

Good Practices Brochure:
**Integrating Gender into Cash and Voucher
Assistance in Humanitarian Settings**



GENDER
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION
Asia and the Pacific Working Group



This Good Practices brochure was produced by the Asia-Pacific Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, co-chaired by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), OCHA, and UN Women.

Technical reviewers: CashCap/Barbara Leseni, FAO/Bettina Gatt, Ralph Ofuyo

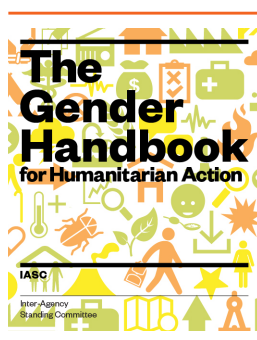
Coordination: UN Women/Prim Devakula

Cover photo and design: OCHA/Anthony Burke

Introduction

Disasters and crises impact women, girls, men, boys, and persons of diverse gender identities differently, with women and girls often bearing the brunt of the impact due to pre-existing gender inequalities. Differential impacts are also felt by women living at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities, including elderly women, indigenous women, and women with disabilities. At the same time, crisis situations also have the potential to allow new and more progressive gender roles to emerge, and the meaningful participation of women and girls in recovery, mitigation, and adaptation processes has been shown to accelerate those efforts and make them more sustainable.

Given the Grand Bargain commitments to increase the use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) where appropriate, it is critical that these commitments unfold hand in hand with commitments also made to gender equality in humanitarian settings.² As recent research has shown, without adequate gender analysis and targeting, cash and voucher assistance can fail to reach those left furthest behind; yet on the flip side, cash and gender interventions in the development sector have also suggested the potential of cash and voucher assistance to improve a women's bargaining power and increase her decision-making capacity within the household.³



The IASC Gender Handbook (2018) notes that the integration of gender equality into cash and voucher assistance supports the achievement of the following humanitarian outcomes:

- Promoting women's rights and choices, and reducing barriers and risks;
- Strengthening local economies, benefiting both affected populations and host communities;
- Promoting economic self-reliance, including for women and LGBTI entrepreneurs;
- Providing a shift in gender relations towards equality.

To support acceleration of commitments made to both the use of cash-based interventions and to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings, the following pages include case studies, tools, and examples of programming on integrating gender into cash-based interventions in Humanitarian Settings in Asia and the Pacific.

1. The Asia-Pacific Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group is the main coordination platform for advocacy, knowledge management, and technical support on gender in humanitarian action in the region.

2. Claire A. Simon. *Setting the Stage: What We Know (And Don't Know) About the Effects of Cash-Based Interventions on Gender Outcomes in Humanitarian Settings*. Collected Papers on Gender and Cash Transfer Programmes in Humanitarian Settings, 2018.

2. Ibid.

New Gender and Cash Guidance Forthcoming “Cash and Voucher Assistance and Gender- Based Violence Compendium: Practical Guidance for Humanitarian Practitioners”



A new guideline “*Cash & Voucher Assistance and Gender-Based Violence Compendium: Practical Guidance for Humanitarian Practitioner*” is to be finalized by May 2019. The guidance was developed through the efforts of 15 NGO and UN organizations who contributed expertise in the inception, design and review of the document. The process was led and was funded through support from CARE USA and prepared by an independent consultant, Joanna Friedman, on behalf of CARE USA and the CVA and GBV Guidelines Reference Group.

