Welcome to the webinar

Social Protection and Violence against Women and Girls in the Indo Pacific region: Responding to COVID-19





Social Protection Interagency Cooperation Board

Task Force COVID-19:



SPIAC-B Gender Working Group | IPC-IG | GIZ | DFAT

Social protection responses to **#COVID19**

This joint effort is inspired by colleagues and organisations working to **disseminate and discuss the most recent content on social protection responses to COVID-19**.

The initiative has three major components:

- A weekly special edition of a dedicated <u>newsletter</u>, featuring a compilation of relevant information from all over the world on social protection initiatives dealing with COVID-19;
- 2. Weekly webinars to foster discussions and exchanges;
- 3. An <u>online community</u> to systematise the information gathered on the topic and foster discussion.

Task Force COVID-19:







Photo: Manuel Darío Fuentes Hernández on Pixabay

#SPcovid19 #COVID19 #SPresponses

Speakers:

Dr Amber Peterman, Department of Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Social Policy Consultant

Melissa Alvarado, Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) Regional Programme Manager at UN Women, Asia-Pacific Regional Office

Nalini Singh, Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Lara Quarterman, Independent Consultant (Social Protection and VAWG)

Moderators:

Julie-Ann Guivarra, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Department of Foreign Affairs of Australia

Sarah Goulding, Assistant Secretary, Education, Social Protection and Human Development Finance Branch, Department of Foreign

Affairs of Australia



Overarching Questions

- 1. What is the current evidence base/research on the role of cash transfers in having positive impacts on violence against women and girls? What does it say about the factors and conditions that influence this positive impact and where are the gaps in knowledge? What about the potential of unintended consequences?
- 2. How can social protection policies and program, contribute to addressing the shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Indo-Pacific? What are the differences in application across our region, for example what are the differences in application of social protection policies and programs in MICs and LICs?
- 3. What are promising examples of how social protection programs (on the ground) are addressing VAWGin the Indo-Pacific?
- 4. How can and are cash transfers responding to the GBV impacts of the pandemic on women in crises and conflicts through humanitarian mechanisms? Are there particular challenges or opportunities that humanitarian mechanisms present to using cash transfers to respond to VAWG?



Moderator

Julie-Ann Guivarra Department of Foreign Affairs of Australia

Julie-Ann Guivarra is the Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality. She is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade where she served most recently as Australia's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, Andorra and Equatorial Guinea. In this role Ms Guivarra became Australia's first female indigenous Ambassador. Prior to that appointment she served as Australia's lead services negotiator for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) while she was Assistant Secretary of the South East Asia Investment & Services Branch. She has multilateral experience, serving as the Counsellor (Agriculture) in the World Trade Organisation.





Moderator

Sarah Goulding Department of Foreign Affairs of Australia

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Sarah Goulding is the Assistant Secretary for Assistant Secretary, Education, Social Protection and Human Development Finance Branch with responsibility for Australia's investment in a portfolio of social protection, health, education, climate and environment multilateral funds. Previously she has held the position of Senior Specialist Gender Equality, strengthening Australia's focus on women in leadership, women's economic empowerment and ending violence against women and girls through Australia's aid programmes. Sarah joined the former AusAID in 2003. She has led a range of policy and programme portfolios, including fragility and conflict and governance engagement. She has overseen country and regional Australian Aid programmes in the Asia-Pacific in a broad range of sectors, including health, education, private sector development and economic reform. She served in Suva as the head of Australia's aid program to Fiji and Tuvalu, and on the board of Tuvalu's sovereign wealth fund.



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Speaker

Dr Amber Peterman

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Social Policy Consultant

Amber is an Associate Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work focuses on the intersection of gender and development, with an emphasis on economic programming and violence against women and children. She is a Transfer Project affiliate and co-leads the Cash Transfer and Intimate Partner Violence collaborative. She previously worked as a Social Policy Specialist at UNICEF Office of Research— Innocenti and as a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington DC., Kampala, and Dakar.





