

UN Women

Expert Group Meeting

Sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63)

‘Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls’

New York, New York

13-15 September 2018

Women’s access to social protection and public services – Best practice case studies

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* The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

I. Background and Objectives

CSW63 will consider as its priority theme “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.” This is not only the first time that CSW considers the key issue of social protection systems, but it will do so in conjunction with public services and sustainable infrastructure. The 2019 priority theme is thus a great opportunity for an integrated consideration of these three key gender equality issues, and how they can support and reinforce each other.

While social protection coverage has increased during the last decade, gender gaps in access and benefit levels remain significant. Extending social protection benefits to women is necessary to provide relief in the face of risks and contingencies. However, it does not necessarily address the gender inequalities that lie at the root of women’s income insecurity, including their disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work.

Public services and investments in social infrastructure are essential for reducing and redistributing this work, and thereby facilitating women’s access to income through labour markets. In addition to the policies that are typically discussed in high-income countries—such as parental leaves, child and elderly care services—addressing women’s care burdens in lower income settings requires a series of functional equivalents that liberate women’s time for other activities. This includes a strong focus on infrastructure, including as electricity, water, sanitation and transport—which is also critical to facilitate access to public services, such as health centers or educational facilities.

In this context, it was decided to select “*women’s access to social protection and public services*” as the core topic of the Inter-Agency Task Force 2018-2019. One of the objectives of the Task Force is to highlight critical gaps and priority areas of intervention and build on existing knowledge to improve gender responsive access to social protection and public service; and provide concrete recommendations for advancing women’s access to social protection and public services to guide the discussion at CSW63. The literature review and best practices shared by the IANGWE Task Force in this paper are for the consideration for the CSW 63 Expert Group.

II. Literature Desk Review (Gender and SP)

This Gender and Social Protection evidence research synthesizes secondary data to identify how gender concerns are addressed, either directly or indirectly, through social protection and what are the best practices being promoted in development, humanitarian and conflict settings. The aim is to support UNICEF to design and implement gender sensitive social protection programmes. While there has been growing interest and a spike in policy momentum for social protection in general and in particular in humanitarian settings, more attention is required to social protection’s role in tackling gendered challenges related to poverty, social services, labour market and multi-dimensional vulnerability.

The mapping table has collected data through secondary desk review research analysing global studies and reports on social protection and social protection and gender.

- Women and Education
- Women and Health: SRH, early marriage,

- Women and Economic Empowerment: Labour market, public works, wages, opportunities, care agenda, capacity, Pension (Nepal pension for single women, money for widows India)
- Voice and civic engagement
- Violence: GBV, Violence,
- Gendered policies and cultural practices:

Gender constraints in the choice of transfers, asset transfers and delivery mechanisms	Country	SP + Gender Best Practices	Direct/Indirect	Challenges	Source
	Pakistan	Benazir Bhutto Income Support helps women obtain civic documentation helping them and their children gain access to services which was previously denied due to lack of documentation (birth registration, ID etc);	Indirect		ODI Toolkit on Gender Sensitive Social Protection
	Ethiopia (PSNP)	Assets such as fuel wood and water collection sources built in closer proximity to the village to reduce women's time poverty Women have access to credit to graduate from Public Works (PNSP)	Direct		Gender Inequality, risk and vulnerability in the rural economy 2011
	Peru (Juntos CCT)	Recipients (including women) must attend weekly training sessions. These also cover basic literacy sessions, as a result of which women can now sign their names without depending on male counterparts or external assistance, recognise their civic identification number and name on the register of the Juntos cash transfer programme;	Indirect		ODI Toolkit on Gender Sensitive Social Protection
	Mozambique	The Food Subsidy Programme includes malnourished pregnant women in the eligibility criteria	Direct		ODI Toolkit on Gender Sensitive Social Protection
	Mexico (Estancias)	Spill over effects of subsidies. CT Estancias provides subsidies to mothers – often young single mothers – who want to continue to study;			ODI Social Protection and Gender

	India (MNREGA)	MNREGA in each state 1/3 quota for women. Preference to women and single women who live within 5 km of the public works site. Crèche facilities provided so that women with access to care facilities for fuller participation in public life. Advancing care related agenda	Direct		<p>ODI Social Protection and Gender;</p> <p>Gendered Risks, Poverty and Vulnerability in India: Case Study of MNREGA</p>
	Ethiopia	PNSP shows how to design public works programmes that address gendered economic and social risks with regards to family composition, socio-cultural norms and the lifecycle. Flexible working hours are available to women in relation to domestic responsibilities, direct CT for women in late stages of pregnancy and nursing facilities provided if there is inadequate labour within households;	Direct		Rethinking Social Protection using a gender lens – ODI Oct 2010
	Jordan	<p>Mercy Corps CBI for Refugees in Jordan also facilitated access to documentation to validate their legal status (refugee status card, asylum seeker card). These documentation provide opportunities for work and accessing social services (health centres).</p> <p>ECHO provided additional funds to Mercy Corps for scale up of the documentation component and provide better access to quality legal support. Mercy Corps maintain a database of refugee/asylum seekers in need of documentation – identified during CBI sensitization awareness programmes.</p>	Indirect		Mainstreaming Gender Based Violence Considerations in Cash-Based Interventions: a case study of Jordan

Cash Transfers and GBV	Jordan Peru	<p>IRC provides unconditional cash transfers to GBV survivors through CBI case management officers and works closely with Mercy Corps on ensuring these survivors have access to documentation; GBV case managers provide gender discussion groups and psychosocial support.</p> <p>Integration of PSS and GGDs to CBIs provide a more sustainable solution to protection from risks for GBV survivors;</p>	Direct		Mainstreaming Gender Based Violence Considerations in Cash-Based Interventions: a case study of Jordan ODI Toolkit on Gender Sensitive Social Protection
		GBV, Decision making	Indirect		
Raising awareness on social behavioural norms	Bangladesh	<p>Early marriage, SRH, equal distribution of domestic and care work. These messages are aimed at changing existing social norms to challenge discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls as carers, and support leadership opportunities for women;</p>	Indirect		CFPR Doc
	Ghana	<p>Breaking down barriers on traditional work and care giving roles</p>	Indirect		ODI Toolkit on Gender Sensitive Social Protection
	Bangladesh	<p>Innovative ways to promote women's social capital Women participate in specially created Village Poverty Reduction Committees for greater political mobilisation. The expectation is that they are likely to champion care policies;</p>	Indirect		CFPR
	Peru	<p>The Juntos programme promotes women's (who are part of the programme) leadership at the community level through election of women as community facilitators serving as link</p>	Indirect		Juntos Doc