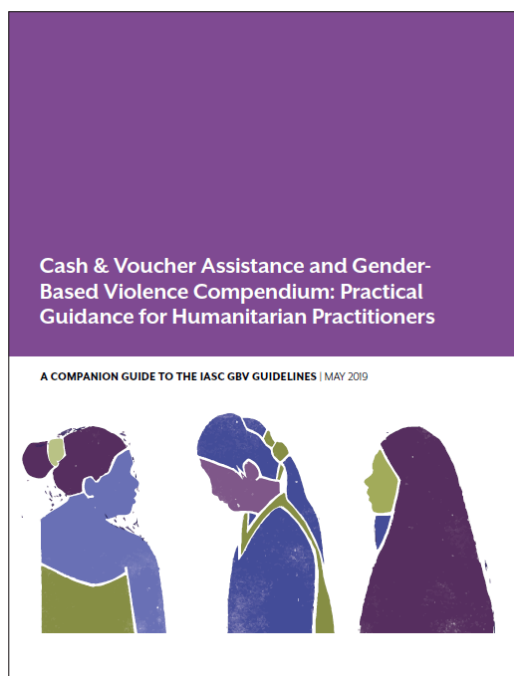
The purpose of the Compendium is to assist humanitarian actors and crisis- and conflict-affected communities to: integrate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and in some cases GBV prevention into Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA) interventions; and integrate CVA into GBV prevention and response when appropriate.

The compendium is for:

- Field-based humanitarian practitioners, across all areas or sectors of humanitarian response who use cash and/or vouchers in their programs;
- GBV specialists who are considering using CVA in their programming;
- Members of the humanitarian country team (HCT);
- Humanitarian coordinators (HCs) and donors who advise and monitor teams and partners on GBV main-streaming/integration.

The document helps practitioners to:

- Differentiate between i) GBV risk mitigation in CVA, and ii) potential ways in which CVA can contribute to GBV prevention and response;
- Identify practical actions that CVA/technical sector actors and other humanitarian actors can take to identify and mitigate the risks of GBV in CVA;
- Identify practical actions that GBV specialists can take to incorporate GBV-protective CVA in their GBV programming, providing key considerations throughout the phases of project cycle management.



Drawing from good practice of published, soon to be published, grey-literature and expert interviews, the Compendium highlights essential actions, promising practices, and lessons learned on the topic. The compendium is intended as a companion to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 2015 Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action and the companion resource the GBV Pocket Guide. The GBV Guidelines focus on GBV risk mitigation activities that should be undertaken within and across all sectors of humanitarian response, while the Compendium focuses on practical guidance in terms of GBV risk mitigation for all humanitarian actors using CVA. The Compendium can also be used as an advocacy tool to remind all field-based practitioners, managers and coordinators about their responsibility for mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation across CVA and sectoral programming.

It lays out key considerations throughout the phases of project cycle management and directs the user by their focus of specialty (i.e. Part II for CVA or sector specialists, cluster or humanitarian coordinators, or donors; Part III for GBV specialists). The document has hyperlinks to essential documents, a modality decision-making tree considering GBV risks related to modalities, a GBV risk analysis for CVA tool, and clear examples of CVA and GBV integration.

For information on the guidance contact Holly Welcome Radice, Cash and Markets Technical Advisor, CARE USA, holly.radice@care.org

Gender and Protection Mainstreaming for Cash Assistance: A Case Study of the Sulawesi Response



In September 2018, a 7.5-magnitude earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. As reported by the provincial government of Central Sulawesi, the death toll reached 4,340 people, 667 were missing, 17,293 buildings were mildly damaged, another 12,717 buildings sustained medium damage, 9,181 severe damage and 3,673 were declared gone⁴. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) responded to emergency needs in cooperation with three implementing partners - Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC), Pos Keadilan Peduli Umat - Human Initiative (PKPU HI) and Caritas Indonesia (KARINA) - by providing NFIs, hygiene kits, water storage tanks, and emergency shelters. By December 2018, CRS' emergency response in Sulawesi was gradually transitioning to the early recovery phase, during which CRS used cash transfer assistance to support families in the construction of transitional shelters, including WASH facilities.

To inform the early recovery phase, CRS conducted a study on the gender dynamics and protection risks that differently influenced men and women in the emergency response and early recovery process, particularly in relation to the construction of WASH facilities and the distribution of cash transfer assistance.