Speaker *Melissa Alvarado*

UN Women - Asia-Pacific Regional Office

Melissa Alvarado is the Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) Regional Programme Manager at UN Women, Asia-Pacific Regional Office. Melissa has been working specifically on ending violence against women and children for 20 years, through program management and design, policy and legislation development and implementation, developing interagency response systems, technical assistance, capacity building, advocacy and research. Her work is informed by years of experience advocating for and directly supporting survivors of violence against women and children in crisis.





Speaker *Nalini Singh* Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Nalini Singh is the Executive Director of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM). Nalini Singh is a feminist and a social development specialist with over 17 years' experience in design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of women's rights and development programmes in the Asia Pacific. Her particular interests are the issues of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), decent work and organisational capacity strengthening. Nalini is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific with a Bachelor of Arts.





Speaker Lara Quarterman Independent Consultant

Lara Quarterman is an independent consultant specialising in gender, protection, and inclusion. For over 15 years, she has been working to improve humanitarian responses and development efforts to better meet the needs of women and girls, including the risks of gender-based violence and access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. Prior to becoming a consultant, she was a Humanitarian Adviser with DFID leading on violence against women and girls policy and programming, and has worked with UNHCR, IOM, ILO, the World Bank, and international NGOs. She is currently providing advice on gender equality and social inclusion to Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19: Expert Advice Helpline (SPACE).





Share your questions to the speakers!

type them into the Q&A box 🛷



Also, interact with us on Twitter (@SP_Gateway):

#SPorgWebinar #SPcovid19 #COVID19 #SPresponses







Amber Peterman

SP.org & DFAT webinar: August 18, 2020





JOHNS HOPKINS **3LOOMBERG SCHOOI** F PUBLIC HEALTH

CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

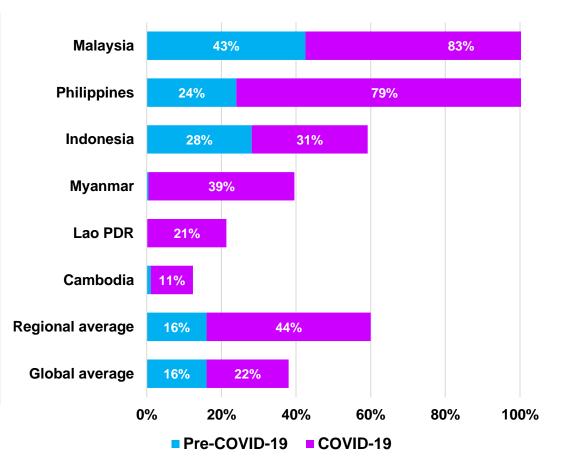




Social protection as an essential response to COVID-19: Globally & regionally

- Since March, 200 countries have planned, adapted or put in place
 1,055 social protection measures
- Social assistance (incl. cash transfers) account for 60% of measures
- Cash transfers are short (~3 months) but "generous" (double pre-pandemic values, ~29% of monthly average GDP per capita)

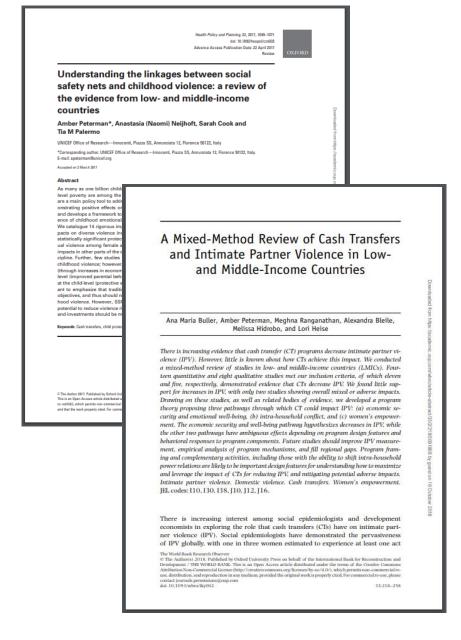
Pre & Post COVID-19 Population Coverage of Cash Transfers*



