Women and Girls Choose: Cash Assistance in GBV case management

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Pamela Di Camillo GBV/Humanitarian Coordinator Lebanon
UNFPA’s approach:
CVA in GBV case management
“Many women in abusive relationships do not leave their violent partners, because of financial dependence. They are not confident if they can survive and support their children by themselves alone. Because of natural disasters and now with COVID, these women are even more unsure of their potential to become independent. This is exactly why this cash-transfer assistance is so significant and meaningful for these vulnerable women because it helps them to break ties with their abusive partners, help them move on, give them a sense of empowerment, ownership, and resilience, standing on her own two feet.”

Implementing partner MOSEP - Philippines
Why Cash is used in GBV CM?

IMMEDIATE SUPPORT
Cash can support survivors and women and girls at risk with emergency/life-saving assistance

ACCESS TO SERVICES
Medium to longer-term, recurrent Cash can support GBV survivors’ recovery and empowerment

MITIGATE GBV RISKS
Cash can support women and girls’ strategies to mitigate further risks of GBV
“Yesterday I didn’t have any food, with the cash today I went to the market, I bought a little stove, a gas cylinder and food for the children. I have something to fry with and I want to start something, I will start selling a few things and get rid of my abusive landlord”.

Cash recipient, Cucuta, Colombia
Colombia

- Context of armed conflicts or migration
- Most often the needs are very immediate
- Urgent medical attention
- Emergency relocation
- Avoid risky coping mechanisms

GBV case worker, Arauca department
@UNFPA Colombia
Cash assistance in Jordan provides support when:

- The current living arrangement does not guarantee safety - it enables withdrawal from perpetrator/threat or the mitigation of the risk of IPV in situations of multiple vulnerabilities (e.g. disability, lack of economic resources) or as last resort in protracted violence.
- Loss of access to economic resources due to GBV (e.g. violent husband who leaves or sexual harassment at work).
- Need to access urgent services to address GBV consequences (medical, legal, shelter etc.).

Cash assistance must be able to address or mitigate serious harm from GBV consequences!
“I became independent, and was able to protect my daughters from violence.”

“[With the cash], my thoughts of suicide decreased. I began to face my problems and it decreased the risk I was facing of sexual exploitation.”

“I was able to file a legal case for a divorce and put an end to my husband’s abuse. I am now living with my parents and regularly following up on the divorce proceedings. The assistance came at just the right time.”

Cash recipients from Jordan
Where else in the world?
How cash fits in Case Management Action Plans
How?

➔ Piggybacking on other UN agencies’ CVA delivery platform (UN to UN agreement)
➔ Through Implementing Partners (IPs) delivery mechanism
➔ UNFPA directly contracting Financial Service Providers (FSPs) contract or delivering cash directly (cash custodian)
➔ Working through the Government social protection programs

Delivery mechanisms:
➔ Digital payments (e.g. mobile money, cards, money transfers)
➔ Traditional (e.g. cash in envelopes, cheques)

Familiarity
Discretion
Timeliness
Anonymity
“My children and myself did not have a safe place to stay and we were afraid that my abusive husband and his family would come back to look for us. Together with my caseworker, we decided that it was better for us to move to a different camp. Cash assistance was critical to meet our urgent needs and start a new life.”

Cash recipient, northwest Syria
[Receiving cash] was a glimpse of hope and a break for our mental health so that we’d be able to look for a job. What drastically changed my life was having the chance to sit down with the case worker and psychologist to talk about my concerns and fears. My husband’s anger has also been managed and he became less violent because he hasn’t had to worry about feeding our children.

Lamis,* 33, a Syrian living in Beirut, Lebanon
Evidence from the field
UNFPA and Johns Hopkins University Center for Humanitarian Health  
*Key Findings from Jordan research study*

- **Decision Making and Use of Cash:** ≥98% reported that they decided how the cash would be used.
- **Risk Mitigation:** 90.6% of all recurrent cash recipients and 61.7% of all one-off emergency cash recipients reported better household relationships due to reduced financial stress.
- **Psychological Well-Being:** The proportion of women reporting no feelings of depression and hopelessness increased by 1.5% in the control group compared to 11.0% in the one-off cash group and 40.7% in the recurrent cash group.
- **Safety:** >99% reported feeling safe receiving cash.
- **Receipt of Cash:** 84% of participants indicated that there were no challenges in receiving their cash assistance.

@UNFPA Jordan
Lebanon Post Distribution Monitoring
Key findings Q1-Q2 2022

One off emergency cash

- 51% of beneficiaries reported that the cash assistance significantly mitigated immediate GBV Risks and 36% somewhat.
- 49% reported that it significantly decreased their exposure to SEA

Recurrent cash

- 60% of the recurrent cash beneficiaries reported that the cash assistance significantly mitigated their exposure to IPV
- 56% reported that it significantly decreased their exposure to SEA
- 68% reported that the recurrent cash assistance significantly contributed to improve physical and mental well-being
Lessons learned for replication and scale up
Resources

- UNFPA Lebanon case study
- UNFPA multi-country case study on CVA in GBV case management
- Research with Johns Hopkins University
  - Research overview
  - Northwest Syria findings
  - Jordan findings forthcoming
- Toolkit | GBV Risk Mitigation in Cash and Voucher Assistance

Contact

- UNFPA Humanitarian Office CVA Team: ho-cva@unfpa.org
- Pamela Di Camillo, GBV/Humanitarian coordinator: dicamillo@unfpa.org
Thank you!