The study - consisting of a secondary data review, 12 Focus Group Discussions and 8 key informant interviews - revealed that gender barriers affect the ways in which women and men deal with the aftermath of disaster, and how they access assistance. In particular, women (and vulnerable groups) revealed not having been consulted by humanitarian actors or community leadership regarding the overall recovery process and stated that they were not aware of channels to share input and address challenges. Additionally, they noted unequal access to services and information as well as lack of meaningful participation into community leadership groups who were responsible for facilitating aid distribution in IDP centers. Women were also unable to attend meetings or trainings conducted in the evening unless accompanied by their husbands or friends.

However, the study highlighted the existence of informal, regular, religious-based gatherings-Qur'an recitation groups and arisan (saving groups) - which have the potential to play an important role in information sharing and engagement. These existing and effective social organizational structures can be tapped in order to establish practical means for feedback from women without creating additional activities or increasing the time burden. The study recommended building on or reinvigorating such groups, to serve as safe spaces for sharing feedback on assistance and to make sensitive complaints.

4. <https://reliefweb.int/report/indonesia/central-sulawesi-disasters-killed-4340-people-final-count-reveals>
<https://reliefweb.int/report/indonesia/central-sulawesi-recovery-will-take-3-years-official-says>.



CRS talks with displaced families about their priority needs.

Photo by Sayoga/ Redux, Putu

Other recommendations included:

- Ensure the availability of sex-and-age-disaggregated data to inform the design and implementation of recovery activities;
- Whenever possible, ensure that on-site activities - including the provision of cash transfer assistance, and consultation processes with women and vulnerable groups - accommodate their limited mobility and time constraints;
- Assess and advocate for minimization of the paperwork needed for accessing cash transfer assistance during the emergency response mechanism; whenever possible with a gender and more generally a protection mainstreaming lens;
- Identify the different skills and sources of income for women and men, as well as women's financial management capacity in the household, so the household economy gender dynamics inform both multipurpose and conditional cash transfer assistance.

For further information, please see the full report here: <http://bit.ly/crssula>

Case Study: Fostering Women's Access and Participation in Cash For Work Projects in the Lombok Earthquake Response



As part of the Lombok response, World Vision Indonesia (WVI) conducted a Cash for Work Project from December 2018-February 2019. The activity was to clear public areas of debris from the impact of the earthquake, and help the community prepare their location for shelter construction and provide a safe environment for children. This Cash for Work programme was carried out in 11 sub-villages in Sokong Village, North Lombok, and reached 1,053 households.

In this project, WVI interventions ensured access to information and consultations for women through the following measures:

1. WVI provided pictures for illiterate woman to help them understand on cash for work project;
2. WVI provided staffs to help them in writing or filling registration form & bank account form;
3. WVI involved women to determine work target, work equipment, masons selection and money withdrawal process in Bank;
4. Provision of a help desk to ensure feedback was gathered from women:
 - i. Based on the feedback database, most of women prefer to report their feedback through communicating it directly to the staff as well as writing it in feedback form (suggestion box). Therefore, WVI provided not only male staff but also female staff to help woman deliver their recommendation, question or complaint;
 - ii. Feedback received from November 2018 to March 2019, 62% feedback received from men, 31% feedback received from women, and 8% from who did not want to say their sex information. While WVI took measures to increase women's access to feedback mechanisms, this suggests that more needs to be done to encourage women to voice their idea or argument.
5. Transportation and helpdesk were provided to help women to withdraw their money (cash for work fee) in the Bank;
6. Transportation was provided for vulnerable women like pregnant women, mother with U5 children, elderly women, and disable women.

Furthermore, based on community feedback on Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of Cash for Work I, both of men and women, they said that WVI needs to provide work equipment like small buckets to help women and elderly women to finish their work. Therefore, in Cash for Work II, WVI provided work equipment more in line with feedback received from women.



Photo: A woman participant of the cash for work project in Tanak Sanggar sub-village, Indonesia.

Case Study: A step towards a human security in Sindh Pakistan



Under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, FAO, ILO and UN Women jointly implemented a project in Sindh titled “*Livelihood Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Empowerment of Vulnerable Peasant Communities (LRP)*”, in 120 Communities/ Villages in district Dadu and Mirpurkhas. The project supported the restoration of the livelihoods and empower 11,800 poor and vulnerable peasants (small landholder/hari men, women, boys and girls) dependent on feudal and tribal landholding and traditional farming systems and severely affected by droughts, floods and insecurity.

