



## CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

AND

## CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGES AND UNIONS

A CASE STUDY FROM SAVE THE CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES



A pilot operational research project to assess the impact of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) on child protection outcomes, identify evidence and gaps, and document programmatic best practices, with a specific focus on Child, Early and Forced Marriages and Unions (CEFMU).

The project targeted 166 adolescent girls aged 10-18, and their families at risk of CEFMU in armed conflict-affected areas in 2 municipalities (Mamasapano and Datu Salibo) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) through a cash assistance of PhP3,800 (approx. \$68 USD - unconditional) per month for 3 months. Three awareness raising sessions on CEFMU were delivered and participants received PhP300 (approx. \$5 USD) per sensitization session on the condition of attendance. Finally, all households were benefitting from child protection case management as a complementary support.

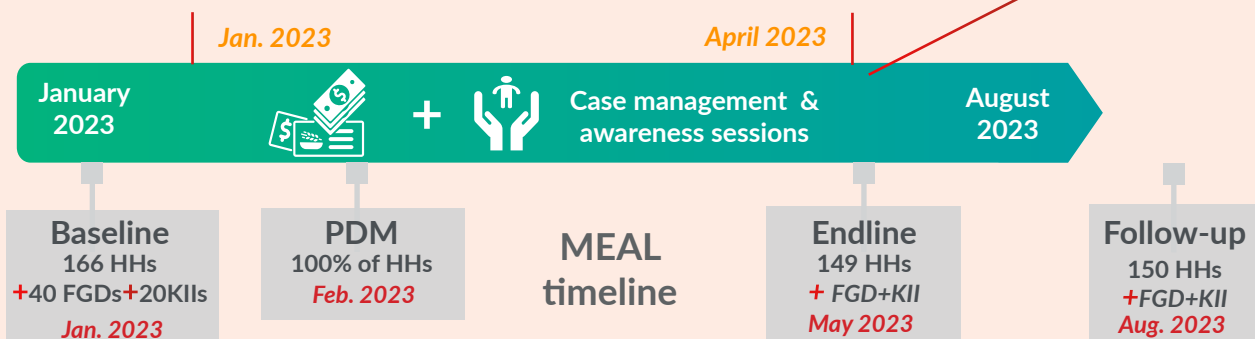
### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MEAL TIMELINE

 Total project cost: \$100,000

Total cash distributed	To	Total beneficiaries	Delivery mechanism
 \$53,244		 166 adolescents	 Over the counter

Unconditional and unrestricted CVA for basic need coverage (MPCA)

Conditional and unrestricted CVA for CEFMU session participation



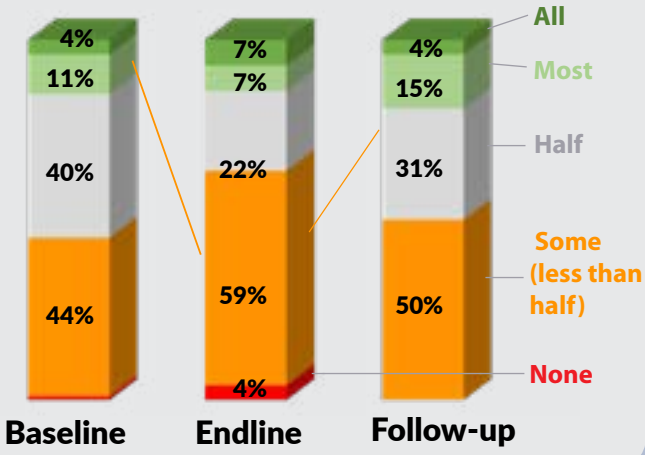


# MAIN FINDINGS

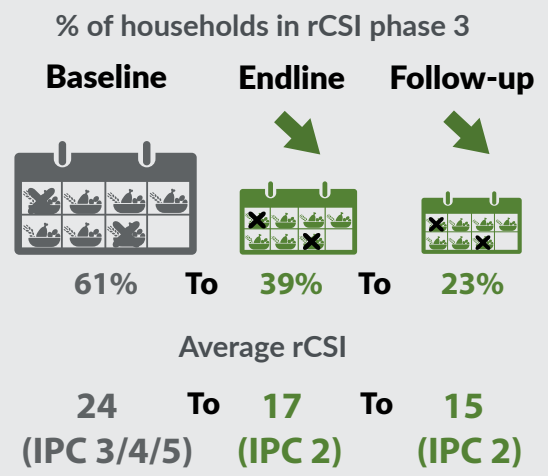


## PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS - UTILIZATION OF CASH

### Capacity of household to cover their basic needs



### Coping strategies



### Main utilization of Cash (in PDM)\*



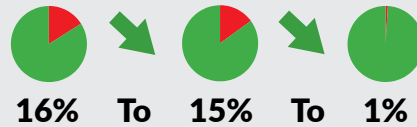
1. Food (99%)
2. Education (91%) \*\*
3. Debt repayment (56%)
4. Wash NFIs (47%)
5. Medical costs (28%)

