

Social  
Protection and  
Humanitarian  
cash transfers  
in COVID  
response

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## COVID-19 has unleashed an economic crisis

- 71 million additional people will be living in extreme poverty by end of the year
- 100 million if the outbreak persists longer.
- Deeper recession in 2020 and slow recovery in 2021

***Social Protection has never been more important in humanitarian response***



# Social Protection across the nexus

## Collaboration, Coordination, and Complementarity with partners

- *Risk informing and preparing SP systems*
- *Supporting continuation of social protection and its scale up of SP systems*
- *Leveraging some parts of the SP systems for Humanitarian cash transfers*
- *Building nascent SP systems*



# Stepping up Social Protection efforts in response to COVID-19



## 1. Collaboration in evidence generation:

### *Child poverty estimation by UNICEF and Global Coalition to end Child Poverty*

- 106 million additional children will live in poor households by 2020
- 385 million children already live in extreme poverty and 663 million children live in multi-dimensional poverty

### *Social Protection response mapping by World Bank and UNICEF*

- 195 countries/territories have introduced/scaled up 1024 social protection measures



THE GRAND BARGAIN  
Sub-group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection

## LINKING HUMANITARIAN CASH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR AN EFFECTIVE CASH RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



To effectively mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, action to realise the [Grand Bargain](#) commitments and to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response and 'leave no one behind' is vital. We, representatives of donors, the UN, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Cash Workstream's INGOs comprising the Grand Bargain Cash and Social Subgroup on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection, call on Grand Bargain signatories to use all means at their disposal to act on the following:

existing social protection schemes, whilst others are rapidly establishing them. Implementing actors should coordinate and link humanitarian cash with possible. Depending on responses where appropriate and enhance capacity, the context this can reduce duplication and inclusion, coverage of needs, timeliness of assistance and inclusion, to help leave no one behind. Donors should coordinate humanitarian and development funding for a coherent and inclusive response that supports immediate humanitarian needs while assisting longer-term recovery of affected populations.

**Scale up the use of cash where appropriate, in both the humanitarian and social protection response, to meet the needs of people affected by COVID-19:** Beyond the immediate health impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented socio-economic crisis. The pandemic is affecting individuals and households, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable including girls, women and displaced populations, but also those at risk of falling into poverty. Impacts include reduced household incomes and purchasing power, increased unemployment and underemployment, increased expenses for health, education and basic needs, increased food insecurity and use of negative coping strategies, as well as greater protection and psychosocial risks. Where feasible and appropriate, and in line with humanitarian and accountability principles and preferences of affected populations, humanitarian cash and social protection should be delivered and scaled up to meet these needs, alongside other forms of assistance. Conditionalities and restrictions on the use of cash should be removed wherever possible to promote safety, timeliness and maximise flexibility. As cash may not be appropriate in all situations, planning for in-kind assistance remains essential.

**Deliver humanitarian cash by using, linking or aligning with local and national social protection systems, where possible and appropriate:** Governments around the world are introducing, adapting and expanding their social protection programmes and using cash transfers in response to COVID-19. Many countries where humanitarian responses to COVID-19 are being planned or implemented have

**Rapidly undertake coordinated preparedness and planning to ensure cash can be used to best effect:** Where feasible, humanitarian actors, governments and development partners should collaborate to map and assess the strengths and constraints of social protection programmes, and their underlying operational systems and institutions, to explore potential linkages. This will help determine the feasibility and appropriateness of linking humanitarian cash with social protection, identify where common mechanisms for delivery of humanitarian cash and government social protection can be used, and effectively plan a coordinated response. Such efforts are complementary to and should not divert attention from planning for other critical aspects of the response, such as health and WASH.

**Partner with local and national organisations and reinforce capacities as needed, to support effective and timely implementation of a humanitarian cash response linked with social protection systems:** This is particularly important in the COVID-19 response. This includes local government structures, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, social partners, national NGOs, community-based and women's organisations and private sector actors. Many of these organisations have links with communities, expertise in humanitarian cash and/or experience engaging with governments on social protection. These partnerships can strengthen accountability to affected populations, help mitigate risks of social tensions and support social cohesion.

## INCREASING LINKS BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN CASH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We, representatives of donors, UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and INGOs (listed below), recommend that governments, donors, development and humanitarian partners increase provision of cash assistance, where appropriate, to populations directly or indirectly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We also recommend that the cash response of humanitarian organisations consistently aligns with, build on, complements and fills gaps in national social protection programmes and systems, where appropriate, to build coherent humanitarian responses, taking into account economic impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable, leaving no one behind.