Source: Gentilini et al. (2020 – 'Living paper' version 12). <u>Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review</u> <u>of Country Measures</u>. World Bank. *ASPIRE database, coverage >100% denotes program overlap

Key Research Messages

- Robust body of evidence showing cash transfers are **promising** to reduce intimate partner violence (IPV) – less so for violence against children (VAC)
- Reductions in IPV occur via 3 main pathways: Economic security, reductions in intra-household conflict & women's empowerment
- Regional & program design evidence gaps exist, especially in EAP
- COVID-19 is an opportunity to advocate for explicit designs that address violence & to [ethically] produce evidence on effectiveness



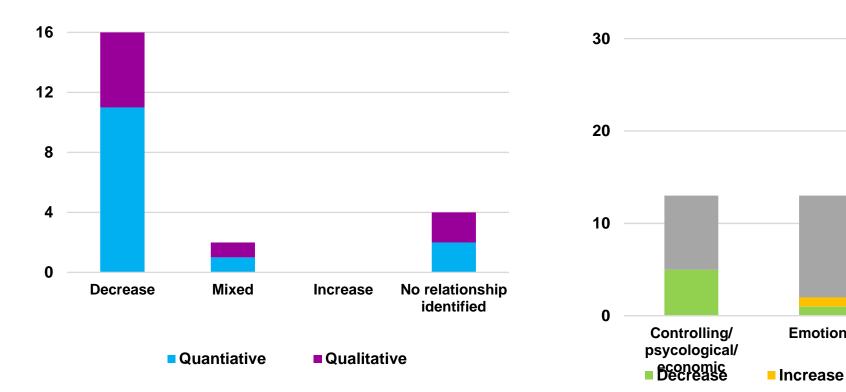
Cash Transfer & IPV Research Collaborative:

https://www.ifpri.org/project/cash-transfer-and-intimate-partner-violence-research-collaborative

Mixed method review of cash transfers on IPV [22 studies in LMICs]

OVERALL IPV IMPACTS [14 quant + 8 qual]

QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS [56 total by IPV type]



Majority of studies (73%) showed decreases; two studies (9% showed mixed impacts)

Among quant indicators, 36% significant & protective; 2% significant & adverse (protective impacts stronger for physical/sexual)

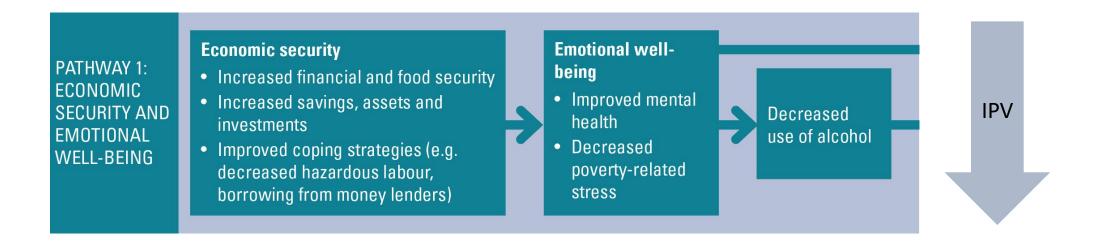
Emotional

Physical and/or

sexual

Not significant

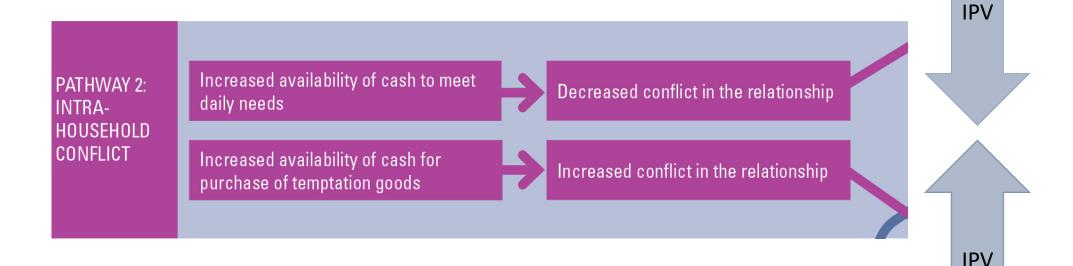
PATHWAY 1: Economic security & emotional wellbeing



"In my household it was like happiness, we all got along, with my children, with my husband [...] in my house we were happy [...] because before we did not have enough money for those things [food]."

