

GBV AoR HELPDESK

Gender Based Violence in Emergencies

Annotated Bibliography on Gender-based Violence and Social Protection Programming in Emergencies

Lara Quarterman and Chris Hearle | August 2021



Introduction

Social protection is a growing field in humanitarian action. Cash-based interventions are often one of the central components of social protection work. *Humanitarian cash transfers, emergency cash transfers, humanitarian cash-based interventions*, and other similar terms are used to describe the distribution of cash as a form of social assistance in humanitarian responses to crises. There is emerging evidence about the value of cash programming in reducing risk for gender-based violence (GBV), particularly intimate partner violence (IPV), and to some extent sexual exploitation and child marriage. However, cash interventions also carry risks of exacerbating certain forms of GBV when not based on sound evidence of what works and what does not work.

As the social protection field has evolved, so has the amount of guidance and other information on cash programming in humanitarian action, some of which addresses the links between GBV and cash programming – not only how to mitigate risks of GBV in cash-based interventions, but also how GBV practitioners can integrate cash-based interventions in GBV case management and response services in order to better meet the needs of survivors. There is also guidance on how cash programming can be used to support gender equality more generally. During COVID-19, there has been an increase in guidance, policy papers, and evidence reviews on gender and cash-based programming as there has been increased attention to the design and delivery of social protection to mitigate the economic effects of the pandemic.

Box 1: What is social protection?

Social protection is defined by UNICEF as a set of policies and programs aimed at preventing or protecting all people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout their life-course, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups. *Shock-responsive, shock sensitive, and adaptive social protection* are used to describe the role that social protection can play in in preparation and response to crises, both sudden onset emergencies and crises that emerge more slowly, such as those resulting from pandemics or climate change (UNICEF, 2019a). Different types of social protection include:

- *social assistance*: non-contributory transfers in cash, vouchers, or in-kind distributions to individuals or households; public works programs; fee waivers for basic health and education; subsidies for food or fuel;
- *social insurance*: contributory schemes that provide compensatory support in the event of illness, injury, disability, death, parental leave, unemployment, old age, and shocks affecting livestock or crops;
- *social care services*: support for those facing violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination, and social exclusion;
- *labour market programs*: promotion of labour market participation or ensuring minimum employment standards Carter *et al* (2019).

Note: Both the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) (www.calpnetwork.org) and SocialProtection.org have glossaries of further terminology related to social protection.

The aim of this annotated bibliography is to point GBV practitioners and social protection experts towards resources to improve the delivery of social protection and GBV programming and to reduce GBV in humanitarian emergencies. It focuses largely on guidance documents, with a small section highlighting several policy documents. Topics covered include reducing GBV risk within social protection programming; using cash transfers within GBV case management; and supporting gender equality through social protection.¹ While not the focus of this annotated bibliography, there is a short list of additional annotated citations at the end of the document on the evidence base for how cash programming can prevent and/or reduce GBV.

Guidance on GBV Risk Mitigation in Cash Programming

[Botea, J, Coudouel, A, Heinemann, A & Kuttner, S \(2021\). Safety First: How to leverage social safety nets to prevent gender-based violence.](#)

This guidance reflects emerging evidence that social protection can be preventative against GBV, particularly IPV, and provides information and examples for World Bank staff and other stakeholders on how social protection programs can be used to empower women and prevent GBV, particularly IPV. It is the most recently published guidance document identified in this review and also the most comprehensive. It acknowledges the risks to women and girls that exist in social safety net programming, including violent backlash from partners, and provides an overview of the various pathways through which social protection is linked to GBV and IPV, including where evidence demonstrates GBV may increase or decrease. Notably, the guidance outlines contexts where backlash might be most likely, including in patriarchal societies, within polygamous households, and where traditional decision making on spending is challenged by providing women with cash and more control over assets. It provides an overview of groups that are potentially at higher risk of GBV. Understanding the factors behind why certain groups are more at risk of GBV can be carried out using a GBV analysis framework, an example of which can be found in the document. Using an analysis of GBV risks should influence the design and implementation of programming.

