

**“We were included,
our needs were seen”**



**Cash assistance for older persons
affected by Typhoon Yagi in Viet Nam**





Introduction

In September 2024, Typhoon Yagi made history, becoming the strongest typhoon in the past 30 years in the East Sea and 70 years on Viet Nam's mainland, severely impacting 26 northern provinces and causing immense human and economic losses. The disaster claimed 344 deaths and missing persons, 1,976 injuries, damaged 260,000 houses and 1,900 schools, destroyed nearly 350,000 hectares of crops, damaged 8,100 aquaculture cages and 31,000 hectares of aquaculture, and killed over 4.5 million livestock (including poultry). Hundreds of hectares of agricultural land were eroded and scoured. The total economic damage was estimated at over 83 trillion VND^[1] (about 3.32 billion USD). Critical infrastructure across the region sustained widespread damage.

Among the 26 provinces impacted by the disaster, the four selected for UNFPA support were the most severely affected. Specifically, Lao Cai was hit hardest, with 151 deaths and missing persons and approximately 7,065 billion VND (about 282.6 million USD) in damages. Cao Bang also suffered significant casualties with 58 people reported dead or missing and damages of approximately 1,530 billion VND (about 61.2 million USD). Tuyen Quang and Thai Nguyen sustained major agricultural and infrastructural losses, with damages estimated at 1,890 billion VND (about 75.6 million USD) and 859 billion VND (about 34.36 million USD) respectively.

Amid this crisis, older persons^[2] bore a disproportionate share of the burden due to pre-existing vulnerabilities. The data highlights that older persons often face challenges with activities of daily living, income insecurity, loneliness and access to basic social services. Around 41% of older persons self-reported poor health, while nearly 45% experienced at least one limitation in their daily functioning. Older women, in particular, face compounding vulnerabilities, with 80% of them being widowed. Although the Government provides monthly social assistance, only 17% of older persons are covered, and the benefit level remains very low (equal to 25% of the poverty line).

¹ Government of Viet Nam. 2025. <https://xaydungchinhhsach.chinhphu.vn/toan-van-bao-cau-cua-chinh-phu-do-thu-tuong-pham-minh-chinh-trinh-bay-tai-ky-hop-thu-8-quoc-hoi-khoa-xv-119241021105022067.htm>

² Older persons, by Law on the Elderly, are people aged 60 and over.



Rapid assessments by UN agencies and development partners revealed that older persons suffered disproportionately, particularly those in remote, ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Challenges ranged from worsening health conditions and loss of livelihoods to heightened financial and emotional stress. These issues were further compounded by limited access to age-friendly infrastructure and essential services. This aligns with international commitments such as the IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, which calls for systematic attention to older persons in disaster response.

Under the 2022–2026 Country Programme, UNFPA Viet Nam has been working closely with the Government of Viet Nam to build an inclusive social protection system and integrated care system for older persons, grounded in life-cycle and gender-transformative approaches. This includes empowering older persons and ensuring their inclusion in both development and humanitarian settings. To this end, UNFPA Viet Nam has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health, Viet Nam Association for the Elderly (VAE), Youth Union (YU), HelpAge International in Viet Nam (HAIV) and other development partners to strengthen the national policy framework to support older persons and adapt to rapid population ageing in Viet Nam.

“My husband passed away many years ago, so I now rely entirely on the care of my son’s family and grandchildren. I am poor. After the typhoon, our house was destroyed. Even the few belongings we had—old clothes, blankets, and cooking pots—were swept away. Life was already difficult, but now, with no house, my grandchildren and I are among the most vulnerable.”

- An 82 year old woman in Cao Bang Province.

UNFPA was well-positioned to address the specific needs of older persons in the response to Typhoon Yagi. Building on prior experience with cash assistance in Viet Nam, such as a successful pilot for pregnant women during the 2021 flood response, UNFPA leveraged its expertise in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in the Asia-Pacific region. Evidence has shown that CVA helps improve access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services and items and increase the decision-making capacity of recipients within UNFPA programming. With local markets functioning, financial service providers in place, and strong political support for cash-based responses, UNFPA was able to act swiftly and effectively.