Female from IDI in cash, food & voucher program in Ecuador (Buller et al. 2016)

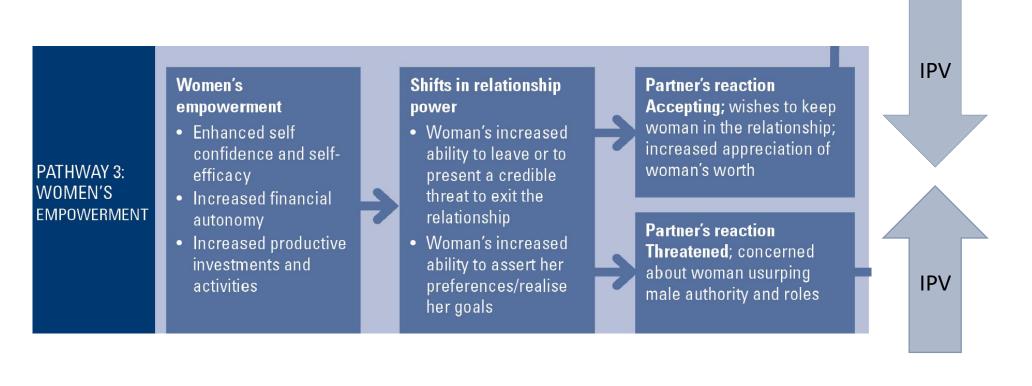
PATHWAY 2: Intra-household conflict



"There had been many fights. Because children needed many things that we could not have afforded. I asked my husband and he used to say there is no money. Then I used to get upset and started to yell. We had many fights because of poverty. Not only for us, for all poor, fights come from suffering"

Female from IDI in CCT plus in-kind transfers in Turkey (Yidrim et al. 2014)

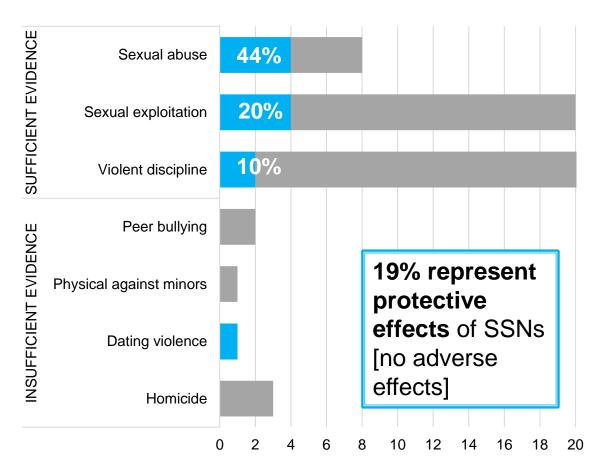
PATHWAY 3: Women's empowerment



"Earlier, ... my husband would sometimes sell household items without consulting me. **But now that I have my own money, I can have a say on how to spend income.** ...With the money, a woman may buy seedlings for planting, and hire an ox-plough or tractor or casual labor to dig for her."

Female from IDI in UCT in Northern Uganda (Nuwakora 2014)

What about violence against children? Review of social safety nets in LMICs



Overall results: 57 indicators [11 studies]

- Results promising for protecting adolescent girls against sexual exploitation & abuse, less so for other types of VAC
- Many research gaps, including regional, testing of plus components
- Diverse mechanisms: schooling, caregiver stress, adolescent risk behaviors, exposure to high-risk environments, girls' empowerment

Note: Percentage reflects proportion with protective effects among total indicators measuring each type of VAC (<18 years)

COVID-19, Violence & Research [past & future]

