

Burundi Case Study

#GenderCash Revolution

How can we reduce GBV risks in cash and voucher assistance?

Key Figures

30 Projects using Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) of which 72% are female beneficiaries (CWG-2019)

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

50% of women in Burundi are survivors of sexual and/or physical violence (DHS 2017)

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) has become a valuable and increasingly utilized tool in humanitarian response in Burundi. CVA has been shown to contribute to the resilience of vulnerable populations, but in order to maximize its effectiveness, humanitarian actors should establish Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk prevention and mitigation measures. While the Burundi Humanitarian Country Team has declared CVA a priority, and eight sectoral objectives mention CVA in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, it is critical that actors are able to identify GBV risks as well as good practices in terms of risk mitigation measures.

A three-day workshop brought together GBV and CVA actors in Burundi in October 2019, using tools that have been developed at a global level over the past few years. The workshop aimed to contextualize these tools, identify good practices being rolled out in existing projects in Burundi and to draft a common workplan among CVA and protection actors.

Promising Practices

- > **Mixed women & men's committees** (but with a majority of women) at local level who identify potential GBV risks throughout the CVA programme and refer GBV cases in a confidential and secure manner (most often cases of domestic violence).
- > **Engage with men throughout the programme**, especially if CVA is given to women in the family. Make sure men are involved in programme design, to avoid creating protection risks.
- > **A strong GBV referral pathway closely linked to the CVA Complaint & Feedback Mechanism** to ensure accountability to beneficiaries on the long term. In addition, CVA distribution points could be used as platforms for dissemination of GBV prevention messages.
- > **CVA should be rolled out in conjunction with livelihood strengthening programmes**, especially for women-headed households to contribute to preventing recourse to negative coping mechanisms (sexual exploitation, child marriage, etc.)

At the global level, several best practices have been identified in the past few years, such as:

- > **The importance of undertaking a gender analysis** – what has changed since the crisis? Gender and GBV risk analysis for CVA: where are the critical points of GBV risk? Is women's participation ensured early on, during the distribution/cash-out process but also afterwards, at home?
- > **Don't systematically give cash to women**, even if the project is aiming for gender equity. It is important to develop CVA that responds to the needs and wishes of women and men, whether they are youth, older persons or living with disabilities. Prioritise focus group discussions separated by sex and age, to avoid creating or increasing exposure to violence for vulnerable groups.



Ways forward

A joint CVA-GBV action plan was agreed upon following the three-day workshop in Burundi. Aiming at strengthening the cooperation between the two sectors, contextualising key learning and also ensuring long term accountability, this comprehensive action plan included the following actions:

1. **Finalization and roll-out of key contacts in case of GBV incidents (referral pathways)** and the GBV Pocket Guide to all frontline workers. Ensure there is a distinct link with the CVA complaint and feedback mechanisms already in place and that beneficiaries also know the key contacts for GBV response.
2. **Capacity building on GBV and endorsement of a code of conduct** - for all people involved in CVA (field workers, local administration, payment agents, etc.)
3. **Finalization of a list of contextualized questions for focus group discussions with beneficiaries.** These questions would support programme teams to identify, with beneficiaries, GBV risks and potential mitigation measures in CVA.
4. **Joint CVA-GBV assessment** to identify GBV risks in areas where CVA will be/ is used.
5. **Advocacy towards donors** to ensure that there is at least one key GBV/Gender indicator in all projects using CVA in Burundi.



What's happening globally

#GenderCash Revolution: integrated into the Grand Bargain's sub-workstream on "Cash & Gender," a number of organizations have come together to ensure that CVA integrates protection and GBV risk mitigation. CARE, WRC and UNHCR in particular have compiled evidence, good practices and tools to build capacity of GBV and CVA actors.

A webinar will take place in 2020 (Eng/Fr) in order to build upon the UNFPA & GBV AoR Burundi workshop and the CARE Nairobi pilot training that took place in November 2019.

> **Stay tuned!**


Online Resources:

> CVA & Protection/Gender:
<http://www.cashlearning.org>

> GBV Pocket Guide and all resources related to GBV:
<https://gbvaor.net>

> CVA and abuse of power:
www.unhcr.org/5c7925954

> CVA and GBV Compendium (Practical guide):
<https://gbvguidelines.org/en/documents/cash-voucher-assistance-and-gbv-compendium-practical/>

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