

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #18

Highlights from the week of 27 July – 2 August 2020

Webinars and events:

- The Grand Bargain' Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash (HC) and Social Protection (SP) has posted the responses to questions submitted at its mid-July webinar (on unbundling the delivery chain) on the socialprotection.org website. Please access it, as well as a summary of the webinar, [here](#).
- CaLP's recent online event on Linking Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Assistance in MENA provided details on responses during the current pandemic. In case you missed it, you can watch the first half with highlights from CaLP's report and research [here](#). You can also watch the linked panel discussion, which focused on translating these efforts into action, with representatives from DFID Yemen, the National Aid Fund of Jordan, Lebanese Red Cross, UNICEF MENA, World Bank MENA and WFP MENA [here](#). Both recordings will be available with Arabic subtitles soon.
- CaLP and WFP hosted another webinar under the Grand Bargain cash workstream annual virtual meeting umbrella – Is cash assistance riskier than in-kind? The panel brought a diverse range of perspectives on the topic from operations in high-risk environments such as Somalia, DRC and Niger. A link to the recording can be found [here](#).
- Development Initiatives' webinar "A stocktake of global humanitarian assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic" saw the launch of its [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020](#) which frames the crisis financing landscape. It provides a detailed picture of humanitarian needs and financing as well as an analysis of financing for the COVID-19 response. Click to watch [a recording of the webinar](#).
- Click the link to watch a recording of CaLP's webinar (held in Spanish) on [findings and lessons learned in the provision of CVA in Colombia and Ecuador in response to the Venezuela refugee and migrant crisis](#) which was held the week before last.
- Also held the week before last was the IPC-IG and UNICEF webinar at which the main findings and takeaways of a number of papers focused on social expenditure, legislative frameworks and findings of impact evaluations of social protection in South Asia were discussed. You can find a summary of the event [here](#).
- PHAP's webinar which focused on inclusive COVID-19 responses in cities in the Americas saw the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection contribute to an interesting conversation which focused on initiatives that have been adopted, including the provision of direct cash assistance, to protect vulnerable persons in urban environments in relation to the pandemic. Find a summary of the event [here](#).
- [In conversation and online discussions](#): Building on discussions from the week-long Grand Bargain Cash Workstream workshop sessions, informal chats this week have focused on a number of topics. The ongoing and seemingly political issue of cash coordination, and how the 'problem' can be solved has been central in conversations. Ideas have included increased donor involvement (and how to incentivize or de-incentivize aspects to influence the process and how donors can better coordinate between themselves) and how to ensure that coordination approaches are more predictable.
- The workshop sessions and webinars also prompted conversations on the variety of topics discussed which went beyond linking humanitarian cash with social protection and included topics such as political blockages to the implementation of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programmes; risks associated with CVA; and gender-sensitivity in CVA. One of the topics raised by the Danish Red Cross in the closing remarks of the workstream workshops was Community Inclusive Currencies (CICs) and experience coming from Kenya. Informal conversations revealed that CICs are not broadly known or understood by practitioners who are keen to learn more.
- Funding landscapes and being able to capture this [were also being discussed](#) again raising the point for donors to take this on board and facilitate clarity on this aspect.

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

- [Publications](#): A report and presentations from the workshop on Inclusive Social Protection Policy in Borno State which was held in Maiduguri on 22 July 2020 can be accessed [here](#). The workshop was organised by Action Against Hunger in collaboration with the Borno State Government with support from the European Union. The aim was to enable those working in the social protection sector to learn from the current situation in Borno State and fashion out a road map for an all-inclusive state level social protection policy.
- Summaries and speed reads from CaLP's State of the World Cash 2020 Report **can be found through these links**:
 - [Executive Summary | Webinar](#)
 - 2 minute read - [Chapter on linking CVA and social protection](#): Main findings and priority actions
 - 1 minute read - [Chapter summary on COVID-19 and CVA](#): Impact and implications