Framed around an internal World Bank project cycle, the guidance includes design and implementation tips, examples of good practices and suggests areas for future research that could equally be applied to non-World Bank projects. Recommendations include to engage women leaders in the registration process; undertake sensitization with male partners/relatives; shift towards digital cash payments; prioritise the predictability and reliability of transfers; adapt service delivery points to provide safe spaces for reporting GBV and accessing services; adapt a survivor-centred approach in grievance mechanisms; ensure data on GBV be collected by trained experts following established safety and ethics guidelines; and advocate for the benefits of cash programming for women not only improves the safety and well-being of female recipients, but also benefits households and communities.

[CARE \(2019\). Cash & Voucher Assistance and Gender-Based Violence Compendium: Practical guidance for humanitarian practitioners.](#)

This guidance is a companion document to the 2015 Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action*, the main piece of guidance used in humanitarian response to integrate GBV risk mitigation in all humanitarian sectors. This document is to be used to integrate GBV risk mitigation into cash-based humanitarian aid. It provides templates and tools for use in carrying out GBV risk analyses and highlights considerations for determining the most appropriate cash delivery modality, frequency, and duration.

CARE's guidance also provides advice for GBV specialists on how cash and voucher assistance in emergencies can be used as part of a holistic GBV response, including practical advice in considering the relevance of cash transfers in survivor care and whether GBV programmes have the capacity to take on cash programming. For example, it recommends programmes consider whether those at risk of GBV can safely access markets to spend their cash transfer or vouchers.

¹ In this review, no guidance was identified that has a broad audience of social protection policymakers and practitioners and is focused on mitigating risks of GBV in all types of social protection programming. Nor was there guidance identified that addressed GBV risk mitigation in specific types of social protection for a global audience.

CARE's guidance also includes information related to resource mobilisation, and design, implementation, coordination, and monitoring of programming. It suggests that programmes consider maintaining a portion of the programme budget as a contingency fund dedicated for survivors' emergency needs. The guidance underscores the importance of safe and ethical information sharing and storage of confidential client data on GBV. It suggests undertaking outcome monitoring to build evidence on whether and how cash transfers contribute to the reduction in risk of exposure to GBV, and/or reduction or mitigation of risky coping strategies, as well as how cash transfers impact access to services.

[Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(DFAT\) \(2020\). COVID-19 Gender and Social Protection Guidance Note: Violence against women and girls and gender-sensitive social protection programming.](#)

DFAT combines both GBV risk mitigation and gender considerations into this technical note. It is intended for use by their staff when designing social protection programming in response to COVID-19. This guidance note includes information on how to incorporate gender equality and social inclusion measures into social protection as well as a section dedicated to VAWG that is aligned with the phases of social protection: pre-design situation assessment, program design, delivery systems, monitoring and evaluation. While it has been designed for DFAT funded programming, it has useful considerations that are applicable in non-DFAT funded cash-based projects. At the pre-design situation assessment phase, it recommends to conduct a GESI analysis on existing patterns of poverty and vulnerability of different groups of women and girls across the lifecycle, and how the COVID-19 crisis shapes and creates risks and vulnerabilities; at the program design stage to consider additional needs when calculating transfer values such as disability related costs; at the delivery system stage to invest in women's organisations and networks to augment delivery capacity; and at the monitoring and evaluation stage to monitor changes in relations between men and women, and girls and boys, and in risks for specific groups of women and girls who are exposed to multiple and intersecting layers of discrimination and marginalization.