- Global evidence base suggests promising protective effects for IPV, however evidence from the EAP region is scarce [ongoing studies in Laos, Philippines & Myanmar may fill gaps in the future]
- Nearly all research is focused on development programming – however pathways indicate applicability to COVID-19 – if support is substantial & sustained
- Increasing willingness to address VAW/G explicitly – including safeguarding as well as prevention, with diverse options ranging from case management, mental health, gender norm trainings etc. [should be informed by drivers of VAW/G in a specific context]

Recommendation:

COVID-19 is an opportunity to advocate for **explicit designs** that address violence & to [ethically] **produce evidence** on implementation, effectiveness & costs

THANKS & CITATIONS

Slide 1: © Felix Clay/Duckrabbit

- Buller AM, Hidrobo M, Peterman A & Heise L. 2016. The way to a man's heart is through his stomach?: a mixed methods study on casual mechanisms through which cash and in-kind food transfers decreased intimate partner violence. BMC Public Health 16: 488.
- Buller AM, Peterman A, Ranganathan M, Bleile A, Hidrobo M & L Heise (2018). A mixed-method review of intimate partner violence and cash transfers in low- and middle-income countries. World Bank Research Observer, 33(2): 218-258
- Nuwakora CB. 2014. Combating gender-based violence and enhancing economic empowerment of women in Northern Uganda through cash transfers. External Evaluation. ACF International.
- **Peterman A**, Neijhoft A, Cook S & T Palermo (2017). Understanding the linkages between social safety nets and childhood violence: A review of the evidence from low- and middle-income countries. *Health Policy & Planning*, 32(7): 1049-1071.
- Yildirim, J., Ozdemir, S., & Sezgin, F. 2014. A Qualitative Evaluation of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program in Turkey: The Beneficiaries' and Key Informants' Perspectives. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 40(1), 62-79.

CASH TRANSFER & IPV RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

Amber Peterman, Shalini Roy, Melissa Hidrobo, Lori Heise, Tia Palermo, Clare Barrington, Ana Maria Buller, Meghna Ranganathan & Lucy Billings

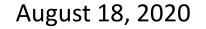
• <u>https://www.ifpri.org/project/cash-transfer-and-intimate-partner-violence-research-collaborative</u>



Social Protection & Violence against Women and Girls in the Indo Pacific

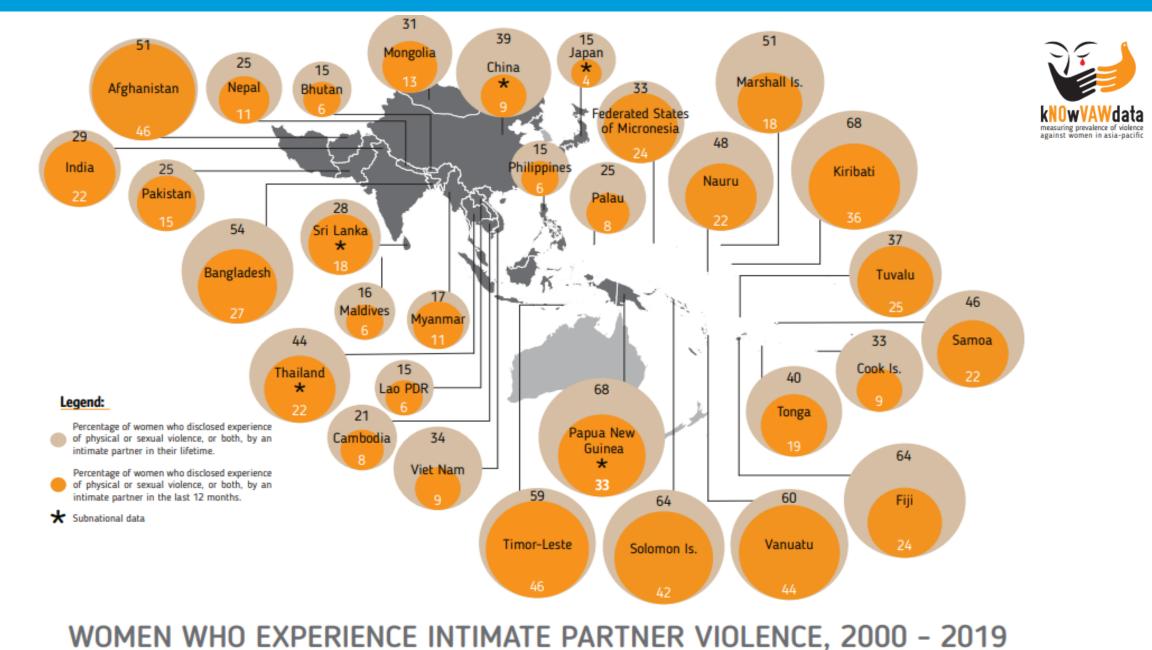
Melissa Alvarado, Ending Violence against Women Program Manager,

UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific









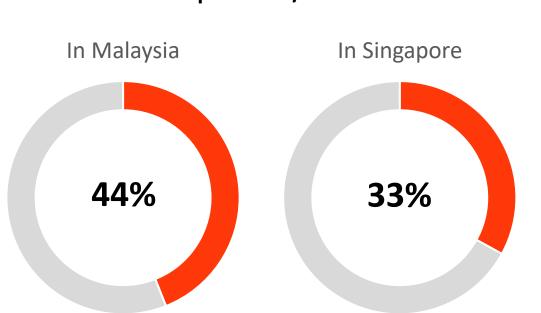


Source: <u>kNOwVAWdata & UNFPA</u>, Violence against Women – Regional Snapshot (2019)



Violence against Women during COVID-19

- Even in "normal" times, women in the Asia-Pacific region experience high levels of violence.
- During previous emergency and disaster contexts- including epidemics- violence against women increases- as seen in COVID.
- Women facing even greater risks during the COVID-19 emergency (& fewer services).



Domestic violence reports and/or calls have increased:*

UN Women (2020). <u>Action Brief: A guide for action to stem increasing violence against</u> women amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific



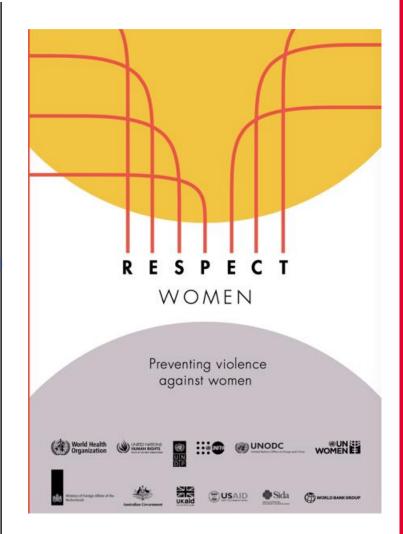
Women's Economic Empowerment & VAW

- Women's long-term economic security and autonomy and power in an intimate relationship are key factors in preventing violence.
- "Credible threat" to leaving
- In Bangladesh, women with higher educational attainment and engaged in paid work are less likely to experience violence.
- Globally, countries with higher share of women in formal employment, have lower levels of IPV overall



THE RESPECT FRAMEWORK

- RRelationship skills strengthened: strategies to improve skills in interpersonal
communication, conflict management and shared decision-making.
- **E Empowerment of women**: economic and social empowerment strategies including those that build skills in self-efficacy, assertiveness, negotiation, and self-confidence.
- **S** Services ensured: ensuring a range of services including health, police, legal, and social services for survivors of violence.
 - **Poverty reduced**: strategies targeted to women or the household, whose primary aim is to alleviate poverty.
- **E Environments made safe**: efforts to create safe schools, public spaces and work environments, among others.
- C Child and adolescent abuse prevented: strategies that establish gender equitable and nurturing relationships by parents, educators and others working with children. This strategy demonstrates the overlap between violence against children and violence against women.
- Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms: strategies that challenge harmful gender attitudes, beliefs, norms and stereotypes.