### RATIONALE FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS

9 Access to adequate social protection is essential at times of crisis and must be part of national responses to this pandemic. Social protection interventions are proven to reduce household income risks and manage shocks. Globally, cash transfers are the most common government and social protection instrument and are widely used by international humanitarian actors. Especially when combined with other services and support, cash transfers help people to



## 2. Coordinating global advocacy and learning

### Grand Bargain sub-group on linking social protection and humanitarian cash

#### Influencing

- Advocacy note by a collective of agencies (27 agencies)
- Recommendations paper by GB sub group

#### Knowledge sharing and Learning

- Webinar series to share learning by partners
- Mapping of SP & CVA links in countries
- Tip sheet for CWG coordinators on linking SP & CVA with CaLP and others

### 3. Programme

*Supporting governments to introduce, adjust and/or scale up social protection measures*

- Technical Assistance
- Funding

*Humanitarian cash transfers*

- Supporting households not covered by social protection
- Leveraging existing social protection system or contributing to system strengthening



Thank You





# Humanitarian Cash transfer for COVID-19

## CAR Experience

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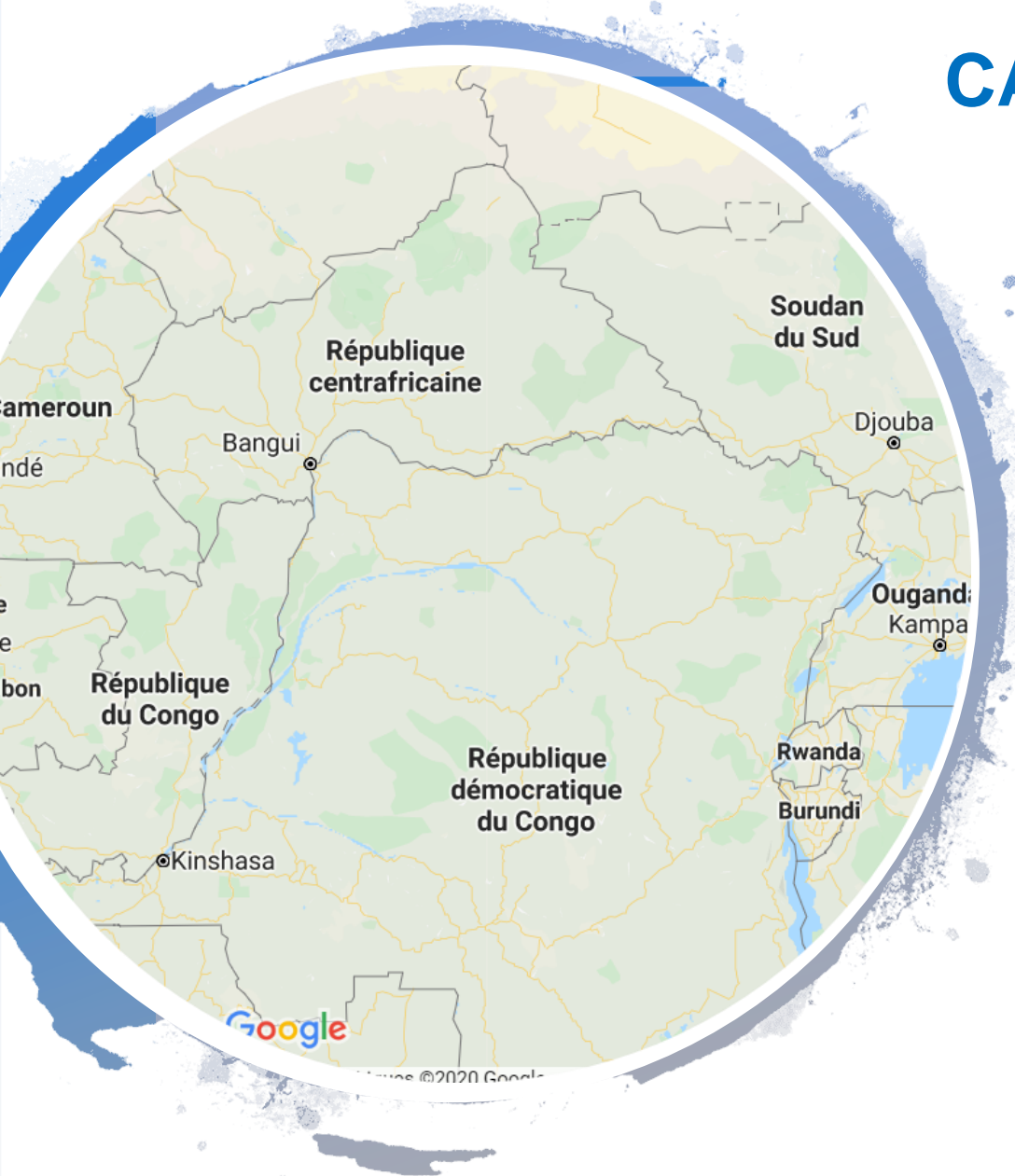




# CAR OVERVIEW – COUNTRY PROFILE

## Country Profile:

- Land-locked country
- 4.9 million of people
- 188/189 on the UN Development Index
- 71% of the population live below the international poverty line
- 53% of the population in need
- 32% of the population in urgent need
- Child mortality rate : 179/1000