- [High-level Social Protection Paper English | Arabic](#)
- [MENA Crib sheet](#) (potted history) & Country Case Studies: Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.
- Additional resources from the panel discussion: (i) [UNICEF regional shock-responsive social protection study, 2019](#) (ii) [Grand Bargain cash sub-group materials](#)
- CaLP has also just released a study on: [The Provision of Cash and Voucher Assistance in the Response to the Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Crisis: Findings and lessons learned](#) (available in Spanish [here](#)). Although the evidence in the study was gathered before the COVID-19 response there is a chapter on the importance of coherence and alignment of humanitarian CVA with SP systems which is relevant to current responses to the pandemic.
- A recent scoping study by the Save the Children reviews the SP sector in Somaliland. The study notes that “investing in an inclusive Social Protection system, in itself, will generate significant savings in the areas of post-disaster response and humanitarian assistance in the long term by building families’ resilience to shocks as they are able to access a minimum income.” In addition, the study suggests that significant achievements could be made towards building the foundation of an inclusive Social Protection system in Somaliland if the portfolio of humanitarian cash transfers, estimated to be over US\$ 80 million, is re-invested in the progressive realisation of a child benefit. Read the study [here](#).
- The role of local humanitarian actors in humanitarian cash and social protection responses to COVID-19 is discussed in a recent paper by Cabot-Venton et al which looks at [embedding localization in Covid19 response](#) (which is coincidentally the topic for the 13 August webinar of the Grand Bargain Cash Sub-Group on Linking HCT and SP).
- Following on from its earlier work, including advocacy actions to highlight the role that all actors have in supporting governments to deliver effective, inclusive and accountable assistance in response to COVID-19, the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) has provided an update of how partner agencies are linking humanitarian cash with social protection in practice. The paper emphasizes the need for strengthened coordination; filling in of gaps in government SP responses; ensuring continued SP through improving preparedness; and supporting government SP capacity. Read more [here](#).
- Alongside its [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020](#), Development Initiatives has produced an [interactive factsheet](#) which provides information on top humanitarian donors and recipients.
- This week ALNAP’s COVID-19 learning portal is highlighting resources that outline some of the repercussions of the pandemic on migrants and IDPs – marginalized populations that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. You can access the portal [here](#).
- **Blogs:** A recent blog by Alissa Ghils on [gender and social protection in Covid times](#) highlights, among other things, the need to design new or scale up existing cash transfer programmes which consider specific design and implementation features that can be adapted in an inclusive way.
- **Research and analysis:** Last week saw the launch of The Oxford COVID-19 ‘Supertracker’, an online platform established to help policy-makers around the world to navigate the policy responses to tackling the pandemic, and its aftermath around the world. The Oxford ‘Supertracker’ project has compiled data from over 100 sources and made it freely available within one tool, allowing users to search and identify international policy by policy area e.g. ‘education policy’ or ‘social and economic policy’; country coverage; data format; and, author. The project is led by [Dr Marek Naczyk](#), with the involvement of [Professor Mary Daly](#), Head of Department [Professor Bernhard Ebbinghaus](#), [Lukas Lehner](#) and [Dr Tim Vlandas](#). Find the tracker [here](#).
- Groupe URD has set up a “real-time evaluation observatory” in order to produce synthesis reports, analysis and recommendations in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. The observatory takes lessons from previous years’ analysis of epidemics and explores different components of the current pandemic. Access the observatory [here](#).
- **Media features, articles and Op Eds:** The Jordan Times reports that UNRWA will [provide emergency cash assistance to Palestine Refugees from Gaza](#). The transfer appears to be one-off in line with an earlier transfer provided to residents of Jerash Camp.
- Help Age reports that in Zanzibar the government has increased the transfer amount of its universal social pension to the elderly by 20% in response to the pandemic. Read more [here](#).
- **Briefs:** The Center for Global Development’s recent brief on [COVID-19 in Colombia: Impact and Policy Responses](#) takes lessons from the response in Colombia and, amongst other things, recommends that economic support programmes (including those that provide cash transfers) should be extended, both in duration and in terms of beneficiary numbers, to ensure that poor and vulnerable households which have not previously fallen within the eligibility criteria are not disadvantaged.