Guidance on Use of Cash-Based Interventions in GBV Case Management

[WRC, Mercy Corps and IRC \(2018\) Toolkit for Optimizing Cash-based interventions for Protection from Gender-based Violence: Mainstreaming GBV Considerations in CBIs and Utilizing Cash in GBV Response](#)

This toolkit aims to assist GBV and cash practitioners in collecting situational protection information on risks and benefits for affected populations with an age, gender and diversity lens; identifying community-based or self-protection mechanisms; designing tailored protective cash-based interventions; and preparing a monitoring system that is based on identified protection risks and benefits. The toolkit includes templates for carrying out a risk and benefit analysis and training packages for humanitarian practitioners and GBV specialists to mainstream GBV considerations into cash and voucher assistance and integrating cash and voucher assistance into GBV case management, respectively.

The toolkit is divided into two sections. Section one, designed for field-level cash practitioners, features a focus group discussion/interview tool and accompanying guidance to assess and mitigate potential GBV risks related to cash distribution, as well as a post-distribution monitoring tool and accompanying guidance to monitor GBV risks. It recommends applying these tools from the start of cash assistance to mitigate GBV risks with proactive programme design and monitoring. Section two, designed for field-level GBV specialists, outlines a protocol to assess and address GBV survivors' needs for cash assistance within GBV case management services, as well as a post-distribution monitoring tool and accompanying guidance to monitor risks and benefits of cash distributions to survivors. It advises to set up comprehensive multi-sectoral referrals that includes referrals to programmes that provide cash and voucher assistance where safe and relevant. The toolkit includes several case studies and webinars on using cash as part of a response to GBV.

Guidance on Gender Considerations in Social Protection

[FAO \(2018\). FAO Technical Guide No. 1: Introduction to gender-sensitive social protection programming to combat rural poverty: Why is it important and what does it mean? A Toolkit on gender-sensitive social protection programmes](#)

[to combat rural poverty and hunger.](#)

[FAO \(2018\). FAO Technical Guide No. 2: Integrating gender into the design of cash transfer and public works programmes. A Toolkit on gender-sensitive social protection programmes to combat rural poverty and hunger.](#)

[FAO \(2018\). FAO Technical Guide No. 3: Integrating gender into implementation and monitoring and evaluation of cash transfer and public works programmes.](#)

These three guidance documents developed by FAO are aimed at integrating gender into social protection, including cash transfers and public works. The first of this series is focused on integrating gender into social protection aimed at alleviating rural poverty and hunger; the second is for use in the design of public works, which are typically infrastructure projects aimed at creating jobs and stimulating the economy; and the third is to be used by those involved with monitoring and evaluation of cash transfer and public works to integrate gender into these processes. Some themes within the guidance include the importance of:

- collection and use of disaggregated data;
- ensuring gendered needs are identified and met;
- consulting with women and girls on their needs and preferences;
- ongoing monitoring of risks faced by women and girls, including violence.

The guidance also draws upon several case studies. For example, Technical Guide No. 2 mentions the Chapéu de Palha Mulher Programme in Brazil which channels cash to poor rural households and provides training to women so they can take up non-traditional jobs. The programme holds a three-month course, designed by feminist organisations, to raise women's awareness of their citizenship rights and provide a space for critical reflection on issues such as domestic violence, anti-discriminatory legislation, and access to social services. The programme also works to strengthen local women's secretariats in the most patriarchal rural districts.

[Holmes, R, Peterman, A, Quarterman, L, Sammon, E & Alfors, L \(2020\). 'Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusion \(GESI\) during the Implementation of Social Protection Response to COVID-19,' Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service \(SPACE\).](#)

[Holmes, R, Peterman, A, Sammon, E, Cabot Venton, C & Alfors, L \(2020\). 'Gender and Inclusion in Social Protection Responses during COVID-19,' Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service \(SPACE\).](#)

Social protection and cash-based programming have been common responses to the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the economic impacts of loss of jobs and livelihoods and potential increases in household consumption. These two guidance documents were produced by the Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service (SPACE) on the inclusion of gender considerations into social protection programming as a response to the pandemic. These papers include practical guidance on how to incorporate gender equality and social inclusion into all phases of social protection in response to COVID-19, such as needs assessments, eligibility determination and registration, delivery of cash, protection and safeguarding, grievance redress/complaints and appeals mechanisms, and monitoring and evaluation. Each provide examples of responses that have included gender and a brief overview of potential risks of GBV and how to mitigate them in social protection interventions. They both have numerous links to resources embedded within them.

