

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #19 (3 – 9 August 2020)

Highlights from the week of 3 - 9 August 2020

Webinars and events:

- Last week's webinar entitled **Policies to address COVID-19's impact on Africa's informal sector**, hosted by the IGC, explored and discusses necessary policy measures to enhance social protection coverage and support mechanisms to protect informal workers if they lose their livelihoods. Find a video-recording and further information [here](#).
- The first in the webinar series hosted by J-PAL South Asia and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was held last week. During the webinar (which focused on **Inclusive Growth Dividend: An Income Transfer Approach to Social Protection**) Shagun Sabarwal (Director of Policy, Training, and Communications, J-PAL South Asia) moderated a discussion between Karthik Muralidharan (Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego) and Ashok Meena (Principal Secretary, Finance, Government of Odisha) on a universal cash transfer approach to social protection, called "Inclusive Growth Dividend". Karthik Muralidharan spoke about how both theory and evidence support the case for a small universal cash transfer, not just as a strategy to protect the vulnerable in crises such as COVID-19, but also to help achieve broader development goals and to augment state capacity. Ashok Meena added to this discussion by talking about the relief measures that the Government of Odisha has undertaken to protect vulnerable groups during this crisis, and the challenges they have faced both in terms of state capacity to reach the vulnerable and fiscal constraints due to falling state revenues. They also spoke about the need for a rigorous evaluation of this model before scaling it up as a policy strategy. If you would like to view the session, you can watch a recording of it [here](#).

You can also view Professor Muralidharan's slides at this link: [slides](#)

- As part of its webinar series on **Adapting to COVID19 - The Use of Cash & Markets in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (RCM)**, the recent Cash Hub webinar on **Shelter and Settlements** highlighted, amongst other things, experience from the Bahamas in linking humanitarian CVA and social protection. There, the Bahamas Red Cross horizontally expanded its rental assistance programme in close coordination with social services which was also running its own programme. The Americas Regional Office for the RCM recommended that rental assistance could potentially be provided until economies start to pick up and livelihoods of the most vulnerable recover or government social protection programmes are able to adequately cope with supporting vulnerable households with housing. The recording of the Webinar can be accessed by clicking [here](#).
- In July, UNICEF gave a presentation on social protection and humanitarian cash transfers during COVID-19 responses. The webinar was organized by UNICEF for civil society organisations as part of a series of webinars on strengthening UNICEF and civil society partnerships. You can find the PowerPoint slides [here](#).
- **In conversation and online discussions:** Informal conversations last week were still focusing on the coordination of humanitarian CVA and social protection with some practitioners discussing the possibility for sharing staff positions between agencies as the demand for CVA experts, particularly those with a mixed profile (which would include personnel who have an understanding of both CVA and social protection systems and how to link the two) outstrips the supply. The importance of developing a robust competency framework for such mixed profiles was a point of discussion.

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

- **Publications:** The **Global Nutrition Cluster** has just published an [Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies](#). The note provides evidence that the more sustainable nutrition outcomes of nutrition interventions with a CVA component can be achieved by strengthening linkages between humanitarian CVA and existing government social safety nets where such programmes exist or advocating for nutrition-sensitive social protection interventions in their absence. A recommendation to promote CVA capacity and confidence-building of local/national partners by raising awareness of the use of CVA and links to social protection and social safety nets is put forward in the note.
- **WFP** has recently produced a briefing paper on [social protection and COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific](#), which highlights the work of WFP in some countries in the region in terms of:
 - helping to understand additional needs and vulnerabilities arising from the pandemic;
 - adapting existing safety nets to increase the value or coverage of in-kind or cash-based social assistance;
 - establishing new schemes to reach populations not covered by existing safety nets; and
 - strengthening national social protection and emergency responses
- Last month saw the release of an interesting publication from **Christian Aid** [Building back with justice - dismantling inequalities after COVID-19](#) which highlighted lessons from the rapid delivery of CVA during the pandemic to groups outside government social safety nets (in Bangladesh, India and Myanmar). Christian Aid calls for a global response package to deal with the immediate impacts of the crisis to build social and economic resilience to future crises, tackle poverty and inequality, and set the world on a trajectory to meet the Paris climate commitments.

- Produced in June and now available online, the **World Bank Group's** (WBG) [COVID-19 Crisis Response Approach Paper](#) sets out the WBG approach to providing support exceptional in speed, scale and selectivity to countries as they tackle the unprecedented threats posed by the COVID-19 crisis. WBG support focuses on helping countries address the crisis and transition to recovery through four pillars using a combination of: saving lives threatened by the pandemic (pillar 1); protecting the poor and vulnerable (pillar 2); securing foundations of the economy (pillar 3); and strengthening policies and institutions for resilience based on transparent, sustainable debt and investments (pillar 4). The paper outlines the operational framework for the approach and discusses the medium-term outlook for the WBG's financial capacity.
- Guidance:** The **Cash Hub** has recently opened a new [section on its website dedicated to social protection](#). Topics covered in the first guidance documents uploaded to the section, which have been produced to support Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (NS) when engaging with social protection include:
 - General orientation guidance for NS to introduce social protection and opportunities to strengthen linkages and collaboration
 - Tip sheet document to support linkages with social protection in response to COVID-19
 - Key advocacy messages for NS to support discussions with Governments on social protection in response to COVID-19

Although written with NS in mind, the guidance can be useful to other national and local actors engaging in social protection and CVA responses.