For improvement of food, livelihoods and economic security of rural communities, the activities related to off-farm income generating and on-farm production capacities through in kind support and increasing women’s access to financial services, including a loan scheme, were initiated, which had a positive impact on their disaster resilience. Alongside cash and in-kind support, the skills and knowledge base of men and women peasant farmers, landless people and unemployed youth were also enhanced through technical support in good agricultural practices (GAP’s) and post-harvest management through Producer Marketing Groups (PMGs). Furthermore, the capacities of peasant organizations (POs), farmer organizations (FOs), water user associations (WUAs) men and women groups etc. and their constituent landholder members were enhanced in order to manage their natural resources base (land, water, vegetation etc.) while strengthening their resilience to future shocks. The project established and demonstrated 60 Conservation Agriculture Schemes for wider dissemination and adaptation to improve quantity and quality of agricultural production of 2400 landholders/hari farm families.

Incorporating gender and women’s empowerment messages in the women open schools (WOSs), farmer field schools (FFSs) and off-farm training programmes proved very effective with respect to the gender sensitization of communities. Women farmers were capacitated to have proactive role in livelihoods, as well as food and nutrition activities. Women farmers established their kitchen gardens at home and in their fields. The regular contact and interaction among farmers through FFSs improved social bonding. Farmers welcome innovations through FFSs and WOSs if planned, organized and the benefits are well demonstrated. Farmers found conservation agriculture (CA) technologies and practices helpful in conserving soil moisture and fertility, in order to decrease the cost of production and to increase farm income, which benefitted both landholders and landowners. The provision of post-harvest packages alongside cash assistance through loans to PMGs was a critical component for success and a valuable addition to farm business start-ups. As the project was implemented by three agencies, this collaboration helped in strengthening relations among different organizations as well as opened up new pathways for future also.



Photo: On site learning process for women beneficiaries. Credit: FAO

Case Study: Empowering Women to Combat Human Trafficking in the northeast of Myanmar



By providing legal, psychosocial and livelihoods support through skills training and cash transfers, as well as awareness raising and referral to other services to at-risk and rescued women, Htoi Gender and Development Foundation with the support of UN Women is working to prevent and mitigate the impacts of human trafficking in Kachin State in the northeast of Myanmar.

"I am so happy to be showing you my beautiful chicken house today," says Toe Ja Aung⁵, a chicken farmer from the remote Ma Li Ya Village in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State. "Since receiving training and support, I now know how to take care of the chickens, and how to sell them at markets for good prices. Organic chickens are very popular and in high demand, so I am confident I will make a good profit from this business."

Toe Ja Aung is one of 129 women who have received vocational skills, marketing and financial management training, as well as cash/asset transfers and market linkage development support through the Htoi Gender and Development Foundation, UN Women's local implementing partner for the "Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Trafficking through Women's Empowerment in Kachin State" programme. Htoi also provides legal aid, psychosocial counselling, referrals to services for human trafficking survivors, and community mobilisation and awareness raising through networks of trained women and men community mobilisers to help prevent, identify and rescue cases, including by linking to the anti-trafficking police task force and local authorities, in conflict-affected communities in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and villages with populations at risk of human trafficking.

The women who have received livelihood support alongside Toe Ja Aung have learnt skills in pig rearing, catfish rearing, weaving, tailoring, handicrafts, organic cotton and vegetable cultivation, pharmacy shop-keeping and more. In order to best utilise these skills, the women have also received training in financial management and marketing, asset and cash grants, and market linkage support to start-up their businesses.