		between staff and recipients;			
	Bangladesh	Provisions for women to participate in supervisory roles (Bangladesh's Rural Maintenance Programme) Women have access to credit to graduate from Public Works Programme B- Rural maintenance Programme	Indirect		Gender Inequality, risk and vulnerability in the rural economy 2011
	Bangladesh (CFPR)	CFPR increases women's skill and knowledge through intensive training and supervision given to the recipients to support their new livelihood activities; Women receive assets, trainings provided on asset management; daily stipend provided to women till asset generate income (max upto 18 months); Linking existing social networks like the VPRC provide subsidised health, water, sanitation,	Indirect		CFPR Document
Economic Empowerment	Chile	National Women's Service, SERNAM was to support the mainstream gender into public policy looking at structural constraints that limit women's participation such as child care. This programmes helps women enter the about markets by providing them with child care.	Direct	Policies towards early childhood typically focus on the needs of young children to the exclusion of care considerations or by reinforcing traditional gendered responsibilities for care. Take education as an example. Care for infants and toddlers is largely confined to support for maternal care (that is, helping mothers to be better parents. Viewing men as providers and women as care givers). At most, half of three- to five-year-old children in developing countries participate in some form	Care Responsibilities and women's leadership - ODI
	Chile	Chile Grows with you SP programme provided universal care for all 4-5 years olds and provides access to crèches for children till U3 for those in the bottom two income quintiles; For children over 3 years of age, full day is also provided; ECD	Direct		Care Responsibilities and women's leadership – ODI; Why should we care about unpaid care work? UNWOMEN

		goals and women's participation		of early childhood education,7 typically for a few hours daily, but often, the hours of day care facilities do not align well with the work schedules of carers.	
	Mexico	Estancias subsidised crèche programme to encourage women to participate in labour markets'		Social protection schemes such as cash transfer programs, where conditional, often reinforce the primacy of mothers as carers and place additional obligations (immunization, vaccination, MUAC/waisting) upon them (rather than jointly with their male partners) to comply with the requirements of the transfer. Public works programmes, in turn, often fail to recognise women as carers and can accentuate the time constraints that they face, particularly where flexible hours and crèches are lacking – either in design or implementation.	
	Nepal	Community level support set up so that women participants are better able to save through the establishment of savings group (Nepal's Dhalugiri Irrigation Project)	Direct		Gender Inequality, risk and vulnerability in the rural economy 2011
	Botswana	Labour Intensive Rural Public Works Programme allows women time off for pregnancy and breast feeding; Provisions for women to participate in supervisory roles	Direct		Gender Inequality, risk and vulnerability in the rural economy 2011
	Senegal	Programme provides complementary services that will empower women more generally including provision of adult literacy classes for women (Agence De'execution des Travaux D'Interet Public)	Indirect		Gender Inequality, risk and vulnerability in the rural economy 2011

	Uganda	Livelihood training provided by GoU's National Agricultural Advisory Services that provides technical knowledge on agriculture and livestock management to the beneficiaries who are also enrolled in the CT programme. This is helpful for women who are enrolled in the CT programme to learn about better livelihood practices such as where to acquire right seeds, what they should plant, this allows to protect their asset base during shocks, - This is key as money from the CT is spent on livestock and agriculture the female beneficiaries;	Indirect		ACF and Development Pathways, Understanding the interaction between economic empowerment and GBV: Study on ACF's CT in Northern Uganda
	Uganda	Voluntary Saving and Lending Associations that already existed at the community level before the ACF's CT in Northern Uganda, were linked up to the CT beneficiaries. They provide a safe space for women's engagement on social issues such SRH, Health care, vaccination as well as mental and emotional support.	Indirect		ACF and Development Pathways, Understanding the interaction between economic empowerment and GBV: Study on ACF's CT in Northern Uganda ACF and Development Pathways, Understanding the interaction between economic empowerment and GBV: Study on ACF's CT in Northern Uganda
	Uganda	Link up with local NGOs who provided training to both women and men enrolled in the CT programme on Gender roles, how men can benefit on empowering women without losing their identity, challenging traditional norms,			ACF and Development Pathways, Understanding the interaction between economic empowerment and GBV: Study on

		<p>advancing the care agenda by information on care policies and women's voice and leadership, Male facilitators were also brought so that they can understand and contribute to ensuring equal participation; Both men and women are required to advance the economy and it allows for faster economic recovery;</p> <p>The NGOs also engaged men not only as perpetrators but also as victims as both women and men are shaped by gender socialisation, war, displacement, religion and culture;</p>			<p>ACF's CT in Northern Uganda ACF and Development Pathways, Understanding the interaction between economic empowerment and GBV: Study on ACF's CT in Northern Uganda</p>
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III. Best Practice Country Examples

1. Rwanda: Child- and Gender-Sensitive Expanded Public Works

Title	Child Sensitive Social Protection and Nutrition Specific Intervention (CSSP) – <i>Supporting child- and gender-sensitive Expanded Public Works</i>
Location	Rwanda – 2 Districts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nyabihu (Western Province) 2. Gakenke (Northern Province)
Target group	Extremely poor mothers and other primary caregivers of young children 0–36 months old, who were eligible for Public Works, and households with reduced labour capacity and households with responsibility for caring for older people and/or persons with disability
Coverage	240 households
Stakeholders	Main partner: Government of Rwanda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) • Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) • Local Government Implementing partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care International
Timeframe	August 2015 – March 2017
Focus area	Social Protection crosscutting with Nutrition and Early Childhood Development
Contribution to 2030 Agenda	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5

Project background and design

In recent years, UNICEF Rwanda has supported the Government of Rwanda (GoR) in improving Child-Sensitive Social Protection in existing components of their flagship Vision Umurenge (VUP) Social Protection programme. Households with young children are most likely to be participants in the Public Works (PW) component of VUP. However, specific constraints were found around non-participation of eligible households with only one laborer, mainly in Female-Headed Households. Also, PW were not designed to meet the specific needs of women and children.

In 2015, the Ministry of Local Government and its partners selected two prominent child-sensitive social protection options to roll-out. These options are aimed at addressing constraints leading to non-participation, in addition to promoting child-care and protection in public works in a gender-sensitive manner:

- Developing a new range of Public Works that is more flexible in working hours, year around employment, less labor-demanding and can be carried out closer to home (Expanded Public Works - EPW) and;

- Provision of childcare for children of Public Works participants via mobile crèches at the worksite for children aged 0-36 months at CPW projects.

Based on these two options, UNICEF Rwanda, in partnership with CARE International in Rwanda, launched a Pilot in four sectors in two districts in Rwanda (Bigogwe Sector in Nyabihu District, and Minazi, Cyabingo and Gakenke Sectors in Gakenke District), introducing EPW and mobile crèches. In addition to the above-mentioned elements, two other elements were included into the Pilot design:

- Nutrition specific interventions (supplementary feeding i.e Sosoma and micro nutrients power) for children between 6-23 months. Participating mothers were trained as caregivers at the crèches to deliver basic Early Childhood Development (ECD) messages; health and nutrition messages including cooking demonstration and child measurement were also given;
- A Village Savings and Loans Scheme.