 Economic transfers including conditional/unconditional cash transfers plus vouchers, and in-kind transfers.

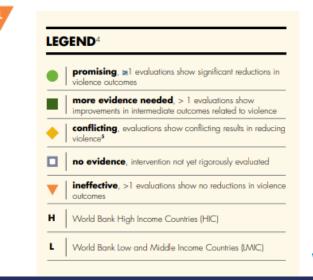
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 Labour force interventions including employment policies, livelihood and employment training.

HL

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 Microfinance or savings interventions without any additional components.



Cash and IPV: Bangladesh

Nutrition & cash programme

- Study compared women who received a cash transfer with or without an intensive behaviour change communication on nutrition versus a control group with no cash transfer.
 - Women who received the cash transfer + BCC component on nutrition reported significantly less physical violence than control groups
 - Evidence on mechanisms suggests sustained effects of BCC on women's threat points, men's greater perceived social costs of violence, and household well-being.



UN Women lessons: Valuable linkages

CBIs* beyond humanitarian, social protection: link with national policies on economic development, employment of women and business set-ups (also along the HD nexus)

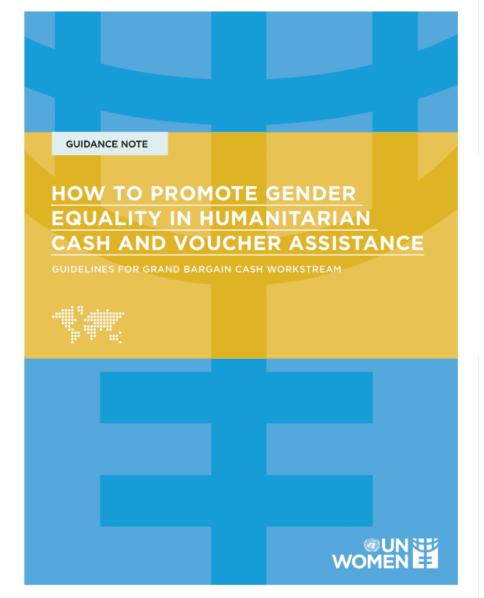
CBI related to GBV/ protection (less stress in households, less domestic violence) Complementary Programming-Related to Livelihood, WEE (expenditure, decision making on money, assets) & VAW

*Cash Based Initiatives Partnerships with local women's organizations-participatory approach to the design, roll out and monitoring of CVA Partnerships with national governments to link the CVA agenda to employment generation, income opportunities for crisis affected women and young women in particular



Gender and Cash

- *Without appropriate gender considerations, cash transfers may increase the risk of GBV.
- Engage with local women's groups and other support groups to identify, reach and learn about all affected populations.
- If working with victims of violence, ensure that VAW specialists design any surveys and interviewers have VAW training.
- Identify and mitigate safety and gendered opportunity costs faced by women and girls and other populations who may be vulnerable.



Domestic Violence & the Workplace

- 68% of women in Australia who have experienced intimate partner violence during their work-life felt safer at work than at home.
- Consider leave time for domestic violence with employed women as a form of social protection.
- Businesses can support women and families experiencing violence.

ENDING VIOLENCE IS OUR BUSINESS

WORKPLACE RESPONSES TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC









Recommendations

- GBV experts/specialists should be involved as cash transfers are planned, implemented, and evaluated
- Cash + complimentary programming valuable to mitigate risk and produce stronger outcomes for women & families



Thank you!

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Gender-Sensitive Social Protection in Fiji

Nalini Singh, Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement



Learning from humanitarian practice: implementation and field realities

Lara Quarterman, Independent Consultant (Social Protection and VAWG)



Take aways & actionable recommendations



Q&A Session



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Next webinars:

Social protection responses to Covid-19: challenges and opportunities to urban settings in Sub-Saharan Africa Tuesday, 25 August, at 9 AM EDT/GMT-4

Gendered impacts of COVID-19 and social protection responses in rural areas Thursday, 27 August, at 2 PM CEST/GMT+2



Thank you

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