Following the Prime Minister's call for emergency support, UNFPA Viet Nam, in partnership with VAE, mobilized resources to deliver tailored, flexible cash assistance to older persons in four of the hardest-hit provinces: Cao Bang, Lao Cai, Thai Nguyen, and Tuyen Quang.

UNFPA Viet Nam, together with VAE, provided direct support to 1,035 older persons affected by the typhoon, the majority from ethnic minorities and living in poverty and with disabilities. Approximately 75% had severe disabilities, including mobility impairments, blindness, or hearing loss; many were ill, with their conditions worsened by the disaster. Furthermore, 90% of those assisted were illiterate.

For the first time, UNFPA Viet Nam incorporated cash assistance into its humanitarian response for older persons, enabling recipients to access basic social services and purchase essential items based on their unique needs. This initiative also marked the first time the VAE was engaged in cash assistance, enabling grassroots-level outreach and support. This approach ensured dignity, autonomy, and timely relief for one of the most vulnerable segments of the population. By building on the existing systems and local networks, “standing on the shoulders of giants”, the intervention was delivered swiftly and effectively, in line with UNFPA's CVA guidelines.

In parallel to this support to older persons, within its SRHR in emergencies response, UNFPA Viet Nam also provided cash assistance to pregnant women to access maternal care services, using the same cash delivery mechanisms while implementing it with SRH partners.

“My wife passed away 35 years ago, and my children—who live far away—are also struggling, so I cannot depend on them in my old age. During the recent typhoon, our house, already in a state of disrepair, was completely destroyed. Fortunately, I escaped unharmed. In my life, I have experienced many storms, but I have never witnessed destruction as severe as that caused by the Yagi Typhoon.”

-A 70 year old man in Thai Nguyen province.



Needs, Modality Selection and Objective

To address financial barriers older persons were facing in the aftermath of the disaster, UNFPA provided unconditional cash assistance to help them meet their individual needs, particularly hygiene essentials and access to key services.

UNFPA Viet Nam is always exploring options to best address the needs of individuals left behind, while promoting choice, dignity, and protection. Cash assistance stood as the most flexible option, and was preferred (over vouchers) as per UNFPA Corporate Commitments to CVA (2021). The provision of cash assistance confirmed UNFPA Viet Nam's approach of promoting choice, dignity and protection while addressing unique individual needs.

Various actors were implementing cash assistance during the post-typhoon context and UNFPA is a member of the national Cash Working Group. A key concern was ensuring that the cash assistance did not increase risks for older recipients. Consultations were held with the older persons themselves and other key stakeholders to inform the cash assistance design and delivery. Their feedback helped shape the programme, ensuring a sense of community ownership.

Targeting, Outreach, Consultations and Registrations



The programme targeted 1,035 older persons in remote, ethnic minority and mountainous communes in Cao Bang and Lao Cai, Thai Nguyen, and Tuyen Quang provinces—areas identified by UN OCHA as the most severely affected by the typhoon related landslides and flooding. The targeted recipients had not received assistance from the government or any other agencies, and were effectively left behind.

UNFPA Viet Nam partnered with VAE and local authorities to develop clear selection criteria that prioritized vulnerability (based on age, disability, and other factors) and compile a list of eligible recipients. This collaborative approach helped ensure transparency and relevant targeting. Consultations were held with older persons to confirm that cash assistance was appropriate for them as a modality of assistance and would not create additional risks, as well as to understand how it could be best delivered to them.

VAE, local authorities, and community volunteers played an essential role in outreach and sensitization on the cash assistance, ensuring inclusivity of older persons who needed the assistance. Registration did not strictly require a birth certificate; alternative forms of identification, such as endorsement by the commune people's committee, were accepted to ensure inclusivity. Special considerations were given to those without documentation, recognizing that many older persons lacked a formal ID. Recipients were also able to add an alternative cash recipient in case this was preferred by them.

