**Tip Sheet 1:**

**Coordination Between Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Coordination Systems**

**Tip Sheet for Delivering on the Social Protection CCCs in Humanitarian Action**

**Primary Audience:** Social Policy Chiefs, Specialists, and Officers. Emergency specialists and operations colleagues may also find this tip sheet useful.

The 2020 edition of the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action includes, for the first time, sector level commitments on social protection. A set of four tip sheets have been prepared to accompany these core commitments and to support UNICEF staff in operationalising them.

This tip sheet supports UNICEF’s core commitment on social protection to ensure that` **coordination between the social protection and the humanitarian cash coordination systems is established and functional’**. Guidance on the related commitments to support inclusion of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable families in social protection responses **[*Inclusion*]** and to ensure accountability to affected populations **[*AAP*]**, are integrated throughout. Links to technical resources are provided throughout. Example documents and tools related to coordination (agreements, MOUs, TORs, operational tools, reports etc.) are available in the [SRSP Repository of tools](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/PD-SocialProtection/Building%20and%20strengthening%20national%20shock%20responsive%20social%20protection%20systems/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fteams%2FPD%2DSocialProtection%2FBuilding%20and%20strengthening%20national%20shock%20responsive%20social%20protection%20systems%2FRepository%20of%20tools%20on%20Shock%20Responsive%20Social%20Protection&viewid=45c55bfa%2D0818%2D4fb8%2D900b%2Dc557d3d925b4).

Related tip sheets include **Planning, Designing, and Resourcing and Delivery** Systems for Social Protection in Humanitarian Action. Many of the actions in this tip sheet can (and should) form part of emergency preparedness.