Other Relevant Guidance

[Quarterman, L & Peterman, A \(2020\). 'Tips for linking social protection and gender-based violence and response during COVID-19' Gender & COVID-19 blog.](#)

The Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service (SPACE) produced a blog post with practical actions to link GBV and social protection within COVID-19 responses, including measures that should be put in place to mitigate risks of GBV and SEA, such as carrying out GBV risks analyses, linking with existing GBV services to facilitate referrals and

ensure recipients of cash can access GBV services, consulting with women and girls, and building GBV risk monitoring into wider monitoring efforts. The blog post links to publicly available resources and evidence.

[Thompson, H \(2012\). Child Safeguarding in Cash Transfer Programming: A practical tool.](#)

Save the Children developed this guidance document to be used by cash specialists in emergency contexts to ensure that cash-based interventions are accountable to children and effectively prevent and safely respond to child protection incidents. It does not specifically address GBV, but contains good practices for safeguarding of children in social protection interventions. Child safeguarding action points given in the document are tabulated below, with a summary of advice provided.

Child Safeguarding Action Point	Recommendations
Accountability to Children	Ensure children’s participation including in programme set-up and monitoring. Include a contingency budget to follow up on any child protection cases. Raise awareness of the criteria for selecting beneficiaries and beneficiary entitlements.
Before an Emergency	Prepare training modules on child safeguarding. Gather existing data on power relations and structures. Design a rapid assessment tool that asks questions about child welfare, children’s roles, services for children and other aspects.
Assessment and early response	Carry out a participatory assessment to inform beneficiary targeting and programme design, ensuring it considers possible impact on children. Create a baseline and a market assessment that considers products and services for children.
Programming Planning & Designing	Carry out child protection reference checks, include a clause on adherence to a safeguarding policy in staff contracts and provide safeguarding training. Aim to have a gender-balanced team and clarify supervisors’ responsibilities to ensure safety of children. Involve children in discussions around their needs.
Implementation	Ensure the programme is accessible to the most vulnerable. Engage diverse groups of community members to explain the programme goals and to inform targeting; targeting must not be influenced by existing patronage structures. Adapt the hours of work or times of distribution according to safety concerns. Conduct random checks to expose any child labour.
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Ensure checks to monitor compliance to policies and procedures. Include household-level data on how the intervention is affecting the lives of boys and girls and obtain data on those who are entitled to the transfer but are not accessing it.
Programme Handover for Closure	Communicate planned timeframe for the programme and process for closure. Ensure handover plans are in place to address outstanding child protection issues and that final complaints are wrapped up. Ensure referral pathways and complaints mechanism are adjusted if needed.

UNICEF (2019a). Programme Guidance: Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems

<https://www.unicef.org/media/68201/file/Practical-Guidance-to-Support-Work-on-Shock-Responsive-Social-Protection.pdf>

This guidance outlines UNICEF’s approach to shock responsive social protection. It provides practical tools and resources, suggesting intervention areas as well as activities to better address risks, stressors, shocks and fragility within social protection systems strengthening work. It focuses on social transfers, especially cash transfers, as programmatic responses and an integral part of social protection systems in both development settings and humanitarian response. The guidance presents UNICEF’s framework and principles for its work on shock responsive social protection and draws on a wide body of evidence on how social protection has been playing a greater role in addressing shocks that affect a large proportion of the population simultaneously. The paper explores channels through which UNICEF could provide support to government: (1) provision of technical assistance; (2) design/implementation of pilots; (3) collaboration/coordination with other stakeholders; (4) design/support for Humanitarian Cash Transfers that are aligned to social protection programmes; and (5) funding analysis/evidence and capacity building.

