



Timely, tailored and local cash and voucher assistance

UNFPA Asia Pacific recognizes that Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) can directly contribute to the Three Transformative Results that UNFPA is committed to achieving by 2030: zero unmet need for contraception; zero preventable maternal deaths; and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices.

UNFPA's individualized and localized CVA contributes to positive outcomes for vulnerable women, adolescent girls and other key individuals such as Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors, persons of diverse SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics), persons living with HIV and persons with disabilities. It brings autonomy, flexibility and discretion.

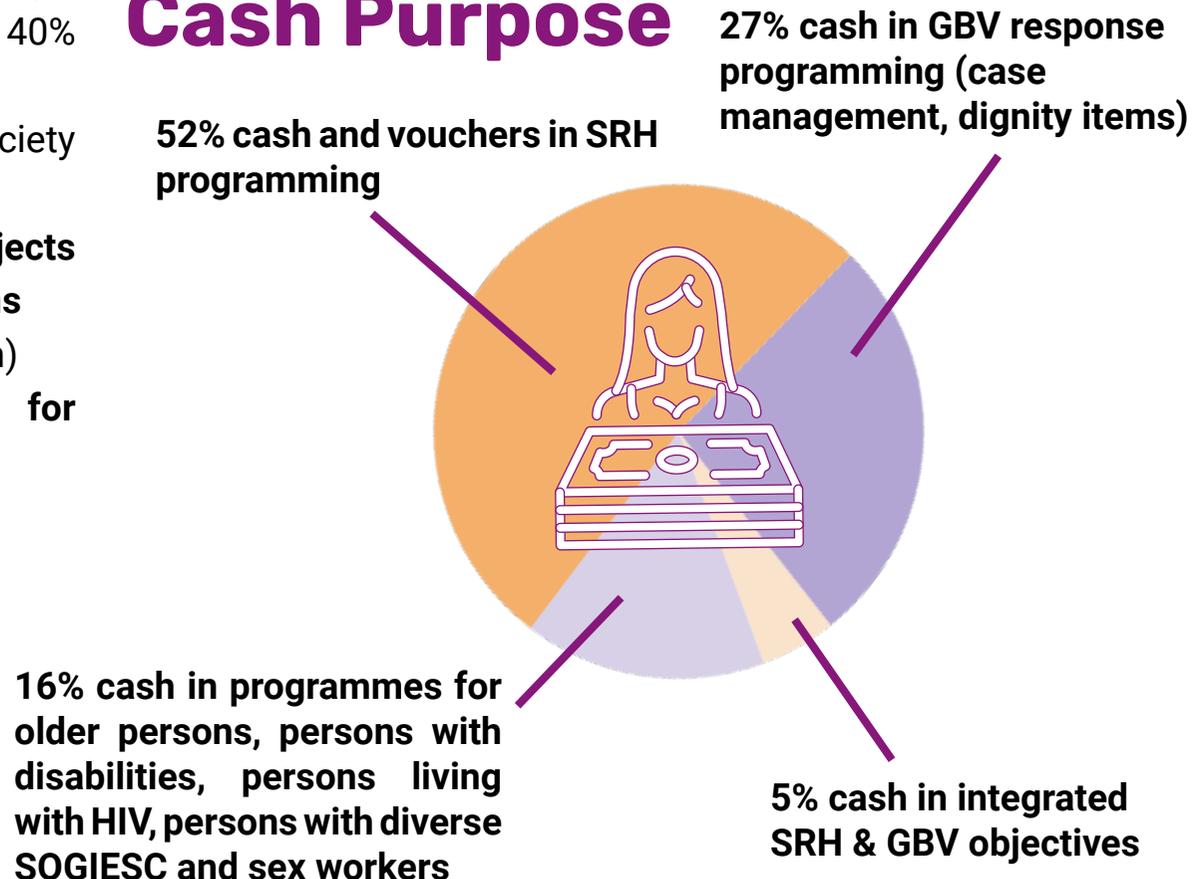
Working closely with the Ministries of Health, Ministries for Women and Children, local partners and key stakeholders at national level and in the field, UNFPA successfully implements CVA in 10 countries in Asia Pacific.

With CVA, UNFPA provides the people it serves with timely access to life-saving GBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services, and with access to key SRH, family planning, menstrual health and dignity items. UNFPA cash assistance helps GBV survivors recover and helps vulnerable women and adolescent girls take precautionary measures in anticipation of disasters. The cash assistance is always part of a larger and comprehensive UNFPA response (i.e. GBV case management, health systems strengthening).