Care International in close collaboration with local government targeted participants in Public Works to benefit from the components of the pilot project. The EPW included 240 VUP participants and the mobile crèche component also reached 240 VUP participants, with a total of 278 children attending the crèche. 73% of participants were Female Headed-Households and 27% Male Headed Households.

Key successes and innovation

The pilot has been evaluated as very successful. These elements are amongst the key successes, with a particular focus on the gender aspects:

- The EPW modalities supported the **inclusion of particularly Female-Headed Households** into social protection programmes, which were previously excluded from PW. The quantitative Pilot evaluation shows high level of inclusion of the lowest 2 socio-economic classes **at the outset** of the pilot, as well as increased inclusion of households with members with a disability.
- The EPW **design was able to provide a range of work options that were less restrictive** for families with young children, in particular for breast-feeding mothers, and made the EPW programme child and **gender-sensitive**. Participation of targeted beneficiaries in EPW was made easier since workers were drawn from the proximity of the worksites, and work tasks undertaken were less onerous than classical PW activities of road building and terracing. Also, the design included flexibility of working hours, which was received as very beneficial by participants. All these components (less travel-time to worksites, less labor-intensive work, more flexible hours) helped **lifting the participation barriers for specifically women** in a social protection programme.
- The design of interventions **improved intra-household power dynamics. It improved the status of women** who were able to earn wages and contribute to the household well-being in monetary terms. The pilot evaluation also showed an impact on behavior change and practices, resulting in the improved nutrition and development outcomes of children, as reported in the qualitative evaluation. In addition, it **contributed to social inclusion and social cohesion** for extremely poor households, in particular women who had been socially isolated in their communities. A Saving and Loans Scheme that was incorporated into the design of the pilot also contributed to the cohesion.
- The qualitative Pilot evaluation highlights that the mobile crèche has been highly valued by its users. **Mothers could work more freely with their child in a safe space and being able to take breaks for breast-feeding their child in a safe environment had direct impact on their productivity** as reported by District officials. Also, children at the crèche have been making visible progress in their development and interactions with others.
- The Pilot was very well **integrated into existing government programme** of VUP and was **implemented in close collaboration with local government and government structures**. E.g.

Government Community Health Workers provided significant contribution to project implementation for the nutrition component of the pilot. This helped improve the sensitization of local government around gender-sensitive and nutrition-sensitive social protection.

- The **Pilot design organically evolved** alongside implementation. For example, in locations where CPW and EPW were operating in close geographical proximity, participants from both CPW and EPW would take advantage of the mobile crèche for their children (originally only intended for CPW), and in this way benefitting from the same results around social inclusion and ECD messaging. These is one of the examples of unintended, yet positive, outcomes of the pilot.

Impact and Scale-up

The EPW pilot was regarded as highly relevant, as it effectively included nutrition interventions to the EPW programme design, in a gender-sensitive manner. Impact can be seen at both local and national level.

At local level, participants were so involved that already during implementation of the Pilot they would bring their own produce to the crèche for communal cooking and feeding of the children. Local Government at Sector and District levels, encouraged by the Pilot results, were dedicated to scale-up the gender-sensitive and child-sensitive measures, but budgetary constraints proved to be an obstacle.

Remarkable achievements at national level, which may affect in the future the obstacle faced by local Government is the adoption of key elements from the Pilot into the new Social Protection Strategy by the GoR (developed in 2018) and other key Social Protection documents. There is now a GoR programme of Expanded Public Works which will cover 30,000 households during the 2018/19 financial year. Furthermore, the piloting of the mobile crèche approach has informed the design of the childcare component that will be implemented by the GoR during the 2018/2019 financial year and the GoR is exploring options of Community-Based Childcare.

2. Nepal: Emergency Cash Transfer Programme (ECTP)

Title	Emergency Cash Transfer Program (ECTP)
Location	19 programme districts
Target group	beneficiaries of the existing cash transfers to five vulnerable groups, namely Dalit children under five years of age, widows and single women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and members of minority ethnic groups in 19 earthquake-affected districts. The second phase of the programme comprised a horizontal expansion of the programme, providing cash transfers to all children under five years of age in 11 of the 14 most earthquake-affected districts.
Coverage	Over 730K individuals
Stakeholders	Main Partner: Government of Nepal: Nepal Food Corporation, Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare
Timeframe	Xxx
Focus area	Shock Responsive Social Protection-Emergency response,

Contribution to 2030 Agenda	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5
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Project background and design

In 2015, 344 naturally-triggered disasters were reported worldwide, which claimed the lives of over 23,000 victims. The Nepal earthquakes contributed one-third of these victims: 8,831 people died as a result of the two earthquakes on 25 April and 12 May 2015 and their subsequent aftershocks.

The ECTP was implemented in two phases. In both phases, the existing government social protection system was used to implement the programme and to transfer funds from UNICEF to the beneficiaries using the established payments system used by DDCs to transfer social security payments to beneficiaries via the VDC or municipality. In most cases, VDC secretaries physically carried the funds from the district to beneficiaries in the villages. Some municipalities already use bank transfers to make social protection payments to individual beneficiaries, so they used the same modality to transfer the post-earthquake cash transfers.

In Phase 1, the timing for disbursing ECTP funds was intended to match the regular social protection transfer so that beneficiaries would receive an additional top-up at the time of collecting the regular government cash transfer. However, in practice, about half of the transfers to beneficiaries could not be made at the same time as the regular payments, and so had to be made as an additional payment at a later date.

The programme included an external and periodic M&E mechanism. The objective of the external mechanism was to provide real-time information for improving programme effectiveness, and that of the periodic monitoring was for adaptive learning, and providing lessons to strengthen the capacity of the government social protection system to respond to disasters. A collaborative partnership was established with an external firm, NEPAN, to shoulder this responsibility.

Key successes and innovation

- UNICEF was able to support approximately 430,000 beneficiaries in Phase 1 and over 300,000 beneficiaries during Phase 2 in meeting their basic needs through the ECTP as they recovered from the devastating earthquakes.
- It was thus one of the largest post-earthquake responses in the country.
- In addition, through the M&E systems utilised throughout implementation this programme has developed a comprehensive knowledge base as regards the practicalities of adapting social protection systems to respond to shocks.
- Single women and pregnant women were targeted who sought medical treatment in facilities
- The use of government systems has also helped UNICEF gain trust of key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Impact and Scale-up

- By developing a registry of all children under five years old and increasing birth registration rates from 48% to 94% in 11 programme districts in Phase 2, UNICEF Social Policy and Economic Analysis (SPEA) have laid the foundation for the universalisation of the child grant in the country, an explicit priority of the GoN.