This flexible approach to targeting and registration reflects good practice in humanitarian CVA, ensuring older persons at risk of exclusion due to lack of ID, literacy barriers, or limited mobility were still able to access support. The process also aligned with Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) principles, by consulting with affected communities themselves to design interventions and program priorities, and thereby offering older persons choice and confirming their preference for cash as a modality.

“Upon receiving the guidance from the central VAE, we immediately convened with the heads of the local associations of the elderly to identify eligible beneficiaries based on the programme’s criteria. I personally visited each household to verify both the living conditions and the health status of older persons. In total, 10 older persons were selected—all were frail, poor, and facing most significant hardship.”

-Mr. Nhan, Chairman of VAE in Thai Nguyen.



“Our community was honored to receive UNFPA’s cash assisting programme targeting the most vulnerable older persons. The Commune Association of the Elderly was tasked with reviewing and compiling a list of eligible beneficiaries based on the provided criteria. This list was then verified, cross-checked with the commune’s official damage records, and submitted for final approval. The cash support was distributed in a unified and transparent manner.”

- Mr. Kien, Vice Chairman of Commune People’s Committee in Thai Nguyen Province.

Partnership for the Programme Implementation



UNFPA partnered with VAE, Viet Nam Post (VN Post) and local authorities.

- The implementing partner, VAE, is a social organization in Viet Nam whose mandate is to care for, protect and promote the role of older persons through its extensive four-level network of representatives at the commune and village levels.
- Partnering with VAE to deliver cash assistance was highly effective, as their deep community ties facilitated a nuanced understanding of each individual's circumstances and needs. This collaboration ensured that support was accurately targeted and delivered to the most vulnerable recipients, while also building community trust.
- This initiative marked the first time the Vietnam Association of the Elderly participated in a cash transfer programme.

“This approach ensures respectfulness, autonomy, transparency, and the rights of beneficiaries.”

- Mr. Cu, Standing Vice President of VAE.

- VN Post, the national postal service provider and a state-owned enterprise, plays a critical role in delivering essential services across the country, from urban centers to the most remote mountainous and ethnic minority areas. With operations in every commune nationwide, VN Post offers one of the most extensive and reliable networks in Viet Nam. In addition to its core postal functions, VN Post provides accessible and user-friendly financial services, contributing significantly to financial inclusion, especially in underserved areas. VAE Standing Vice President confirmed that VN Post would be the key financial service provider for reaching older persons who often lack bank accounts, face language barriers, and have limited digital literacy, a fact which was confirmed during consultations with the older persons on programme design.

“Demonstrating remarkable dedication, they conducted home visits for bedridden older persons, ensuring support was delivered not just securely and efficiently, but with the dignity and respect each person deserved.”

- UNFPA Programme Analyst in the Population and Development Team when talking about VN Post.

- VN Post’s professional staff, many fluent in local languages, provided clear guidance and compassionate, adaptive services. It also built on the fact that the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (the former MOLISA, now MOFA and MOH) has been contracting VN Post to deliver cash transfers to social assistance beneficiaries nationwide. For this initiative, UNFPA Viet Nam directly contracted VN Post as the financial service provider, leveraging an existing Long-Term Agreement (LTA) established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This ensured a fast and efficient contracting process and capitalized on VN Post’s operational reliability to operate at the grassroots level and securely disburse cash in even the most remote locations.
- Local authorities, specifically the commune people’s committees, were responsible for certifying the selected recipient identities. They also guided and facilitated local leaders, such as village heads and civil society organizations (CSOs), to actively participate in and monitor the programme’s implementation at the grassroots level. This helped ensure comprehensive oversight and local accountability.
- The local authorities highly valued the *Guideline on the Implementation of the Cash Transfer for Older Persons affected by Typhoon Yagi* co-developed by UNFPA and VAE from the outset. This foundational document clearly defined recipient criteria and stakeholder responsibilities, enhancing transparency and accountability. It enabled the swift, accurate identification of recipients and efficient cash disbursement, which significantly strengthened community trust in the overall humanitarian effort. The guidance also provides a ready-to-use tool for scaling or replicating cash support in future disasters. Sensitization sessions were conducted with all partners and volunteers throughout the entire programme lifecycle, including on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and safeguarding principles, to ensure compliance with UNFPA’s global PSEA commitments and reinforcing a ‘do no harm’ approach.

