



SPIAC-B
Working Group on Linking Humanitarian
(Cash) Assistance and Social Protection

Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection

Common Principles and Country Experiences

HNPW webinar

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By SPIAC-B Working Group on linking Humanitarian (cash) Assistance and Social Protection

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Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection – Common principles and Country Experiences

Key takeaways:

- Linking humanitarian assistance with existing national social protection systems and policies to the extent possible is key to meet people's needs more effectively and sustainably.
- This requires considering what is already functioning in a country, such as poverty lines and government cash programs, to avoid duplication and ensure coherence between humanitarian and social protection interventions.
- It is also key to engage with government early on and to define policy and program responsibilities to build sustainable systems.
- Including local stakeholders to hear the voice of the population and ensure accountability is crucial.
- Capacity building, multi-stakeholder platforms, advocacy, and regional dialogue are key enablers to operationalize the linkages between humanitarian assistance and social protection.

Moderator: Céline Sinitzky Billard - Technical Advisor and Social Protection Focal Point at CALP Network

Key messages from speakers:

1. **Charlotte Bilo** (Coordinator of SPIAC-B Working Group on Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection) – Overview of [Common Principles on Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection](#):



- The Common Principles were developed by the SPIAC-B Working Group on Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection and aim to inform actions by both humanitarian and development actors for more effective progress in linking HA-SP to provide better services to affected people across the Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus
- The document highlights principles which can be considered universal, as well as those which apply only to specific crisis contexts (such as recurring climate shocks, displacement and conflict) and include topics, such as coordination, financing and localisation.
- The working group is currently working on developing practitioner-focussed briefs to support the operationalization of the Principles at country level.

2. Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe (Director of Humanitarian & Social Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission) - Reflections from the Western African Region on **Principle 1** **‘Systematically assess entry points for linking HA-SP when designing and implementing emergency response plans’:**

- Systematically assessing entry points to linking humanitarian assistance and social protection in emergency responses is of critical importance, particularly in the context of West Africa. For this, it is key to understand the context to determine the feasibility and desirability of such connections, especially given the region's humanitarian crisis and increasing vulnerabilities.
- ECOWAS Social Protection framework provides an entry point, aligning with international commitments and aiming to enhance assistance and coverage for vulnerable populations. The framework serves as a guideline for collaboration and aims to bridge gaps between humanitarian and development efforts. Key principles within the framework include establishing and maintaining a national system of social protection and building on existing systems as much as possible during a crisis, to avoid undermining social protection efforts.



3. Kamiran Shivan (Director of Programs, Rwanda Foundation for Development, Co-chair of the Iraq Cash Forum) – Reflections from Iraq on **Principle 3 ‘Ensure engagement with local actors when linking HA-SP, taking into consideration the space in the country for civil society engagement’**:

- The Rwanda Foundation for Development in Iraq has several initiatives which focus on youth engagement and civil society involvement in social protection efforts. One of those is the Youth Peace Ambassador Network, which aimed to promote community cohesion and peace-building by engaging youth from diverse backgrounds in leadership roles. The program provided training in leadership, conflict resolution, mediation and communication skills to empower them as agents of change in their communities.
- The aim is to empower young leaders to foster dialogue and cooperation between various governmental entities and communities across Iraq, ultimately supporting the most vulnerable individuals in accessing humanitarian assistance and social protection.

4. Chris Oberlack (UN-World Bank Liaison Officer, World Bank Country Management Unit and the UN Integrated Office for Somalia) – reflections from Somalia on **Principle 8. ‘Seek entry points to preserve elements of social protection or build the foundations of safety nets in conflict settings, when appropriate, based on strong conflict sensitivity, do no harm, protection risk, and other risk analysis’**:

- In contexts, such as Somalia, which are largely aid-dependent with nascent institutions while also facing conflict, there is a clear need for building legal frameworks and institutions to manage responsibilities across social protection and humanitarian activities.
- Recent advancements in Somalia include vulnerability-based targeting, the single registry as well as data sharing, which help mitigate risks such as



diversion and duplication of efforts. Investments in identification systems remains another crucial step to be taken.

- However, challenges remain, including the complementarity of large-scale systems, beneficiary enrolment, and the establishment of adaptive systems to transition from humanitarian assistance to safety net programs.
- *Specific ask to working group: lessons on transfer values in fragile contexts as well as issues on duplication, data privacy concerns*

5. Tania Niño (Programme & Policy Officer – Social Protection, WFP Regional Bureau of Panama) - Reflections from Colombia on **Principle 9 ‘Expand access to social protection for forcibly displaced populations and migrants’**

- In Colombia, the government implemented a protection statute for Venezuelan migrants living in the country irregularly. This statute not only allowed migrants to integrate into society but also opened up access to the social protection system. The government utilized a targeting instrument called SISBEN to classify individuals based on poverty and vulnerability, enabling them to potentially access subsidized health and other social programs. However, access to these programs was not automatic; individuals needed to be classified through SISBEN. WFP supported local authorities to register migrants and nationals into SISBEN.
- This initiative marked a turning point in integrating migrants into the social protection system, transitioning them from humanitarian assistance to state provision. The case of Columbia underscores the importance of political leadership in implementing such initiatives, but also 2 lessons: 1) consider from the outset the consequences of central decision at local level and 2) take into account the lack of permanent addresses, which migrants often lack.



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