3. Myanmar Mother and Child Cash transfer

Title	Myanmar Mother and Child Cash transfer (MCCT)
Location	Rhakine State
Target group	Women who were pregnant from July 1, 2017
Coverage	Estimated 40,000 women with 3,000+/month added incrementally
Stakeholders	Government of Myanmar, Ministry of Social Welfare (Department of Social Welfare)
Timeframe	August 2015 – March 2017
Focus area	Improve nutrition outcomes for pregnant women and children under 2 years
Contribution to 2030 Agenda	

Project background and design

A combination of deprivation, high risk to multiple crises coupled with low infrastructure development make life challenging for the most vulnerable. In this context, Myanmar's mother and child cash transfers (MCCT) can play a crucial role in addressing some of the underlying causes of vulnerability and deprivation.

MCCT is one of the flagship programmes of the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement in Myanmar. It is designed to improve nutritional outcomes for pregnant women and children under 2. Key components of the programme are:

- Provision of additional purchasing power (MMK 15,000 per month) to meet the unmet needs during the first 1,000 days; and
- Provision of nutrition information and social & behaviour change communication (SBCC).

It is expected that the MCCT will enable pregnant and lactating women to:

- Improve their dietary intake;
- Improve their dietary diversity;
- Afford basic anti natal care for themselves and health care support for the infant; and
- Improve feeding of their young children. disasters. A collaborative partnership was established with an external firm, NEPAN, to shoulder this responsibility.

Key successes and innovation

- TBD
- Design: targeted to pregnant women & mothers of children under 2 years of age; relaxation of enrollment requirements
- Unique numbers for beneficiary protection;
- Cash distribution by DSW staff in sensitive locations;
- Facilitated access to markets and services in some areas

4. Ghana Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty

Title	Ghana Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)
Location	216 districts (2017). All 10 regions nationwide targeted
Target group	Extremely poor households, pregnant women and infants
Coverage	213K families enrolled, 197,000 (individuals received payment in 2017)
Stakeholders	Government of Ghana (Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Protection) Department of Social Welfare
Timeframe	Ongoing since 2008
Focus area	Cash transfer
Contribution to 2030 Agenda	

Project background and design

In 2015 with support from USAID, UNICEF and the Government of Ghana began supporting 28,000 household with poor pregnant women or women with young babies with bi monthly cash payments under the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) 1000 program.

Intended to combat extreme poverty and stunting the LEAP 1000 is a social cash transfer programme that targets extremely poor families with pregnant women and infants. (UNICEF LEAP Case Study, 2016).

UNICEF invested significant time and resources in strengthening the core systems and processes of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), cash transfer programme. As of the end of 2017, 213,000 families are enrolled into the LEAP programme in all 216 districts, and 197,000 are receiving payments through the improved e-payment system.

Key successes and innovation

- Increase access to national health system, and reduced dropout of girls in secondary education.
- LEAP household heads are also more likely to be women, widowed and have no schooling. (UNICEF LEAP Evaluation Report-2013)
- 90 percent of LEAP households enrolled in NHIS by 2012, an increase of 25 percentage points (Ibid).

Impact and Scale-up (TBD)

Impact evaluation conducted in 2013 reported the following gender-specific outcomes:

- gender differentiated impacts of LEAP on children. Secondary school enrollment impacts are limited to boys, but attendance impacts are bigger for girls
 - The impact of LEAP on older girls and find that LEAP reduces the likelihood of missing any school (11 pp at 10 percent significance)

- At the household level, impacts on food security and happiness are larger among female headed households.
 - Food insecurity has significantly reduced for LEAP families (by 25 percentage points) especially for those headed by women (by 32 percentage points) between 2010 and 2012. (UNICEF LEAP briefing paper)

Human Interest Story: How LEAP is changing lives and empowering women in Wantugu, Tolon, Ghana.

Tolon, Ghana, February 2016- Azumi Konshie Neindow is one of the LEAP programme recipients in her village. She stays in Wantugu village in Tolon district, in the Northern region of Ghana. Azumi is married to Konshe Neindow and she stays with him and their children Yakubu (13), Azaara (6), Suale (7) and Selma (8mth). Azumi stays in the family compound which is composed of 7 mud and grass roofed huts which act as the family's living area, kitchen and bedrooms.

Azumi's family collect water from a communal dug out in the next community of Apelyili for domestic use she has to walk for several kilometers and carries the water back in containers. For them food has always been a difficult issue, as they grow very few vegetables such as okra, pepper and rely on buying yams, maize, salt and meat at the community market every month.

Azumi's husband is disabled therefore Azumi has the sole responsibility as breadwinner for the family. On a typical day Azumi fetches water from the communal water for the family and prepares for her children to go to school early in the morning. The family eats twice a day in the morning and evenings with a local grounded maize meal paste being the main carbohydrate, they have this with okra and some local vegetables.

Azumi has worked in the nearby forest collecting shear nuts for resale to individuals who buy the nuts in bulk for processing. This has been her main source of income for many years, she has also worked on groundnut farms in her village when shear nuts are not in season in order to make a living. "We use all the money from the farm work to buy maize meal and grind it. This leaves us with no money for anything else not even the children's education" she says.

The family has been struggling with lack of a substantial and steady income to sustain themselves and to cater for their educational and medical needs. This has been a major challenge limiting their ability to have nutritious food, pay for the children's school fees or uniforms and pay for baby Selma's medical bills as she has been hospitalized for long periods since her birth.

Rural poverty continues to be a major challenge especially in Ghana's Northern regions. Poverty rates here are double or triple the overall country average and malnutrition as well as chronic food insecurity continue to pose a risk to the lives of women and children.

In 2015 with support from USAID, UNICEF and the Government of Ghana began supporting 28,000 household with poor pregnant women or women with young babies with bi monthly cash payments under the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) 1000 program.

Intended to combat extreme poverty and stunting the LEAP 1000 is a social cash transfer programme that targets extremely poor families with pregnant women and infants. Azumi was pregnant in 2015 and as a result she was enrolled into the programme. Her family receive GHc 88 every two months from the programme.

For Azumi the program could not have come at a better time, it supplements her manual labor earnings and assists her to improve her children's nutrition, pay for their education and medication. She has received more than GHc 300 so far in cash payments which have greatly improved her financial situation and changed the family's life for the better.

She has used most of the money received to pay for her daughter Selma’s medical expenses, Selma was born with a mental disability and her childhood has been difficult. “We used most of the money to pay hospital bills for my daughter, her birth was complicated and she fell very ill in her first months of life” she says.

She has also used part of the money to send her sons Yakubu and Suale to school now that she can afford to pay for their fees and school requirements such as stationery and uniforms. Azumi says now she can also go to the market more than she used to in order to buy food for the family with some money received from the payment.

Azumi is thankful to the LEAP programme and UNICEF especially for the support her daughter has received using the cash payments. She has high hopes for the future “I will try and save the future payments in order to cater for my family even after the program” she says with a smile.