\* Most reported expenditures, results are more than 100%  
 \*\*Among the 45% of respondents who reported spending money on something they would normally not spend money on; 71% reported spending it on education

**93%** of households reported feeling less stressed or anxious since receiving the cash

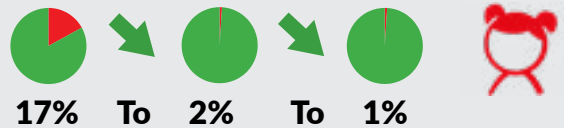
## IMPACT ON CHILD MARRIAGE

HHs reporting that child marriage (under 18 y.o.) is very common or somewhat common in their community

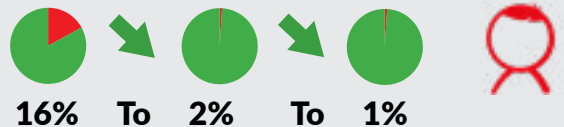


**87%** of households reported that child marriage has decreased since the Save the Children project in follow-up survey (74% at endline)

HHs reporting seeing any advantages of marrying a girl under 18 y.o



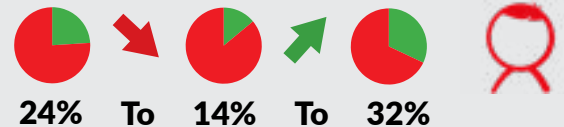
HHs reporting seeing any advantages of marrying a boy under 18 y.o



HHs reporting that the girl is always or often involved in the decision for her own marriage



HHs reporting that the boy is always or often involved in the decision for his own marriage



**80%** of households reported that their view on child marriage has changed since the Save the Children project

## SATISFACTION WITH ASSISTANCE AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

**100%** of HH reported that their opinion was totally (94%) or mostly (6%) taken into account by SC

**96%** of HH reported to be completely (91%) or mostly (5%) well informed about the assistance available

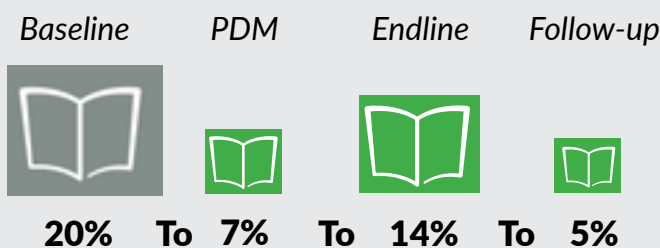
**78%** of HH reported knowing where to share a feedback or a concern with the assistance

**100%** of HH reported to be very satisfied (98%) or satisfied (2%) with the assistance provided



## IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND HOUSEHOLD

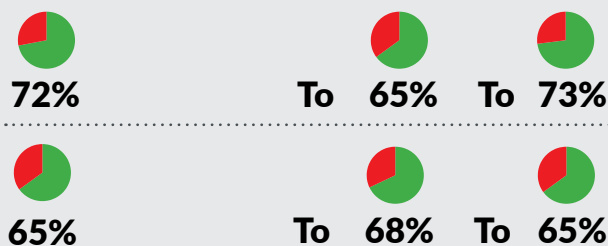
% of households reporting having taken their children out of school in the last 30 Days **decreased from:**



### School dropouts

In the vast majority of cases, the reason for not taking the child/ren to school is because of a lack of financial resource

% of households where all the children are registered to school or in a training program **remained stable:**



School-aged girls



School-aged boys

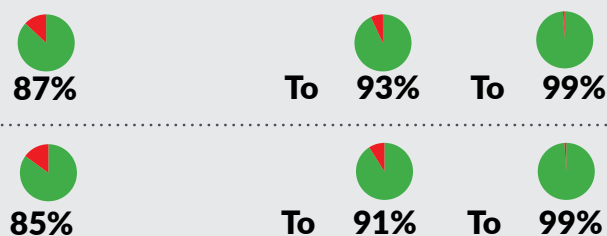
Baseline	PDM	Endline	Follow-up
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### Child Labour

% of households with children having to work in the last 30 days **decreased from**



% of households who report **NOT** needing or needing a little that their children work to cover the household basic needs **decreased a bit from:**



Child/ren is less than 15 years old

Child/ren is between 15 & 18 y.o.

