper on Linking HCT and SP for effective cash responses to COVID-19](#) and the CCD's paper on [COVID-19 and social protection](#).
- The UNSDG's recently produced report on the [immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 in Zimbabwe](#) highlights the need for the adoption of a nexus approach, comprising policy interventions and programmatic actions, straddling the continuum of inter-connections and inter-relationships between immediate humanitarian response, stabilization, and long-term sustainable peace and development.
- The UN Advisory Paper: *Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 plan* has been developed in accordance with the agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka. The paper emphasizes the importance of moving towards a more effective social

protection approach in the medium and long-term, that extends beyond time-bound and one-off cash transfers, to address current gaps in coverage, transfer values and the level of investment needed for stimulating economic recovery.

- UNDRR's Asia-Pacific COVID-19 July brief highlights the importance of investing in shock-responsive and adaptive social protection systems to ensure that they are sufficiently flexible to expand before or during emergencies. Find out more [here](#).
- At the end of the week UNDP release its report - [Temporary Basic Income: Protecting Vulnerable People in Developing Countries](#) – which advocates for the provision of unconditional emergency cash transfers to mitigate the worst immediate effects of the COVID-19 crisis on poor and near-poor households that do not currently have access to social assistance or insurance protection. The paper provides estimates for a Temporary Basic Income (TBI), a minimum guaranteed income above the poverty line, for vulnerable people in 132 developing countries.
- CalP's second [State of the World's Cash](#) report was launched at the end of last week. The report identifies a significant increase in humanitarian cash and voucher operations which in 2019 amounted to \$5.6 billion, or 17.9% of global humanitarian assistance. However, it also highlights that the “lack of engagement from national governments” is a top challenge.
- The World Bank's [Synthesis Note - Towards Adaptive Social Protection Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean - Using Social Protection to Mitigate and Respond to Disaster Risk](#) – provides some examples of where humanitarian and longer-term development interventions are working together and the bridge that social protection can provide between humanitarian and development action.
- The Cash Consortium for Iraq (CCI) has released a brief which analyses the price and market data collected since March 2020 to understand the impact of the recent crisis on the market system and access to goods, to identify potential points of critical hardship and to review the geographic distribution of those effects. Read the brief [here](#).
- **Media features, articles and Op Eds:** Linked to IRC's recently published report (mentioned above), the President and CEO of IRC, David Miliband, published an [Op Ed in The Times](#) last week, in relation to actions for the G20 to prevent a hunger crisis triggered by the COVID-19 economic downturn.
- Published in the Manila Bulletin, experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) have recommended that whilst food and cash transfers for indigenous households should continue, the government should also take into consideration the sector-specific needs of the vulnerable and marginalized to be able to survive the coronavirus pandemic. Read the article [here](#).
- **Financing:** An article recently published by Devex highlights upcoming and significant cuts in UK aid this year to the tune of £2.9B (\$3.7B). Whilst the article doesn't specifically mention humanitarian cash transfers and social protection, it will be interesting to see how the cuts impact the nexus in the months to come. Read the article [here](#).
- **Newsletters:** Socialprotection.org published their weekly Social Protection in Times of COVID-19 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 #18](#)
- Shared at the end of the week, the [SP links weekly email](#) brings together a host of information focused primarily on social protection and with some specific signposting to adaptations and approaches in response to COVID-19.

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](#) continues to host a space on [social protection responses to #COVID19](#) which provides access to a series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. 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](#). (including a section specific to SP/HCTs).

- The [Cash Hub](#) (hosted by the British Red Cross) has developed a number of tip sheets on delivering CVA and advocating for the use of CVA in response to COVID-19. Whilst targeted towards Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the resources can be adapted to the needs and approaches of other organisations. They can be found here: [here](#).
- 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.
- **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.
- [ALNAP's COVID-19 Response Portal](#) is a great place to access guidelines; tools; and papers in relation to the pandemic.
- [REACH COVID-19 Information Thread](#) – data and analysis, primarily for humanitarians (but also of relevance for other actors), on the impact of COVID-19 on affected populations

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the week 26 – 31 July

It's another busy week for webinars, with the week ahead seeing two webinars on Tuesday, one on Wednesday and another three on Thursday:

- CaLP's regional event on Linking Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Assistance in MENA where CaLP will be hosting a panel discussion with representatives from UNICEF, WFP, DFID, the Lebanese Red Cross and the Government of Jordan will be held on Tuesday. CaLP will also present its State of the World Cash 2 Report; High-level Social Protection Paper; and country case studies from Yemen, Iraq and Lebanon.
- On the same day, FAO; ILO; IPC-IG; GIZ and DFAT will host a webinar discussing the essential role of social protection schemes in protecting lives and livelihoods as a result of the reduced mobility of rural populations, particularly farmers, herders, fisherfolk and foresters. The webinar will highlight the importance of linking such approaches with productive and economic interventions in order to ensure food security in rural areas.
- On Wednesday 29 July, the Cash Hub's webinar will showcase two examples of the use of cash and voucher assistance in relation to shelter and settlements as a result of COVID-19. The first example will focus on the holistic approach taken by the ICRC to deliver CVA as part of returnee support in Iraq, and the second is related to rental support in the Bahamas. The global guidance being developed by IFRC on rental support and its relevance as an option in the COVID-19 response will also be discussed.
- Thursday 30th July sees three webinars, one hosted by PHAP focusing on inclusive COVID-19 responses in cities in the Americas. The conversation will focus on initiatives that have been adopted, including the provision of direct cash assistance, to protect vulnerable populations. The discussion will be led by the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.
- The second webinar of the day is organised by ILO and UNHCR and focuses on market-based approaches to post-COVID-19 recovery in forced displacement settings which will consider how recovery responses can take into account the specific needs of refugees and host communities and the role that the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus can play in the immediate and long-term post-COVID-19 response.
- The third webinar of the day is hosted by Crown Agents Bank and aims to address concerns within the development community related to how to engage with mobile money industry participants and highlight how smart solutions can be adopted in relation to the COVID-19 response.

Please note, USAID's Food For Peace's online discussion in relation to its Interim Guidance for Applicants Engaging in COVID-19 humanitarian response which was scheduled for 30 July has been cancelled.

DATES	ACTIVITY	Organiser/Host
Tuesday 28 July	Reaching rural areas in the social protection response to COVID-19: opportunities and challenges Register here	FAO ILO 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

Tuesday 28 July	Panel discussion on linking social protection and humanitarian cash assistance in MENA. Register here	CaLP
Wednesday 29 July	Shelter and Settlements - Adapting to COVID19: the Use of Cash and Markets in the RCRC Movement Register here	Cash Hub
Thursday 30 July	From Guidelines to Practice - A Market Based Approach to Post-COVID-19 Recovery in Forced Displacement Settings Register here	ILO and UNHCR
Thursday 30 July	Inclusive COVID-19 Responses of Cities in the Americas Register here.	PHAP
Thursday 30 July	Mobile Money Webinar Please RSVP to IDO@crownagentsbank.com if you are interested in attending.	Crown Agents Bank

Contributions: With thanks to *Katie Whitehouse, Daphne Jayasinghe, Christian Bodewig, Stephane Hallegate, Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz, Simon Levine, Scherrie Griffin, Ekram El Huni, Thomas Byrnes, Niccolo Giancarli, Zehra Rizvi, Jacqueline Frize, Christina Dankmayer, Nadia Giske, and Radmilla Suleymanova.*

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.

