



# Operational research on GBV risk mitigation in relation to CVA in humanitarian settings

## BACKGROUND

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) can support access to lifesaving services and contribute to the protection, resilience, and dignity of women and girls living in conflict-affected settings. While a number of studies have shown the exciting potential of CVA to strengthen protection outcomes for women and girls, the distribution of cash or vouchers in complex humanitarian emergencies can also give rise to context-specific forms of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse.

In recent years, UNFPA has played a leading role in galvanizing both cash and GBV actors around the mitigation of GBV risks in CVA, developing and piloting the [GBV Risk Mitigation in CVA Toolkit](#) to support humanitarian workers in identifying and mitigating potential GBV risks in cash programming.

## COLLABORATION OVERVIEW

The [Global Women's Institute at George Washington University](#) and UNFPA have launched a collaboration to examine GBV risk mitigation in relation to CVA in humanitarian settings in order to (a) further corroborate the presence of GBV risks to women and girls in current CVA programming; and b) develop indicators for the adequate detection, monitoring, and mitigation of GBV risks.

Focusing on two country locations, this operational research will support CVA actors to further analyze existing post-distribution monitoring data to specifically focus on GBV risk. In addition, the researchers will conduct qualitative analysis to better understand women's perceptions of risk and safety when accessing CVA. To do so, the researchers will host participatory sessions with field-based monitoring and evaluation staff and participatory discussions with women and girls in the two chosen countries.

Results from the two country contexts will provide a unique overview of the extent to which women are exposed to GBV risks when accessing CVA. The results will also highlight how the specific ways in which CVA is planned and delivered can have a significant impact on beneficiaries' exposure to GBV risk.

Ultimately, the research will inform the development of context-specific and globally-relevant indicators for GBV risk in CVA as well as related guidance to support humanitarian and monitoring and evaluation actors. In doing so, this research will contribute to the growing body of global evidence on the criticality of GBV risk identification. Most importantly, it will illustrate to CVA actors and other key stakeholders such as donors the importance of having strong contextualized GBV risk mitigation strategies in place in all CVA activities in order to ensure a real and concrete "Do No Harm" approach.

An [Advisory Group](#) will be set up to review and provide input to the development of the operational research, the methodologies used, and the interpretation of findings. This Advisory Group will also contribute to the dissemination of the research results and formulate global learning and advocacy messages on integrating GBV risk mitigation into the monitoring and evaluation of CVA. The Advisory Group will be composed of members from civil society/women's rights organizations, I/NGOs, UN agencies, research institutions, and other key stakeholders.

Results of the operational research will be published in Q4 2023. The final outputs of the operational research will be geared toward humanitarian practitioners and will focus on its practical, concrete implications for the integration of GBV risk mitigation activities within the design and implementation of CVA programming.