Among them is Nan Seng. *"We do not feel safe as IDPs to move around as we face shame and stigma from society," she explains. "We had no job opportunities and no means to provide for and protect our families."* Now, having started a group charcoal bamboo production business with the full package of vocational skills training, along with marketing and financial management training and cash transfer, Nan Seng notes that *"We can now manage this as our own group business, make a profit to sustain our community, and apply the skills we've learned for our better future."*

More than 97,000 people in Kachin State are displaced and living in camps or camp-like settings – 75% of these people are women and children. In these circumstances, women and girls at risk are exposed to sexual and gender-based violence. Among other factors, the lack of job opportunities and the unsafe living conditions in many camps are commonly ways in which women are lured into crossing the border into China - and



becoming entrapped in the dangerous cycle of human trafficking. Women who have been lured across the border lack legal working status, resulting in them often being forced into domestic labour, sex work, forced marriage and forced pregnancy.

To address the root causes and gender dynamics of human trafficking, UN Women combines livelihoods support and cash transfers with supporting the Government of Myanmar with interventions that raise awareness and improve both women and men's ability to prevent and respond to human trafficking. To date, more than 2,500 women and men have increased their awareness of their rights and the dangers of trafficking in Kachin State through initiatives led by trained community mobilisers, Htoi, and UN Women. Community mobilisers such as Nan Seng, have been trained to offer support and information to women attempting to safely migrate, and to spot and respond to the signs and effects of human trafficking.

"I have become a resource person in my community to raise awareness about the risks of trafficking and how to help identify cases and report them to Htoi and the authorities," says Nan Seng. *"I know how to support women who want to migrate through legal channels."*

This programme, supported by the Government of Japan from 2018-2020, is one component under the regional UN Women-UNODC joint programme *"Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Trafficking through Women's Empowerment in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam)"*.

5. Name has been changed.

6. For more detail on these interventions, please see

www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/1/feature-tackling-human-trafficking-in-myanmar

Case Study: Unconditional Cash Grants for those affected by Typhoon Damrey in Viet Nam

INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION

Typhoon Damrey made landfall in early the morning of 4 November 2017, with winds of up to 135km/h, wreaking havoc in the central and south-central coast of Viet Nam; before entering Cambodia. According to Viet Nam's National Search and Rescue Committee, Typhoon Damrey was the strongest storm to make landfall in Khánh Hòa Province and the south-central region in the last 20 years. The National Steering Committee for the Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control reported that the typhoon caused the most devastation in nine provinces, of which 122 communes from 12 districts were listed as seriously affected by flooding. As many as 4.3 million people were affected, including 80,531 pregnant/nursing women and 143,997 children.

Le Thi Tram, a 73-year-old woman, was living with her husband, Nguyen Van Hiep, when the Typhoon Damrey made landfall in Vinh Ha Commune. The typhoon fueled heavy rains, resulting in overflowing rivers and extensive flooding. The situation worsened due to the sea tide. Some areas in the commune were submerged for five days.

In the aftermath of the Typhoon Damrey, her house was inundated with water up to nearly one meter which lasted for more than one day.

"In the early days following the typhoon and flood, we were provided with instant noodles by the Vinh Ha Commune People's Committee. My children who were living nearby also brought us food. After that, we managed on our own," said Mrs. Tram.

The Tram family's income mainly comes from agricultural production. Mrs. Tram was among the 150 households that received the unconditional cash grant support from the Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) before the end of 2017. *"I participated in village meetings where beneficiaries were selected. The meeting was facilitated by head of my hamlet and local Red Cross chapters. Selection criteria was made clear to us and made it easier to select beneficiaries. I was selected because our rice crops were damaged by the flood water. According to the criteria, our household belonged to the 'poor household' and 'household with elderly."*

The VND 2.2 million (USD 95) of unconditional grant was distributed to Mrs. Tram allowing her to be able to acquire necessary goods and services with freedom and dignity. Many of the cash recipients spent the cash grant to acquire food, tools to repair their houses medicines and medical services.

Mrs. Tram said, *"the assistance relieved our hardship. Every three to five days, we bought meat to diversify our diet. I also bought 10 hens and some medicine. Both my husband and I decided where to spend the money."*

She further added, *"This is the first time we received such value. Previously, the transfer value was only between VND 300,000 to VND 500,000 (USD 13 or 21). This grant has made us afford more things we need."*