UNICEF Social Protection Officer Jonathan Nasonaa Zakaria who oversees the LEAP cash transfer program is confident the program will have a massive impact in the selected households and communities.

“We hope the payments will enable the poorest families to meet their basic consumption needs of food, clothing, health and education. No child should go hungry, not attend school or lack medical attention because their parents are too poor” he said.

5. House Reconstruction in Gaza: Improving housing for the most vulnerable internally displaced households



UNOPS Engineers are reviewing the drawings with the father of our beneficiary Thaer Al Shishi, in Beit Lahia Area. His reconstruction area has been increased in order to meet minimum standards of living for his family size. Accordingly the drawings have been reviewed and amended.

1. Title	House Reconstruction in Gaza: Improving housing for the most vulnerable internally displaced households	
2. Key facts:	a. Location	Gaza, Palestine (State of)
	b. Target group	Non-refugee internally displaced people with totally destroyed houses, with a specific focus on women-headed and elderly-headed households, and people living with disabilities
	c. Other stakeholders	KfW (German government-owned development bank): project partner, led the project legal team providing expert advice on housing, land and property (HLP) issues Norwegian Refugee Council: project partner, led the project legal team providing expert advice on housing, land and property (HLP) issues
	d. Time frame	July 2016 – March 2018 (completion of pilot project, second project recently signed and to start soon)
3. Major area of work	Sustainable access to housing: Legal (tenure security), financial (cash grants) and technical support (quality control and assurance for sustainable infrastructure) for housing reconstruction during an ongoing humanitarian crisis	
4. 2030 Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 1.4 • SDG 5.A • SDG 11.1 	
5. Website and other resources	<p>Website with project information, live, detailed project data, beneficiaries stories and photos: https://homes4gaza.org/; a sample beneficiary story: https://homes4gaza.org/#/Story/this-home-is-our-kingdom; many more photos, and an internal UNOPS video also exist</p> <p>KfW page on the project (in German): https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/ipfz/Projektdatenbank/Wiederaufbau-von-Wohnraum-in-Gaza-%C3%BCber-UNOPS-NRC-37916.htm</p>	



UNOPS Field Team while handing over the newly completed house to Thaer Al Shishi's family: Islam Al Shishi and her children have full entitlement and right to benefit, thanks to Islam's co-signature into Cash Assistance Contract.

Project background and design

The House Reconstruction in Gaza project was an 18-month pilot project funded by KfW that gave cash grants for the reconstruction of 160 of the most vulnerable IDP households with totally destroyed or completed damaged houses during the 2014 conflict in Gaza. Beyond providing cash grants, the project used a mechanism for identifying the most vulnerable or underserved populations and provided legal aid and technical infrastructure and construction guidance and quality assurance to best enable families to reconstruct safely, sustainably and efficiently.

The beneficiaries of this project were all non-refugees, selected among the most vulnerable affected population as assessed through an established and transparent vulnerability matrix. The criteria of vulnerability was aligned to the standard Shelter Cluster criteria and was enhanced in order to further prioritize households headed by single women (widows or divorced) and/or an elderly person, or families with members living with a disability.

HLP concerns constitute a major challenge for the population in Gaza, especially for those affected by the 2014 conflict. Given the technicality and wide variety of HLP issues in Gaza, specialist HLP advice is required as a means to ensuring the basic human right to adequate shelter, housing and security of tenure for beneficiaries.

Key success and Innovation

- The key activities that helped guarantee the successful results of this project included the detailed work done in beneficiary selection that targeted especially vulnerable groups, the innovation in a co-signed contract that included both women and men heads of household, and the integration of tenure security on the path to rebuilding.
- According to the UNOPS Cash Assistance Contract that was used in this project, both the legal owner and his spouse(s) were signatories, and therefore equally entitled to the right to benefit from the new house unit. This represents a first pilot for Gaza where a contract has legally recognized both husband and wife equally, and a significant step towards addressing social protection for women in Gaza.
- The promotion and protection of women's access to HLP rights is fundamental, as women who feel safe, secure and protected in their homes are more resilient and less susceptible to future displacement. Social protection systems are meant to assist people in achieving an adequate standard of living, including the right to housing.
- The project specifically addressed women's access to HLP rights through two activities: by creating a grant contract that could be co-signed by both male and female heads of household and by providing legal support to female-headed households helping them to receive tenure.
- To create a co-signed contract, a grant contract was revised to ensure compliance with Palestinian Lands Law and to integrate gender considerations. The contract co-signing protects all family members, but especially women and children, since it recognizes and guarantees that

both male and female heads of household enjoy the right to use and benefit from the housing unit being rebuilt.



- Rather than excluding potential beneficiaries from receiving grants due to tenure insecurity, this project addressed this issue head-on by integrating the tenure support process into the project. As one female head of household described, “I was thrilled to receive the news that our names were selected to receive aid assistance to reconstruct our homes, however I was also shocked when they informed us of the missing papers that prove the ownership of the destroyed house and property.” By supporting and including the long process of following up with lawyers and official departments and attending court sessions, the project ensured sustainable and long-lasting benefits to the beneficiaries.
- Additionally, the recognition of widows and divorced women as heads of their household, by assisting them in receiving secure tenure, was a big step in the Gaza context.

Impact and Scale-up

- 160 of the most vulnerable IDP households were given a combined total of \$4,120,102 in cash grants to reconstruct their totally destroyed or completely damaged houses.
- 519 beneficiaries receiving legal assistance on housing, land and property (HLP) issues. An additional 585, 324 of which were women, received information sessions on HLP issues.
- 306 beneficiaries obtaining legal tenure of their new homes.
- Of the 188 beneficiaries that participated in the process for cash grants (28 cases were eventually excluded as part of this process), 13.1% were female-headed households, 8.8% were elderly and 32.5% were high hardship cases, including people with disabilities.
- To enhance the inclusion of the affected population, the project included this population in the processes of rehabilitation, reconstruction and identification of durable solutions through the creation and strengthening of municipal forums, each consisting of 15-20 members.
- Additionally, the integration of quality assurance from UNOPS engineers in Gaza (a team with 50-50 gender balance) ensured that the construction was constructed safely and sustainably, and provided adequate space for the family.
- The many beneficiary stories document the positive changes that have happened at the household and community level. These can be found here: <https://homes4gaza.org/#/Stories>
- This project provided tenure to 21 female-headed households in the Gaza context where security of tenure is rare, and security of tenure for women is even rare. The achievement of tenure security enabled rebuilding, and transformed the insecurity otherwise felt by these IDP women and their families in Gaza. The website provides many beneficiary stories such as this one: <https://homes4gaza.org/#/Story/this-home-is-our-kingdom>
- This success of this pilot project has led to the signing of a new project with the same donor following the same methodology to reach more beneficiaries.