“I am truly happy to have participated in the cash transfer programme for older persons in the affected areas.”

- Ms. Nu, A postal staff member



Cash Assistance Design

The cash assistance was provided unconditionally, as per UNFPA CVA guidelines and best practice recommendations for vulnerable groups with limited mobility, with the aim of not imposing conditionalities on already vulnerable individuals.

The cash transfer amount of 1,500,000 VND (about 60 USD) was designed to cover the cost of accessing essential services, as well as the purchase of health, hygiene-related, and other critical items, tailored to the individual needs of older persons. The cash transfer package was calculated based on:

1. Composition of cash-based dignity kits for older persons

The list of dignity kit items for older persons was based on the contents distributed during the 2020 flood response in Central Viet Nam. This list includes 21 local items and is priced at USD 39 for the purchase of the items on the local markets. The items include: hand towel, packs of wipes, of tissues, toothbrush, toothpaste, bars of soap, shampoo, laundry powder, underwear, a warm jacket, pairs of socks, slippers, a comb, medicated oil, a flashlight, a whistle, a nail clipper, bottles of rubbing alcohol, face masks and a bucket. This list of content was shared with recipients, while maintaining flexibility for them to purchase items of their choice and preference thanks to the flexibility of the cash modality.

2. Covering additional costs for old persons to access essential items and services

Recognizing that approximately 75% of older persons in the targeted areas lived in poverty, with severe disabilities and chronic health issues, the cash transfer value also included cost of access to health services and items such as transportation to health facilities and other indirect costs of access to care and medication. This additional coverage of transportation costs and indirect health costs reflects good practice for ensuring cash transfer values are sufficient to meet real access needs, especially for persons with disabilities.

Local market assessments confirmed the availability of all dignity kit items. Transportation options were also found to be accessible by older persons, ensuring that cash assistance could effectively support their needs in practice.

When it comes to Data Protection, only the minimum information necessary for processing the cash transfer was collected by implementing partners. This included basic identification details required to confirm eligibility and ensure delivery, such as the recipient's name, age, gender, health status, location, and preferred delivery method. Data was used solely to identify eligible recipients, verify their needs, and facilitate the secure delivery of cash assistance in compliance with humanitarian data protection standards.

For communication on the cash assistance to the older persons, a leaflet was developed and distributed to explain the programme's purpose and contact information of UNFPA and VAE for maximizing transparency and minimizing risks of confusion or social tension. The leaflet was designed with simple language, images, and icons to make it accessible to recipients with low literacy and easy for caregivers to read it for the illiterate recipients. Information was also shared by VN Post staff in person during the cash delivery process. This layered communication approach helped uphold AAP principles by ensuring recipients were fully informed.



Cash Delivery Mechanism and Process



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Cash delivery mechanism

The partnership with VN Post has allowed for the use of the following mechanisms:

- **At-counter pickup at local VN Post branches** for recipients who were mobile and preferred in-person collection. Efforts were made to minimize crowding and waiting times, with adjusted operating hours to accommodate older persons and reduce pressure during peak periods.
- **Direct digital transfers** to recipients with bank accounts offered a rapid and secure solution. This convenient method provided immediate access to funds without travel, queues, or waiting times.
- **Home delivery of the cash assistance** for bedridden older persons or those with significant mobility issues, where cash was delivered directly by VN Post staff, representative of VAE and community leaders (Head of Village and/or Secretary of Party Cell, CSO).