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| **1. Create a Collaborative Environment** | |
| ***Actions*** | ***Resources*** |
| Discussions around social protection and emergency cash transfers can be made difficult by misunderstandings and differences in terminologies, objectives and expectations.   * Appoint an emergency focal point within the Social Policy team * Engage early with country and/or regional level emergency colleagues. * Focus on the shared objectives of responding to the needs of vulnerable groups, consider humanitarian principles, and jointly assess the modalities that work best at different stages of the response. | [UNICEF HCT Programmatic Guidance (Glossary)](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/EMOPS-HKR/Cash/Forms/AllItems.aspx?FolderCTID=0x012000E78AD6351DC5164FA875A832DBEC6BDD&id=%2Fsites%2FEMOPS%2DHKR%2FCash%2F1%2E%20UNICEF%20Approach%20to%20HCT%2FHCT%20Guidance%2FUNICEF%20Humanitarian%20Cash%20Transfers%20Field%20Guidance%5F2021%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FEMOPS%2DHKR%2FCash%2F1%2E%20UNICEF%20Approach%20to%20HCT%2FHCT%20Guidance)  [Working with Cash Based Safety Nets in Humanitarian Contexts (CaLP)](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/working-with-cash-based-safety-nets-in-humanitarian-contexts-guidance-note-for-humanitarian-practitioners/) |
| Work with UNICEF senior management to position the social protection sector in inter-agency emergency preparedness and response discussions and cooperation, and to ensure funding for coordination activities. |
| Get to know the key emergency cash and social protection actors. As a priority, identify and engage formally and informally with the largest UN and NGO emergency cash and social protection actors in the country and with the ministries responsible for disaster management and social protection. |
| Become familiar with emergency cash and social protection terminology. Understand where social protection and emergency cash terms differ but have the same meaning (e.g., blanket coverage and universal targeting), and *vice versa.* |
| Commit to a long-term collaborative relationship. This will be conducive for future work on shock responsive social protection (SRSP) and emergency cash preparedness and response. |
| **2. Engage with the Cash Working Group (CWG)** | |
| ***Actions*** | ***Resources*** |
| Get to know the history and politics of the CWG in your country. While not all emergencies use the Cluster system, the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) terms of reference state that CWGs are sub-groups of the ICCG, with CWG coordinators as full members. However, CWG leadership, mandate, and capacities, and how they link to humanitarian coordination architecture, can be different in every context. CWGs are sometimes known as the Cash and Markets Working Group or Cash Coordination Group. | [UNICEF HCT Programmatic Guidance (Chapter 2)](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/EMOPS-HKR/Cash/Forms/AllItems.aspx?FolderCTID=0x012000E78AD6351DC5164FA875A832DBEC6BDD&id=%2Fsites%2FEMOPS%2DHKR%2FCash%2F1%2E%20UNICEF%20Approach%20to%20HCT%2FHCT%20Guidance%2FUNICEF%20Humanitarian%20Cash%20Transfers%20Field%20Guidance%5F2021%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FEMOPS%2DHKR%2FCash%2F1%2E%20UNICEF%20Approach%20to%20HCT%2FHCT%20Guidance)  [Cash Coordination Tip Sheet (CaLP)](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-coordination-tip-sheet/)  [OCHA Cash coordination mapping](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jOccDGpMRTe7tqzJTPIEyaToZhZwNtDXMNinbLV2qDU/edit#gid=593332529)  [Hire a CashCap expert](https://www.nrc.no/expert-deployment/what-we-do/cashcap/)  See [Cash Coordination Tip Sheet (CaLP)](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-coordination-tip-sheet/) for example CWG and Coordinator TORs |
| Be an active member of the CWG at both national and sub-national levels. This means working with senior management to ensure adequate human resource capacity within the social policy team and assigning specific coordination responsibilities to team members.   * Where there is an existing CWG, make sure you are familiar with the TOR, members, and working practices. * In some cases, UNICEF will be well positioned (or required) to Chair or Co-Chair the CWG and/or to fund a full-time CWG Coordinator and Information Officer. |
| Promote and facilitate active government participation in or engagement with the CWG at national and sub-national levels, with consideration for any political sensitivities related to cash provided to certain populations e.g., refugees. Where feasible, promote government leadership of the CWG, |
| Where there is no active CWG, consider the need to lead or support establishment of a CWG. Define the TOR, mandate, objectives, governance arrangements, resources, membership rules, sub-national structures, working practices, and inter-coordination linkages. |
| **[*Inclusion and AAP*]** Ensure that issues related to vulnerable and excluded groups (e.g., gender, disability) and accountability to affected populations (consultation, programme communications, and feedback mechanisms) are explicitly included in CWG TORs and activities and create thematic sub-groups as appropriate.  Make linkages with the protection cluster and other relevant coordination bodies and ensure that communication channels are effective, and that information flows easily. |
| **3. Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Coordination Linkages** | |
| ***Actions*** | **Resources** |
| Find the approach to social protection and emergency cash coordination that works best for your context. There are multiple options for creating linkages between coordination mechanisms. Which is most appropriate and effective depends on a variety of factors such as the nature and capacity of existing social protection and emergency cash coordination mechanisms, type of crisis (acute, protracted, conflict), relative scale of social protection and emergency cash responses, level of donor support to each sector, any political sensitivities, and the culture of government-NGO collaboration.  UNICEF’s experience in both emergencies and social protection policy and systems, and high level of trust with governments, provides a distinct comparative advantage in convening and facilitating cooperation between actors across the humanitarian-development nexus. | [UNICEF HCT Programmatic Guidance (Chapter 2)](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/sites/EMOPS-HKR/Cash/Forms/AllItems.aspx?FolderCTID=0x012000E78AD6351DC5164FA875A832DBEC6BDD&id=%2Fsites%2FEMOPS%2DHKR%2FCash%2F1%2E%20UNICEF%20Approach%20to%20HCT%2FHCT%20Guidance%2FUNICEF%20Humanitarian%20Cash%20Transfers%20Field%20Guidance%5F2021%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FEMOPS%2DHKR%2FCash%2F1%2E%20UNICEF%20Approach%20to%20HCT%2FHCT%20Guidance)  [Supporting the Linkages Between Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance and National SP Systems (CaLP)](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/supporting-the-linkages-between-humanitarian-cash-and-voucher-assistance-and-national-social-protection-systems/)  [Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multipurpose Cash Grants (Part 5 Coordination)](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/operational-guidance-and-toolkit-for-multipurpose-cash-grants-web.pdf) |
| Understand where different types of social protection coordination happen and identify the appropriate entry points for linkages, depending on the nature of the coordination objectives:   * Policy and strategic coordination, e.g., inter-ministerial steering groups. * Vertical coordination between administrative or organisational layers. * Operational coordination between sectoral departments. * UN, Donor, and IFI coordination groups and NGO social protection platforms. |