# CAR OVERVIEW – CASH PROFILE

## CASH BASED INITIATIVES (1 JAN - 31 DEC 2019)

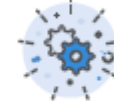
### KEY FIGURES



**570K**  
people assisted



Voucher  
**368K**  
people



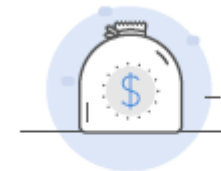
Others  
**10K**  
people



Monetary  
Transfer  
**174K**  
people



Electronic  
Transfer  
**18K**  
people



**\$25.2M**  
Total amount provided

### IMPLEMENTATION LOCATIONS



**37** Sub Prefecture  
out of 71

### KEY FIGURES



**79K**  
people assisted by  
World Bank's supported projects



Monetary  
Transfer  
**100%**  
coverage



**\$3.75M**  
Total amount provided

Development



# COVID-19 in CAR

**COVID-19 Situation in Numbers**

**3,500** COVID-19 confirmed cases\*  
 \*WHO/MoHP, 31 May 2020

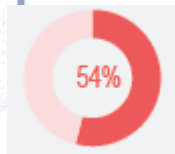
**40** COVID-19 deaths\*

**1.37 million**  
 estimate number of children affected by school closures

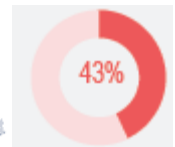
## Economic situation:

- ✓ Market negative impact - 80% of imported items
- ✓ Prices' inflation
- ✓ Decrease of customers
- ✓ Loss of income (75% informal sector) – +140.000 people in extreme poverty

Items	Price variation*
Sugar	+21%
Manioc	+40%
Oil	+20%
Rice	+30%
Local Taxi/ bus	+60%



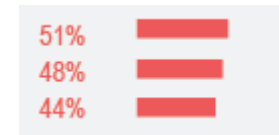
% traders reporting a drop in the number of their customers



% traders reporting an increase in transportation's price



Clients lack financial resources  
 Movement restriction  
 Fear of COVID-19



Road movement limitation  
 Bad road condition  
 Difficulties to find workers

# WHY and HOW to do CASH TRANSFER in a COVID context?



## Why:

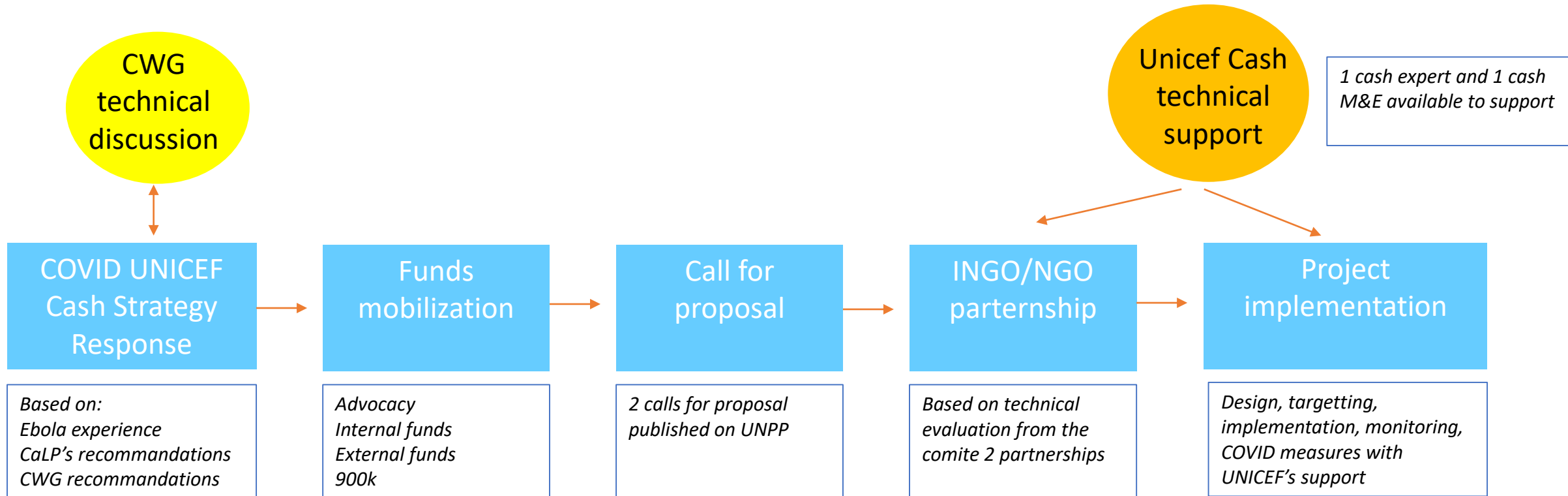
- ✓ To support vulnerable impacted households
- ✓ To support the local economy
- ✓ To reinforce the social protection system

## How:

- ✓ In coordination with other stakeholders
  - Cash Working Group
  - Implementing Partners
  - Social Protection stakeholders (World Bank, Government...)
- ✓ Based on technical recommendations (CaLP, past Ebola experiences)
- ✓ Based on needs, impacts evaluation and projection
- ✓ In close collaboration with INGO/ NGO



# HOW to do CASH TRANSFER in a COVID context?



Thank You  
Singuila !