Additionally, caregivers were engaged in the process, and in some cases, recipients could authorize a trusted family member to collect the cash assistance on their behalf. This flexibility in delivery channels reflects best practice in ensuring accessibility and reducing barriers for persons with disabilities and/or mobility issues.

Cash delivery process

Before the programme implementation, UNFPA, VAE and VN Post agreed on detailed procedures to guide the cash delivery process. This included instructions on handling discrepancies, such as mismatches in ID information, or individuals presenting themselves who were not on the official recipient list, ensuring consistency and accountability at every stage. Recipients who did not possess a formal ID were still able to access the cash assistance through alternative verification methods by the local authorities.

A dedicated complaints and feedback channel was made available to recipients to report any issues with the cash delivery. This ensured older persons and their caregivers had a safe space to raise concerns and that any gaps in service could be promptly addressed.

VN Post processed and recorded all transactions, then reported back to UNFPA with verification data, ensuring full traceability. This ensured compliance with financial accountability standards and allowed for monitoring of delivery timeliness and completeness.

The programme combined cash assistance with home visits, by VAE representatives and local authorities. This approach allowed for enhancing meaningful social contact at a time of heightened mental and emotional vulnerability in the wake of the disaster. This integration of social contact with financial assistance is noteworthy, helping to address both material and psychosocial needs.

“We formed a support team composed of three members—a representative from the Standing Committee of the Association of the Elderly, the head of the village unit of the elderly, and a VN Post staff. Together, we visited each beneficiary’s home to hand over the cash assistance, inquire about their wellbeing, and document the process through taking photos and videos with their consent. Though advanced in age, the beneficiaries appreciated receiving the cash in person and felt so happy by the visits and care from our team.”

- Mr. Nhan Chairman of VAE in Thai Nguyen.





Monitoring Findings

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The following findings are based on the monitoring reports of the programme integrating cash transfers for older persons affected by Typhoon Yagi in four provinces supported by UNFPA.

All targeted recipients across the four selected provinces received the full amount of cash assistance for their SRH needs, with a total programme disbursement of 1,552,500,000 VND (about USD 62,000) for the cash assistance. The disbursement rate achieved 100% of the planned budget. Below are key findings of the survey after the programme implementation.

1. Effectiveness, findings from quantitative data

a. Accessibility and user-friendly procedures

All surveyed older persons (100%) rated the cash delivery procedures as simple and accessible. This reflects a programme design that was adapted to the needs, capabilities, and circumstances of older recipients, including those with limited literacy or mobility, enabling them to access the cash assistance quickly and without administrative barriers.

b. Timely and transparent support delivery

86% of older persons reported that the support arrived in a timely manner, addressing urgent post-disaster needs effectively. All recipients received the full amount of 1.5 million VND (about USD 60) safely and without complications, underscoring the transparency, efficiency, and credibility of the cash disbursement process. This demonstrates the critical importance of timeliness in humanitarian CVA, especially for groups at extreme risk of health deterioration.

c. Effective cooperation with VN Post

The cooperation with VN Post was highly valued, with 100% of recipients expressing satisfaction with the delivery service. The postal network proved to be a reliable and appropriate distribution channel, particularly in geographically dispersed and remote areas, and creates opportunities for long-term partnerships for social protection linkages.

d. Clear and transparent communication

All recipients (100%) received a printed 'Leaflet' containing concise, easy-to-understand and illustrated information on the cash assistance programme, including contact details of focal points from UNFPA and VAE. This clear communication contributed to increased transparency, recipient awareness, informed decision-making and upholding of the right to accurate information.

e. Positive impact on health and wellbeing

All surveyed older persons and their families (100%) confirmed that the support had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. Specifically, 84% used the funds to purchase medicine and health care.

f. Reaching particularly vulnerable groups

18% of older persons were living alone in poor health, emphasizing the need to complement financial assistance with aged care services. Furthermore, 5% of the supported older persons passed away shortly after receiving the cash assistance package, illustrating both their extreme vulnerability and the critical humanitarian value of timely intervention. This finding underscores the urgency of ensuring rapid targeting and delivery, as delays could mean life or death consequences for particularly vulnerable populations.

