

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Programming with CBT assistance for food security-, nutrition- and gender equality-related outcomes

Over the past decade, the World Food Programme (WFP) has increased its use of cash-based transfers (CBTs) to assist persons who are food insecure. In 2017, WFP provided 1.3 billion USD in cash transfers, up from 880 million USD in the previous year and being 30 percent of the total food assistance provided. 19.2 million people (51% females / 49% males), across 61 countries with 98 operations, were assisted through cash transfers in 2017.

Given the growing importance of cash-based interventions (CBIs) to humanitarian and development assistance, the centrality of gender equality to sustainable and empowering changes, and finite resources, it is critical that WFP programming and operations be evidence-based and guided by reliable and credible information.

The study on The Potential of Cash-Based Interventions to Promote Gender Equality and

Women's Empowerment sought to explore how CBIs can contribute to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), as ends in themselves and for food security and nutrition outcomes.

CONCEPTUAL MODEL

To guide the study, a conceptual model was developed to connect CBI programme features and processes with food security-, nutrition- and gender-related outcomes. The conceptual model assumptions were explored and tested in Bangladesh, Egypt, El Salvador, Jordan, Mali and Rwanda through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and review of secondary information. Using the Most Significant Change technique, study teams in each of the six countries asked women and men to identify the changes that have taken place in their lives and what programme features they believe led to the changes.

The study conceptual model details seven food security and nutrition-related and eight gender equality-related outcomes resulting from CBIs, constructed from beneficiaries' personal accounts of change (outcomes) and their attribution of change (causal links).

The assumptions underlying the conceptual model are that:

- CBIs contribute to food security and nutrition-related outcomes;
- CBIs can have gender equality-related outcomes and can reinforce gender inequalities;
- gender equality-related outcomes influence food security and nutrition-related outcomes;
- in the absence of gender equality-related outcomes, CBIs will not be equitable nor sustainable; and
- contextual factors – at the household, community and national levels – influence gender (roles, relations, responsibilities, rights) and outcomes.

CASE STUDY RESULTS

The research case studies demonstrated that:

- CBIs can contribute to food security and nutrition-related outcomes, including improved livelihoods and income, enhanced resilience, and access to services
- CBIs can have gender equality-related outcomes;
- gender equality-related outcomes can influence food security and nutrition-related outcomes; and
- ontexual factors – at the household, community and national levels – can influence gender (roles, relations, responsibilities, rights) and outcomes.

Access the full report at <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000102755/download/>

And the summary report at <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000102949/download/>

