

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers - Update #21 (16 - 22 August 2020)

Highlights from the week of 16 - 22 August 2020

- **Webinars and events:** On Wednesday last week, the webinar hosted by SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT explored the potential role of social protection (SP) in responding to the “shadow pandemic” of violence against women and girls during COVID-19 in the Indo-Pacific. The webinar looked at intimate partner violence (IPV), and cash transfers, the most common form of social protection. For those of you who missed it, here are the links for you to watch the [recording](#), and access the [slide presentation](#).
- Also on Wednesday 18 August, the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC), NORCAP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) officially launched the Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies. ACF was able to share some of its experience from the use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in North-East Nigeria and Save the Children provided examples of the provision of multi-purpose cash transfers with a nutrition lens in Colombia. The recording of the official launch webinar can be accessed [here](#). The Evidence and Guidance Note can be accessed [here](#).
- Recordings from other webinars held in the last week will be available in the next newsletter.
- **In conversation and online discussions:** Although online discussions have been relatively quiet in recent weeks, informal chats about how and where linkages have been made between humanitarian cash and social protection continue. Last week conversations highlighted some of the links in the Caribbean region – relatively small-scale compared to other regions but still fertile ground from which learning can be gleaned. Discussions considered the extent to which pre-COVID learning has been used in today’s responses (i.e. the return on previous investments) and how much of this learning is used due to continuity of key position-holders and how much is embedded in systemic change and adaptation. The importance of building strong relationships and identifying torch-bearers when trying to embed change within social protection systems was stressed whilst noting that in some countries the push for change (in terms of linking humanitarian cash with social protection approaches) is more effective if lead by humanitarian actors due to a resistance to expanding SP systems without a clear strategy for contraction when needs are reduced.

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

- **Publications:** A recent paper published by the GIZ sheds light on what it takes to deliver benefits and services to those most in need at the right time presenting the following conclusion: Given the dynamic nature of poverty and vulnerability, it requires up-to-date information from beneficiaries as well as the dynamic inclusion of these data. Access the paper [here](#).
- Oxfam’s publication, “Conflict in the Time of Coronavirus” is now available in Arabic: [here](#). Although not specifically referencing HCT and SP, the report highlights issues relating to impeded humanitarian access to populations in need and draws attention to the fact that a government-led approach to addressing the needs of those who are most marginalized or socially and politically excluded (whose trust in the state is often low), arising from the pandemic, will not necessarily work. The English version of the report which was published in May 2020 can be found here: [Conflict in the time of coronavirus](#)
- Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion’s study which was published in June but is worth re-highlighting to help ensure inclusive responses to the pandemic, illustrates how COVID-19 has triggered disproportionate risks and barriers for persons with disabilities living in humanitarian response environments. The study shows that the lack of access to the informal and formal economy, the lack of disability-inclusive social support systems and protection schemes and the public restrictions due to the crisis disproportionately exposes persons with disabilities and their families to loss of income and food insecurity. Recommendations are made for humanitarian actors to collaborate with organisations representing persons with disabilities and disability-specific actors to assess the impact of public restrictions, collapse of the informal labour market, informal social services and rehabilitation care, situations in isolated areas, and related impact on physical, psychological wellbeing, socio-economic status and safety, such as disability-specific protection risks. Access the study [here](#).
- Also focusing on persons with disabilities, OCHA has published a brief information note - [My Ears are My Eyes](#) - to share tips on how to support persons with disabilities during the pandemic. Whilst the tips provided should be included in all response thinking, they are of increased value during the pandemic, which, as highlighted in the July update of the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (GHRP) shows that the pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability, stigmatization or marginalization of people with disabilities.
- CARE’s recently published policy report [Left Out and Left Behind](#) highlights the plight of those affected by the pandemic, increasing food insecurity and hunger – an issue which has been worsened due to COVID-19. The report reminds us of the disproportionate negative impact on women and girls and includes recommendations to address this. This includes the proposal for governments to immediately scale up gender-responsive social safety nets and minimize disruptions to agriculture and markets with a specific focus and measurable targets on women food producers and female-headed households.

- **Programme updates:** At the end of July the ESSN successfully transferred cash assistance to 1,752,616 individuals (308,095 households) living under international and temporary protection in **Turkey**. The transfer included the second instalment of the economic top-up of 500 TRY per household (total 154,047,500 TRY), which aimed to help ESSN recipients cope with the challenges brought on by COVID-19. Read more [here](#).
- **Guidance:** For those involved in humanitarian cash transfers and/or social protection programming in **Yemen**, the Cash and Markets Working group has produced essential guidance on the [use of foreign currency for designing assistance packages](#). The guidance makes critical reading for those designing and planning cash-based interventions in the country.
- **Blogs:** Save the Children's recently published blog sheds light on the effect of the pandemic on children. The blog is a sobering read as it emphasises the real risk of the reversal of progress in relation to child poverty; an increase in child mortality; and an even wider disparity in education and learning as a result of the pandemic. Awareness of all these issues is critical for informing humanitarian, development and nexus thinking on how the risks and impacts of COVID-19 can be mitigated for young people. Find the blog [here](#).
- **News articles:** Kenya's *Daily Nation* reported last week that the government's [weekly cash transfers for low income households](#) in informal urban settlements that was initiated in response to the pandemic will come to an end at the end of October. The article highlights that there are reports of targeting errors within the scheme (both inclusion and exclusion). A previous article highlighted the targeting problem, reporting that some elderly had been waiting weeks for transfers that have never arrived. Others however have received their payments on time and as planned.
- **Funding:** Prioritising the safety and well-being of women and girls, the UN and partners have launched a COVID-19 humanitarian response plan to assist some 5.4 million of the poorest and most marginalised people in the Philippines. Find the plan [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 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 16 – 21 August

There are fewer webinars relating to humanitarian cash and social protection links in the coming week, with only two being highlighted in the newsletter as follows:

- Organised by IPC-IG, the first webinar of the week will be on Tuesday 25th. It seeks to complement a recent FAO webinar (which looked at [the social protection response to COVID-19 in rural areas](#)) building on experiences of COVID-19 responses in some selected Sub-Saharan African countries from both government and non-government actors.
- The second, on Thursday 27th, will look at the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and social protection responses in rural areas.

With fewer webinars to attend, please do join the weekly informal hangout organized by Zehra Rizvi and Cecile Cherrier on Wednesday 26th. The hangout provides the opportunity for those with an interest in humanitarian cash and social protection to raise questions and share thinking in an informal and friendly way.

DATES	ACTIVITY	Organiser/Host
Tuesday 25 August	Social protection responses to COVID-19: challenges and opportunities to urban settings in Sub-Saharan Africa Click here to register.	IPC-IG
Wednesday 26 August	Weekly SP/HCT Hangout 8 am EDT. Join here (passwd: 754170)	Zehra Rizvi/Cecile Cherrier
Thursday 27 August	Gendered impacts of COVID-19 and social protection responses in rural areas Click here to register.	SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT
Looking further ahead		
Wednesday, 2 September	Virtual launch of the Stocktaking Paper on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Protection Please RSVP by emailing Manisha Thomas: genevarepresentative@wrcommission.org	European Union, UNHCR, IRC, and WRC/ Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection
Thursday 10 September	GBV & Social Protection in COVID-19 and beyond – evidence & emerging practice Register here.	SPIAC-B; IPC-IG; BMZ; and DFAT

Contributions: With thanks to *Thomas Byrnes; Ana Pantelic; Ricardo Lobo; Christina Dankmeyer; Zehra Rizvi; and Zula Altangerel.*

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.