"I have witnessed various relief efforts, but this programme stands out for its transparency and the high level of public consensus it garnered. More than three months have passed, and we have not received a single complaint."

-Mr. Kien, Vice Chairman of Commune
People's Committee in Thai Nguyen Province.

2. Recipient feedback, qualitative data

Qualitative evidence was collected systematically throughout post-distribution interviews conducted both in-person and through the phone.

“I gave the money to my daughter. She bought medicine for my high blood pressure and bone pain, some betel and areca nuts, and a box of milk. Thanks to the medicine, I feel better—sometimes I can even walk without my crutches.”

- Mrs. Loi, is a 95 year old woman with eight children and now two daughters are older persons themselves, they live with disabilities and never married. The three older women share a small, dilapidated house.

“I am deeply thankful. The 1.5 million VND came at just the right time. My elderly husband and I were both struggling with bone pain after prolonged exposure to floodwaters and the exhausting task of cleaning our house post-typhoon. Besides buying medicine, I saved a portion of the money for Tet celebrations. Though modest, it brought warmth to our home during the New Year. My mind became positive, and my health has improved significantly.”

- Mrs. Ky, a 93 years old woman in Thai Nguyen province, is suffering from chronic leg pain and a severely hunched back.

“The typhoon swept away everything we owned. If the house collapsed, I wouldn’t be here today”. When asked if she remembered having received cash assistance from UNFPA after the typhoon, she happily replied: “Yes, it was the first time I received 1.5 million (VND)- such a valuable amount of money. I had no rice left in the house, so I bought rice to eat for 3 months, bought some medicine for my knees and paid off the debt for buying gas before. Thanks to the medicine and rice to eat, my health has improved significantly. I sleep better at night because my bones are less painful. I am very grateful.”

- Ms. Lai, a poor and disabled 80 year old woman in Tuyen Quang province who lives in a very old house, accessible only by foot.



Lessons Learned and Recommendations

This emergency response has demonstrated that cash assistance for meeting individual needs, particularly hygiene and dignity items together with access to health services included into programming support for older persons, can be a highly effective modality in humanitarian contexts, particularly when delivered through strong partnerships, tailored strategies, and transparent communication. The experience also underscores the value of linking CVA to health access and psychosocial wellbeing for older persons.

- **Providing direct cash assistance to older persons proved highly successful, empowering them with the autonomy to meet their unique needs, preserving their dignity and accelerating both physical and emotional recovery in a post-disaster context.** This aligns with UNFPA's CVA commitments to ensuring dignity, choice and inclusion for the most disaster-affected communities.
- **The strategic partnership among UNFPA, VAE, and VN Post was essential to the success of the cash assistance component of the response.** Each partner brought complementary strengths and networks. UNFPA's technical leadership combined with VAE's grassroots reach and VN Post's logistical infrastructure helped ensure a rapid, secure, transparent and efficient cash delivery, particularly in remote areas, and outreach to the most vulnerable through community-led targeting. This model demonstrates how partnerships with government-linked institutions and civil society organizations can strengthen localization and sustainability in humanitarian CVA.
- Older persons are often overlooked in both emergency assessments and recovery planning. **Future efforts must ensure age-disaggregated data collection and greater advocacy for the inclusion of older persons at all stages of response, and applying sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) systematically across assessments, monitoring and reporting.**