UNICEF (2019b). UNICEF’s Global Social Protection Programme Framework

https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/publications_files/Global-social-protection-programme-framework-2019.pdf

This document provides an update to the UNICEF 2012 Social Protection Strategic Framework, reflecting a changing landscape along with emerging good practice and innovation in the field. Social protection must provide support across the life course and address the varied needs of different population groups. Building a comprehensive approach to

social protection across the life course requires integrated systems. The document outlines four components of a child-sensitive social protection system: (1) a foundation of evidence; (2) policy, coordination and financing of social protection systems; (3) programme areas of child-sensitive social protection systems; and (4) administration and integrated service delivery. It outlines UNICEF's 10 key action areas on social protection, which represent UNICEF's commitment to work with governments and international and national partners to increase the scale and scope of child-sensitive social protection systems towards achieving universality.

Policy and Briefing Papers on GBV Risk Mitigation and Gender Considerations in Social Protection

[Gennari, F, Arango, D, McCleary-Sills, J & Hidalgo, N \(2014\). Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Resource Guide: Social protection brief.](#)

This document developed by the World Bank includes case studies and recommendations on how social protection can better integrate the needs of women and girls and can ensure that risks of GBV and SEA are effectively addressed within policy, sectoral programming, and communities where the World Bank implements projects. Policy level recommendations include ensuring that universal pension plans include informal work and are financed from general taxation; and that national employment plans are gender-aware. Institutional/sectoral level recommendations are integration of GBV prevention activities; provision of GBV training to project staff and volunteers; setting inclusion targets for the most vulnerable women; exploring methods to transfer cash to women; sensitivity to potential triggers of violence; facilitating registration and national identity cards; and establishing grievance mechanisms. Community-level recommendations include working with existing community groups as entry points to achieve social protection and VAWG prevention goals as well as engaging with men to garner community support for programmes targeting women.

[Hidrobo, M, Kumar, N, Palermo, T, Peterman, A & Roy, S \(2020\). Gender-sensitive social protection: A critical component of the COVID-19 response in low- and middle-income countries. International Food Policy and Research Institute \(IFPRI\).](#)

This policy paper provides several lessons and recommendations on incorporating gender into the design and delivery of social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. It warns that gender considerations may be overlooked and calls for gender considerations in social protection in low- and middle-income countries to ensure that measures put in place to address COVID-19 do not perpetuate or exacerbate gender inequality, including increasing risks to women and girls of violence, exploitation, and abuse. It provides considerations for low- and middle-income countries across five areas:

1. Adapting existing social protection modalities: modifications to relax eligibility requirements to receive social protection benefits can reduce viral spread and benefit women.
2. Targeting: providing universal "household-level" transfers in areas severely affected by COVID-19 can help address the issue of vulnerable people not accessing social protection (e.g. informal workers, of which the majority are women). Naming female recipients may lead to larger improvements in women's empowerment.
3. Benefit level and frequency: benefits in response to COVID-19 should be quick and large, and there is no evidence suggesting that larger transfers to women lead to adverse effects.
4. Delivery mechanisms and operational features: programmes already using e-payments or direct wire transfers can utilize these features for safe and quick transfer of benefits. When transfers are delivered in person, gender-sensitive delivery and labelling may help address concerns around control over benefits. For example, simple nudges or behavioural designs at pay points or community meetings to help women with goal setting, planning and self-affirmation.
5. Complementary programming: during the COVID-19 pandemic, many complementary activities linked to social protection that provide women with information and social support, such as group trainings or home visits on nutrition, may no longer be possible. Instead, other methods of contact and interaction will be needed. There are two main considerations- first is deciding what type of information, support and services are most needed and relevant for women and second is women's ability to successfully access the information, support and services.

