

## CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMING – NEPAL EARTHQUAKE PGI NOTE

### CTP Evidence

There is little evidence gathered on CTP regarding intra-household dynamics and violence against women. 2015 DFID<sup>i</sup> research on violence against women in cash transfer programs finds the following:

1. **Cash transfers can reduce intra-household conflict (but don't improve women's relative status)**
  2. **Cash transfers collected by the household head rather than targeting women led to an increase in VAW**
  3. **Intra-generational conflict from cash transfers are particularly acute in households where the elderly are taking care of orphans and vulnerable children<sup>ii</sup>**
- Cash tends to be spent on immediate household needs rather than anti-social expenses (tobacco, alcohol).
  - Security fears regarding accessing and carrying cash outside the home are valid in specific contexts - in other contexts the time taken to collect cash was the greatest concern.
  - Cash Transfer Program are not gender transformative – tend to maintain and reinforce existing gender roles

### What risks and opportunities do CTPs present women in Nepal?

- The experience for women and girls in Nepal prior to the earthquake included **significant levels of GBV** which includes intimate partner violence<sup>iii</sup>. There is a **large number of female headed households<sup>iv</sup>**, 20% of all households are headed by a person over 60. Dalit women have found to be more vulnerable to domestic violence (linked to economic status and alcohol)
- Cash transfers impact on intra-household dynamics – including violence against women. Without an evidence base to identify most protective approach in Nepal (based on rapid gender analysis) it is not possible for agencies to be assured that programming will not directly or inadvertently cause harm.

### Recommendations (minimise risk, increase protective capacity, build evidence base)

- Distribution planning which minimises distance and time to walk/travel, volume of goods to carry and reduce triple burden for women
- Distribution planning which takes into account existing community protection strategies (move in groups; rent trucks together)
- Target women for household transfers
- Register women as account holders
- Incorporate security and safety strategies re: accessing and carrying cash outside the home; protective presence (e.g. police observation if appropriate)
- Include low-literacy gender based violence messaging or protection messaging with CTP which is provided to both men and women on laws, rights and referral pathways
- Conduct rapid gender analysis via Focus Group Discussions with 3 different beneficiary locations: who controls money in the households, what it gets spent on, what are the social

expectations regarding control of money/linkages to market, recommendations to reduce time burden

- Post distribution monitoring – focus group discussions
- Implement Gender and Diversity Minimum Standards for CTP

---

<sup>i</sup> Bell, E. (2015) *Violence against Women and Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Context*, VAWG Helpdesk Research Report No. 68. London, UK: VAWG Helpdesk.

<sup>ii</sup> Devereux and Jere (2008) found in Swaziland that many children, knowing the transfer was calculated at E30 per person, demanded their “share” of the money given to their mother or carer, even though the intention was that the cash should be used to benefit the household as a whole (Devereux and Jere, 2008).

<sup>iii</sup> <https://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/GBVMMappingNepal.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> - 26% of households in Nepal are known to be female headed households due to labour migration (17% of these household heads are more than 60 years of age) according to 2011 Census.