- Outreach, targeting and registration through VAE enabled accurate identification of the most vulnerable older persons, ensuring assistance reached those in greatest need. Maintaining flexible verification (e.g. local certification when IDs are missing) helped prevent exclusion. **To ensure equity and scalability, it is recommended to standardize recipient targeting systems, by 1) developing and institutionalizing uniform criteria for recipient assessment, 2) enhancing the capacity of local officials through targeted training on data management and verification, and 3) prioritizing integration with national population databases to improve targeting accuracy and efficiency.**
- **The program's holistic design integrated direct cash assistance with compassionate home visits from the VAE's representatives and local authorities.** This practical and adaptive approach addressed mobility barriers and reduced protection risks. It helped build community trust and proved instrumental in fostering vital human connection, directly addressing the heightened mental and emotional vulnerability of recipients in the post-typhoon context.
- **The early establishment of clear procedures, open communication with communities, community-led targeting and a functioning complaints and feedback system contributed to ensure accuracy, a smooth rollout of the assistance and strong community trust.** This grassroots approach leveraged deep community knowledge, minimized grievances, and built consensus from the outset.
- **A robust monitoring framework, including multi-party observation, public recipient lists, and meticulous record-keeping, was fundamental to the programme's integrity and accountability.** Post-distribution monitoring was tailored to the cash assistance modality to capture the friendliness and timeliness of the cash delivery process, its safety and its impact. It is recommended to adopt standardized digital tools for reporting and verification, while empowering communities through participatory monitoring. This dual approach enhances transparency, fosters local ownership, and ensures greater accountability.
- While the intervention was successful, greater visibility is needed to highlight the challenges facing vulnerable populations and specific groups who are left behind like older persons. **It is recommended to embed strategic communication for visibility and impact in the overall approach, by integrating a multi-channel communication strategy into programme design from the outset.** Campaigns should aim to increase donor visibility, promote positive narratives of active ageing, and mobilize sustained public and financial support, thereby building the consensus needed for long-term social inclusion initiatives.
- **Institutionalizing cash assistance as a core component of national disaster response frameworks, particularly for vulnerable groups is key.** This requires establishing agile financial mechanisms at both central and local levels to ensure the rapid disbursement of funds during emergencies. **UNFPA will help ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups such as older persons. Future efforts must focus on embedding cash assistance in national policy, formalizing inter-agency coordination, and using strategic communication to ensure older persons are consistently prioritized in all emergency planning and response. Linking with Viet Nam's social protection system and ongoing ageing policy reforms will be key for scaling and sustainability.**

Conclusion



“Currently, about 66 percent of older persons in Vietnam live in rural, remote, and difficult areas. Furthermore, climate change is becoming increasingly complex, unpredictable, and severe, requiring the social protection system to be researched and strengthened. Viet Nam Association of the Elderly is very pleased to cooperate with UNFPA to provide cash assistance to older people living in poverty, with persons with disabilities, and in ethnic minority – mountainous areas, to help them overcome the difficulties of Typhoon Yagi.”

- Mr. Cu, Standing Vice President of VAE and National Assembly delegate of the XV term, a voice for 17 million older persons in Viet Nam.

The cash transfer programme’s success was rooted in its dignity-based model, which empowered older persons impacted by Typhoon Yagi with the autonomy to direct their own recovery and meet their own personal dignity and health needs. This approach accelerated both physical and emotional healing, proving to be a profoundly effective and humane method of disaster relief.

Monitoring findings indicated that the cash assistance positively impacted the health and renewed sense of hope among older recipients. Families also experienced relief, as the temporary easing of caregiving burdens provided space to recover after the typhoon. Beyond improvements in health and well-being, the tailored cash assistance demonstrated recognition and care for this vulnerable group, leaving a lasting humanitarian impact. The programme also highlights how cash assistance can contribute to multiple outcomes simultaneously- protection, health access, psychosocial wellbeing and social cohesion.

UNFPA Viet Nam will absolutely consider using cash assistance in future responses. The experience has reaffirmed that cash assistance is not only feasible in remote, disaster-affected regions but also impactful, especially for groups like older persons who are often invisible and whose needs are not being met in emergencies. This case study provides a strong evidence base for advocacy with donors, government and humanitarian actors on the value of CVA for older persons.

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