[Holmes, R \(2019\). Promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in shock-sensitive social protection, ODI Working Paper 549.](#)

In this paper, Holmes calls for the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment in shock-sensitive social protection interventions, identifying areas where gender equality could be further integrated into the design and delivery of social protection systems that are adapted to respond to crises. This includes, for example, using gendered poverty and vulnerability analyses, ensuring promotion of equitable and empowerment outcomes, and coordinating with other programming to enhance impact. The paper also provides recommendations related to operational elements of shock-responsive social protection, such as gender assessments, delivery modalities, coordination with women’s and girls’ organisations, and monitoring and evaluation.

[Roelen, K, Devereux, S, Abdulai, A, Martorano, B, Palermo, T & Ragno, L P \(2017\). ‘How to Make ‘Cash Plus’ Work: Linking cash transfers to services and sectors,’ Innocenti Working Paper 2017-10, UNICEF Office of Research, Florence.](#)

This paper is focused on making the case for effective ‘cash plus’ interventions, where cash-based interventions are complemented with additional interventions or services, using case studies and evidence. Such initiatives can address some of the non-financial and structural barriers that poor people face and have reinforced the positive effects of cash transfer programmes. In design of such programmes, further attention should be paid to the constraints faced by the most vulnerable and how such constraints can be overcome. None of the examples of cash plus interventions provided in the paper include GBV prevention, risk mitigation, or response.

[UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti \(2020\). Gender-Responsive Age-Sensitive Social Protection: A conceptual framework.](#)

This paper from UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti provides a conceptual framework for gender-responsive age-sensitive social protection that references increased protection of women and girls and how social protection can contribute to living lives free of violence, delaying age of marriage, and reducing risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). All of these are in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. There are seven elements to the framework: (1) Gender Inequality, Poverty and Vulnerability: Structural and Individual Drivers; (2) Dimensions of a gender-responsive social protection system; (3) A gender integration continuum; (4) Adopting a life course lens; (5) Gender-responsive outcomes; (6) Gender equality outcome areas; (7) Moderators; (8) Long-term impacts: end poverty and achieve gender equality; and (9) Change levers. Change levers mentioned are:

- Political commitment and incentives.
- Adequate, sustainable and gender-responsive financing.
- Capacity building and strengthening of governments and partners, including implementers.
- Gender-responsive institutional norms, rules and practices.
- Evidence generation (data, research and evaluation).
- Support to social movements and strengthened accountability mechanisms.

Evidence Reviews

Buller, A M, Peterman, A, Ranganathan, M, Bleile, A & Hidrobo, M (2018). ‘A Mixed-Method Review of Cash Transfers and Intimate Partner Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries’ The World Bank Research Observer, 33(2):218-258. <https://academic.oup.com/wbro/article/33/2/218/5091868>.

This mixed-methods evidence reviewed 22 studies in low- and middle-income countries. Only one case could qualify as humanitarian or post-conflict. It found that 16 studies demonstrated evidence that cash transfers reduce intimate partner violence, with only two studies showing overall mixed or adverse impacts. There are large regional and contextual gaps in understanding of dynamics, with evidence skewed to Latin America and little understanding of Asia and the Middle East, or of how dynamics may differ in humanitarian settings. The authors develop a programme theory that proposes three pathways through which cash transfers could impact intimate partner violence: (a) economic

security and emotional well-being; (b) intra-household conflict; and (c) women's empowerment. Programme framing and complementary activities, including those with the ability to shift intra-household power relations, are likely to be important design features for reducing intimate partner violence.