| Facilitate coordination between Social Protection and Disaster Response/Risk Management (DRM) ministries and departments. This works most effectively when coordination is formalised in national DRM and social protection strategies. If not already in place, focus on relationship building and creating informal linkages, while working towards more formalised procedures. |
| Continuously encourage and facilitate CWG actors to engage with social protection actors and in appropriate social protection coordination mechanisms. This could involve:   * Information sharing sessions. * Regular CWG leadership participation in social protection fora. * Bi-lateral meetings with government, larger agencies or representative bodies such as CSO coalitions. |
| Continuously encourage and facilitate social protection actors (especially those involved in the emergency response) to participate in the CWG. Find the right level of engagement such as joint leadership, active membership, regular information sharing, or ad-hoc participation. |
| Ensure that social protection response remains on the CWG agenda and that social protection actors are informed of relevant agenda items in advance.   * CWG TORs, tools and templates should reflect emergency social protection responses. * Create an SRSP thematic/working group under the CWG focusing on linkages between emergency cash and social protection. |
| Understand where sector specific cash transfers are discussed in other Clusters including WASH, nutrition, education, child protection, and health.   * Engage with and support sectoral cash programmes jointly with UNICEF emergency and sector colleagues, as required. * Ensure there is a mechanism to inform the CWG of all sector cash and voucher responses. |
| Where feasible and appropriate, influence the creation of a common coordination mechanism for Social Protection and emergency cash transfers. |
| There is a need for the CWG to be represented at the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) (or equivalent body) to facilitate higher-level engagement within the humanitarian system and with government counterparts including in social protection. Where required, UNICEF is expected to engage with the CWG to resolve political or practical challenges to creating effective linkages and coordination between social protection and emergency cash coordination systems. |
| Engage donors to help facilitate linkages between social protection and emergency cash actors, especially those that fund both sectors. |
| Keep the information flowing systematically between social protection and cash coordination groups, making use of multiple channels such as: mutual focal points between coordination groups; inclusion in mailing lists; presentations on coordination systems, programmes, and opportunities for collaboration; events for networking; field visits for operational actors from both sectors. |
| **[*Inclusion and AAP*]** Encourage participation of government representatives and CSOs focused on inclusion and responding to needs associated with gender, pregnancy, age, disability, migration, and other marginalised vulnerable groups in both social protection and emergency cash coordination groups. Ensure that UNICEF is an active voice on these needs and facilitates access of representatives and local groups working on these agendas.  Consider inviting participation from INGOs or CSOs engaged in independent civil society monitoring of the humanitarian response (e.g., Transparency International). |
| **4. Common Areas of Strategic, Technical and Operational Coordination** | |
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| *The following is a non-exhaustive list of the common issues addressed through social protection and cash coordination. The actions are typically the responsibility of coordination groups such as the CWG rather than UNICEF specifically.* | |
| **Common areas of strategic coordination**   * Share, gather, and assess information about existing/planned social cash transfers as well any planned and active cash and other relevant interventions. * Encourage and participate in joint response analysis and design to ensure that emergency cash is effectively integrated as a key modality in the humanitarian response plan across sectors, including harmonisation on the breadth and depth of the response (how ‘thinly’ resources are spread). * Promote the role of SRSP in the emergency response and identify entry points for linking and alignment of emergency cash with social protection systems, where feasible and informed by humanitarian principles. * Agree common or harmonised monitoring and reporting. It is common for CWGs to limit reporting to multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG), providing only a partial picture of the response that excludes sector specific and social protection transfers. | |
| **Common areas of technical coordination**   * Undertake or participate in cash feasibility assessments including Situation and Response Analysis and Multi-Sector Market Assessment. UNICEF can ensure that CWG-led assessments include modules on social protection systems and programmes and share existing assessments of social protection systems capacity and shock-readiness with the CWG. * Define common or harmonised targeting strategies. The basis for regular social protection and humanitarian targeting often differ, sometimes considerably. Where necessary, UNICEF has a role in advocating for adaptation of social protection targeting for the emergency response and promoting alignment of humanitarian cash targeting approaches. * Define common or harmonised benefit levels. CWG members tend to favour the multi-purpose cash grant (MPCG) approach based on estimation of a minimum expenditure basket (MEB). Regular social protection benefits tend to be based on poverty assessments and extra costs of living associated with life-cycle vulnerabilities or inequities. In both cases, benefit values depend on political and legal considerations, nature of the crisis, and budget constraints. UNICEF also has a role in promoting incorporation of non MEB expenditures for specific groups such as school children, and people with disabilities, as well as sector specific MEB and/or inclusion of sector specific expenditures in the MEB. * Develop common or harmonised messaging and communications strategies. UNICEF should ensure that messaging of social protection and emergency cash interventions are articulated and identify opportunities to improve access across sectors. | |
| **Common areas of operational coordination**   * Coordinate who will do what, where, and when (3/4Ws), considering both geographic coverage and complementarity of responses. Where social protection responses have wide coverage, humanitarian actors may play a ‘gap filling’ role, focus on enhancing systems (e.g., supporting communications of grievance mechanism), or provide complementary interventions (e.g., livelihood recovery). * Identify common or harmonised implementation mechanisms and operational linkages across programme components, such as registries and registration processes, payment systems, communications, and grievance and redress mechanisms. * Identify and agree data interoperability needs among agencies and government bodies involved in the response and develop data sharing agreements where required. * Create adequate referral pathways across cash transfer projects with different objectives and with other sector responses to ensure wider coverage of needs. | |
| **5. Key Contacts in the Social Policy and Social Protection Programme Group Team** | |
| Policy Specialist, Shock Responsive Social Protection – Nupur Kukrety [nkukrety@unicef.org](mailto:nkukrety@unicef.org).  Humanitarian Cash Transfer Coordinator – Claire Mariani [cmariani@unicef.org](mailto:cmariani@unicef.org).  HQ Inter Division HCT Team: Use the [One-Stop-Shop](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/EMOPS-HCT/SitePages/One-Stop-Shop.aspx) to request regional or country level programmatic and operational support. | |