- Programmatic updates:** Last week saw the signing of an MOU between UNICEF and the Minister of Social Affairs, the Provincial Governor of Luanda and the Directors of World Vision Angola and the NGO Atos to implement the first cash transfer programme in **Luanda, Angola**. The programme is a response to the COVID-19 emergency and it will benefit 1,200 children under 5 with cash transfers and support to improve nutrition, health and protection. This initiative is funded by SIDA.
- For those of you who have been following the progress being made in **Yobe State, North East Nigeria**, in relation to the development of a social protection policy and plan, please click [here](#) to access the State/Partner Action Plan and Roadmap.
- At the end of July, **REACH** shared a number of [updates on the impact of COVID-19](#) in various countries including: **Yemen** where, in collaboration with the WASH cluster and the Cash and Markets Working Group, REACH has been collecting monthly information to assess the impact of the pandemic on markets and businesses; **North East Nigeria** where REACH has undertaken a rapid market monitoring initiative in collaboration with the Food Security Sector and the Cash Working Group in order to support humanitarian CVA actors to adjust responses in light of the impact of COVID-19; and **Uganda**, where the Market Analysis Task Force of the Cash Working Group has been supported by REACH to launch a market monitoring assessment in refugee-hosting districts nationwide to understand the impact of the pandemic on commodity prices and market functionality. Humanitarian and development actors will find the data gathered through these various initiatives useful in terms of adjusting responses and contributing to analysis on how better linkages can be made between humanitarian CVA and social protection approaches.

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 live tracking presents the latest global social protection policy trends based on media announcements. The [monitor](#) 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 [Oxford COVID-19 Supertracker](#) is 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.
- 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.

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](#).
- The Cash Hub platform also provides quarterly updates which provide a useful consolidation of CVA-related topics. Subscribe by [clicking on this link](#).
- 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](#) which includes 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](#) – provides data and analysis, primarily for humanitarians (but also of relevance for other actors), on the impact of COVID-19 on affected populations.
- 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](#).

Looking Ahead – Webinars/Events during the week 10 – 15 August

A relatively quiet week ahead in terms of webinars with key events as follows:

- 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 Wednesday the Cash Hub is holding a webinar on: Migration - Adapting to COVID19: the Use of Cash and Markets in the RCRC Movement. Two examples will be showcased, the first by the ICRC & Senegalese Red Cross related to supporting families of missing migrants in Senegal, and the second by the Danish Red Cross related to supporting migrant returnees in Burkina Faso.
- On Thursday, the Grand Bargain sub-group will be holding its August webinar which is focusing on the role that local and national actors have played in linking humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) and social protection during COVID-19 responses. Speakers from the governments of Albania and Madagascar, and the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will share their experiences in making the links, and highlighting where successes and challenges lie.
- En Español – Also on Thursday, the Regional Working Group monthly meeting for the R4V platform is this month open to everyone (technology permitting). This month UNHCR will walk through the legal and regulatory barriers to forcibly displaced persons’ access to connectivity and financial services in South America. You can read the associated report [here](#).

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

- On Wednesday 18 August, SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT will host a webinar exploring the potential role of social protection to respond to the “shadow pandemic” of violence against women and girls during COVID-19 in the Indo-Pacific. It will specifically look at intimate partner violence (IPV), and cash transfers, the most common form of social protection, and focus on research to date.

- Also on 18 August, the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC), NORCAP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) are officially launching the Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies.
- Thursday 19 August sees the second in the series of webinars organized by J-PAL and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, at which Seema Jayachandran will present descriptive data related to COVID-19 that was collected as part of an ongoing evaluation in Punjab that will assess the effectiveness of conditional cash transfers in reducing crop burning, thereby, improving air quality and child health.
- And to end the week, on Friday 20 August, IPC-IG and UNICEF will host a webinar, building on research already presented earlier in the year ([find the webinar recording here](#)). This webinar will discuss social protection trends in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The various pre-crisis social protection landscapes will be discussed, and reflection provided on how COVID-19 has impacted the countries and their emergency responses, also presenting potential paths ahead.

N.B. The webinar organized by J-PAL and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on access to governmental cash transfers, scheduled for Monday 10 August, has been cancelled.

DATES	ACTIVITY	Organiser/Host
Tuesday 11 August	Disaster risk finance for better response to COVID-19 and other risks Register here	World Bank Group CDP IPC-IG GIZ DFAT
Wednesday 12 August	Adapting to COVID19: the Use of Cash and Markets in the RCRC Movement. Please join using the details below: Join here Password: redcross	Cash Hub
Thursday 13 August	The role of local and national actors in linking HCT and SP in COVID-19 responses Register here	Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Sub-Group on Linking HCT with SP
Thursday 13 August	Regional Working Group monthly meeting – legal and regulatory barriers to forcibly displaced persons’ access to connectivity and financial services in South America. You can register here	R4V Regional Inter Agency Coordination Platform
Wednesday 18 August	Launch of the Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies. Zoom Meeting Register here	GNC, NORCAP, and SDC
Wednesday 18 August	Social Protection and Violence against Women and Girls in the Indo Pacific region: Responding to COVID-19 Register here	SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT
Thursday 19 August	The Effects of India’s Covid-19 Lockdown on Agricultural Households Register here	J-PAL and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Friday 20 August	Profiles of the social protection systems of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan prior to COVID-19 and snapshot of their responses to the pandemic Register here	UNICEF and IPC-IG

Contributions: With thanks to *Zehra Rizvi; David Dalgado; Stef Imperia; Andre Durr; Aneel Menon; Nupur Kukrety; and Sudha Narayanan.*

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.

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.