Carter, B, Roelen, K, Enfield, S & Avis, W (2019). Social Protection Topic Guide, Revised Edition. K4D Emerging Issues Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies
https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/14885/Social_Protection_Topic_Guide_online.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

This guide provides an overview of social protection concepts, approaches, issues, debates and evidence, and a selection of key references and signposting to further resources. It primarily focuses on low-income countries. Social assistance interventions, in particular cash transfers, are well studied and there is rigorous evidence of what works. There is stronger evidence on poverty reduction, access to education and health services, food security and dietary diversity, and growing evidence on savings/productive investments, multiplier and labour effects. Other outcomes include reduced violence against women including reduced intimate partner violence, as well as positive impacts on child marriage and safer adolescent transitions (e.g. increased age of sexual debut, reduced number of sexual partners, reduced HIV infections, etc.). There is less evidence on higher-order outcomes and medium- to longer-term social development impacts such as maternal and newborn mortality rates, nutritional outcomes and longer-term educational outcomes of learning and cognitive development. A major shift in thinking underway in the social protection field is from fragmented social protection programmes towards comprehensive social protection systems.

Cross, A, Manell, T & Megevand, M (2018) Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-Based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/genderandctpwrcirc.pdf>.

This report provides an overview and analysis of secondary evidence on the impact of cash transfer programming on preventing and mitigating GBV and suggests gaps that should be prioritised for future research. Most of the evidence relates to the impact of cash transfer programmes on risk or exposure to GBV; less evidence has been collected on the impact of cash transfer programmes on access to survivor services and coping strategies. The most commonly observed GBV-related benefit of cash transfers at the household level was that a reduction in income-related tension, frustration and fighting led to a reduction in intimate partner violence. One area where cash transfer programmes had the potential to put beneficiaries at risk, particularly women, was when they faced harassment and/or exploitation from gatekeepers and authorities related to collection. There is a greater need to integrate efforts and establish partnerships between cash and GBV service providers and experts. The report identifies five key gaps in the literature: (1) cash transfer programmes and GBV outcomes for excluded, marginalised populations; (2) comparing different cash transfer programme modalities and their impact on GBV outcomes; (3) combinations of cash transfer programmes and complementary services to achieve GBV outcomes; (4) the use of conditionality in achieving GBV outcomes; and (5) longer-term impacts of cash transfer programme interventions on GBV outcomes.

Peterman, A, Neijhoft, A, Cook, S & Palermo, T (2017). "Understanding the Linkages between Social Safety Nets and Childhood Violence: A Review of the Evidence from Low- and Middle-Income Countries." Health Policy and Planning 32 (7): 1049–71. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5886196/>.

This academic paper reviews evidence and develops a framework to understand linkages between non-contributory social safety nets and childhood emotional, physical and sexual violence in low- and middle-income countries. The authors catalogue 14 impact evaluations, 11 with completed results, analysing 57 unique impacts on diverse violence indicators. Approximately one in five represent statistically significant protective effects on childhood violence. Promising evidence relates to sexual violence among female adolescents in Africa. There is less clear evidence of significant impacts of social safety nets for children in other parts of the developing world, and on young child measures, including violent discipline. Linkages between social safety nets and childhood violence are understudied; however, social safety nets may reduce violence risk for children living at the margins, and integrated child protection and social safety net systems and programming hold promise to maximize violence prevention.

The GBV AoR Help Desk

The GBV AoR Helpdesk is a unique research and technical advice service which aims to inspire and support humanitarian actors to help prevent, mitigate and respond to violence against women and girls in emergencies. Managed by Social Development Direct, the GBV AoR Helpdesk is staffed by a global roster of senior Gender and GBV Experts who are on standby to help guide frontline humanitarian actors on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response measures in line with international standards, guidelines and best practice. Views or opinions expressed in GBV AoR Helpdesk Products do not necessarily reflect those of all members of the GBV AoR, nor of all the experts of SDDirect's Helpdesk roster.

The GBV AoR Helpdesk

*You can contact the GBV AoR Helpdesk
by emailing us at:
enquiries@gbviehelpdesk.org.uk*

*The Helpdesk is available 09.00 to
17.30 GMT Monday to Friday.*

Our services are free and confidential.