Highlights from 2023

- **10 country offices introduced CVA** (8 of them implemented in 2023)
- **90,000 recipients received CVA** (increase of 6% from 2022)
- **USD \$3.0 million worth of transfers made** (increase of 40% from 2022)
- **73 projects** (includes various small projects with Civil Society Organizations/Women-Led Organizations)
- **3 countries included cash in their Anticipatory Action projects**
- **4,000 recipients of cash for the purchase of dignity items**
- **98.5% cash** (1 project with vouchers for menstrual health)
- **Capacity building, advocacy and technical support for countries interested in CVA**

Cash Purpose



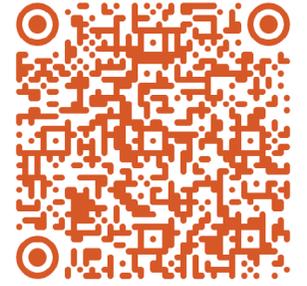
"IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE FOR THESE PREGNANT WOMEN FACING AN OBSTETRIC EMERGENCY TO TRAVEL TO THE DISTRICT HOSPITAL. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT GOING CAN SIMPLY MEAN THE DEATH OF THE MOTHER AND THE BABY"

-MIDWIFE IN BANGLADESH, 2023

Progress in the Region

- In 2023, cash assistance was used as a prime tool for UNFPA's responses to sudden-onset emergencies: Herat earthquake in Afghanistan, floods in Bangladesh, Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar, Karnali earthquake in Nepal, Khoy earthquake in Iran, earthquake responses in Indonesia, and the economic crisis in Sri Lanka.
- The first UNFPA use of cash for dignity items was implemented in Bangladesh. In response to the Chittagong Hill Tracts region floods from September to December 2023, UNFPA and its local partners successfully implemented cash for the purchase of dignity items for women, girls and transgender individuals.
- Cash in SRH programming continues to be a flagship approach for the region with three quarters of the cash assistance used in programmes for pregnant women's access to maternal health care, for women of reproductive age to access family planning and menstrual health items or for persons living with HIV to access their treatment.
- After the Philippines and Myanmar, Indonesia became the 3rd country to integrate cash assistance in GBV case management. The cash pilot was accompanied by a research study with the Johns Hopkins University to demonstrate the positive impact of the cash on GBV survivors' safety and recovery.

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Afghanistan

- Cash to support the health and well-being of women and adolescent girls affected by the Herat earthquake.

Nepal

- Cash for pregnant women with obstetric complications to access emergency obstetric and newborn care after the Karnali earthquake.
- Cash for SRH in Anticipatory Action.

Myanmar

- Cash in 54 small projects with 17 CSOs/ WLOs and 2 INGOs.
- Cash for GBV survivors and for access to SRH care, including family planning.
- Cash for older persons, persons with diverse SOGIESC, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV.

Iran

- Cash for SRH for Afghan refugee women (including for enrollment in the national insurance scheme) and for women affected by the Khoy earthquake.

The Philippines

- Cash for pregnant women to attend antenatal check-ups and deliver in health facilities, as seen in the [study with JHU](#).
- Cash for GBV survivors in GBV case management.
- Cash for vulnerable adolescent girls and transgender individuals to attend learning sessions on SRH and GBV topics and access services for STI/HIV care and mental health and psychosocial support.
- Cash for SRH and GBV in Anticipatory Action.

Bangladesh

- Cash for the purchase of dignity items for 4,000 women, girls and transgender individuals to choose items as per their own preference in their local markets.
- Cash for pregnant women to access antenatal care and safely deliver in health facilities.
- Cash for SRH and dignity items in Anticipatory Action.

Sri Lanka

- Largest 2023 cash response in the region (and globally) with 50,700 pregnant women receiving cash to access SRH services and health and sanitary items.

Indonesia

- Piloted cash to GBV survivors for access to life-saving support, recovery and empowerment & implemented cash for pregnant women to access maternal care.
- The [study with JHU](#) shows significant increase in feelings of safety for GBV survivors from baseline to endline.



"THE CASH ASSISTANCE HELPED ME REGARDING MY CASE FACING VIOLENCE, IT CAN HELP ME FOR THE FUTURE. IT HELPED A LOT AND REDUCED MY RISKS."

-GBV SURVIVOR IN INDONESIA, 2023

We are grateful to our donors and partners. In 2023, CVA in the region was made possible with the support of DFAT, CERF, Japan, France, KOICA, UBRAF, US PRM as well as through UNFPA emergency and core funds.

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