Regional Event: Linking social protection & humanitarian cash assistance

28 July 2020 | MENA Region

The Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) is a global partnership of humanitarian actors engaged in policy, practice and research within Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). CaLP currently has over 90 members who collectively deliver the vast majority of CVA in humanitarian contexts worldwide. Our members include UN agencies, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, local and international NGOs, donors and private sector organisations. CaLP does not deliver Cash and Voucher Assistance directly.

In line with its global strategy, CaLP MENA hosts a regional event every six months with the purpose of convening our network around the most pressing and relevant Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) topics to facilitate discussion, collaboration, learning and improved collective outcomes.

The case for social protection to help people cope with shocks, and for humanitarian assistance and social protection to be closely linked has long been clear - and never more obvious than during the current COVID-19 crisis. Social protection instruments (social assistance, social insurance and labour market interventions) have been used widely to respond to the pandemic in high income and middle income countries. However, in lower income and fragile and conflict affected contexts, linking social protection and humanitarian assistance in responding to COVID-19 remains a complex area of programming, one where paradoxically, "there's an abundance of evidence, literature, guidance, but at precisely the same time serious gaps in knowledge and capacity". We will therefore bring together the CaLP network in the region to address this gap and understand the experience and good practice that exists in the region, as well as key challenges.

CaLP will be building on its previous work with key social protection stakeholders in the region. This is intended to complement existing efforts and initiatives in the region and promote cross-learning in this critical area.

Objective(s)

- Understand best practices and key challenges around linking humanitarian CVA and social protection in the region and share learning.
- Develop a broader understanding of the issues and challenges from a multi-stakeholder perspective.
- Regional launch of CaLP's work and to share best practices and lessons learnt on linking social protection and humanitarian CVA.

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28 July 2020, 1400 – 1630 hours EEST (GMT+3) | MENA Region

AGENDA

	SESSION	TIME	PERSON(S)	OUTLINE
0.	Opening Remarks	1400 hrs *[5 mins]*	Georgios Frantzis *Regional Representative, CaLP*	- **Introduction**
1.	**Presentation(s): CaLP's work on social protection**	1405 hrs *[5 mins]*	Diksha Rana *Regional Policy Analyst, CaLP*	- **State of the World Cash 2 Report:** *Highlights from the Social Protection Chapter*
		1410 hrs *[10 mins]*	Julie Lawson McDowall *Knowledge Management & Research Coordinator, CaLP [Moderator]* Paul Harvey *Partner, Humanitarian Outcomes*	- **Global High-level Social Protection Paper:** *Key takeaways; linking social protection and humanitarian cash assistance in COVID-19* - Q&A
		1420 hrs *[40 mins]*	Julie Lawson McDowall *[Moderator]* Gabrielle Smith *Independent Consultant*	- **MENA country case studies: *Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon*** - Q&A
2.	**Panel Discussion: Linking social protection & humanitarian cash assistance in MENA**	1500 hrs *[90 mins]*	Sophie Tholstrup *Global Policy Coordinator [Moderator]* <u>Panelists:</u> Khawla Abu Sarara, Government of Jordan Maysa Ibrahim, Lebanese Red Cross World Bank Salma Zaky, WFP MENA Sarah Palmer-Felgate, DFID Yemen Zehra Rizvi, UNICEF MENA	- *Sharing of multi-stakeholder views from development, humanitarian, donor, government, national society perspectives;* - *Discussion of regionally relevant topics such as the humanitarian-development nexus, government-led shock-responsive social protection, Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) settings, localization.* - Q&A
	TOTAL TIME	**2.5 hours**		