6. Pink Light UN-HABITAT

Title	Pink- Light
Key Facts:	Location: Busan, Republic of Korea

	<p>Target group: Pregnant women</p> <p>Other stakeholders: Busan Transport Corporation</p> <p>Timeframe: 2015 - present</p>
<p>Major area of work</p>	<p>Mobility, health</p>
<p>Contribution to 2030 Agenda</p>	<p>SDG Target 11.2:</p>
<p>Pictures</p>	 <p>Maeil Dairy, Korea's largest dairy company, hosted a prenatal class in collaboration with the Pink Light project</p> 

College student and citizen volunteers are promoting the Pink Light project at the Busan-Gimhae Light Rail



After being seated, the pregnant woman rides the train in comfort

Project background and design

As of 2015, the average fertility rate in South Korea was a mere 1.24, the lowest among OECD countries. This has become a matter of great concern for Korean society. In particular, among Korean cities Busan is at the bottom in terms of fertility. It was mired in a situation where various policies and campaigns for the benefit of pregnant women were not making any difference and public awareness remained unchanged despite city promotional activities via TV, newspapers and outdoor advertisement. The city government determined that more aggressive and strategic approaches were needed to tackle the issue.

As part of its efforts to promote childbirth, Busan has worked to establish an environment friendly to pregnant women. In 2013, seats designated for expecting mothers were installed in public transportation, including buses and subways, so that pregnant travelers could conveniently find a seat. However, the efforts were not perfectly successful since the seats were frequently occupied by non-pregnant passengers. To ensure more proactive and effective action, the city government set up a Communications Planning Division in 2015 and invited experts in the field of global advertising campaigns.

The Pink Light Campaign project is being driven by the Busan City Government together with relevant organizations, the private sector and volunteers. The city government is responsible for

comprehensive planning, budget execution and operation of the project, while 'Busan– Gimhae Light Rail Transit Operation Corporation' is in charge of the pink light sensor installation, distribution of beacons to pregnant women at its offices and related management. The project was fully financed by the Busan City Government and implemented in a speedy and efficient manner. The Public Transportation Division and Child Welfare Policy Division within the city government have worked together at every stage from planning to implementation of the project, while the Busan–Gimhae Light Rail Transit Operation Corporation, an advertising agency, a video production company and a volunteering group composed of local citizens and university students have collectively assisted with the entire process. A promotional group composed of Busan citizens and university students has also voluntarily taken part in promotional activities for the project.

Key success and Innovation

- The Pink Light Campaign project is an innovative public campaign that utilizes high-tech ICT to solve urban problems. The beacon sensors created as part of this process were installed next to 100 priority seats reserved for pregnant women on 50 cars of the Busan-Gimhae Light Rail Transit system. Five hundred pregnant women received beacons and began enjoying the service. This earned a particularly positive response from those in early stages of pregnancy, since it was previously difficult for people to tell if the women were pregnant and surrender to them the seat. Since the sensor through the pink light, all surrounding passengers are naturally alerted that a rider has a baby on the way. The Internet of things (IoT) technology used in this campaign operates through radio signals produced via the interaction between beacons and installed sensors. The beacons included wireless communication device based on low- power Bluetooth connectivity, makes it possible to track location even more precisely than using GPS.
- According to a report released by the Korea Population and Health Welfare Association in 2014, only 36% of pregnant travellers had experienced a seat being given up for them on mass transit. Assuming that many of the non-pregnant passengers occupying priority seats are indeed willing to give up their seats to a woman if they are aware she is pregnant, the City of Busan devised the innovative, IoT-based pink light campaign. In addition, local university students and Busan citizens played a role in introducing the Pink Light Campaign and explaining it to pregnant women who ride light rail transit.
- Such collaboration between the public and private sectors and local citizens combined with the campaign's advanced operational system have encouraged transit users to proactively take part in the campaign.
- There have been various policies and campaigns implemented in Korea for the benefit of pregnant women, but they have often failed to produce the desired results. One reason why the Pink Light Campaign project is arousing such interest and sparking such positive responses from not only pregnant women, but also many others in Korea and abroad, is because the city approached the issue from the perspective of pregnant women. Along with the system installed in public transportation, the city government listened to the input of expectant mothers and realized that it can be difficult to determine whether they are pregnant when

their pregnancy is not yet showing. With that in mind, the city has worked to attract citizen participation in the campaign through effective promotion and has applied advanced technologies.

Impact and Scale-up

- With this project, consideration for the needy was promoted in the society at large. Creating a pregnancy friendly environment for women, from the women’s perspective is expected to encourage women to carry children thus elevating the decreasing natality figures. The City of Seoul and a number of other cities in South Korea have benchmarked the project and are preparing their own pink light campaigns, demonstrating that this project initiated in Busan can provide a valuable solution for pregnant riders. Currently, 500 women with a baby on the way are carrying beacons and 100 pink lights have been installed on 50 cars in the Busan- Gimhae Light Rail Transit system. The City of Busan is planning to increase the number of beneficiaries by distributing beacons to 25,000 pregnant women annually and adding 3,408 pink lights throughout the metro train system and 2,524 seats in city buses.
- To explore user satisfaction, the city regularly conducts random interview surveys of beacon users. The surveys have shown that most of the pregnant women are largely satisfied with the campaign, since they can now claim a seat without having to ask.

7. Child Grant programme (CGP) combined with Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and access to Government Services (SPRINGS)- FAO

Title	Child Grant programme (CGP) combined with Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and access to Government Services (SPRINGS)
Key Facts:	<p>Location: Lesotho, Likila, Menkhoaneng. Makhoarane (Maseru), Tebe and Tenesolo community councils.</p> <p>Target group: CGP beneficiaries or poor and vulnerable households with children aged 0 – 17 years of age, identified through community-based targeting followed by validation of proxy mean test (PMT) short lists, and registered in the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA).</p> <p>Other stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO initiated a pilot called “Linking Food Security to Social Protection Programme (LFSSP)” implemented in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Rural Self Help Development Association (RSDA) that was a predecessor of SPRINGS. • Based on experiences of LFSSP, UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Development and CRS, through European Union funding, implemented a

