



Title:

Saving Lives and Protecting Them for the Long Term: Linking Humanitarian Cash Transfers to National Social Protection Systems

Sponsors and Organizers:

European Union, The Cash Learning Partnership and World Vision International

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

The majority of humanitarian action takes place in protracted crises, many of which experience recurrent and increasingly severe shocks, as a result of both conflict and climate-related causes. As a result, there is rapidly increasing interest by governments and donors alike in building or strengthening social protection systems to protect the poorest and most vulnerable people.

How can humanitarians – in particular, those delivering cash-based assistance - work with governments to complement and strengthen these systems, as well as make them better able to respond to shocks and support crisis-affected people to restore livelihoods? How can humanitarian action in protracted crises contribute to long-term solutions, while ensuring that humanitarian principles are safeguarded?

Discussion points

In this side-event, we will bring together governments, UN agencies, NGOs and donors to discuss opportunities, challenges and lessons learned on linking cash transfers in emergencies to social protection systems, including:

- What are the opportunities for working together to save lives and protect livelihoods over the long term?
- How and when can government and humanitarian actors' objectives be aligned?
- How is current practice contributing to better outcomes for crisis-affected people?
- What can humanitarian programs learn from social protection systems and vice versa? How can tools and approaches be better coordinated?
- How can data be managed effectively and safely, including through building social registries?

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

- Preparedness is key. Early and effective dialogue between humanitarian actors and governments is essential in order to develop trust and mutual understanding among diverse actors and coordinate between siloed humanitarian and development mechanisms and funding streams.
- There is no 'one size fits all' solution to linking humanitarian response to national social protection systems. Collaboration will vary and will be particularly dependent on local and national capacities to establish, expand, and coordinate social protection programs.
- Learning, documentation and dissemination of experiences across siloes and contexts are key as we collectively seek to find more effective and sustainable ways of addressing needs and building resilience in protracted crises.
- Working together effectively – aligning objectives, systems, targeting, and monitoring efforts - takes time, and will require both sets of actors to be flexible and adapt their ways of working.

Format

The chair will open the session with framing remarks and introduce the panellists. Each panellist will have 7 minutes to discuss the topic from their institutional perspective. The discussion will begin with panellist perspectives focused on humanitarian response as their starting point and work across the spectrum to how humanitarian responses can build on existing national programs.

- **WVI** will share its experiences using cash in its nutrition programming in Somalia and present some of the challenges/opportunities with linking with national systems in protracted crises, including ideas on sharing data with multiple stakeholder groups.
- **The Government of Mali** will share its experiences coordinating with NGOs to reach food insecure households using similar approaches as its Jigisemejiri national social protection program in areas not covered by the government at the time due to conflict.
- **UNICEF** will discuss its global experiences in building cash-based humanitarian and early recovery responses on national social protection programs in Yemen, Nepal, Gaza, and West Africa.

The chair and moderator will initiate discussion with panellists and then open the session to Q&A from the audience.

Chair and moderator:

- Chair: Monique Pariat, Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- Moderator: Lynn Yoshikawa, Regional Representative, The Cash Learning Partnership

Panel composition:

- Kevin Savage, Humanitarian Research Director, World Vision International
- H.E. Ambassador Issa Konfourou, Permanent Representative to the UN, The Republic of Mali
- Manuel Fontaine, Director of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF

Background Material

World Vision report or summary findings
CaLP's State of the World's Cash Report

Contact

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