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 #19](#). The newsletter is taking a short break over the next couple of weeks but will be back again with more updates on 13 August.

- 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. This was the last weekly SP links for the summer but it will be back again in a few weeks.

Mapping Updates

As well as information on the trackers that have been up and running for a number of weeks and months, this week we provide links to additional trackers – one mentioned above that has been launched by the University of Oxford in order to highlight policy responses to COVID-19 and another launched by UNDP which focuses on gender responses to the crisis.

- **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.
- The COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker monitors policy measures enacted by governments worldwide to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, and highlights responses that have integrated a gender lens. It includes national measures that are directly addressing women's economic and social security, including unpaid care work, the labour market and violence against women. The tracker is coordinated by UNDP with substantive leadership and technical contributions from UN Women. [Access the tracker here](#).
- The Oxford COVID-19 Supertracker can be accessed [here](#).

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 3 – 9 August (and beyond)

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

The week ahead is a bit calmer than previous weeks as far as webinars and events go. Do sign up for the following:

- Thursday's webinar which explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods in Africa by reducing earnings and limiting economic activity. This event explores the outcome for informal workers and discusses necessary policy measures to enhance social protection coverage and support mechanisms to protect informal workers if they lose their livelihoods.
- A new series of webinars presenting research from The Cash Transfers for Child Health Initiative (CaTCH) initiative in collaboration with the Jharkhand Nutrition Mission starts this week. The webinars will focus on the role that cash transfers and social protection schemes play in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 crisis; the additional implementation and design features that policy-makers consider in developing their cash transfer and other social protection programmes to ensure ease of access for vulnerable populations to these scheme; and some of the strategies required to strengthen health systems in response to the pandemic to ensure continuity of health services. The first webinar, to be held on Thursday, will highlight the role of income transfers in India's Anti-Poverty strategy.

Later in the month, the following events are taking place:

- Kicking off the week on Monday 10 August is the second webinar in the series mentioned above organized by J-PAL and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Using experience from India the webinar will consider whether cash transfer programmes that aim to improve educational, maternal and child health, girl child or other social welfare outcomes have an impact on child health.
- Tuesday 11 August sees a webinar focusing on lessons from the social protection sector for managing future risks and linking risk financing to shock-responsive safety nets.
- On Thursday 13 August the Grand Bargain Sub Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection will hold its monthly webinar with this month's focusing on the role played by local and national actors in making these links during the current pandemic. Registration links will be provided next week on the socialprotection.org website and in next week's newsletter.

DATES	ACTIVITY	Organiser/Host
Thursday 6 August	Policies to address COVID-19's impact on Africa's informal sector Register here	International Growth Centre, IGC
Thursday 6 August	Inclusive Growth Dividend: An Income Transfer Approach to Social Protection Register here.	Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, J-PAL Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Monday 10 August	Improving Access to Governmental Cash Transfers Register here	
Tuesday 11 August	Disaster risk finance for better response to COVID-19 and other risks Register now	World Bank Group CDP IPC-IG GIZ DFAT
Thursday 13 August	The role of local and national humanitarian actors in linking humanitarian cash to social protection in response to COVID-19 Link to be provided in next week's newsletter	Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Sub-Group on Linking HCT with SP

Contributions: With thanks to *Aneel Memon; Lukas Lehner; Diksha Rana; Christina Dankmayer; Pauline Perez; Ugo Gentilini; Carla de Lacerda; Zehra Rizvi; Ana Pantelic; Scherrie Griffin; Heidi Patmore; Ruta Nimkar; Rachid Mouajes; and Alissa Ghils.*

Please email gbsubgroupspht@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.

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

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.