# 83%

reported a significant improvement on their children's safety at endline (69% in follow-up)

# 85%

reported that their children's wellbeing improved a lot in comparison to before the cash (68% in follow-up)

# 72%

reported that the Cash had a positive effect on their household or on intra-household relationships (PDM)

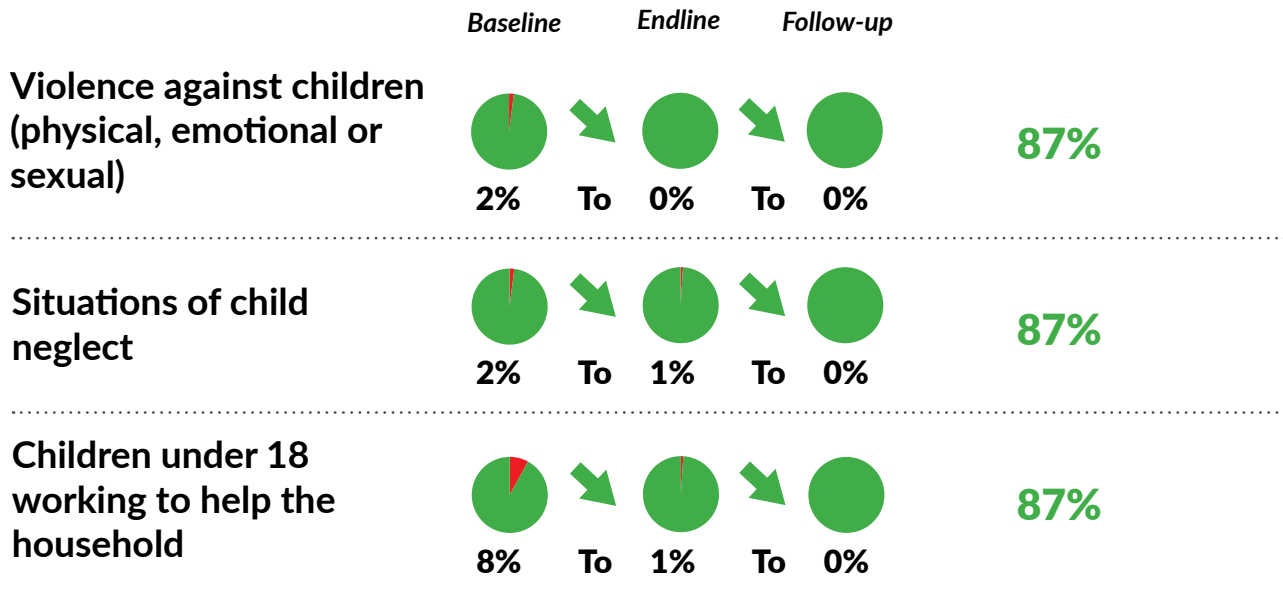


## IMPACT ON COMMUNITY AND PERCEIVED RISKS



HHs reporting that the given indicator is **very frequent** in their community

% of households reporting that the given indicator has **decreased** since the start of the SC project (in follow-up survey)



“  
 After all sessions I have attended, I understand the value of children’s rights, my duties and responsibilities as parents. Marriage is a crucial part of every life of an adult that needs to be talked and assessed by parents and also children  
 ”

FGD participant

“  
 . The sessions are a big help to us because this is where we learned the meaning of child protection and we, the parents, must understand our children their rights are to avoid early and forced marriage, they must study well, and they graduate in college.  
 ”

Adults, females, FGD



# KEY CVA PARAMETERS



## TARGETING APPROACH



The response did consultations and dialogues in the municipalities of Mamasapano and Datu Salibo to get their perspectives in the selection criteria for the cash transfer interventions. This process was done to ensure their involvement and participation in the entire implementation of the response. It will also foster ownership of the project and let them be at the forefront in communicating the parameters in the selection of households.

## BENEFICIARY SELECTION AND VERIFICATION PROCESS

**The consultations and dialogues resulted to the development of criteria in the selection of households for the cash transfer. These are the following:**

- Families with at least one daughter below 18 years old
- Families that are low-income earners or without any viable sources of livelihood, or who do not have their own land to farm
- Families with daughters who are not in school
- Parents or primary caregivers with disabilities
- Single parents
- Families where the children are orphaned and living under the care of relatives or guardians
- Parents with low literacy



Aside from these criteria, **the response organized a selection committee** composed of community partners, key stakeholders, women's group, and local government officials. They agreed to become part of the Project Management Team (PMT) and respond to queries or concerns regarding the selection process, and nature of the project. It also developed a scoring sheet, emanating from the selection criteria developed, in the selection of households.

**A scoring sheet was used by the selection committee** in identifying the households for the cash transfer interventions.

The implementing team conducted a **household profiling or baselining to validate the qualification** of selected households before releasing the cash transfer and conducting the child protection learning sessions for children and adults. The results of the profiling will serve as baseline data that shall be the basis in measuring the impact of the project at the end of the response.

## TRANSFER VALUE AND MEB COVERAGE



- Transfer values to cover approximately 60% of a SC-customized MEB covering food, NFI, education, protection, livelihoods and utilities/communications
- Cash transfer #1: 162 USD for an average household of 5 members (adapted to household sizes) to cover one-off and recurrent costs across food, NFI, education, protection, livelihoods and utilities/communications
- Cash transfers #2 and #3: 119 USD for an average household of 5 members (adapted to household sizes) to cover recurrent costs across food, livelihoods and utilities/communications.