	<p>new pilot project “Improving Child Wellbeing and Household Resiliency (ICWHR)”. FAO-Lesotho also supported the ICWHR initiative with the provision of vegetable seeds packages, training materials on Home Gardening and Nutrition and training for nutrition officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second, revised phase of this intervention, the Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and access to Government Services (SPRINGS) project, started in June 2016. SPRINGS’ overall implementation is led by CRS in close collaboration with UNICEF, government ministries, including MoSD, the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) and MoAFS, and implementing partners - Caritas Lesotho, Good Shepherds Sisters and Sisters of Charity. <p>Timeframe: From June 2016 onwards. The programme is a 30-month intervention, expecting to reach over 7,200 households and around 18,355 beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Website and other resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Relief Services (CRS), 2015. Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition, and access to Government Services (SPRINGS). CRS project proposal. Maseru: Lesotho • Nesbit-Ahmed, Zahrah & Pozarny, Pamela (2018, forthcoming): Qualitative case study on social cash transfers and livelihood support in Lesotho: Lesotho Country Case Study Report. FAO. • Daidone, Silvio; Nesbit-Ahmed, Zahrah; Pace, Noemi & Pozarny, Pamela (2018, forthcoming): Mixed Methods Impact Evaluation of the combined Child Grant Programme and Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and Government Service Support in Lesotho. Research Brief. • Daidone, Silvio & Pace, Noemi & (2018, forthcoming): Summary of preliminary results: Impact evaluation of Lesotho’s Child Grants Programme (CGP) and Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and access to Government Services (SPRINGS) project • Oxford Policy Management (OPM). 2014. Qualitative research and analyses of the economic impacts of cash transfer programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. Lesotho Country Case Study Report. Report prepared for the PtoP project. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization. • UNICEF/Catholic Relief Services/Lesotho (2016): Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition, and access to Government Services (SPRINGS). FY16 Quarter One Report.
<p>Major area of work</p>	<p>Horticulture and financial inclusion combined with a social protection instrument.</p>
<p>Contribution to 2030 Agenda</p>	<p>SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 5</p>

Pictures



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Project background and design

A growing body of evidence shows that programme coherence and linkages between cash transfer programs and other agricultural and rural development interventions play a fundamental role in addressing constraints faced by households living in poverty in rural areas. Such interventions can also be transformative for women, correct for gender inequalities, and improve the well-being of women. The case of CGP + SPRINGS in Lesotho highlights promising programme design for women's increased access to services and financial inclusion. Evidence from recent evaluations shows positive outcomes in terms of women's food security and nutrition.

Based on the experience of a FAO pilot initiative called "Linking Food Security to Social Protection Programme (LFSSP)" UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Development of Lesotho and CRS through European Union funding implemented a new pilot project "Improving Child Wellbeing and Household Resiliency (ICWHR)" and its second phase, the Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and access to Government Services (SPRINGS). SPRINGS includes several elements: community-based savings and internal lending groups with financial education (Savings and Internal Lending Communities SILC), market clubs and homestead gardening (keyhole gardens, vegetable seeds distribution and nutrition training), Community-led Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions (CCFLS) and One-Stop-Shop (OSS) / Citizen Services Outreach Days. OSS is a permanent structure based at community council level where population can access information on different services, get specific services or referred to service providers. The services outreach days involve services providers at all levels (public, private and CSO) and from multiple sectors (health, civil, etc.) being called in one place to meet and provide services to the population (CRS 2015).

Food insecurity is prevalent in Lesotho and the country is experiencing a major food security crisis as a result of the El Niño induced drought. Women and children, in rural areas in particular, suffer from chronic hunger. (Nesbitt-Ahmed and Pozarny 2018). The Basotho society is patriarchal. However, women often become the main de facto decision makers in their households as either heads of households (widowed) or due to the absence of husbands who often seek employment in South Africa. Inheritance is patrilineal and, once married, the woman moves to her husband's household and community. HIV prevalence is high among the entire population but higher among women compared to men (OPM/FAO 2014.)

Key success and Innovation

- Providing access to income generating activities through financial inclusion and guidance on income generating activities such as homestead gardening has the potential to enhance women's empowerment, whereas the 'one-stop-shop' access to social services can be particularly beneficial for women who face more constraints in accessing such services.

Impact and Scale-up

- At the time of the evaluation 316 SILC groups with 5,899 members had been formed, of which a significant majority were women, 4,895 or 84%. Based on evidence from the qualitative research, SILC groups provide CGP beneficiaries increased and stable incomes enabling them to purchase additional food for household needs, invest in setting up small-scale businesses, maintain savings

and plan for long-term needs. Participating in SILC also results in beneficiaries’ reduction in debt (particularly prompted by delayed CGP payments).

- The keyhole gardens more frequently attract the interest of women (Unicef/CRS 2016). Female beneficiaries reported being able to grow more varied produce such as spinach, onions carrots, rape and beetroot to support family nutrition. Keyhole gardens were viewed as improving household food security, through constant vegetable production (Nesbitt-Ahmed and Pozarny 2018).
- The quantitative survey instrument was designed such that the questions on dietary diversity were focused on women. The results show a strong positive and significant impact of both CGP and CGP+SPRINGS on women’s consumption of dark green leafy vegetables (13 and 27 percentage points increase for CGP and CGP+SPRINGS treatment arms, respectively, with respect to the comparison mean), vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables (12 and 24 percentage point increase), and organ meat (20 and 21 percentage point increase). The impact on legumes, nuts and seeds and on milk and dairy products is positive but it is significant only for CGP+SPRINGS beneficiaries (12 and 13 percentage point increase with respect to the comparison mean). All these positive impacts for the CGP+SPRINGS group are reflected in the women dietary diversity score which increases by 1.1 food groups (equivalent to a 20 percent increase from the comparison group mean).
- According to the qualitative study, one of the biggest impacts of the combined programmes reported by a majority of male and female beneficiaries engaged in both programmes has been less stress in the household. This can potentially reduce intra-household tension and conflict. In the qualitative evaluation female beneficiaries reported that they no longer needed to go to the shops every day to buy vegetables as they now produced them from their keyhole gardens. There were reports by some female beneficiaries though that constructing keyhole gardens requires male assistance, indicating the value of Matsema (social cohesion) groups based on local cultural norms of unity and cooperation, especially for female headed households (Nesbitt-Ahmed and Pozarny 2018).
- According to the qualitative evaluation of the scheme, the CGP plus SILC intervention shows the most potential to gradually reduce poverty levels sustainably, improve livelihoods and promote more resilience over time. Although more research is needed, the SILC groups may be the primary driver of overall positive impacts of the combined programmes. In terms of the scale up of the programme, it is advised to establish and support wider market access to avoid market saturation for the produce of homestead gardening (Daidone et al 2018).

8. Integrating Gender into Phase II of Joint Resilience Strategy for Somalia through FAO’s Cash for Work Programming: Addressing gender barriers in social protection through gender analysis

Title	Integrating Gender into Phase II of Joint Resilience Strategy for Somalia through FAO’s Cash for Work Programming: Addressing gender barriers in social protection through gender analysis
Key Facts:	Location: Southern Somalia

	<p>Target group: The JRS CFW programme aims to benefit vulnerable households in eight regions in Southern Somalia. More recent changes to the programme aim to include more women within those households.</p> <p>Other stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CFW programme described below is a component of the FAO, UNICEF and WFP Joint Resilience Strategy, a long-term approach to strengthen the resilience of Somalia and Somaliland and to break cycle of emergencies <p>Timeframe: FAO has been involved in cash for work programming in Somalia since 2007. However, the focus of this case study is a gender analysis that took place in 2013 with changes implemented in 2014 and 2015. The updated programme is ongoing.</p>
<p>Website and other resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit- Somalia: http://www.fsnau.org/ • FAO. 2012. Cash-for-work in Somalia: linking relief to recovery. Food Security Information for Decision Making Concept Note • FAO. 2015. Evaluation of FAO Somalia Resilience Sub Programme (2013-2014). FAO Office of Evaluation. Rome. • Farhat, M., Kardan, A., Gure, M. 2014. Review of FAO Cash for Work Programme in Somalia. Volume I: Qualitative impact assessment. OPM. • Lawson-McDowall, J. Oyat, M. and Bekele, A. 2013. Gender Blindness? Rapid Research into Livelihoods, Poverty and Institutions in Dollow, 2013. • Smith, G. 2014. Designing Social Protection Frameworks for Somaliland, Final Report.
<p>Major area of work</p>	<p>Cash for Work programming for food insecure rural households in South Somalia.</p>
<p>Contribution to 2030 Agenda</p>	<p>SDG 2 SDG 5 SDG 9 SDG 16</p>

Pictures



QARDHO, PUNTLAND Milk from surviving goats is helping displaced pastoralist families feed themselves. © FAO/K. Prinsloo



**BANDAR BEYLA,
PUNTLAND**
Villagers come together
to build a communal
water catchment.
© FAO/K. Prinsloo

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Project background and design

Social protection is increasingly recognized for its role in building resilience to covariate shocks and crises. Yet the gender dimensions of these approaches are often not well addressed. In Somalia, a 2013 gender-sensitive analysis of Phase I of a FAO Cash for Work (CFW) programme for resilience led to systematic changes in gender-mainstreaming in subsequent phases. Many challenges and opportunities remain for women's empowerment in Somalia, and data on the impact of these changes is not yet available. However, this case illustrates that:

1. It is possible (not only desirable) to integrate gender in social protection programming in highly insecure humanitarian contexts; and
2. Even in societies with strictly delimited gender roles, it is possible to mainstream gender.

FAO has implemented CFW programming in Somalia since 2007 (Farhat, Kardan, and Gure, 2014). CFW programmes allow participants to meet immediate needs while contributing to medium-term recovery and resilience through rebuilding infrastructure and livelihoods, reducing displacement and increasing stability (FAO, 2012). In the case of CFW in Somalia, water infrastructure projects were chosen to increase resilience to climate-related shocks (Smith, 2014).

In response to famine in South Somalia in July, 2011, FAO implemented a CFW programme for the poorest households, emergency livestock interventions, and agricultural inputs. Advanced pay and reduced labor requirements accommodated undernourished participants. A community committee selected beneficiaries.¹ The CFW programme aimed to include 30 per cent women (FAO, 2012).

In 2012, UNICEF, WFP and FAO developed the Joint Resilience Strategy (JRS). CFW famine response programming became Phase I of the Social Safety Nets pillar of the JRS, lasting until 2013, implemented in two dry seasons per year reaching 220,000 rural households. The programme contributed to short term consumption smoothing,² showed potential to increase longer-term resilience and employment options (Smith, 2014). In Dollow, the average number of income sources per beneficiary household increased from 1.97 to 2.59 between 2012 and 2015, remaining stable for those not participating. Cash wages were indicated as having positive effects on the local economy (FAO, 2015).

However, **it proved difficult to engage women and women-headed households** (Smith, 2014). The CFW programme relied on heavy labor deemed inappropriate for women by the community. Where women were involved they were either represented by male members of their family or given tasks such as cooking and brewing tea, and the lack of provision of childcare remained a challenge. When women did not have a male family member that could represent them, they were often excluded entirely.

¹ The programme provides labor to vulnerable households for 54 days and rehabilitates community infrastructure with a daily rate of four to six USD, allowances for transport and some vouchers for tools. NGOs selected infrastructure sites and beneficiaries, and ensured that the infrastructure was rehabilitated. Payments were made by independent local money vendors (Farhat, Kardan and Gure, 2014).

² Participants reported that CFW money was used to pay school fees, to re-stock livestock, repair houses, or buy seeds (Farhat, Kardan, and Gure. 2014).

Furthermore, few women were involved in community-level decision-making (Farhat, Kardan, and Gure. 2014).

Key success and Innovation

- In 2013, research was conducted in Dollow to understand the gender dimensions of livelihoods and how this related to FAO's CFW programming and found little or no evidence of gender issues being mainstreamed. This analysis led to insights that would prove relevant to better integrating gender:
 - Some domestic tasks are shared, but women and girls are responsible for food preparation, care of homestead, cleaning, washing and childcare.
 - Women have significant roles in production (care for small livestock, collecting, processing and marketing products). However, women's productive tasks are not given the same status as men's.
 - Women face a triple burden of domestic, productive and reproductive work and have longer working days. Men have culturally sanctioned leisure time.
 - Village institutions are almost exclusively male. Women are not consulted in public meetings, including by external agencies (Lawson-McDowall, Oyat, and Bekele, 2013).
- The result of this work and its recommendations led to changes in the JRS. In 2015, the JRS was re-imagined as a truly joint programme, with a shared beneficiary database (SCOPE by WFP), a common results matrix³ and a focus on food security and nutrition as the basic building blocks of resilience. In Phase II, the Theory of Change contained a dedicated outcome to reducing women's work burden, and improving their community support, livelihoods and access to services
- One of the first steps taken by FAO Somalia was to use the gender specialist working under the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit – Somalia (FSNAU) as a shared resource. The gender specialist now ensures that activities are planned with a gender perspective; provides of training and capacity building in gender-related issues for staff in Nairobi and in accessible areas in Somalia; and supports programme activities. A Standard Operating Procedure for Integrating Gender into FAO Somalia was drafted. However, security risks continue to hinder the ability to scale up training in some places (FAO, 2015).
- Changes have been seen on the ground. In Beer village (Burao district), adjustments were made to CFW activities based on findings that women's participation was limited by working hours. Women's hours were changed and a short afternoon shift was introduced to accommodate women's other responsibilities. Women were given priority for CFW opportunities near their village to minimize travel time when available. Pregnant and lactating women could appoint someone to work on their behalf while retaining their right to collect wages. These steps led to increased participation by women (FAO, 2015).

Impact and Scale-up

- In a 2015 evaluation, respondents mentioned women's changing economic and social roles and women's increasing economic engagement, including the ability to contribute to the family's income through continued work in nearby urban areas,⁴ to save, and to gain economic

³ In its 2012-2015 phase, the JRS was not implemented jointly. Each agency operated separately with aligned principles, goals and outcomes.

⁴ Much of which started in 2011 during the famine.

independence. In Dollow, women are increasingly engaged in activities beyond their traditional areas of work, for example in the construction business.